

# OUR KIDS



2018

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 1

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This is where futures grow.

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LETTER FROM THE CEO

*There are milestones in the life of every organization that present us with opportunities to both reflect on our history and to imagine the next generation of the work we will do to care for our families' most precious gift: their children.*



Todd Suntrapak and Mrs. Peck, 2015

Such has been our experience at Valley Children's Healthcare this year. The Valley Children's story began more than 70 years ago, when five young mothers decided – simply, clearly and with few doubts that they would succeed – that the Valley needed a hospital just for children. From that vision, the Valley Children's Healthcare network that we know today emerged.



Carolyn Peck, the last of the five founding mothers, passed away on February 18, 2019.

We lost the last of our five founding mothers – Carolyn Giffen Peck – on February 18, 2019. Simply stated, Mrs. Peck was our inspiration. The joy on her face as she visited the hospital, the awe in her expression as she looked at what her vision had become and the gratitude she reflected in the difference she was able to make in the lives of literally hundreds of thousands of kids over the last 70 years are gifts we will always treasure. There are few words to express our thanks to Mrs. Peck and each of our five founding mothers as we carry out their vision every single day.

Going forward, perhaps the most meaningful tribute to Mrs. Peck and our founding mothers is our daily commitment to improving the health of the Valley's children and our work to imagine the next 70 years of world-class pediatric care in the Central Valley and beyond.

For many, you have received and read the annual reports of Valley Children's for years. This year you will find something different. Let me explain.

For starters, we are shifting the focus to our annual impact. Our commitment to the Valley's children is to help solve their health

challenges – the simplest and the most complex alike – both within our four walls and outside where they live, learn and play. In this inaugural annual impact report, we will chronicle the challenges our kids face and, over time, how the work of our physicians, staff and leadership is making a difference in those challenges.

Second, we will introduce more communication throughout the year so that we can report on our progress – our successes, our challenges and the difference each of you will help us make in that work. The best way to measure change is to report it, and we are committed to that for our patients, our families and our communities.

The work of improving the health of children in this Valley was started by five young moms more than 70 years ago. This next generation of our work is our tribute to their legacy.

With gratitude,

Todd A. Suntrapak  
President and CEO



# OUR CHILDREN

THE STATE OF

From high rates of obesity and child abuse to poor access to primary healthcare, Central California children and their families face many challenges in striving to live healthy, productive lives. The implications of these challenges are significant, often resulting in unnecessary and preventable illnesses, frequent visits to hospital emergency rooms and missed days at school and at work. Healthcare providers must carefully consider the many needs that exist and determine which are the most critical and which they are best equipped to address.<sup>1</sup>

As the only comprehensive pediatric specialty care network of its kind in all of Central California, Valley Children's is uniquely positioned to address many of these challenges and to help ensure a positive future for our region's children. In fact, it reflects the very heart of Valley Children's mission: *to continuously improve the health of kids across the continuum of care - from inside the hospital and outside into the communities where our kids live, learn and play.*

Following is a brief summary of the most critical needs or issues adversely impacting child health and wellness in our region, and some of the ways Valley Children's is attempting to bend the curve in favor of children.



## TOP 10 ISSUES

# 1

### ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) - stressful or traumatic events children experience before the age of 18 - affect 18 percent of Fresno County children, placing these children at a higher risk for health, behavioral and learning difficulties.<sup>2</sup>

### ASTHMA

Asthma is the most common chronic disease in children, and more than 25 percent of children living in Kings, Merced and San Joaquin counties have been diagnosed with asthma. In the Central Valley, persistent poverty and air pollution levels combine to produce the highest rates of emergency room visits for childhood asthma across the state of California.<sup>3</sup>

# 2

# 3

### CHILD ABUSE

Children who are abused or neglected are more likely to experience cognitive, emotional and behavioral problems.<sup>4</sup> Kern County has one of our region's highest rates of child abuse and neglect.

### CHILDHOOD OBESITY

More than 40 percent of fifth graders in Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties are overweight or obese. In addition, there are large variations across communities; African-American and Latino children continue to have higher obesity rates than Caucasians and Asian-Americans.

A Closer Look:

Valley Children's is facilitating a regional approach to reducing the childhood obesity epidemic in the Central Valley. The "Communities for Healthy Kids" initiative is a multi-sector partnership between healthcare providers, health plans, schools, community-based organizations, public health departments and the agriculture industry to increase access to and consumption of healthy foods and beverages, and to increase opportunities and participation in physical activity.

# 4

### FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecure families lack reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable and nutritious food, and individuals faced with unhealthy food choices often have worse health outcomes. In Merced County, almost one in three children experience food insecurity and it disproportionately affects low-income families.

A Closer Look:

Valley Children's is committed to ensuring children and families have access to nutritious food choices that will improve their outlook for good health and wellbeing. In Fresno County, the Valley Children's team at Dakota Pediatrics screens patients for food insecurity, and families found to be at risk are connected to nutrition and emergency food resources. A similar program is underway in Merced County, where food insecurity is a widespread problem.

# 6

### MENTAL HEALTH

Emotional health is an integral part of overall health, and there is strong evidence linking physical and mental health. Depression is one of the most common emotional health problems among youth; one in three ninth graders in the Central Valley has had depression-related feelings. In addition, suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 15-24, and Kern and Tulare counties have some of California's highest youth suicide rates.

### POVERTY

California's highest poverty rates are in the Central Valley, and in Fresno County 40 percent of children live in poverty. The effects of poverty on child health and wellbeing are well established and evident across our region.

# 7



# 8

### PRETERM BIRTH

Fresno County has one of California's highest rates of prematurity with one out of every nine babies born too early. Premature birth can cause serious physical and mental disabilities – even death – before a baby's first birthday.

### COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS ▶

The annual rankings, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, provide a revealing snapshot of how health is influenced by where we live, learn, work and play.

County rankings are out of 58. Counties identified represent those primarily served in Valley Children's Healthcare network.

# 9

### UNINTENTIONAL INJURY HOSPITALIZATIONS

Fresno County has one of the highest numbers of hospital discharges for non-fatal unintentional injuries in children ages 1-4. For many children, injury can lead to chronic pain, depression, disability and decreased ability to participate in educational and social activities. Leading causes of child injury include vehicle crashes, suffocation, drowning, poisoning, fires and falls.<sup>5</sup> Most unintentional injuries are preventable, and many can be addressed by policies and programs focused on safety.

