

# Evelyn Hamil Shopp

Dressed in the once traditional white nursing cap, long-sleeve uniform, white stockings and shoes, Evelyn Hamil Shopp began her nursing career in the middle of the 20th century.

After devoting 30 years to nursing, in which she played a key role in the transformation of policies and procedures, she embarked on a yet another distinguished career. She became a volunteer, having already devoted 19 years to Saddleback Memorial Medical Center and activities in Leisure World.

"I remember when penicillin first came out in crystal form, nurses couldn't even inject the fluid into the bottle to mix it," Evelyn recalls. "Now it's unbelievable and wonderful what nurses can routinely do in hospitals today."

Evelyn says she's proud that "nurses have reached a point where they are recognized as professional people with professional opinions." In her nursing administration years, she was a strong advocate for men joining the field, allowing aides to advance through the ranks, and promotions based upon merit and nothing else.

Known nationally as a nursing spokesperson, Evelyn has had several articles published and received many nursing distinctions. She earned her master's degree from Yale University School of Nursing.

Now, Evelyn's background in nursing and management helps her lead the not-for-profit Saddleback Memorial as a volunteer. Her dedication to the medical center began shortly after she moved to Leisure World in 1980 and was persuaded by a friend to join The Associates, a fundraising support group for the hospital. Soon she became a member of its board of directors, serving as treasurer and then president. In 1985, she joined the Saddleback Memorial Foundation Board of Directors, where she has held leadership roles as treasurer, vice-chairman and chair. Currently, she serves as secretary of the Saddleback Memorial Board of Directors.

"I believe that if people have a talent of any kind they should be willing to share it," Evelyn says. "My talent lies in management and volunteering at the hospital was a natural tie."

A Donum Salutis (contributed more than \$100,000) with the Foundation, Evelyn is also a member of The Friends of Saddleback Heart Institute and Wellness Center and founder of the Visiting Volunteer Program. In addition, she and her husband, Bill, mounted and arranged donor plaques at the medical center for many years.

Beyond her commitments at Saddleback Memorial, Evelyn serves as president of the Leisure World Historical Society and writes the society's eight-page newsletter every other month. In fact, she served as chair of the fundraising campaign to construct the society's building. She was named Leisure Worlder of the Month in June 1988

"It's so important to support one's community hospital," Evelyn says. "Plus, if I should need hospital care some day, I want to make sure it is top quality."

Just as she has been an instrumental leader in the nursing profession, Evelyn has been an invaluable leader in this community. Adding to her numerous accomplishments, she now becomes the first Spirit of Philanthropy Community Leader of the Year. ◀

