

# Press-Telegram

Long Beach, California

Saturday, December 18, 1999

## THE BEST GIFT



"Cher," as impersonated by Sandra Wood, leads oncologists Andre Liem, left, and Howard Cheng, during Friday's annual Cancer Survivor Christmas Celebration at St. Mary Medical Center.

Cristina Salvador / Press-Telegram

Dr. Simon Tchekmedyan holds the hand of Seal Beach resident Irene Hirschland Friday night at St. Mary's annual holiday celebration for cancer survivors.

Cristina Salvador / Press-Telegram



### 'Dr. T' proves treatment and active life can mix

By Tracy Manzer  
Staff writer

LONG BEACH — Hundreds of cancer survivors and some still battling the devastating disease celebrated the holidays and the promise of another year of life Friday night thanks to the efforts of a dedicated local physician.

"When they first told me I

had breast cancer, it was like a death sentence. All your dreams are put on hold," said Maria Richie. "But since I met Dr. T., he has become my link to life."

Richie came to Dr. Simon Tchekmedyan, or Dr. T, as he is called by most of his patients

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