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Dominican Hospital's Director of Community Engagement Martina O'Sullivan speaks at the hospital's 70th anniversary celebration Wednesday.

# Dominican celebrates milestone

Hospitals- Dominican Hospital  
Neurosurgeon, cardiac specialists coming this fall

By JONDI GUMZ

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SANTA CRUZ — About 250 people came out Wednesday morning to help Dominican Hospital celebrate its 70th anniversary.

"It's a pretty amazing milestone to contemplate," said Dr. Nanette Mickiewicz, the hospital's president and chief executive officer.

She described how the hospital has grown since being founded in 1941 by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. Staff pioneered palliative care, gained certification for stroke and cancer care, acquired the first daVinci robot for minimally invasive surgery, and teamed with paramedics so people

with suspected heart attacks arrive sooner in the hospital's cardiac labs for treatment.

New specialty services are due this fall.

A mobile van will bring medical services to people who might otherwise go without.

Dr. Ciara Harraher, a neurosurgeon affiliated with Stanford University, will open a full-time office next to the hospital Oct. 3.

Dr. Conrad Vial, a cardiothoracic surgeon affiliated with Palo Alto Medical Foundation and part of a four-person surgical group over the hill, will bring 24/7 cardiac services



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Dominican Hospital's main entrance was one of the sites for the festive 70th anniversary celebration Wednesday.

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to Dominican Hospital in November.

"I hope you don't need my services, but if you do ..." said Harraher with a smile.

"It's about teams," said Vial, who sees medicine shifting from a "lone wolf" style to a cross-disciplinary approach.

Mickiewicz, interrupted by ambulance sirens, listed the hospital's 2010 statistics: 41,000 emergency room visits, nearly 13,000 patients, close to 6,000 surgeries, 163,000 outpatient visits, 23,000 home health visits, and \$51 million in community benefits provided to Santa Cruz County.

With federal reforms looming in 2014, "challenging times are ahead," she said. "Thank you for supporting us."

The Most Rev. Richard J. Garcia, archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Monterey, acknowledged those who clean and work in the hospital kitchen

and asked the Adrian Sisters in the audience to stand, prompting applause.

"We come from sturdy stock," said Janet Capone, an Adrian Sister and event organizer, relating how the order was founded in 1206.

Assemblyman Bill Monning [D-Carmel], who chairs the Assembly Health Committee, thanked the hospital for making health and wellness a priority.

Vic Marani, an aide to Sen. Sam Blakeslee [R-San Luis Obispo] and president of the county board of education, recalled the birth of his twin daughters at the hospital and showed off a souvenir newborn onesie reading, "I got my start at Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital, Family Birthing Center."

Dr. Dean Kashino, a family practitioner with 30 years' experience, noted the challenge of keeping up to date in an ever-changing field and called the hospital "an excellent resource to expand my knowledge."

Dr. Carla Gorum, a pediatrician who joined the Dominican Medical Foundation about a year ago, talked about

the importance of treating all patients with respect. Her career was inspired by her maternal grandmother, who died after complications from surgery at age 31, and her paternal grandmother, who worked as a domestic servant in the South to raise five college-educated children.

Martina O'Sullivan, the hospital's director for community engagement, said 70 Dominican employees chosen by their peers would visit 70 community organizations to present a bag of gifts "to express our gratitude."

Three of them spoke about their hospital connections. Nurse Cynthia Reid said she's thrilled by the innovations she's seen over 34 years. Mike Paris, a 28-year veteran who runs the hospital's addiction program, recalled how O'Sullivan supported him on the road to recovery. Patsy Silldorf, another veteran nurse, said she saw teamwork in action when her husband was in the intensive care unit.

The party included serenading by the Cortez Mariachi Band and a spread by Monterey Bay Caterers of Watsonville.