



**Valley
Children's**
HEALTHCARE



Annual Report and Plan for Community Benefit Fiscal Year 2015

(October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015)

Submitted to:

Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development Healthcare Information Division
Accounting and Reporting Systems Section Sacramento, California

I. INTRODUCTION

Over sixty years ago, our founding mothers had a dream to care for children in a hospital as special as its patients. Valley Children's Hospital has flourished ever since, caring for hundreds of thousands of children. Our mission guides us as we travel the road to our future alongside staff, physicians, children, families, our community and our partners throughout the region.

Mission

The mission of Valley Children's is to provide high quality, comprehensive healthcare services to children, regardless of their ability to pay, and to continuously improve the health and well-being of children.

Vision

Our vision captures the path we've traveled and showcases our commitment and passion to be the best. Our clear focus is to continue to provide the best care and the best quality pediatric services available anywhere with a vision to provide the nation's best healthcare and to become the nation's best children's hospital.

Values

Our values guide every decision and define our commitment and the actions supporting it.

Excellence: We depend on exceptional people to provide exceptional quality health care and services throughout Valley Children's. We set high standards and we support each other as we strive to achieve them. We invest in each other and we value the individual and cultural differences that make us strong. We are proud of our superior services as measured by quality outcomes.

Compassionate Care: We treat every child, every family, each other, our visitors, and our vendors with respect, kindness, hope, joy and good humor. We display our helpful, healing, family-centered spirit at every opportunity. We recognize the importance of playfulness in human interaction and in the health of children. We look for ways to ease suffering and provide comfort.

Integrity: We are honest, ethical and responsible in our work and in the way we deal with others. We keep our promises and admit our mistakes. We know ourselves and we avoid hidden agendas. By the way we live our lives every day, we are worthy of the trust people place in us.

Innovation: We embrace change, creativity, continuous learning and personal growth. We incorporate new ideas, technology and methods to improve the health care and services we provide. We anticipate future trends and we create strategic plans to insure future growth and continued vitality.

Collaboration: We build enduring internal and external relationships, joining with colleagues across organizational boundaries to improve the care and services we provide. We encourage and reward both individual and team achievements. We put the common good ahead of narrow interests.

Stewardship: We are resourceful, adaptable and resilient. We have a "can do" attitude that gets the job done. We are fiscally responsible and efficient with our time. We protect our reserves and manage our operating costs in order to invest in the next generation of kids. We are each personally dedicated to making Valley Children's better because we were here.

Commitment to the Community

As one of the largest pediatric healthcare networks in the nation, Valley Children's provides Central California's high-quality, comprehensive care exclusively for children, from before birth to young adulthood. Our family-centered, pediatric services extend from one of the leading cancer and blood diseases centers on the West Coast, to our heart center known for its expertise, to the highest Level IV neonatal intensive care unit.

Our nonprofit network offers specialized medical and surgical services to treat some of the most unusual and medically complex pediatric conditions. Our network includes a 358-bed children's hospital, specialty

care centers, satellite practices, primary care services, and a number of partnerships with community-based providers. Valley Children’s has a medical staff of over 550 physicians and approximately 3,000 total employees.

Recognized as a Magnet® designated facility and granted the gold-level Beacon Award for Excellence™ in critical care, Valley Children’s consistently ranks at the top of our peer group for quality patient outcomes.

While providing exceptional health care is the single greatest contribution Valley Children’s makes for our children and their families, Valley Children’s also appreciates that it is uniquely positioned to support the needs of children in other ways as well. As an extension of our mission and vision, the goal of Valley Children’s Community Benefit Program is to advance the health and wellbeing of underserved, medically needy children through collaboration and common concern. This Community Benefit Report summarizes the contributions provided by Valley Children’s to its community for fiscal year (FY) 2015 (Oct. 1, 2014 through Sept. 30, 2015).

