

# CMF Newsletter

Winter 2019-20 Issue \* A semi-annual publication of  
**CARRIE MEHDI FOUNDATION**

**[www.CarrieMehdiFoundation.org](http://www.CarrieMehdiFoundation.org)**

**A non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization**

**Board of Directors: Candy Culton, Mike Culton, Michele Huntoon, Diane E. Jones, Zafar Mehdi**  
**Mailing Address: 30025 Alicia Parkway #104, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677**  
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## **A Message from Zafar Mehdi, CMF Board Member**

I am pleased to write that we have reached a few great milestones this year: CMF just completed its 7<sup>th</sup> year since formation and in this period, donated over \$50,000 to more than 40 non-profit organizations and causes.

I take this opportunity to thank all our supporters for their dedication and generosity which enabled CMF to help so many causes and non-profit organizations. Carrie Mehdi Foundation was formed to support the charitable and philanthropic causes that were dear to Carrie. CMF supports programs and organizations which focus on helping the poor and needy, medical research, environmental preservation of sites of natural beauty, and health and welfare of dogs.

Our special thanks go to our supporters who helped in earlier years of CMF, which include: Diane Jones, Candy and Mike Culton, Greg Mehdi, Michele Huntoon, Evelyn and Dick Cortes, Shareena Yee, Gwen Lutge, Denise Siemssen, Jill Beniack, Qamar and Simin Zaidi, and many more not mentioned here, without whose help, we could not have been as successful as we have been.

We are thankful to all who send donations to us throughout the year. In addition, our main event for fundraising comes every year in May at "Haute Dog Picnic" where we have good food with a lot of fun, games, and silent auction for fundraising. We invite everyone to bring their families and their dogs to enjoy the scenic TeWinkle Park in Costa Mesa, which is an incredible place for such a picnic. Please save the date for our next annual "Haute Dog Picnic" which will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2020 at TeWinkle Park in Costa Mesa.

Those who shop on Amazon.com may also help us by visiting [smile.Amazon.com](http://smile.Amazon.com) and selecting Carrie Mehdi Foundation as charitable org you wish to support. After you register and then shop through [smile.Amazon.com](http://smile.Amazon.com), Amazon will donate to CMF a small percentage of every purchase you make on Amazon.

As many of you know, CMF had a picnic table placed in Point Lobos State Natural Reserve in Carmel, CA in memory of Carrie, bearing her name. Every year, some of us visit Point Lobos to commemorate Carrie and Greg with a picnic at that table. Diane Jones and I with many of our friends have visited Point Lobos every year for over seven years and would attest to the exhilarating feeling one gets when visiting there. If you ever visit California's Monterey/Carmel area, please do stop by Point Lobos and send us a photo of yourself at the picnic table, which is located in the Piney Woods section of the Reserve.

Please follow us on Facebook: Carrie Mehdi Foundation

For any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at: [ZMehdi@CarrieMehdiFoundation.org](mailto:ZMehdi@CarrieMehdiFoundation.org)  
Or Diane Jones at [DEJones@CarrieMehdiFoundation.org](mailto:DEJones@CarrieMehdiFoundation.org)

Thank you for your support!

Zafar Mehdi  
Director, Carrie Mehdi Foundation



## **OUR FEATURED SUPPORTER**

**We are pleased to honor Evelyn and Dick Cortes as two of the most dedicated and generous supporters of Carrie Mehdi Foundation.**



Evelyn and Dick with their dogs, Hudson, Sam & Megan.

Evelyn and Dick are long-time friends of Carrie and Zafar, sharing the hobby of showing Dachshunds. Soon after Carrie's passing, Evelyn and Dick, along with Candy, Mike, Diane, Zafar, and Greg, started our annual picnic and fundraiser. For the last 7+ years, Evelyn and Dick have been instrumental in organizing our annual picnic. Our picnic takes place at TeWinkle Park in Costa Mesa, simply because it is near the home of Evelyn and Dick and they have been kind and generous enough to make all important reservations and arrangements for the picnic. We thank Evelyn and Dick for all their help in making CMF's fundraising a huge success every year. We could not have done so well without them.

Here is what Evelyn and Dick said about Carrie Mehdi Foundation: "It is our pleasure to be part of the Carrie Mehdi Foundation which helps so many. Friends, Family and Man's Best Friend getting together in Carrie's name and her tireless efforts to help others is a true joy."