# 5



# 10

### HEALTH DISPARITIES

Where we live shouldn't determine how long or how well we live, but unfortunately in many parts of our service region, a child's ZIP code has a large impact on their health outcomes. In many of our counties, children don't have access to healthy food, clean drinking water or safe places to exercise or play. These factors continue to create barriers in enabling children to live the healthiest life possible.

<sup>1</sup> Valley Children's Healthcare Community Benefit Report  
<sup>2</sup> kidsdata.org  
<sup>3</sup> Environmental Health Investigations Branch, California Dept. of Public Health. Accessed via asthmastoryca.org  
<sup>4</sup> Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2013). Long-term consequences of child abuse and neglect. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau. Retrieved from: childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/long-term-consequences  
<sup>5</sup> National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2012). National action plan for child injury prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

San Luis Obispo 13

Santa Barbara 18

Sacramento 31

Kings 33  
 Mariposa 34

Stanislaus 38

Madera 40

Merced 45  
 San Joaquin 46

Tulare 50  
 Fresno 51  
 Kern 52

# QUALITY METRICS

THE BEST QUALITY. PERIOD.

While numbers and statistics are only a few measures of a hospital's quality, they are essential in monitoring specific areas of performance and patient outcomes – particularly as they improve over time. Valley Children's singular focus on quality and patient safety in every aspect of our care has resulted in continuous and significant improvement in our quality outcomes. With our dedicated staff and innovative systems functioning at peak performance, Valley Children's continues to distinguish itself as one of the best places in the country for pediatric care – right here in the Central Valley.

GETTING TO ZERO

95%

REDUCTION  
in Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)\*

80%

REDUCTION  
in Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI)\*

933

DAYS WITHOUT  
Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP)  
as of February 26, 2019

\* Based on FY2012-FY2018 data (Resource link: [leapfroggroup.org/ratings-reports/competitive-benchmarking](http://leapfroggroup.org/ratings-reports/competitive-benchmarking))



80%

REDUCTION  
in Surgical Site Infections (SSI)\*

97%

COMPLIANCE  
Hand Hygiene  
as of January 29, 2019

244

DAYS WITHOUT  
Any serious safety events  
as of February 26, 2019



The Leapfrog Group Hospital Survey collects safety, quality and resource use information biannually from 1,900 hospitals. In the Leapfrog Group Report, Valley Children's achieved the best performance rating (four bars) in the following metrics:

## INPATIENT CARE MANAGEMENT

- Steps to Avoid Harm
- Never Events Management
- Appropriate Use of Antibiotics in Hospitals
- Specially Trained Doctors Care for ICU Patients

## MEDICATION SAFETY

- Doctors Order Medication Through a Computer
- Safe Medication Administration

## INFECTIONS AND INJURIES

- Urinary Catheter Infections
- MRSA Infections

# SIMULATION MEDICINE

## PERFECTING THE CARE WE DELIVER

The scene is a familiar one in a hospital. Bright fluorescent lights. Monitors beeping in different rhythms. A team of doctors moving swiftly to care for a trauma patient. There is no room for error for the physician performing the emergency trauma surgery.

**W**hat's not so familiar in this scene is the trauma patient is actually a high-fidelity mannequin, and the "surgery" is a highly detailed simulation to assist in the training of physicians.

Dr. Tara Lemoine, Medical Director of Interprofessional Simulation, is the only physician in the United States – and one of only 20 physicians worldwide – who has completed the renowned pediatric simulation fellowship, KidSIM, through the University of Calgary at Alberta Children's Hospital. KidSIM is known for its top-notch educational programs and cutting-edge research, both brought to Valley Children's in July 2018 when Dr. Lemoine completed her fellowship.

"As I was exiting my [initial] medical fellowship, simulation was just coming on the scene as the new way to train physicians," explained Dr. Lemoine. "No longer was someone just going to show you something and then, the next time, expect you to perform

the procedure on a patient. Simulation provided the opportunity to learn a new skill or refine existing skills in a more controlled environment. The ability of simulation to improve patient care and patient outcomes captured my interest and inspired me to seek additional training in its use."

Simulation training has been a formalized part of Valley Children's since 2011, when Dr. Jolie Limon, Chief of Pediatrics and Executive Director of Medical Education, started a collaborative training effort for medical residents and nursing students. While simulation training is vital for any medical specialist, Dr. Limon emphasizes the importance of pediatric simulation within a children's hospital.

"We are talking about a child – a family's greatest treasure – so physicians and nurses carry with them a special level of responsibility in making sure they are doing right by children," Dr. Limon said. "How we communicate, how we work as an interprofessional team, how we break down barriers, all of that is strengthened with simulation medicine. Our kids deserve nothing less."

In 2018 alone, Valley Children's coordinated 5,082 hours of simulation. Through these simulations, 1,745 individuals, including 218 physicians, gained hands-on experience.

These training opportunities can lead to lifesaving moments, as occurred with acute care bedside nurse, Sandra Caminata, in the fall of 2018. She had just participated in a simulated emergency medical response at Valley Children's Hospital when, just hours later, she found herself in a nearly identical real-life trauma situation. Thanks to her simulation experience, she was more confident in her abilities.

The value of simulation speaks for itself with successful patient outcomes and improved quality metrics. No longer is it practice just for the sake of practice – it is practice for the sake of our kids.

“

*How we communicate, how we work as an interprofessional team, how we break down barriers, all of that is strengthened with simulation medicine. Our kids deserve nothing less.*

Dr. Jolie Limon





# ROSA, MEET STEVEN

For some children, epileptic seizures can be so severe or frequent that their quality of life is significantly affected. One percent of these epilepsy patients qualify for brain surgery to minimize the life-affecting seizures, but this option has some daunting considerations: a two-hour stereo-electroencephalography (EEG) to place electrodes in the brain, inpatient monitoring for up to two weeks, four days of recovery in the hospital and additional recovery time at home.

**T**his year, the options for Valley Children’s patients and families were dramatically improved – thanks to the expertise and innovation of Valley Children’s neurosciences team and the ROSA™ robotic surgical assistant.