II. SERVICE AREA DEMOGRAPHICS AND PATIENT VOLUME

Service Area Demographics

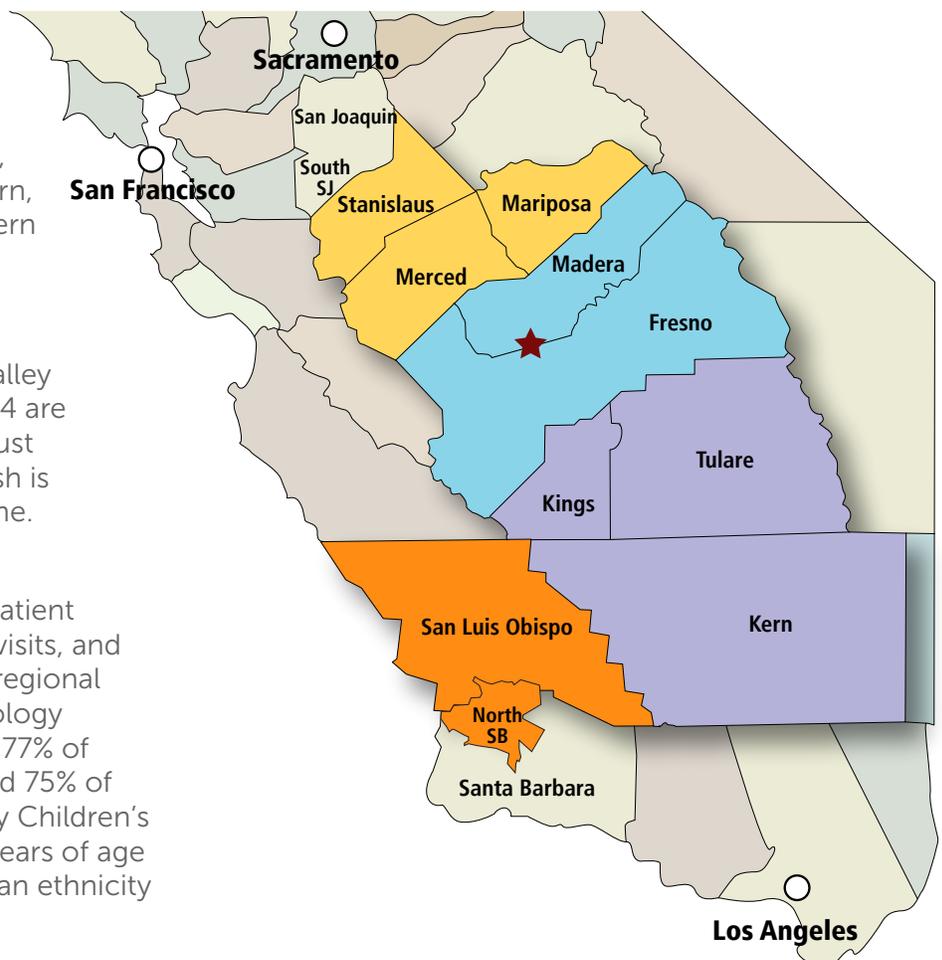
As the only pediatric specialty network located in Central California, Valley Children’s primary service area extends from south San Joaquin County in the north to Kern County in the south, and from the Central Coast to the Sierra Nevada, and is home to over 1.3 million children ages 0 – 20.

Valley Children’s service area includes those counties in which Valley Children’s provides a significant amount of inpatient and outpatient support for specialized pediatric care. The counties, shown in the map below, are Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, northern Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, southern San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, and Tulare.

According to www.kidsdata.org, approximately 1/3 of children living in Valley Children’s service area live in poverty, 3/4 are an ethnicity other than Caucasian, and just less than 1/4 live in families where English is not the primary language spoken at home.

Valley Children’s Patient Volume

In 2015, Valley Children’s had 13,704 inpatient cases, 118,298 Emergency Department visits, and a combined 224,953 outpatient center, regional specialty care centers, day surgery, radiology and laboratory visits. Medi-Cal covered 77% of Valley Children’s total inpatient cases and 75% of total outpatient visits. Over half of Valley Children’s inpatient cases consisted of children 4 years of age or younger and nearly 60 percent were an ethnicity other than Caucasian.



III. ASSESSING AND UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

Valley Children's Community Benefit Program is built upon the outcomes of a collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) that Valley Children's conducts every three years. Valley Children's most recent CHNA was completed in 2013 and included the following components.

Joint Needs Assessment

Valley Children's partnered with hospitals in a four-county region to conduct an assessment of health needs for both children and adults. Counties covered included Madera, Kings, Fresno, and Tulare. In partnership with the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California, the hospitals contracted with Leap Solutions to facilitate the CHNA, which was conducted between October 2012 and February 2013 and published in March 2013.

The opportunity to use a comprehensive data set emerged as Kaiser Permanente had launched its CHNA Data Platform and had made it available to all communities initiating their own needs assessment efforts. The CHNA Data Platform includes 150 health indicators that overlap with the Healthy People 2020 indicators -- the most widely used leading health indicators in the nation by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Kaiser Data Platform is a product of the Center for Applied Research and Environmental Systems at the University of Missouri's Institute of People, Place and Possibility Community Commons Project.

In addition to the information available through the CHNA Data Platform, the hospitals placed a strong emphasis on conducting focus groups and interviews of key stakeholders in each county. A total of 14 focus groups were conducted and included county public health directors, primary care clinic providers, community-based agency leaders, local residents, and others representing low-income, medically underserved and / or minority communities.

