## OUR KIDS







VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 1



INSIDE



## TEN SIMPLE MORE SIMPLE MORE SIMPLE SI

uring the annual Valley Children's
Healthcare Board of Trustees
retreat several years ago – after
much discussion, reflection and
imagining the future of this beloved
place – ten simple words were added to our
organization's mission statement:

## and to continuously improve the health and well-being of children.

Yes, of course, we would continue on with our quest to provide the highest quality, comprehensive healthcare services to children, regardless of their ability to pay. Yes, of course, we would continue to strive to provide the best pediatric care in the nation – to strive for zero harm, to be the best place to work, to be the only place in the Valley for our children to get specialized care and to be the leading voice for our kids who are often unable to speak for themselves in matters of policy.

But there was more to the capabilities, responsibilities, and legacy set by our founding mothers that our Board recognized – and that was illuminated through the addition of those 10 simple words.

We are pleased to share this 2019 Annual Impact Report – dedicated to the work we do, the results we achieve and the impact we have on the lives of children across this Valley. We also are humbled to share the second annual 'State of Our Children' data – humbled by the enormity of the challenges, the reality of these obstacles in the daily lives of so many kids and honored to lead the way to improve these issues over time.

CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

It is generational work. And we are committed to these ten simple words until we, along with our physicians, staff, Guild members, volunteers and community partners, elevate every child in this region.

In one of his most famous poems, Robert Frost wrote that two roads diverged, he had chosen the road less travelled and that had made all the difference. The roads Valley Children's has chosen over the last seven decades have made all the difference for our children, and this road to improve the health of children outside our four walls will be just as significant.

We are privileged to be on this journey for our kids.

Todd A. Suntrapak
President & CEO



Todd Suntrapak, President & CEO, Valley Children's Healthcare

## **OUR MISSION**

The mission of Valley Children's
Healthcare 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.

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In our 2018 Annual Impact Report, we committed to chronicle the state of our children, the top 10 issues affecting their health and the work we do daily to make a difference. We recognize that 'moving the needle' will take more time than allowed from year to year but it is our intent that, over time, we will see progress – thanks to our efforts and to the efforts of our partners across the Valley who we are proud to work alongside.

From high rates of obesity and trauma to poor access to primary healthcare, Central California children and their families face many challenges in striving to live healthy, productive lives. And all too often, these challenges are worse for our ethnically diverse and low-income communities.

As the only comprehensive pediatric specialty care network of its kind in the region, Valley Children's appreciates that it 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 and well-being of children across the continuum of care and beyond.

In 2019, Valley Children's took a major step forward in its work to improve the health and well-being of children with the establishment of the Guilds Center for Community Health. The Center is driving Valley Children's efforts to create a bridge between the exceptional care kids receive at Valley Children's and the opportunity

to positively impact the lives of children out in the community. Where a child lives, learns and plays should not limit their ability to live the healthiest life possible.

The following is a brief summary of the top ten critical 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. And while many of the issues are the same as those reported in 2018, the reality is that bending the curve will take years, and in some cases generations, before sustained improvements are realized. Thanks to investments like the Guilds Center for Community Health, Valley Children's is meeting this reality head-on as the champion for child health and wellness in Central California.

## TOP10 ISSUES

## ACCESS TO CARE

Access to providers who can effectively prevent and/ or manage illness in a community-based setting such as a primary care physician office or a school plays an important role in keeping children healthy and well. While we have seen improvements in access over the years, there are still communities in the Central Valley where too many children and their families have to delay or forego needed medical care due to lack of access to healthcare providers and resources.

## ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACES)

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) – stressful or traumatic events children experience before the age of 18 – affect 18% or more of children in Fresno, Kern, Madera, Merced and Tulare Counties, placing these children at significantly higher risk for health, behavioral, and learning difficulties.¹ The ACEs Screening tool assesses a child's exposure to trauma across the following three broad categories: abuse, neglect and household dysfunction, and helps facilitate referrals for follow-up care and attention.