Meet Steven. He was diagnosed with refractory epilepsy that progressively intensified as he got older, leading to several seizures a day, some lasting four to five minutes each. Three days after monitoring electrodes were placed with just two-millimeter incisions, Valley Children’s pediatric neurosurgeons performed a temporal lobectomy on Steven with only a seven-centimeter-long incision. Three days later, Steven was smiling and waving goodbye to his nurses and doctors. He was back in school within two weeks, more alert and agile than ever before. Steven remains seizure-free today.

Dr. Patricia Clerkin, Valley Children’s Medical Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery, utilized the ROSA™ robotic surgical assistant to create a 3D map of Steven’s brain and plan the pathways needed to perform the procedure. ROSA™ provided robotic alignment of the planned pathway, allowing access into the deep brain targets for the placement of electrodes, for the most accurate surgery possible.

“This technology means that more effective and faster surgeries with improved outcomes are available to patients without having to drive out of the Central Valley,” Dr. Clerkin said.

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*This technology means more effective and faster surgeries with improved outcomes are available to patients without having to drive out of the Central Valley.*

Dr. Patricia Clerkin

ROSA™ technology also enables neurosurgeons to identify the precise source of seizures, opening the door for many more patients to become surgically qualified, allowing more neurosurgical procedures to be performed in a minimally invasive manner.

Leading-edge technology in the hands of expert physicians – a powerful combination that is now within reach for children like Steven throughout the Valley.

\*Patient name has been changed for privacy.

# SAFER, CLEARER IN SECONDS

For kids who need X-rays several times a year, less is definitely more. Valley Children's invested in new equipment to reduce radiation exposure and ease anxiety for children and parents alike.

**T**he technology is called EOS, an advanced X-ray machine that can take a full-body scan in less than 15 seconds, producing high-quality images with up to 85 percent less radiation exposure.

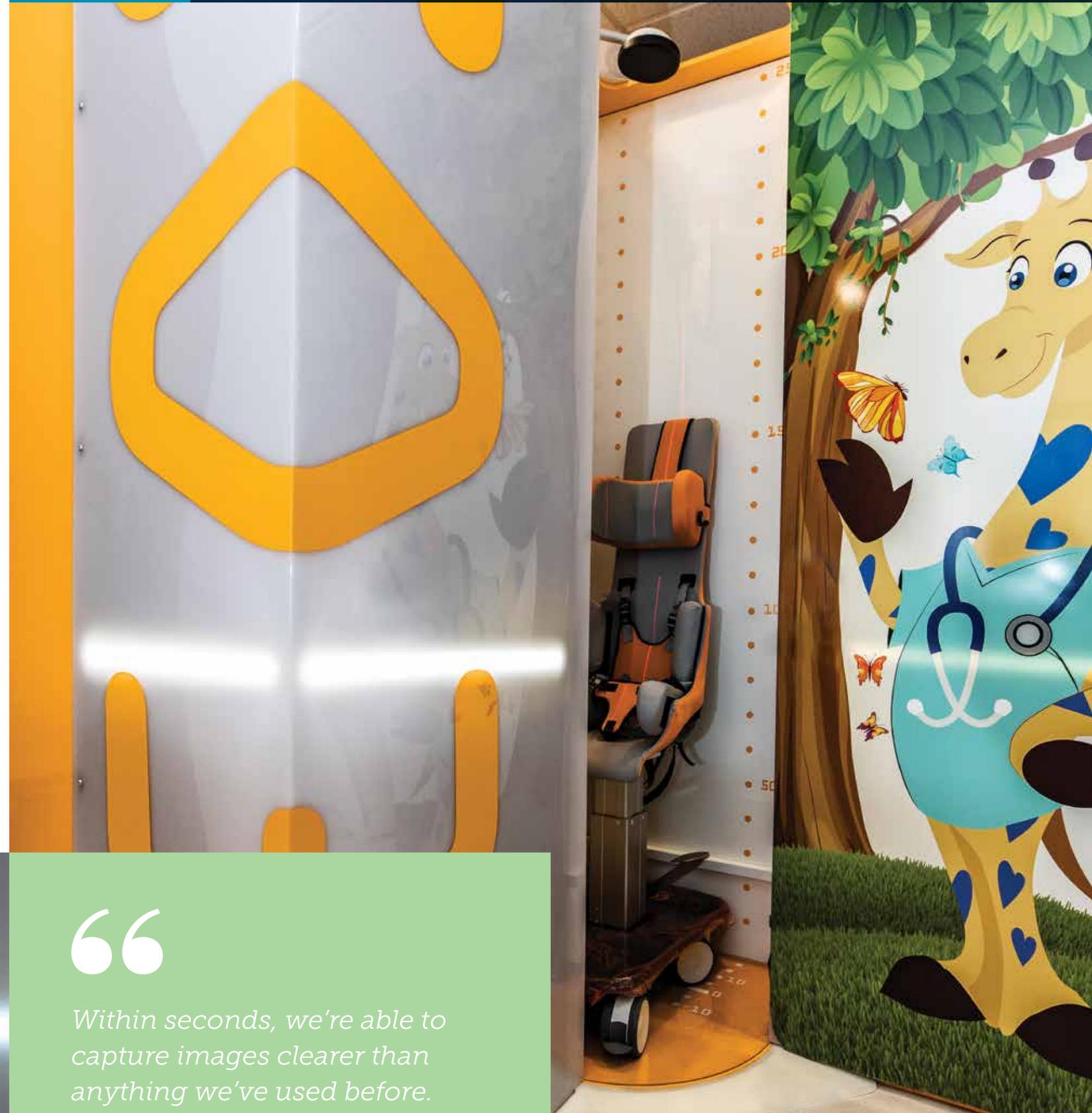
Nine-year-old Jayden Ortiz is one of many children benefitting from EOS. He has scoliosis and needs scans taken of his back at least four times a year. With EOS, Jayden no longer must lie down uncomfortably for an extended time. He walks into a booth decorated with George the Giraffe and seconds later, he's done.

Jayden's mom, Synthia Ortiz, says, "He likes it so much better. He can just stand and use the bar to hold himself up, which makes it easier on him. And there's less radiation, which makes it better healthwise."

"For Jayden and others like him, EOS is revolutionary," says Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr. Kerry Loveland. "Within seconds, we're able to capture images clearer than

anything we've used before, in a more efficient manner and in a way that's so much safer – and less intimidating – for children who require frequent scans."

Valley Children's is the first healthcare provider in the entire region to use EOS technology.



