

*Have you ever wondered what story your life could tell decades from now? In 1991, a woman toured the Cancer Center with her uncle and confided, “I might leave a gift” to the Cancer Foundation. Thirty-four years later, we received a letter from her attorney stating that she did indeed leave a bequest, which will help support patient care. Will you join her in writing the next chapter of our mission?*

*The Cancer Foundation’s Elaine and Edward Stepanek Legacy Society honors those who communicate their intention to make a gift through their will, living trust or other planned gift. We only know of a small number of those who have thoughtfully remembered us in their estate. If you have included the Cancer Foundation or Ridley-Tree Cancer Center in your estate but have not informed us, please let us know so we can recognize you, or if have considered doing so, we would be happy to discuss the many options that are available.*

*Gifts like these provide the essential funding to support programs such as genetic counseling, oncology social work, nutrition, patient navigation and wellness. Learn more about one of our wellness class participants and instructors inside!*

*Thank you for your support of the Cancer Foundation.*




**Lori Willis**  
Executive Director



## **Cancer Foundation Awards \$25,000 Grant to UCSB to Support Future Cancer Researchers**

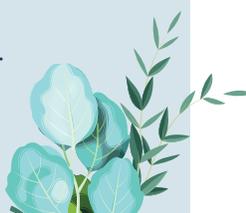
This summer, the Cancer Foundation awarded a \$25,000 grant to UC Santa Barbara’s Research Mentorship Program (RMP), helping high school students conduct university-level, oncology-related research alongside UCSB researchers.

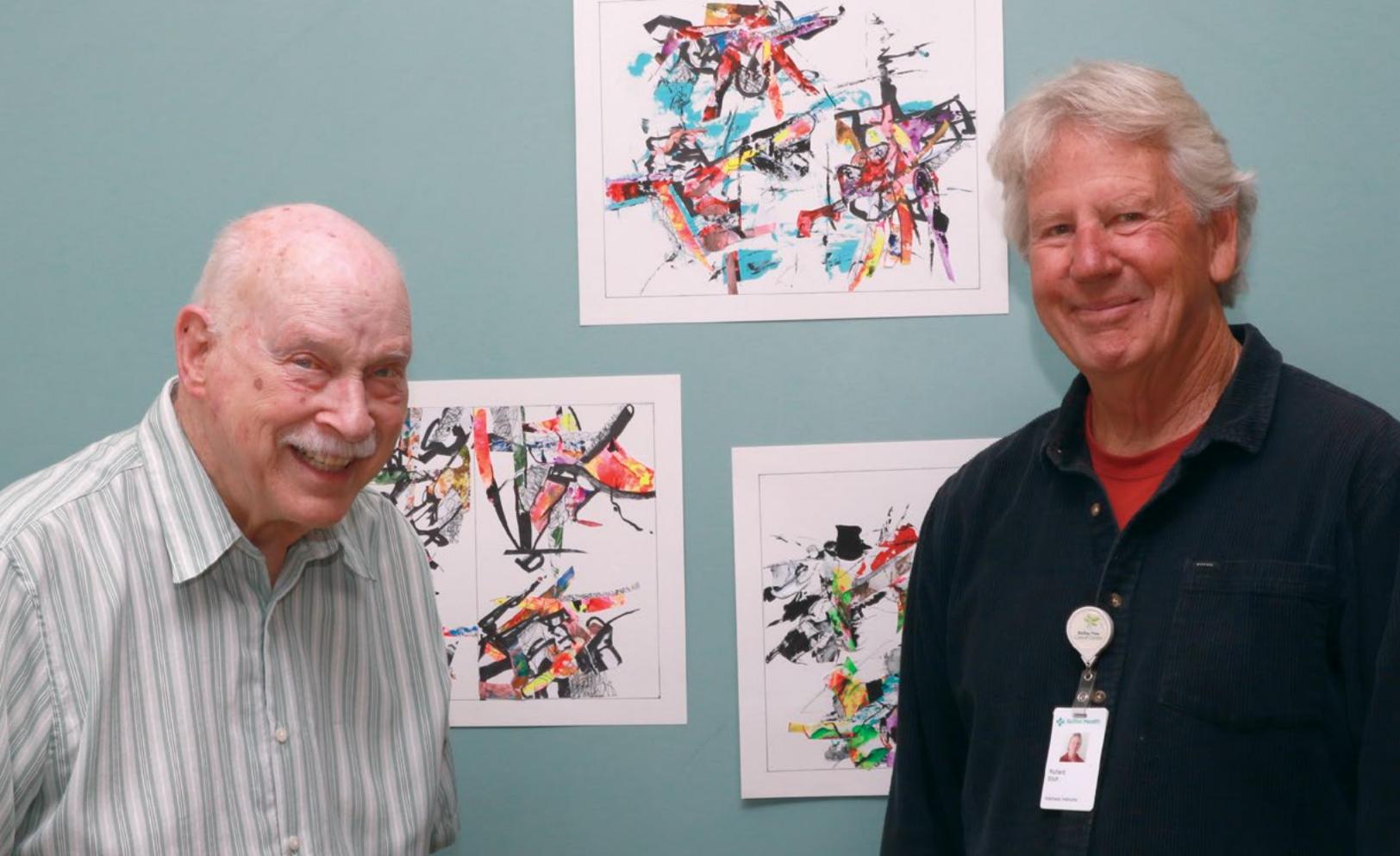
Since 2013, CFSB has partnered with UCSB to increase access to this prestigious program by offsetting program costs and providing scholarships, ensuring students can participate regardless of financial barriers.