In addition, separate phone interviews were conducted with hospital and county public health leaders who were not able to participate in the focus groups. An online survey version of the focus group questions was created and distributed to accommodate individuals unable to travel to the meetings or participate in person.



Supplemental Assessment Activity

Valley Children's staff accessed other resources to further assess children's health care needs throughout the organization's eleven-county service area. Resources included secondary data sources as well as conversations with representatives from low income, medically underserved and minority communities. Community representatives that were consulted included county public health officials, federally qualified health center staff, individual pediatricians, and policy and program experts at the Central California Children's Institute and the Central Valley Health Policy Institute.

Additionally, Valley Children's staff engaged with a host of community-based organizations and initiatives that kept us close to the issues impacting the health and wellbeing of children in our service area and helped inform the specific issues Valley Children's chooses to address through its Community Benefits Program. A partial list of organizations and initiatives in which we were involved in 2015 is included below.

- ABC 30 Fresno Community Advisory Committee, Fresno
- Bi-Annual Babies First Coordinating Council
- Binational Health Week Planning Committees for Madera and Fresno Counties
- California Breast Feeding Coalition Communication Committee
- California Central Valley Coalition for Compassionate Care
- California Safe Teen Driving Committee
- California State University-Fresno, Department of Health and Human Services Inter Professional Collaborative
- Child Abuse Prevention Councils
- Children's Health and Air Pollution Study for the San Joaquin Valley
- Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Central California Perinatal Mental Health Collaborative
- Central Valley Concussion Consortium
- Central Valley Health and Nutrition Collaborative
- Central Valley Regional Center
- Central Valley School Health Advisory Panel
- Childhood Weight Management Task for Fresno and Madera Counties
- Children's Health Initiative for Fresno County
- County Pediatric Death Review Teams
- Cradle to Career Partnership, Fresno County
- Exceptional Parents Unlimited, Fresno
- Fresno Babies First Breastfeeding Task Force
- Fresno County Interagency Team Member
- Fresno County 5150 Task force
- Fresno County Sexual Assault Response Team
- Fresno Healthy Communities Access Partners
- Fresno-Kings-Madera Regional Health Authority
- Healthy Madera Steering Committee

- Hospital Council of Northern and Central California
- Human Rights Commission
- Kern Call to Action – Health Care Work Group
- Kern County Medically Vulnerable Infant Project
- Kings County Multi-Disciplinary Team
- Madera County Breast Feeding Coalition
- Madera County Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Madera County Child Forensic Interview Team
- Madera County Interagency Council for Children
- March of Dimes Central Valley Division
- Mariposa County Interagency Team Member
- Model of Care Partnership Oversight Committee, Fresno County
- Parenting Network, Visalia
- Preterm Birth Collective Impact Initiative for Fresno County
- Raphael Health Ministry Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Fresno County
- Resource Center for Survivors, Fresno County Rape Crisis Services
- Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno, Health Ministry Office
- Ronald McDonald Charities of Central California
- Safe Kids Central California
- Sierra Vista Child and Family Services, Modesto
- United Way of Fresno County
- Teen Parent Support Program – First 5 Fresno
- Tulare County Healthy for Life Collaborative
- Tulare County Sexual Assault Response Team
- Ventanilla de Salud Program, Mexican Consulate Fresno
- Women’s Initiative United Way Fresno County

IV. COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS PRIORITIES IN FY 2015

From high rates of obesity and child abuse to poor access to primary health care, children and their families in Central California face many challenges in their efforts to live healthy productive lives. The implications of these challenges are significant. For children and their families, it means high rates of chronic illness, frequent visits to hospital emergency rooms, missed days at school, and missed days at work for the parents or caregivers. For health care providers, it means carefully considering the many needs that exist and determining which needs are the most critical and which needs they are best equipped to address.

Valley Children's identified the following priority needs for 2013 - 2015. They are not listed in any particular order.

- Child Maltreatment: Enhanced community education and coordination of services regarding child maltreatment prevention.
- Childhood Weight Management: Increased coordination of existing efforts and development of new resources to assist community-based providers.
- Community Capacity: Enhanced capacity of community-based providers to address pediatric health care needs, including kids with medically complex conditions.
- Developmental Disabilities: Improved access to, and reimbursement for, prevention, screening and treatment for children at risk for, or with, developmental delays.
- Family Support: Improved access to transportation, health literacy, and meals.
- Mental Health: Increased access to mental health services for children, both inpatient and outpatient.
- Primary Care: Increased utilization of primary and preventative care for underserved children.
- Reintegration: Increased opportunities for disabled children to reintegrate into their communities.
- Unintentional Injury: Continued focus on preventing unintentional injury to children through community-based education efforts.