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*Within seconds, we're able to capture images clearer than anything we've used before.*

Dr. Kerry Loveland

Valley Children's Participates in

# PROJECT BABY BEAR GENOME TESTING

Valley Children's has been chosen to participate in a new state-funded pilot program called Project Baby Bear to provide rapid Whole Genome Sequencing (rWGS) to critically ill newborns.



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*Our partnership with Project Baby Bear significantly shortens the path to a diagnosis that will enable physicians to better treat their patients.*

Dr. Mario Rojas



**V**alley Children's is one of only five hospitals statewide taking part in the pilot. Project Baby Bear is an important first. Until now, whole genome sequencing has not been covered by any state or federal government healthcare program in the U.S.

Project Baby Bear uses rWGS to help improve the treatment of infants and children with undiagnosed illnesses who are under the care of Medi-Cal, to ultimately decrease the cost associated with the program.

“Our partnership with Project Baby Bear significantly shortens the path to a diagnosis that will enable physicians to better treat their patients,” says Valley Children's Hospital NICU Medical Director Dr. Mario Rojas. “At the same time, it lightens the burden of uncertainty for parents whose child is suffering from a rare disease.”

Medi-Cal does not currently cover rWGS testing. During the trial, testing is available for free to participating Medi-Cal families. Test results are usually returned within three to five days from the lab located at Rady Children's Genomic Institute in San Diego.

In a recent Project Baby Bear case, rWGS provided answers to a family whose baby was admitted to Valley Children's with seizures. The advanced testing provided a diagnosis, allowing doctors to customize treatment. The results also gave reassurance to the patient's family.

“When our child first got sick, we were so worried,” says the baby's father, Armando Martinez. “With Project Baby Bear and the work of our son's doctors, we have answers and Valley Children's is helping our son get better.”

# WHEN KIDS REQUIRE GROWN-UP CARE

## PEDIATRIC TO ADULT HEALTHCARE TRANSITION

“Miracle children” who made headlines a decade or two ago for surviving a pediatric onset condition are now young adults, and they are far from alone.

**N**ationally, more than 90 percent of children with even the most severe pediatric conditions are thriving into adulthood. But while their critical health issues may be behind them, they must still learn to manage their medications and doctor appointments, understand their condition and navigate their insurance. It’s like a college course they can’t afford to fail – a course called “Pediatric-to-Adult Healthcare Transition.”

To help prepare young adolescent patients for their integration into adult-oriented healthcare, Valley Children’s has committed to an ambitious effort: an innovative Transition Clinic.

By partnering with a growing number of Valley Children’s specialists, the clinic helps young adults learn how to access care and self-manage, while providing them with comprehensive evaluations and care coordination and addressing their psychosocial needs.

Raul Ayala, Chief Medical Officer of Valley Children’s longtime

partner, Adventist Health, remarked, “Transitions of care and complex care services have been our focus in the last few years and this collaboration between both organizations will improve the quality of care, safety and experience for our patients in the Central Valley.”

The clinic’s practices, tools and policies are poised to revolutionize how Valley Children’s prepares our youth for transitioning to adulthood.



Transition Clinic Medical Director Dr. Patrick Burke works with Krista on her plan of care.

# BEYOND THE WHEELCHAIR

## Learning to live independently with age-specific health services.

**C**onfidently commanding her motorized wheelchair, 23-year-old Krista radiates a bright smile and infectious energy. Undeterred by the cerebral palsy that bent her spine, made her quadriplegic and required multiple surgeries, she dreams of attending college.

But beneath Krista’s smile is a nagging worry. She can’t remember ever having a general pediatrician; she only knows the specialists at Valley Children’s. Because she will need lifelong medical follow-up and more surgery, she will need a trusted healthcare provider. When she discovered Valley Children’s Transition Clinic, she became its first self-referral.

During her comprehensive evaluation, it was found that Krista had received no adult transition guidance for medical issues and had minimal skills for managing her healthcare and psychosocial issues. Starting with the basics, the clinic’s transition navigator helped her complete an Advance Health Directive and learn to take over her own healthcare management. Krista was excited to see how she could become more independent, perhaps one day living on her own.

The clinic updated her on how to access a new community resource for employment training, and how the Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC) and Fresno County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) could assist with independent living skills services.

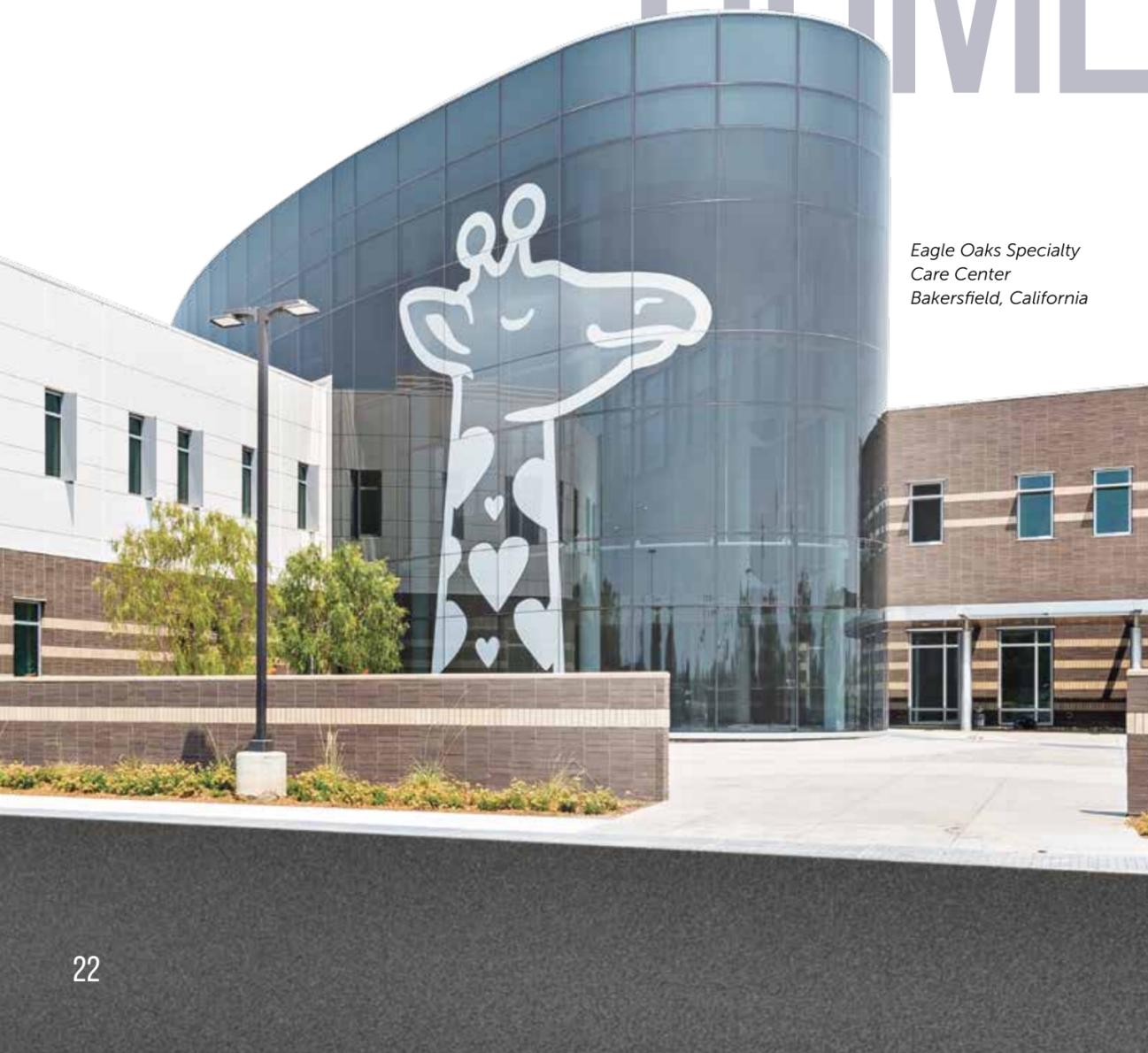
Her transition navigator helped Krista link to the community college’s Disability Office for support, as well as to the state-based Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) to check on Medicare eligibility. And because Krista had undergone multiple adverse childhood experiences, including parental death, living with a parent with a substance abuse history and past medical/surgical interventions, the Transition Clinic provided her with resources to continue her ongoing mental healthcare program.