“With cancer incidence on the rise, oncology research is more important now than ever,” said Lori Willis, Executive Director of the Cancer Foundation.

*“We are proud to support future researchers today to improve outcomes for cancer patients tomorrow—especially right here in our community.”*

The CFSB team is dedicated to fostering the next generation of researchers and innovators. By supporting programs like UCSB RMP, the Cancer Foundation is investing in the future of cancer research and the bright minds that will bring us closer to a cure.





## KEN JEWESSON

### Wellness Program Participant

Ken Jewesson has always found peace in creating art, but this outlet became even more meaningful following his prostate cancer diagnosis seven years ago.

During his treatment at the Ridley-Tree Cancer Center, Ken noticed artwork lining the hallways. Curious, he discovered these pieces were created by patients participating in free painting classes—and he enrolled immediately. For a quarter of a century, the Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara has funded these art classes, offering them to local residents undergoing cancer treatment and their caregivers.

Despite his artistic pedigree—an MFA from UCSB, years teaching printmaking and design

at Brooks Institute, and director roles at both the Santa Barbara Art Institute and Houston's Museum of Fine Arts—Ken embraces being a student again. He said the classes welcome everyone, regardless of skill.

“Too many people face cancer in isolation,” said Ken. “These art classes offer a weekly sanctuary where patients can immerse themselves in creativity rather than dwelling on their diagnosis. Instead of sitting at home consumed by worry, participants engage actively in a supportive community of understanding peers.”

Rick Stich has been teaching “Finding Joy Through Painting” since the inception of the Wellness Program and said while it isn't a

formal art therapy class, many students do find solace reconnecting with themselves, channeling their creativity, and just getting a break from all of the blood tests, doctor's appointments, and therapy sessions.

"Painting is meditative by its very nature," said Rick. "This time in class is really about finding a little happiness and camaraderie."

*"Making art gives me a sense of purpose and helps me feel good about myself. It has helped me a lot because I'm working with other cancer patients and I enjoy the socialization."*

— Ken Jewesson

"I've also been around a lot of art teachers in my life," he reflected. "And I don't know many as knowledgeable as Rick—he is so inspiring. I just love the class and get so much benefit from the experience."

The weekly two-hour class attracts about a dozen students, each of whom Rick works with individually. All materials are provided, so students really just need to bring themselves.

*"I encourage students to just show up. There is something for everyone and no experience is needed. I tell the newbies to pretend they are in kindergarten and play with the paint."*

— Rick Stitch

Eventually everyone creates their own masterpiece, and these works often adorn the walls of the Cancer Center or appear in special art shows.

Rick said it's a great privilege having Ken in the class, and calls him "the artist-in-residence," but the truth is that Rick himself has been teaching art for nearly 50 years at the college level and through adult education. He is honored to be part of the Cancer Foundation family and credits the nonprofit for providing such a valuable benefit to local cancer patients.

*"The Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara is the reason we have been able to do this for 25 years. Their support has been unflinching and has enlivened the wellness program. I could not speak more highly of them."*

— Rick Stitch





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601 West Junipero Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
(805) 898-2116

[www.cfsb.org](http://www.cfsb.org)

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## Replace Your IRA's RMD with a QCD

Paying taxes on your IRA distribution is not required. When you choose to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) rather than take your required minimum distribution (RMD), you will not pay income tax on it. With a QCD, you distribute money from your IRA, but rather than take the funds yourself, you distribute them to a charitable organization, like the Cancer Foundation of Santa Barbara.

Things to keep in mind as you consider the QCD:

- *The maximum amount you can use changes each year.*
- *The distribution must be made to the nonprofit. Never take the distribution yourself.*
- *Because you never paid income tax on the QCD, you will not receive an income tax deduction.*
- *Make sure the organization is qualified. It must be a 501(c)(3) charity, like ours.*
- *If your spouse has an IRA, he or she can make a QCD as well.*



*Please let us know if you've already included us in your estate, intend to, or would like to discuss the many options available which provide income or tax savings. Please contact Lori Willis at (805) 898-2187 or [lwillis@cfsb.org](mailto:lwillis@cfsb.org).*