Availability of health care resources within Valley Children's service area varies by type of resource and location, however it is generally recognized that a vast majority of the region is medically underserved. For example, a 2013 report by the Central Valley Health Policy Institute concluded that county Public Health Departments in the Central Valley of California (including eight counties in Valley Children's service area) receive less state and federal funding per population than do other California counties and therefore tend to support fewer population health activities. Also, according to data published by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, significant portions of each county within Valley Children's service area, with the exception of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties, were designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas for primary care (including pediatrics), dentistry and mental health as of December 2015.

V. COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAM SUMMARY FY15

According to the Catholic Health Association, community benefit services provide treatment and/or promote health and healing in response to identified community needs, and meet at least one of the following objectives.

- Improve access to health care services
- Enhance health of the community
- Advance medical or health care knowledge
- Relieve or reduce the burden of government or private, community – based efforts

Also included in the definition is the provision of charity care and the unreimbursed cost of providing health care services to those enrolled in public programs, including Medi-Cal. In FY15, Valley Children's provided community benefit activities and programs within its service area. A summary of these activities and programs follows.

A. COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT SERVICES

Community Health Education

Injury Prevention

Valley Children's operates an Injury Prevention Program to increase community awareness of childhood injuries and those measures that can be taken to decrease their prevalence throughout Central California.

The Program recorded over 21,800 contacts with children, parents, health care professionals and others at 315 different community, media and professional events. The Program covered the following topics in 2015: Abusive Head Trauma, Air Powered Gun Injuries, Child Passenger Safety, the Choking Game, Distracted & Reckless Teen Driving, Lithium Battery Ingestion, Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy, Pediatric Trauma, Safe to Sleep, Sports Injuries, Teen Depression & Suicide Prevention, Toy Safety, and Wheeled Sports Safety.

In addition to topics listed above, Valley Children's continued its strong focus on water safety through The Kohl's Water Safety Program – a partnership between Valley Children's Hospital and Kohl's Cares. This Program provides broad-based awareness messaging, educational opportunities and community outreach events to children and families on water safety and drowning prevention. The multifaceted program aims to decrease water-related injuries and drowning and improve the health, safety and wellbeing of children in communities served by Valley Children's and Kohl's Department Stores.

Health Library

Valley Children's provided access to on-line educational information via the Health Encyclopedia link on its website. Health Encyclopedia contains thousands of pages of information on pediatric diseases, conditions and treatments, as well as sections on how to keep kids healthy. The encyclopedia is available in English and Spanish.

Cancer Survivorship Program

The Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program at Valley Children's provides specialized, high-quality care to help survivors of childhood cancer live healthier, happier lives. The program includes an annual assessment of the survivor's health, academic and social development, and an individualized action plan to address long-term effects from cancer treatment.

Meeting the Needs of Medically Complex Children

Valley Children's recognizes the critical role that community-based providers and organizations play in meeting the needs of medically complex children and is committed to making sure they have the clinical skills to take care of this patient population. The Hospital provided outreach education to hospital staff and community-based organizations to make sure they have the clinical expertise needed to care for medically complex children. Topics covered included care for high risk newborns, general pediatric trauma, abusive head trauma and other areas of pediatric maltreatment, and the prevention of human trafficking of children.

Reintegration

Valley Children's Adaptive Sports Program provides recreational and athletic experiences for those with disabilities. Open to all ages, the free program is the only one of its kind in the Central Valley. It's designed for individuals with physical and health impairments and conditions ranging from cerebral palsy to spinal cord injuries. Through hard work and determination, participants learn that it's possible for them, too, to take part in athletic activities, exceed expectations and achieve their dreams.

The program offers a unique opportunity for people with similar disabilities to come together and increase their social interaction. Parents of special needs children also have the chance to meet other parents and find support, encouragement and friendship.

Activities offered in 2015 included water skiing, rock climbing, sled hockey, wheelchair basketball, kayaking, tennis, paddle boarding, camping, scuba and track and field.



Health Care Support Services

Valley Children's provided health care support services to help address the health care needs of children and their families, at home, at school, and in the community.

Child Abuse Prevention

The Guilds of Valley Children's Hospital Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Center's mission is to provide comprehensive services to children and their families through a multidisciplinary, child-friendly program, and to meet the physical and emotional needs of children suspected of being abused or neglected.

The Center's vision is to be the premier provider in Central California for diagnostic physical abuse assessments, foster care medical clearance examinations, and pediatric sexual assault evaluations including children who have been victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

The Center's Child Advocacy Clinic operates five days a week and sees close to 1,000 children each year. The Center's providers are available seven days a week, 24 hours a day for emergency coverage. The Center includes an inpatient component that evaluates about 100 children yearly in the pediatric emergency department, acute-care floors and the pediatric intensive care unit. These children are evaluated for suspected physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. The staff includes a board-certified child abuse pediatrician, nurse practitioners specializing in child maltreatment, forensic nurses, social workers, a center coordinator and support staff.