Finally, the clinic’s board-certified internal medicine/pediatric specialist reviewed Krista’s medical problems, including several previously unaddressed concerns, providing clear instructions for what she should expect from a primary care doctor. This was a new and critical step to securing appropriate adult care.

The clinic’s role isn’t finished, as it monitors her progress with her new primary care doctor, fosters new relationships with orthopaedic specialists, discovers new resources (including new wheelchair options from Medi-Cal) and connects with Krista via phone, patient portal and follow-up visits.

Thanks to Valley Children’s Transition Clinic, Krista has a renewed sense of confidence and capability to get the healthcare she needs, the independence she wants and the wellbeing she deserves.

# SPECIALTY CARE CLOSER TO HOME



Eagle Oaks Specialty Care Center  
Bakersfield, California



## IMPACT

Valley Children's will see more than 42,000 annual patient visits at Eagle Oaks within the next decade.

“

*We've been to the doctor at least 100 times since Aniston was born. Having Valley Children's here in Bakersfield is absolutely incredible. It's a very big deal.*

Alexa Reeves



Alexa and Aniston with Dr. Warolin

At two years of age, Aniston is roughly the size of a one-year-old. She has Russell-Silver Syndrome, a very rare genetic disorder that can slow a child's growth and cause gastrointestinal and other medical problems. Luckily, Aniston was diagnosed early and has been in the care of Valley Children's pediatric gastroenterologists, endocrinologists and geneticists ever since. Her appointments are now all a short drive from her Bakersfield home.

**I**n October of 2018, Valley Children's opened Eagle Oaks Specialty Care Center, a 52,000-square foot, state-of-the-art outpatient facility created with three things in mind – exceptional care, comfort and convenience for Kern County families.

"Eagle Oaks is the culmination of decades of commitment to children in this region," said Valley Children's Healthcare President and CEO Todd Suntrapak. "This entire complex is designed for kids, to help them heal and to keep them closer to home."

This new location will help Valley Children's meet the needs of South Valley families and keep them closer to home and to the people they already trust for their best care—their own primary care physicians. Last year, providers at our original outpatient center in Bakersfield

saw more than 5,500 visits. That number is expected to grow to more than 42,000 within the next decade.

Eagle Oaks Specialty Care Center currently offers services in 11 pediatric specialties: Cardiology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Hematology, Infectious Disease, Nephrology, Orthopaedics, Otolaryngology (ENT), Pediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery and Urology. Over time, additional specialties will be offered, including: Genetics, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Pulmonology and Rheumatology/Immunology.

Eagle Oaks is also the next step in Valley Children's commitment to having all families in our region be within 30 minutes or 30 miles of Valley Children's specialists. There are currently specialty care centers in Fresno, Merced and Visalia. Pelandale Specialty Care

Center opened in Modesto in February 2019. A new outpatient center is under construction in Fowler (May 2019). Plans are also underway to build additional specialty care centers in Merced, Visalia and north Fresno.

"Valley Children's is the most incredible place I could've ever envisioned," adds Alexa, Aniston's mom. "Everyone has treated Aniston like their own child and has put as much love and care into her that I have. Having Valley Children's here in Bakersfield is absolutely incredible. It's a very big deal."

WITHIN  
**30**  
MINUTES  
OR  
**30**  
MILES

# MEDICAL RESIDENTS MAKE A

As the June 2020 graduation approaches for Valley Children's first class of pediatric residents, you might think that they are eager to start contributing to the health of Central California kids. The truth is: they already are.



# DIFFERENCE



A hallmark of Valley Children's Pediatric Residency Program, Affiliated with Stanford University School of Medicine, is the opportunity to influence children's health in community settings and through advocacy. Our residents have wasted no time in making their impact felt.

Dr. Becca Filbrandt and Cristina Vargas also demonstrated how residents are working to positively impact the community. They identified an area in which they want to help healthcare professionals cultivate conversations: adolescent reproductive health.

Drs. Filbrandt and Vargas created an Adolescent Reproductive Health Symposium, garnering champions within the healthcare network to help build experts in this area. These residents identified that Fresno County has an average birth rate among 15- to 19-year-olds that is more than 13 percent higher than the national average.

"These community-based projects are an invaluable part of our residency," said Dr. Ward. "The issues our kids face will not be just those we will address in the clinical setting. To me, an important part of being a well-rounded, compassionate physician is getting involved with and improving the community that you serve."