**We just completed 7<sup>th</sup> year of CMF since formation and are pleased to state that we have so far donated over \$50,000 in donations. Our donations for 2019 were over \$8,000. Organizations and causes CMF has supported are:**

- Dachshund Club of California
- DCA National Specialty Show
- Dachshund Club of America Health & Welfare Trust Fund
- Knickerbocker Dachshund Club
- East Bay Dachshund Club
- Point Lobos Foundation
- California State Parks Foundation
- The Salvation Army
- Los Angeles Mission
- National Kidney Foundation
- USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Avon 39 Walk for the Cure
- Union Station Homeless Services
- Vietnam Veterans of America
- HB Care Packages for Military Dogs
- Homeless Health Care Los Angeles
- The Midnight Mission
- AKC Canine Health Fund
- Flintridge Preparatory School
- Canine Hope for Diabetes
- Rabies Challenge Fund Charitable Trust
- Morris Animal Foundation
- Justice for Doug (Doug David Medical Fund)
- Stand Up and Play Foundation
- Sierra Dachshund Breeders Club
- Dachshund Club of Santa Ana Valley
- Channel City Kennel Club
- Santa Barbara Equine Assistance & Evac Team
- Kevlar for K9s Organization
- Companion Animal Alliance for Baton Rouge
- The Beauty Bus Foundation
- Desert Valley Dachshund Club
- Red Cross – Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund
- Books for Houston Kids
- Downtown Dog Rescue
- Sanctuary Centers of Santa Barbara
- Hemopet Canine Blood Bank, Garden Grove
- Parkinson Association of San Diego Walk
- Medical Mission Adventures
- Bright Star Foundation
- Guide Dogs of America

**A huge “Thank You” to our awesome donors who made this year such a great success. Following is list of contributors who have donated to CMF. We thank you for your continuing support.**

List of Contributors:

Zafar Mehdi  
 Gregory Mehdi  
 Elizabeth James  
 Diane E. Jones  
 Mike Culton & Candy Culton  
 Denise Siemssen  
 Jane Watkins  
 Qamar Zaidi & Simin Zaidi  
 Fouzia Niamat & Ashmead Niamat  
 Saara Niamat  
 Sharon & Michael Warzocha  
 KNICKERBOCKER DACHSHUND CLUB  
 Evelyn & Richard Cortes  
 Gwen Lutge & Sebastian Weidel  
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 Shari Lynn Gelinis  
 Joe and Lorraine Culton  
 Denise Gehring  
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 Jeane Chery  
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 Denise Siemssen & Jimmie Lloyd  
 Sharon Stewart & Charles Pickering  
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 Cathy Hubbling  
 Sue and Ernie Havner  
 Sheri & Larry Patterson  
 Paul Blumhorst  
 Juliet Rigrup  
 Caroline Graham  
 Cheri & Austin Koppenhaver



## Donations made in memory of Greg Mehdi, CMF Director during 2012-2014.



Zafar Mehdi, his niece Saara Niamat with her husband Greg Sanders, visited and met with the staff of Homeless Health Care Los Angeles (HHCLA) and presented a \$1,000 donation check. This was CMF's 6<sup>th</sup> annual donation to HHCLA made in memory of Greg Mehdi. Photo from L to R: Mark Casanova – Executive Director of HHCLA, Stephany Campos of HHCLA, Zafar Mehdi, Saara Niamat and Greg Sanders.



Zafar Mehdi and his niece, Shaina Zaidi, visited and met with the staff of Union Station Homeless Services in Pasadena and presented them with a \$1,000 donation check. This was CMF's 6<sup>th</sup> annual donation to Union Station Homeless Services made in memory of Greg Mehdi. Photo from L to R: Shaina Zaidi, Dana Bean – Sr. Director of Development & Communication of Union Station HS, Zafar Mehdi, and Anne Miskey – Chief executive Officer of Union Station HS.





Zafar Mehdi and his niece, Henna Zaidi, visited and met with the staff of The Midnight Mission and presented a \$1,000 donation check. This was CMF's 6<sup>th</sup> annual donation to The Midnight Mission made in memory of Greg Mehdi. Photo from L to R: Georgia Berkovich - Director of Public Affairs of The Midnight Mission, Zafar Mehdi, Henna Zaidi, and Mike Arnold - President & CEO of The Midnight Mission.

**To All our Friends:  
We would love to see you at our**

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual  
HAUTE DOG PICNIC!  
Saturday, May 16, 2020  
11:30am - 3pm (Lunch at Noon)**

**Fun for people of all ages and canines.  
Gourmet franks with delicious toppings, side dishes, drinks, desserts and vegetarian options.**

**Location:  
TeWinkle Park (Area 2)  
965 Presidio Square, Costa Mesa, CA 92626**

**Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Please make reservation by sending email [DEJones@CarrieMehdiFoundation.org](mailto:DEJones@CarrieMehdiFoundation.org) and pay at the picnic;  
or you may make reservation and pre-pay simultaneously using credit card or Paypal on  
our website, [www.CarrieMehdiFoundation.org](http://www.CarrieMehdiFoundation.org)  
or by mailing a check to the Foundation at the address on the front page.**

**To Friends of CMF:** Your ongoing support and donations to CMF are very much appreciated. CMF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable tax-exempt organization. All contributions, gifts and bequests donated to CMF are tax deductible under Federal and California State income tax guidelines. Please mail your donations to the address on the front page. You may also donate using credit card or Paypal on our website. A certified receipt to serve as a proof of your donation for tax deduction purposes will be mailed to you. Please email any questions or comments to [dejones@CarrieMehdiFoundation.org](mailto:dejones@CarrieMehdiFoundation.org)  
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