



From left, Connie Codding, Bill Friedman, Norma Person, Jeannie Schulz and Henry Trione

# The Greatest Gifts

A kindness of spirit pervades the season. As the winter holidays open our hearts, it's time to help others, time for giving, volunteering, contributing. We asked six of Santa Rosa's best-known philanthropists to talk about the most memorable gift they ever gave.

CHRISTOPHER CHUNG

*“It is really something that resonates with me because we need healthy children.”*

CONNIE CODDING

on her support for family planning and health services for young people



BETH SCHLANKER

Connie Coddling is a staunch supporter of organizations that operate health clinics for children and teenagers.

## Connie Coddling

Connie Coddling has made so many gifts to Sonoma County community organizations, she couldn't be expected to remember them all. Even so, she quickly came up with a few that have exceptional significance to her.

All have helped to extend family planning and other health services to young people.

“It is really something that resonates with me because we need healthy children,” said Coddling, the widow of the county's best-known builder, Hugh

Coddling, and executive vice president of Coddling Enterprises.

She was proud decades ago to have helped fund the construction of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Rohnert Park. More recently, her donations were key to staving off the closing of a clinic at Elsie Allen High School that's now operated by Santa Rosa Community Health Centers.

Coddling believes the campus clinic is essential to address general health concerns as well as birth control.

“In high school there's a lot going on,” she said. “Hormones are raging and common sense is still forming.”

She also has supported the clinic at Roseland Elementary School. And she's a benefactor and board member of PDI Surgery Center, which provides urgently needed oral surgery to children from low-income families.

“It is important for children to have healthy teeth. It affects their overall health,” Coddling said.

As president of the Coddling Foundation, she said she is gratified by impacts that her family's donations have made to many causes. “But these really resonate with me personally.”

— Chris Smith