*An important part of being a well-rounded, compassionate physician is getting involved with and improving the community that you serve.*

Dr. Devon Ward

Dr. Devon Ward will be a member of this first graduating class of pediatric residents. A graduate of Clovis West High School and Fresno State, Dr. Ward was anxious to return home to complete her pediatric residency and establish her medical practice. Her interest in the integration of physical and behavioral health led to her community benefit work: raising awareness about suicide prevention and helping physicians recognize and respond to suicide risk in their patients.

"In medical school, I realized that mental health problems were often not addressed in much detail," Dr. Ward said. "With the large shortage of pediatric psychiatrists, pediatricians are expected to address depression, anxiety, ADHD and suicidal ideation on a daily basis." Recognizing an opportunity to help pediatricians, Dr. Ward worked with Dr. Carmela Sosa, Associate Director of Primary Care, to offer training to more than 25 Valley Children's

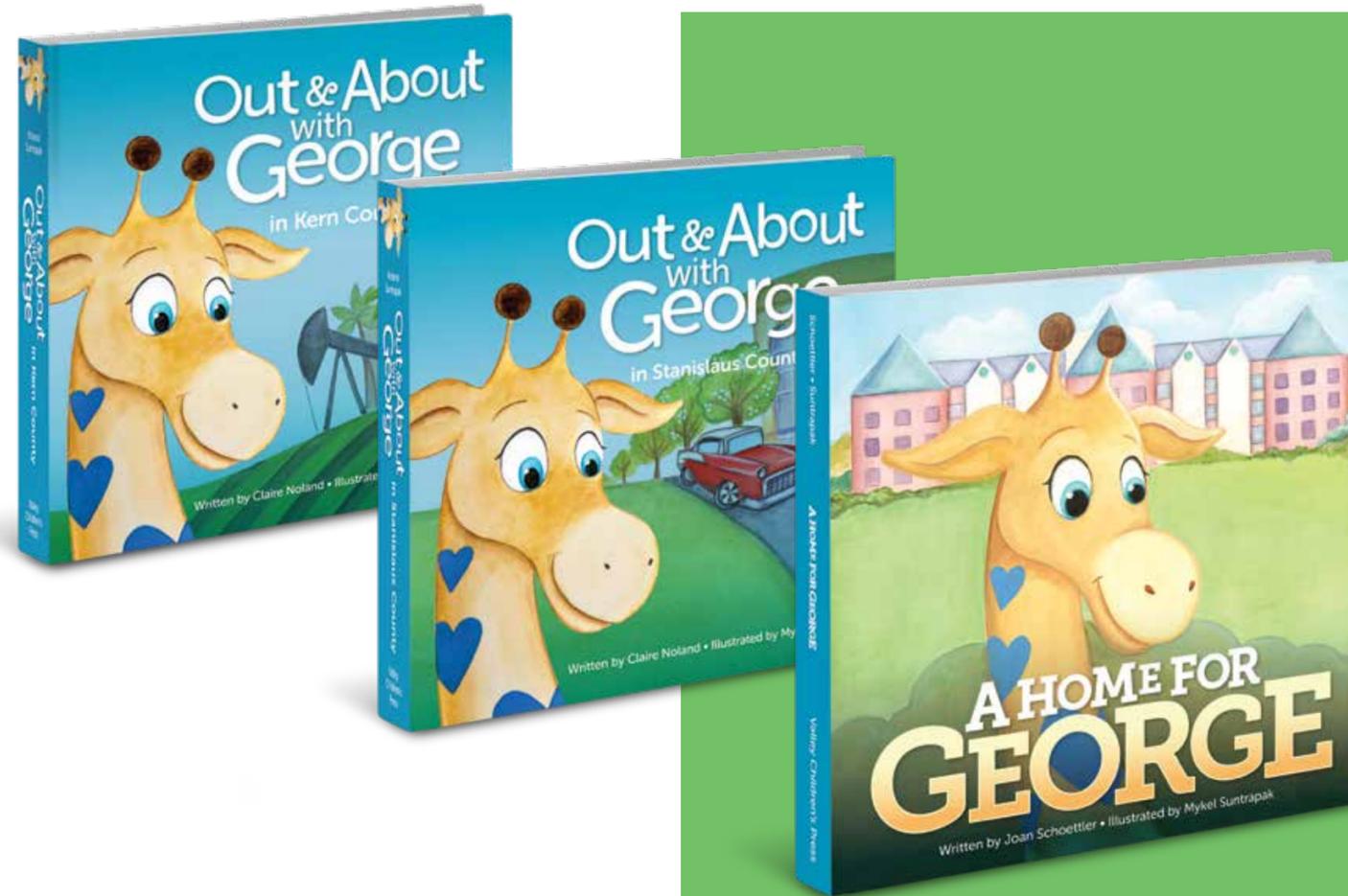
# EMPOWERING KIDS TO DRIVE AWAY ANXIETY

Getting rolled into surgery while lying in a hospital bed, with nowhere to look but up at the parade of ceiling lights as you're wheeled through mysterious corridors – it's enough to produce anxiety in any patient, especially children and their families.

**T**hat is why, in Fall 2018, Valley Children's introduced iDrive. Spearheaded by Shelly Reyes, RN, with help from pediatric surgeons and the perioperative team, iDrive is an innovative program that enables Valley Children's patients to "drive" themselves to surgery or imaging in one of six remote-controlled cars.

The cars – all donated – feature steering wheels, pedals, buttons and other kid-friendly features, and are safely controlled by specially trained nurses. Children who take the drive each receive their own special driver's license. More importantly, they go into their procedures with decreased anxiety and need for sedation.

For patients like Mateo Hernandez, any pre-surgery fears were driven away by iDrive. His mom, Maribel Morales, agrees: "I feel better, seeing my son smile like this. You still have nerves and worries, but this is good."



# A HOME FOR GEORGE

His warm smile, friendly personality and vibrant blue hearts make him one of the most recognized figures in the Central Valley.

**W**ritten and illustrated by local authors and artists with personal connections to the hospital, "A Home for George" tells the story of how the lovable giraffe came to be a part of the Valley Children's family.

Two additional books celebrate George's adventures in Kern and Stanislaus counties with Valley Children's new specialty centers in those communities.

All three books are available in the Valley Children's gift shop and book retailers across the Valley.