There is ongoing collaboration with external community partners, and other Valley Children's services including subspecialty clinics, patient and family services, interpreter services, radiology, diagnostic clinical laboratories, child life services and pastoral care.

The Center works closely with law enforcement, county Child Protective Services (CPS) agencies, and district attorneys' offices in child maltreatment investigations. Collaborative efforts include case consultation and monthly SCAN (Suspect Child Abuse and Neglect) meetings facilitated by our Child

Advocacy Clinic in an effort to track, monitor and advocate for the health and safety of at-risk children throughout the Central Valley. The SCAN team comprises multidisciplinary members that include physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, law enforcement, CPS, attorneys, public health and other individuals and groups when indicated.

The Center also collaborates with internal and external partners to provide education to parents, caregivers, health care personnel, teachers and mandated reporters of suspected child maltreatment. These partners include Valley Children's Trauma Department's Injury Prevention Team, SAFE KIDS, Child Abuse Prevention Councils of California, Comprehensive Youth Services, CPS, Exceptional Parents Unlimited, Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART), and county public health departments. Additionally, the Center provides both intervention and anticipatory guidance to our patients and families at Valley Children's.

Enrollment in Health Insurance

Valley Children's identified and provided enrollment assistance to uninsured and under-insured patients who qualified for Medi-Cal, California Children's Services Program, or the Valley Children's Financial Assistance Program. Once eligibility was determined, Valley Children's and/or the contracted vendor assisted the family with completing necessary applications and submitting them to the appropriate agencies.

Food for Families

Valley Children's dietary department provided meal coupons to breast-feeding moms whose infants were at Valley Children's. Additionally, through a program called Meals of the Heart, which is sponsored by Ronald McDonald Charities of Central California, Valley Children's social work team provided patients' families with meal coupons when they arrived and were not prepared for a long stay at the hospital. The social work team also works closely with the California Children's Services program to provide food for eligible families.

In addition to the support provided by Valley Children's, Valley Children's partners with other regional organizations that help ensure patients' families have food to eat, including the Mendiburu Magic Foundation based in Bakersfield, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno, and the Sweet Eats Program.

Literacy Program

Research shows that proficiency in reading by the end of the third grade enables students to shift from learning-to-read to reading-to-learn, and to mastering the more complex subject matter they encounter in the fourth grade curriculum.



Reading difficulties and illiteracy contribute to increased school absenteeism, school drop-outs, juvenile delinquency, increased crime, teen pregnancy, drug use and other problems that impact our children and our community. Studies show the easiest way to increase literacy among pre-school and school age children is simply to read to them.

To make a meaningful contribution to literacy in our community, Valley Children's Literacy Program promotes and encourages children and their families to become lifelong readers. Also in 2015, Valley Children's was an active participant in a Talk Read Sing campaign launched through The Children's Movement of Fresno County. Valley Children's staff participated in literacy events at the new Fowler Public Library, and the Calwa

Community Center. Valley Children's staff also co-chaired the Talk Read Sing campaign locally.

Transportation

Given the Central Valley's largely rural landscape and high concentration of poverty, transportation has long been a challenge for many families. Valley Children's continues to work with the community to improve public transportation and access to care. Valley Children's Social Work Department assisted families with transportation by providing gas cards, taxi vouchers and / or bus tokens. Valley Children's also subsidized bus and other public transit services from the City of Fresno and Kings County.

Social and Environmental Improvement Activities

Valley Children's supported a number of programs and activities to improve the health of persons in the community.

Childhood Weight Management

Valley Children's supported a number of initiatives aimed at addressing childhood weight issues in the Central Valley. Valley Children's supported Madera Unified School District's (MUSD) effort to revise its Wellness Policy by participating in planning sessions and advocating before the MUSD Board of Trustees. Additionally, as the founder and chair of the Childhood Weight Management Task Force (Task Force) for Fresno and Madera Counties, Valley Children's played a lead role in supporting the Task Force's activities in 2015.

Pilot Project – One of the Task Force's key activities was the completion of the Childhood Weight Management Pilot Project, the purpose of which was to test a new model for delivering and financing childhood weight management services in the primary care physician office. The project included four primary care provider sites and two Medi-Cal managed care plans in Fresno and Madera counties, and served 22 children, ages 2 – 12, who were overweight or obese.

Patients enrolled in the project visited their physician five times over a 12 month period, including the initial visit, a two week follow up visit, and visits at three months, six months, and 12 months. Additionally, patients and their families were assigned a community health worker who was responsible for helping to manage the patient's care in between the physician visits. Last, patients were connected with a registered dietician who provided education and direction regarding diet and nutrition. Faculty at California State University, Fresno are preparing an analysis of the Pilot Project that will be used to enhance prevention and treatment efforts moving forward.

