Valley Children's HEALTHCARE

# Daniella

"We're so grateful to have our baby."

– Maria Garcia, Daniella's mom

Imagine just giving birth to a beautiful baby girl only to hear soon after she's desperately struggling to breathe.

"They told me my baby had a heart problem and was going to a place that could take good care of her," says Maria Garcia regarding her daughter Daniella Quezada's transfer to Valley Children's. "I felt relieved but also worried, 'Will my child overcome this?'"

Garcia's OB/GYN knows The Willson Heart Center at Valley Children's can handle any level medical problem, making it convenient for Daniella's family to receive expert care within the region.

Pediatric heart specialist Dr. Kenneth Rouillard determines Daniella has a significant congenital defect called transposition of the great arteries (TGA). Complex heart surgery becomes her only lifesaving option. "Without an intervention, infants with TGA will die within their first year of life," says Dr. Edwin Petrossian, medical director, cardiothoracic surgery.

To correct the problem, Dr. Petrossian performs an arterial switch operation: "This is one of the most technically complex surgical procedures we do but also one of the most gratifying in that the child may have a normal life."

"We prayed and felt confident about the doctor yet feared something could go wrong," says Garcia. Periodic updates from the nurses during the long surgery eases her family's anxiety.

Daniella spends the next two months growing stronger under the watchful care of the highest level neonatal intensive care unit in the Central Valley before going home to Coalinga.

Kissing her 15-month-old on the cheek, Garcia smiles: "Daniella is doing well with no obvious developmental issues. We're so grateful to have our baby."