2020 HOPE HERO HONOREES

The American Cancer Society is proud to announce that George and Meryl Young have been selected as the 2020 Hope Hero Award Honorees.

Anyone who knows them can certainly tell you that together, George and Meryl are certainly one of San Diego’s most dynamic philanthropic couples. With Meryl at his side, George first began supporting the American Cancer Society (ACS) in 1997. Since then they have both supported the American Cancer Society's Annual Golf Invitational and Annual Magic of Hope Gala. As true philanthropic leaders, George and Meryl inspire others to get involved by inviting their large network of friends to join them in special ACS events each year and invest in our important mission. George and Meryl spend time with each new member and serve as mentors for their involvement with the Society. While their personal philanthropic efforts will exceed $205,000 this year, the ACS supporters who George and Meryl have engaged have contributed to well over $2 million dollars over the past five years, funding critical patient programs and innovative research.

In addition to serving as members of the ACS West Region Desert Coastal Board of Directors, they are also co-chairs of the ACS Partnership Council in San Diego. For the past four years, they have graciously hosted monthly Partnership Council board luncheons at the Farms Country Club.

George and Meryl’s love story began in 1975 when George met Meryl at Brown University when he was a senior and she was a freshman. They were engaged before they even had their first official date! After trying out for the Knicks and subsequently being cut from the team, he worked in the corporate headhunting business. Meryl transferred to Barnard College of Columbia University, where she completed her undergraduate degree and received her law degree from Columbia Law School at the same time. They married in 1978 and moved to California in 1983.

Meryl is a retired partner of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. Focusing on securities, merger and acquisition, and other complex business litigation, she represents companies, directors and officers, and accounting and investment firms in federal and state court cases throughout the country. She has been recognized as a leading securities litigator not only in California, but also nationally as well. Meryl is also active in many community and professional organizations.

In addition to his activities with ACS, George serves Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County, Boys & Girls Club of America National Board of Directors, Pro Kids/The First Tee of San Diego, Camp Pendleton Armed Forces YMCA and the Legacy Foundation.

We are immensely grateful to have George and Meryl in our corner as we fight for a world without cancer!