Parent Survey - Valley Children's and the California Health Collaborative coordinated the preparation of a report by California State University, Fresno, summarizing the results of a 2014 childhood weight management parent survey. The purpose of the parent survey, which was facilitated by Valley Children's, was to gauge parents' attitudes and practices regarding nutrition and physical activity. Fifteen different community-based agencies distributed surveys to clients in both English and Spanish, with 1,353 parents returning completed surveys. The Task Force is using the survey results to develop additional activities and interventions focused on childhood obesity prevention.

Developmental Disabilities

Valley Children's participated in coalitions focused on improving care coordination for infants and children with, or at risk for, developmental delays, including Kern County's Medically Vulnerable Infant Work Group Initiative and First 5 Fresno's Model of Care Partnership Oversight Committee and Systems of Care Committee.

In 2015, Valley Children's organized and convened a workshop of over 50 stakeholders throughout Central California to identify the major barriers and opportunities for improving access to developmental services for children. As follow up to the work shop, Valley Children's is working with community stakeholders to coordinate initiatives that will increase the percent of young children receiving the recommended schedule of developmental screenings.

Injury Prevention

Valley Children's chaired Safe Kids Central California, leading this coalition of 40 locally based agencies in a variety of projects focused on decreasing unintentional death and injury to kids aged 14 and under. One project sponsored a monthly child safety segment on KSEE 24 Central Valley Today, a local news/community affairs program.



Mental Health

Valley Children's participated in several community-based initiatives that increased access to, or coordination of, mental health services for children. Valley Children's advocated for the establishment of a 16-bed inpatient adolescent psychiatric center in the city of Fresno, and served on the committee charged with selecting a provider to operate the facility.

Additionally, Valley Children's served on Task Forces convened in several Central Valley counties charged with improving policies and procedures related to the management of patients who are being held involuntarily due to the risk they pose to themselves and / or others.

School Health

Valley Children's hosted the School Health Advisory Panel's quarterly meetings. The Panel is a consortium of school district health directors throughout the Central Valley that serves as a link between school-based health care professionals and Valley Children's for the purpose of identifying and addressing emerging issues impacting the health and wellbeing of students in grades K – 12.

B. HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION

Valley Children's is committed to promoting an adequate supply of highly trained professionals to meet its region's future demand for pediatric health care services. Activities supported by Valley Children's in 2015 included the following.

Continuing Physician Medical Education

In 2015, Valley Children's provided continuing medical education to over 200 community-based primary care physicians. Pediatric subspecialty physicians from Valley Children's served as the featured faculty, providing community-based physicians with guidance on how to manage a wide array of pediatric medical conditions including celiac disease, childhood cancers, deformities, Down syndrome, growth disorders, hand problems, hypertension, injury prevention, neurosurgical emergencies, pubertal problems, and many others.

Programs were provided at locations throughout the Valley Children's service area, including Bakersfield, Madera, Merced, Modesto and San Luis Obispo.

Non-Physician Clinical Training

Valley Children's provides a variety of educational opportunities for students enrolled in affiliated accredited academic programs to observe or participate in the care of pediatric patients. In 2015, the Hospital hosted 933 students from 30 schools representing 15 different disciplines.

Pediatric Residency Program

Through its affiliation with numerous residency programs, Valley Children's provided training to 105 physician residents in 2015 in a number of disciplines including cardiology, emergency medicine, family medicine, general pediatrics, pediatric surgery, and orthopedic surgery.

Additionally, the Hospital offered training to 86 medical students from 14 different medical schools.

Pharmacy Residency Program

Valley Children's supported a pharmacy residency program in 2015 that provided training to 6 residents and 2 fellows.

School Nurses

Valley Children's partnered with the California School Nurse Organization and individual school districts to provide training to school nurses on a variety of clinical procedures and topics critical to keeping children healthy.

C. RESEARCH

Valley Children's research program consists of both national multi-center clinical trials and locally generated, physician-initiated research studies. Physicians select studies which are tailored to meet the varying needs of our patient population. 164 studies are available to children and their families and include Phase II through Phase IV clinical research, as well as social and behavioral research. The oncology research program is by far the largest area of study. Valley Children's is a member of the Children's Oncology Group, a national network of clinical trials that is federally funded by the National Cancer Institute. Physicians have access to more than 100 studies to treat a variety of types of cancer. Importantly, a program which looks at the needs of cancer survivors, initiated by a hospital-based oncologist is based here.

