

The History of ACCEF

In April of 2001, several concerned citizens in the Auburn area agreed to raise a significant amount of money to support cancer research. After careful consideration, and reviewing several options, it was decided that it would be appropriate to support the UC Davis Cancer Center.

The UC Davis Cancer Center was chosen because it is the only major cancer research center in this area, it has a reputation for community service, and it was soon to receive a National Cancer Institute designation.

By early August 2001 over \$100,000 in contributions had been raised. The group spearheading the effort decided that placing funds in an endowment would allow control by local citizens with no administrative costs and the endowment would be allowed to grow until it reached \$1 million. In cooperation with the UC Davis Cancer Center, the Auburn Community Cancer Endowment Fund was formally established in October 2001. The goal was later increased to \$1.5 million to fund an ACCEF endowed chair for Basic Science Research. When this goal is reached, interest earned from the endowment will be used to fund research at the UCD Cancer Center.

In February, 2004, a Community Action Board was formed which then chose Bart O'Brien as Chairman, Bruce Dear and Bob Holmes as co-Vice Chairmen, and Sherry Wicks as Secretary.

The other board members included Kevin Ramirez, Craig Dennis, Cheryl Maki, Ray Yamasaki, Jim Otto, Pan Lyon, Nancy Nittler, Dick Azevedo, Tom Dwelle, Kevin Eckard, Alex Ferreira, Bart Finning, Greg French, Norma Harris, Scott Huntley, Mike Kutzman, Marcel Lachemann, Mike Lee, Bud Richardson, Nick Willick, Virgil Traynor, Bruce Norton, Sue Anderson, Phil Booker, Melodie Cooper, Carol

Garcia, Jim Holmes, Ron Martinez, John Murray, Aldo Pineschi, Jennifer Pereira, George Phillips, Bart Ruud, Primo Santini, Joel Thompson, and Robert Weygandt.

The endowment has continued to grow, thanks to individual contributions and special events. With the help of many ACCEF volunteers, two golf tournaments sponsored by Jim Otto raised \$350,000. Other events that have significantly added to the endowment include the Auburn Rotary Club Fun Run, a grand opening at the Thunder Valley Casino, golf tournaments sponsored by Magnussen's Auburn Toyota, the Auburn Lions Club Celebrity Chefs dinner, poker runs and a calendar sponsored by Auburn Harley Davidson, and a gala dinner held in Sacramento.

In April, 2005, the endowment surpassed \$1 million. Many who have participated feel that a worthwhile cause and a committed community have made this project successful.

The ACCEF Goals Are:

- To advance cancer research by providing a conduit for donations from the private and business sectors of the Auburn area.
- To stimulate ongoing contributions by maintaining an active and prominent profile in the community.
- To serve as a model for other communities who wish to financially support cancer research.
- To increase public awareness of the devastating effects of cancer, and encourage the earliest possible diagnosis with the most effective professional treatment.
- To continue to identify and secure sources for funding that will contribute to the long-term goal of \$1.5 million.
- To communicate important information between the Auburn Community and the UC Davis Cancer Center to most effectively serve the needs of the community.