The stories of George's adventures in both Kern and Stanislaus counties are also provided to patients and their families visiting our specialty care centers and our primary care practices in those communities and shared through the Valley Children's Literacy Program.

The Literacy Program distributes approximately 2,000 new books a month to patients to encourage their interest in reading and to help ease their anxiety about their doctor visit.

George is happy to help!

# AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Valley Children’s commitment to providing the nation’s best pediatric healthcare for kids is present in everything we do - from the smallest daily acts of care and service to national clinical awards, accolades and recognitions.



Valley Children’s Hospital achieved verification as a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons, highlighting outstanding quality of care for injured patients throughout Central California. We are the only pediatric trauma center in the region.



For the second consecutive year, Valley Children’s was named a Workplace of the Year by The Advisory Board Company. The annual award is given to 20 hospital and healthcare network organizations nationwide and recognizes outstanding levels of employee engagement.



Valley Children’s Hospital was named as a Best Children’s Hospital and Best Children’s Hospital for Emergency Care by the Women’s Choice Award, a trusted referral source for excellence in healthcare. Ranked hospitals must meet strict levels of healthcare criteria and achieve high levels of patient satisfaction.



For the first time ever, Becker’s Healthcare named Valley Children’s as one of the country’s 150 Top Places to Work in Healthcare. The list highlights organizations that promote diversity within the workforce, employee engagement and professional growth. Becker’s is the leading source of business and legal information for the healthcare industry.



Valley Children’s earned a “Platinum” rating from GuideStar, the nation’s leading charity rating agency, in 2018. The “Platinum” rating is the highest level of recognition. The Seal of Transparency is awarded for a nonprofit organization’s transparency and accountability to donors. Currently only one-half of one percent (0.5%) of U.S. charities have earned this distinction.



Valley Children’s was named one of the nation’s 20 Most Beautiful Hospitals by Soliant, a healthcare staffing organization. We are the only California hospital – pediatric or adult – to make the list. Soliant notes: “Whenever possible, children’s hospitals should put children at ease... With a cheerful playhouse style and bright colors throughout and within, Valley Children’s celebrates its first year in our rankings.”



U.S. News & World Report recognized Valley Children’s Hospital in its annual “2018-2019 Best Children’s Hospitals” rankings. Valley Children’s was named one of the top 50 children’s hospitals in the country in four pediatric specialties – Neonatology, Pediatric Orthopedics, Pediatric Diabetes & Endocrinology and Pediatric Gastroenterology & Gastrointestinal Surgery. The rankings rely on clinical data – including survival rates, adequacy of nursing staff and procedure volume – and an annual survey of pediatric specialists nationwide.

“

*These awards are as much about our families as they are about Valley Children’s. We wouldn’t be the nationally ranked organization we are without that constant reaffirmation by the families we serve to always do better.*

Todd Suntrapak  
Valley Children’s Healthcare President and CEO



Thanks to a \$90,873 grant from the Central California Alliance for Health, Valley Children’s and the Merced County Food Bank launched an innovative program to help families facing one of the leading health threats in our region – food insecurity. Through the “Prescription for Food” program, our physicians at Olivewood Pediatrics in Merced will screen all patients for food insecurity. Those found at risk will receive monthly vouchers for a year, redeemable for a 30-pound box of nutritious and healthy food from the Food Bank. Families will also be provided with a list of food resources and federal nutrition assistance programs available to them.



The Valley Children’s Cystic Fibrosis Center and the Department of Pediatric Psychology were awarded a three-year, \$150,000 grant from the National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF). The grant provides funding for a Mental Health Coordinator to implement “Depression and Anxiety” guidelines from the CFF. This includes the screening of patients and their parents for any mental health concerns, ensuring families receive the help they need, if they are struggling with diagnosis and treatment.

# YOUR SUPPORT IS OUR HIGHEST HONOR

and deserves our deepest thanks.

Every year, we are humbled by the contributions of so many caring individuals and organizations that support Valley Children's. Your belief in our hospital and healthcare network is an honor beyond words, except to say that we are truly grateful for your financial partnership and for the difference you've made in the lives of our patients and their families. Thank you for standing alongside Valley Children's in our mission to improve the health of kids across the region.

## IMPACT

Following the record-setting success of the 2018 All Guild Fundraiser, the Guilds are completing a goal of \$4 million for the following endowments:

- *The Guilds' Heart Center Endowment (\$2M)*
- *The Guilds' Child Life Endowment (\$1M)*
- *The Guilds' Spiritual Care Endowment (\$1M)*

Previously, the Guilds had established a \$5 million pledge toward The Guilds' Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Endowment.

In 1952, Valley Children's opened its doors to its first patient because of the Guild founders' support and successful efforts to rally the community. Later, when Valley Children's began to expand services in response to the community need, the Guilds provided additional support. That passion continues today as the Guilds work to bring the best to Valley Children's patients.

## \*\*2018 GUILDS

- Alegria Guild, 1950
- Color The Skies Guild, 2017
- Holiday Guild, 1953
- Kings Guild, 1950
- La Comida Guild, 1953
- La Feliz Guild, 1949
- La Sierra Guild, 1999
- La Tienda Guild, 1952
- La Visionaria Guild, 2008
- Las Madrinas Guild, 1950
- Los Niños Guild, 2008
- Los Rancheros Guild, 1949
- Padrinos Guild, 2015
- Sequoia Guild, 1950
- Tenaya Guild, 1950

Alfredo Garcia of Bakersfield was the winner of the Toyota Tundra Giveaway.



Local Walmart and Sam's Club locations raised \$292,924 during their annual campaign. Since 1987, Walmart and Sam's Club have raised \$3.8 million for Valley Children's.

This year's Taco Bell campaign raised an incredible, record-breaking \$236,258 to support the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program. The campaign is a continuation of the vision of former franchisee, Valley Children's trustee and campaign founder, Dave Olson.



Rod's Heart donated \$150,000 to support Eagle Oaks Specialty Care Center in Bakersfield. Rod's Heart was created by family and friends in memory of Rodney Banducci.