The Endocrinology and Gastroenterology Departments offer various studies for diabetes and inflammatory bowel disease, which are noted to be at a higher prevalence in the Central Valley. Physicians participate in several studies which follow children to determine whether they are at risk of, or are developing Type 1 diabetes. A partnership with the University of California, Merced offers social and behavioral research on the management of family dynamics for children with Type 1 diabetes.

Another partnership with the University of California, Merced offers social, behavioral and biomedical research for children with Valley Fever, a fungal disease which is prominent in the Central Valley. Physicians are testing children's blood to look for inflammatory markers that may offer clues as to why some children become sick, and others do not.

In conjunction with Stanford University, several cardiologists are examining the outcomes of children who have had surgical procedures for several types of serious heart defects.

Orthopedic surgeons are testing medical devices to determine the best method for improving outcomes for patients undergoing spine surgery for scoliosis.

D. CASH AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Valley Children's provided cash and in kind support to a number of organizations that target the needs of children in our community, including the Down Syndrome Association of Central California, Exceptional Parents Unlimited, Hinds Hospice, March of Dimes, Sierra Vista Child & Family Services, West Fresno Family Resource Center, and many others.

Autism Center

Valley Children's and the Autism Center at Fresno State have created a satellite center at the hospital that provide early intervention services for Central Valley children. Valley Children's provides the space for the Autism Center free of charge.

Disaster Preparedness

Valley Children's donated space to the California Department of Public Health to store pharmaceuticals to be used in regional disasters or medical emergencies.

Poison Control

The Central California Poison Control Center is located on the Valley Children's campus and received a donation of office space in 2015 from Valley Children's.

The Center answers calls from throughout the region and provides expert advice and information regarding exposure to potentially harmful substances. The phones are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to providing emergency telephone advice regarding poison exposures, the Poison Control Center operates several programs critical to a culturally diverse, agriculturally based community like the Central Valley. The Center has been expressly responsive to the growing and largely underserved Latino population by developing specialized teaching tools and program interventions in Spanish, and providing customized trainings for community health workers in Spanish.

Also, the Center contracts with the State Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to assist physicians in complying with mandatory reporting requirements for pesticide exposures. The Poison Control Center also provides case data and information on the health issues related to pesticide exposure in California.

Ronald McDonald House

Valley Children's owns the land on which the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) of Central California is located and leases the land to the RMH for \$1 per year. The lease arrangement helps make it possible for the RMH to offer the following services to families who children are hospitalized or receiving treatment.

- 18 bedrooms with a private bathroom
- 3 wings equipped with a laundry room, kitchen and dining area
- Fully stocked pantry and private refrigerators for each room
- Home-cooked meals
- Playroom for siblings
- Large communal living area with small reading room
- Computer lab
- Outdoor dining and play area

E. COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

These are activities that support community capacity building by offering the expertise and resources of the hospital.

Coalition Building and Advocacy

Valley Children's representatives serve on a number of local, regional and state level organizations and committees that address health improvement and support professional health organizations.

Community Support

Staff members at Valley Children's are active community members. They participate in and hold leadership positions in community agencies and serve on community boards.

Health Careers Promotion

Valley Children's hosted the Teen Health Care Career Fair in May 2015 that was attended by over 400 high school students and 50 school staff.

Valley Children's also continued to promote health careers through its Job Shadowing Program that offered high school and college students the opportunity to shadow physicians, employees, and volunteers.

Physical Improvement

Valley Children's paid for traffic signals that were installed in 2015 at a busy intersection near Valley Children's main campus. Through the years, this particular intersection had seen an increasing number of traffic accidents, some resulting in injuries. To improve overall public safety and to enhance local infrastructure, Valley Children felt that it was necessary that the traffic signals be installed.

VI. FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Economic value and categorization of community benefit provided in FY 2015

(October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015)

Community Benefit Categories		Net Benefit
1.	Charity care ¹	\$253,273
2.	Unpaid costs of Medi-Cal ²	\$51,354,755
3.	Education and research ³	\$7,091,316
4.	Other for the broader community ⁴	\$1,199,829
	Total quantifiable community benefit prior to unpaid cost of Medicare	\$59,899,173
5.	Unpaid costs of Medicare	\$63,052
	Total quantifiable community benefit	\$59,962,225

¹Charity Care - In keeping with its Mission, Valley Children's continues to accept all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. This amount represents costs associated with patients who meet certain criteria under the organization's charity care policy without charge, or at amounts less than its established rates in relation to the cost of these services. Charity care includes indigent and free care, which is based on the patient's inability to pay for services.