## **ASTHMA**

Asthma is the most common chronic disease in children, and over 25% 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 California's highest rates of emergency room visits for childhood asthma.<sup>2</sup>



## ; .f

## CHILD ABUSE

more likely to experience cognitive, emotional and behavioral problems. Fern County and Stanislaus County have the region's highest rates of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglec in the region. Child abuse is a key marker in the assessment of adverse childhood experiences.

## CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Over 42% of fifth graders across most Central Valley 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 Loc

Valley Children's is continuing with its work to facilitate regional solutions to reducing the childhood obesity epidemic in the Central Valley. In late 2019, Valley Children's launched a two-year initiative called Schools for Healthy and Thriving Students that is working with school districts in Fresno and Madera counties to promote student health and wellness. Through the support of the Center for Wellness and Nutrition, Valley Children's is providing education and other resources to 10 school districts in Fresno County and eight school districts in Madera County to help the districts enhance their school wellness policies to address the childhood obesity challenge.



## 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 poorer health outcomes. In Fresno, Merced, and Tulare counties, approximately 1 in 4 children experiences food insecurity.

1

Valley Children's is committed to ensuring children and families have access to nutritious food choices that improve their chances for good health and well-being. A great example of this commitment is Valley Children's Prescription for Food program in Merced County. With funding from the Central California Alliance for Health, Valley Children's primary care providers at our Merced Olivewood Pediatrics practice screen children for food insecurity. If children/families are found to be food-insecure, our healthcare providers give the family a "Prescription for Food" voucher, which entitles them to receive a free 30-pound box of nutritious and healthy foods from the Merced County Food Bank on a monthly basis for twelve months.

Additionally, Valley Children's partnered with Vallarta Supermarket in Fresno during the summer of 2019 to promote access to healthy foods. Through the program, children who were shopping with their families at any one of three participating Vallarta Supermarket locations were offered free fruit. Given that many children rely on meals provided by schools for much of their food intake, Valley Children's identified the opportunity to make healthy food available during the summer months when most children are not in school.

Central Valley counties have some of the highest rates in California of babies born prematurely, babies born at low birth weight and infants who die before the age of one. For example, only two other California counties have premature birth rates higher than Tulare County. Prematu cause serious physical and mental disabili – before the baby's first birthday. Only two other Californ counties have higher infant death rates than Fresno C

At a statewide level, Valley Children's has been a leader in advocating for policies and programs to help reduce premature birth, particularly among black pregnant women. In partnership with the March of Dimes of California, Valley Children's successfully advocated for an increase in funding for the state's Black Infant Health program, which provides funding to counties to combat the disproportionately high number of African American babies born prematurely.



## **POVERTY**

in poverty. The effects of poverty on child health and well-being are well established and, in many ways, contribute to nearly all of

## UNINTENTIONAL INJURY **HOSPITALIZATIONS**

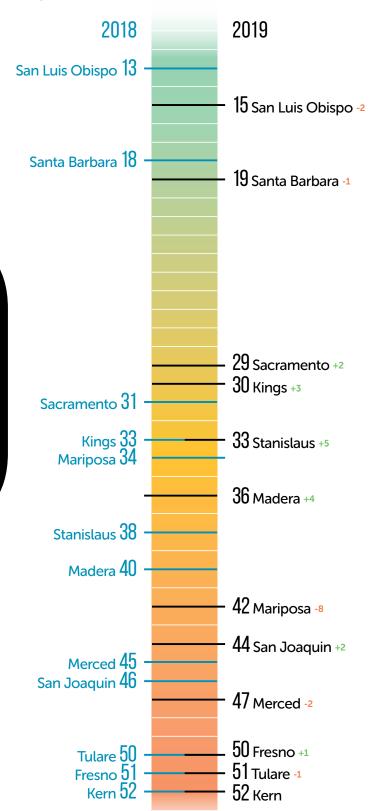
many can be addressed by policies and

2 Environmental Health Investigation Branch, California Department of Public Health.
Accessed via asthmastoryca.org.
3 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
4 National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. (2012). National action plan for child injury prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## 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.