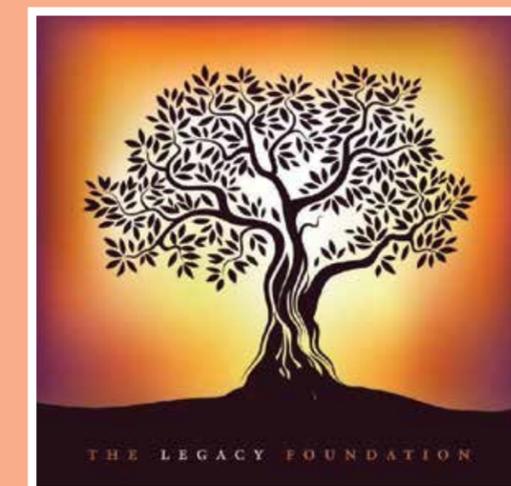
PINC, a remarkable group of women who volunteer their time to raise funds for local charities, raised \$120,000 for the Oncology Social Services Fund.

# FOUNDATION ACTIVITY



Costco raised a record-breaking \$517,348 in 2018, including a \$79,716 corporate match. Since 1990, Costco has donated \$5.257 million to Valley Children's through Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

The Legacy Foundation contributed \$300,000 to support Valley Children's Pediatric Residency Program. The Legacy Foundation Fund has donated \$1 million to support various programs.



**\*CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK HOSPITALS & PARTNERS INCLUDE:**

- ABC30 Telethon
- ACE Hardware
- Aflac
- Alex & Ani
- Charitable Adult Rides & Services, Inc.
- Chevron USA, Inc.
- Chico's FAS, Inc.
- CO-OP Financial Services
- Costco Wholesale
- Credit Union for Kids
- Cumulus Media
- Dairy Queen
- Delta Airlines
- Entravision Radiothon
- Express Employment Professionals
- General Mills
- Phi Delta Epsilon
- Phi Mu - Eta Zeta Chapter
- Sigma Chi - Epsilon Eta Chapter
- IHOP Restaurants
- Kiwanis International
- Kiss Country for Kids Radiothon
- Kroger
- Love's Travel Stops
- Marriott International
- McLane Pacific
- Miss America Organization
- Nestle
- Panda Restaurant Group, Inc.
- PepsiCo
- Radio LAZER
- RADIO Merced Radiothon
- RE/MAX
- RiteAid
- United Networks of America
- Vallarta Supermarkets
- Walgreens
- Walmart

# DONORS

## 2018

Valley Children's is grateful for the support of the individuals, companies and organizations who have given so generously to ensure children and families in the Central Valley have access to quality healthcare services. We proudly thank our donors.

**\$1 Million & Above**

- Anonymous (1)
- Children's Miracle Network Hospitals\*
- The Guilds of Valley Children's Hospital\*\*
- Mrs. Jeanne F. Hoey
- Manuel & Katye Mancebo

**\$250,000 to \$999,999**

- Janell Boldt
- Legacy Foundation Fund
- The Wonderful Company & the Resnick Family Foundation

**\$100,000 to \$249,999**

- ABC30
- Tom & Kim Beck
- Bee Sweet Citrus
- The Terri & Arvin Boersma Family
- Central California Alliance for Health
- The Costa Family
- DC4KIDS
- E. & J. Gallo Winery
- Foster Farms
- Larry & Gail Freels
- The Fresno Bee
- Happy Hearts
- Mr. Don B. Huntley
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- Isnardi Foundation
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- Legacy Health Endowment
- Leon S. Peters Foundation
- The Mitchell Family Foundation
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- Henry T. Perea Family
- PINC
- Quiring General LLC
- Radin Foundation
- Rod's Heart
- The Bill & Linda Smittcamp Family
- Mr. & Mrs. Ray Steele Jr.
- Taco Bell Restaurants
- The Walt Disney Company

**\$50,000 to \$99,999**

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- Mrs. Shirley M. Fisher
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- Marvin & Tish Meyers
- In Memory of Robert M. Shapazian
- Spirit Halloween Superstores, LLC
- St. Baldrick's Foundation
- Bernard & Maxine te Velde
- Triple X Fraternity Selma Chapter
- US Acute Care Solutions
- Leanne Walker-Grant
- Wells Fargo Bank
- Wishon Radiological Medical Group, Inc.

**\$25,000 to \$49,999**

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- Mr. Thomas Bell
- Best Buy Markets
- Bright Family Foundation
- Campos Brothers Farms

- Cardoza Family Foundation
  - Central Valley Petroleum Golf Invitational
  - Kevin & Elizabeth Chappell
  - Blair & Ninette Cunnings
  - Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
  - Derco Foods
  - Derrel's Mini Storage, Inc.
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  - Fowler Mothers Club
  - Good Fellows
  - Hanchett Family
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  - PPS Packaging Company
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  - Setton Pistachio of Terra Bella, Inc.
  - Mr. Harvey Singh
  - Spencer Enterprises
  - Table Mountain Rancheria and Casino
  - Triple B Ranch
  - Susan Winter, M.D.
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  - Ahart Insurance Services
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- The Stewart Family
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\$1,000 to \$2,499

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## Volunteer

Valley Children's volunteers range in age from 14 to 90+ and give their time on either an ongoing or short-term basis. Most volunteers interact directly with patients by playing games, reading books and assisting with arts and crafts. Volunteers also deliver crafts and movies to patients, assist in the gift shop and provide support for our various practices, offices and information desks. Each year, approximately 500 volunteers help care for our patients and you could be one of them. Contact the volunteer office at **559-353-5222** or visit [valleychildrens.org/volunteers](http://valleychildrens.org/volunteers).



# 2018

## STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

### NICUs

4

1 Regional Level IV

1 Community Level III

2 Intermediate Level II

### BEDS

358

330  
Main Hospital

### FACILITIES

7 Specialty Care Centers

8 Primary Care Locations

1 Urgent Care Center

### CARED FOR KIDS FROM

31 STATES

### OUTPATIENT VISITS

288,080

### EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS

114,452

### INPATIENT DISCHARGES

12,040

### SPECIALTY CARE VISITS

195,518

### PRIMARY CARE VISITS

61,881

### URGENT CARE VISITS

23,053

### STAFF

650+ Physicians

3,400+ Employees

450+ Volunteers

### OB/GYN VISITS

7,628

### REFERRING HEALTH PROVIDERS

3,000+

### ACTIVE RESEARCH STUDIES

200+

### CLINICAL TRAINING & EDUCATION

200+ Residents and medical students

900+ Nurses and allied health professionals





*Futures Worth Fighting For.*

9300 Valley Children's Place  
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**(559) 353-3000**

[valleychildrens.org](http://valleychildrens.org)