



## Sharon Harper

BANNER HEALTH FOUNDATION  
BOARD MEMBER, INCOMING CHAIR

SHARON HARPER has been recognized as "Who's Who of the Decade" by the *Phoenix Business Journal*. She clearly has excelled in the commercial real estate industry in Arizona and is a passionate leader in the community. Sharon is co-founder, president and chief executive officer of The Plaza Companies, a premier Arizona-based real estate development, investment and management firm specializing in medical office/health care, biotechnology facilities and senior housing. In addition to leading this vibrant organization, Sharon generously gives her time and talent to Banner Health Foundation and several other important organizations including, the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, Arizona Community Foundation, Brophy College Preparatory, Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC), Creighton University College of Medicine, Arizona Campus and the Executive Board of Greater Phoenix Leadership (GPL).

As Sharon prepares to take the helm of the Banner Health Foundation board of directors as chairwoman beginning in 2011, FRIENDS decided it was a prime opportunity to share more about her life, her work and her long-standing relationship with Banner Health.

### Share with our readers a bit of your background and what brought you to the Valley.

I was born and raised in Minnesota and later received a degree in journalism from Creighton University. There, I met my future husband, a medical student named Oliver Harper. We relocated to Arizona for his postgraduate training at Good Samaritan Hospital (now Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center) and that is how we became "Arizonans." In 1982, I co-founded The Plaza Companies, which is now a vibrant state-wide and diverse real estate development, investment and management firm with dynamic employees. With primary focus in the areas of medical/health care, bioscience facilities and senior living communities, the future of The Plaza Companies is bright.

### It seems that Banner Health has played a big role in your life, both personally and professionally.

Absolutely! We have a long-standing, close relationship with Banner Health. As I mentioned, Ollie did his postgraduate training at Good Samaritan and later co-founded the Arizona Medical Clinic in the Northwest Valley. In 2007, Arizona Medical Clinic became part of the Banner family, so Ollie returned to Banner. My business, The Plaza Companies, has had a strategic relationship with Banner for many years. We own and/or manage several medical office buildings on and near the hospital campuses of Banner Estrella, Banner Thunderbird, Banner Del E. Webb and Banner Boswell. Now, our family ties to Banner Health are extending to our children. We recently learned that our daughter, Lise, a recent graduate of the Creighton University College of Medicine, will be heading to Banner Good Samaritan as an Internal Medicine resident this year! Banner Health has been with our family in some way, shape or form for many years.

### Tell me a little bit more about your family and your home life.

When we first moved to Phoenix, we moved into an apartment not far from Banner Good Samaritan, and we have been in North Central Phoenix since. We love the culture and the ambiance of this neighborhood and take every opportunity to walk on the Murphy Bridle path - one of this city's true gems. We have five amazing children who live in Arizona, Colorado, San Francisco and San Paulo, Brazil. Our pets include a chocolate Labrador Retriever and two Yorkshire Terriers.

### With all of your responsibilities and community involvement, what made you decide to take on this new leadership role with Banner Health Foundation?

I have had a personal and passionate commitment to the health care industry throughout Arizona as it was closely linked with the mission of The Plaza Companies. I am particularly proud to be a part of what is happening at Banner Health, and it seemed natural for me to help take this organization to the next level. I am inspired by the significant and incredible work that the leadership of Banner has exemplified in our community. It has built strong and lasting relationships with its physicians and is constantly working to bring the best of the world's medical expertise to the Valley. The dynamic and innovative programs in Alzheimer's disease/dementia, cardiology, cancer care and so many others have touched countless lives. The accessibility and quality of Banner Health is what draws me to this organization and this role.

### What is your vision for the future of Banner Health Foundation?

Banner Health Foundation's board is populated with exceptional community leaders who are devoted and enthusiastic. I foresee our board working even more collaboratively to support the mission and vision of Banner Health and its leadership. I believe that by strengthening our existing relationships and fostering new ones, we can not only provide excellent patient care for those in Arizona, but make our state an even better one in which to live.

### Would you like to leave our readers with any final thoughts about Banner Health and Banner Health Foundation?

I welcome Arizona residents as a whole to support quality health care in our region. Together, we can make a difference that we could never achieve individually. My goal is to broaden the number of people who will be active participants in Arizona's health care community. I know that by doing this and working together, we will all feel a sense of accomplishment and ownership in the health and well being of all Arizonans.