²This figure excludes the revenue and expenses associated with the Hospital Fee Program. In 2009, California implemented the Hospital Fee Program through which hospitals in California, including Valley Children's, receive supplemental Medi-Cal payments. California implemented the Program to help offset a portion of hospital Medi-Cal payment shortfalls accrued over current and prior years. The Hospital Fee Program is funded by a quality assurance fee paid by hospitals that the state then uses to collect additional federal funding. Hospital Fee Programs like California's are allowable under federal law, and the US Department of Health and Human Services approved California's Program. In FY 2015, Valley Children's recognized net Program revenue of \$94,194,152 after subtracting the hospital's quality assurance fee and hospital contributions to the California Health Foundation and Trust (CHFT). Taking into account the net Program revenue of \$94,194,152, and the Medi-Cal shortfall of \$51,354,755, Valley Children's recorded a net positive variance of \$42,839,397 in Medi-Cal compensation in FY 2015.

³Costs related to the medical and health professions education programs and research that the hospital supports.

⁴Includes non-billed activities, such as health education, community health improvement, health support services, community benefit operations, cash and in-kind donations.

VII. COMMUNITY BENEFIT PLAN FY16

Valley Children's continues to address the identified significant health needs in our service area through our community benefit commitment.

In 2013, Valley Children's completed a Community Health Needs Assessment. Priority health needs were identified that the hospital chose to address through its Implementation Strategy. These included:

- Access to care
- Child abuse and neglect
- Community capacity
- Developmental delays
- Injury prevention
- Mental health
- Obesity
- Reintegration
- Transportation

Addressing Health Needs

The Implementation Strategy developed from the 2013 Community Health Needs Assessment spans the period 2013-2016. Valley Children's will continue to address these priority health needs in FY16 through a commitment of resources, including but not limited to the following programs and services.

In 2013, Valley Children's completed a Community Health Needs Assessment. Priority health needs were identified that the hospital chose to address through its Implementation Strategy. These included:

Access to Care

- Valley Children's provides financial assistance through both free and discounted care for health care services, consistent with our financial assistance policy.
- Valley Children's provides transportation support for those patients and families who may not be able to access needed care due to a lack of transportation.

Child Abuse and Neglect

- Valley Children's Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Center offers comprehensive services to children and their families through a multidisciplinary, child-friendly program, to meet the physical and emotional needs of children suspected of being abused or neglected.
- The Center collaborates with internal and external partners to provide education to parents, caregivers, health care personnel, teachers and mandated reporters of suspected child maltreatment.

Community Capacity Building

- Valley Children's provides outreach education to hospital staff and community-based organizations to make sure they have the clinical expertise needed to care for medically complex children.
- Valley Children's provides cash and in-kind donations to a number of community organizations to support their efforts to improve community health.

- Valley Children’s provides clinical precepting to student nurses, medical students and other health care professionals in training.
- Valley Children’s promotes health careers through its Job Shadowing Program for high school and college students.

Developmental Delays

- Valley Children’s participates in coalitions focused on improving care coordination for infants and children with, or at risk for, developmental delays.

Injury Prevention

- Valley Children’s operates an Injury Prevention Program to increase community awareness of childhood injuries and those measures that can be taken to decrease their prevalence.
- Valley Children’s chairs Safe Kids Central California, leading this coalition of 40 locally based agencies in a variety of projects focused on decreasing unintentional death and injury to kids.
- Valley Children’s donates office space to the Central California Poison Control Center.

Mental Health

- Valley Children’s participates in community-based initiatives that increase access to, or coordination of, mental health services for children.

Obesity

- Valley Children’s supports Madera Unified School District’s (MUSD) effort to revise its Wellness Policy.
- Valley Children’s take a lead role in supporting the Childhood Weight Management Task Force (Task Force) for Fresno and Madera Counties.
- Valley Children’s provides health education and health outreach information on diabetes prevention and treatment.

Reintegration

- Valley Children’s Adaptive Sports Program provides recreational and athletic experiences for persons with disabilities.

Transportation

- Valley Children’s provides gas cards, but tokens and taxi vouchers to families needing assistance traveling to the hospital or other treatment centers.
- Valley Children’s subsidizes bus and other public transportation services from Fresno and Kings Counties.

Measuring Impact

Valley Children’s has established impact measures for our community benefit programs. For example, measures may include documenting persons served, and identifying changes in policy as a result of our community efforts.

Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Strategy

In 2016, Valley Children's will complete a Community Health Needs Assessment. From this assessment, the organization will engage the community to help identify significant health needs, prioritize these needs and identify resources available to address them. Valley Children's will also complete an Implementation Strategy to determine those health needs on which to focus and the strategies to undertake to address those community health needs.

VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION

Address of Hospital Campus

Valley Children's Hospital
9300 Valley Children's Place
Madera, CA 93636

Web Address

www.valleychildrens.org

Community Benefit Contact

Tim Curley
Director, Community and Government Relations
(559) 353-8610
tcurley@valleychildrens.org