## 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, with close to one in three ninth graders in the Central Valley reporting having 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 the highest rates in the state.

Valley Children's has taken a number of important steps towards addressing the mental health needs of children in the Central Valley. In late 2019, Valley Children's announced a partnership with Universal Children's campus, with approximately 20% of the beds being dedicated to children and adolescents (see page 14). Additionally, Valley Children's participates on Fresno County's and Madera County's Suicide Prevention Collaboratives and, in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics, has provided education to primary care physicians on how to

Health Services, Inc., through which UHS will build and operate a 128-bed behavioral health hospital on Valley recognize and address mental health issues in children.



11



## CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE

OF OUR ABILITY TO CARE FOR KIDS

The road travelled by the children of this region is often a treacherous one – filled with roadblocks, inadequate housing, food insecurity, generational poverty, environmental perils, adverse childhood events and more.

t is also a road shared with them by the Valley Children's team working through the Guilds Center for Community Health and funded by the generosity of a new \$5 million endowment by the Guilds of Valley Children's.

Launched in November 2019, the Guilds Center for Community Health will be the heart of our work to influence those factors outside the four walls of our healthcare network that have a profound effect on a child's health. The first of its kind in Central California, the Center will focus on bridging the clinical care a child receives here with the realities of the neighborhoods where our kids live, learn and play. The Center will also focus on those kids we may never see in the hospital or in one of our clinics – but whose lives and health can be improved through the Center's work that might include a new playground in

a long-vacant neighborhood park, the expansion of George's Pass to allow children with autism and their families to more successfully navigate the zoo and community parks, children's museums and other venues, improved access to healthy foods and expanded partnerships with local school districts to help keep kids in school when a simple health problem crops up that can be addressed without going home.

Dr. Carmela Sosa, the Center's founding Medical Director, describes her vision for the work of the Center this way: "Six degrees of separation. It is the idea that any two strangers are six or fewer degrees or connecting points away from one another. I often tell new medical residents that it doesn't matter who you talk to, everyone in the Valley has a Valley Children's story...a niece, a child, a neighbor. But through the work of the Center, whether you



are a patient at the hospital, at one of our primary care practices or a child who we may never know but whose chances at a healthy life are impacted through the work of the Center, I am inspired to imagine a generation from now when they will say that there is only one degree of separation between Valley Children's and every single child within our reach."



## BRIDGING

In every demographic, America is experiencing a behavioral and mental healthcare crisis – one that affects families in every community, in every neighborhood and, sometimes, in our own homes.

ationally, the recommended strategy for behavioral and mental health facilities is to provide one inpatient bed for every 2,000 people. In California, there is only one bed for every 5,834 people. And in Valley Children's 12-county service area, there is only one bed for every 9,792 people – and only one bed for every 18,968 children.

With an estimated one in six children between the ages of six and 17 experiencing a mental health disorder, there is clearly a desperate shortage of local facilities to provide for their care. There are fewer than 40 providers of child and adolescent inpatient psychiatry in the entire state of California. In the Central Valley, there are only 49 inpatient psychiatric beds for children between Kern County and Sacramento.



## GOAL:

/ 2,000

The Treatment Advocacy Center recommends one inpatient bed for every 2,000 people.\*

## IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA:

**5,834** 

There is only one inpatient bed for every 5,834 people.\*\*

## IN OUR 12-COUNTY SERVICE AREA:

/9,792

There is only one inpatient bed for every 9,792 people.\*\*

/ 18,968

There is only one inpatient bed for every 18,968 child/adolescent aged six-17.\*\*

- \* A national nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating barriers to the timely and effective treatment of severe mental illness.
- \*\* Population data from the California Hospital Association and KidsData.org
- \*\*\* National Alliance on Mental Health. Health By Numbers. https://www.nami.org/learn-more/mental-health-by-numbers

## IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES







## IN THE UNITED STATES:



In the Central Valley, there are only 49 inpatient psychiatric beds for children between Kern County and Sacramento.

Imagine a 10-year-old child, experiencing a mental health crisis and the family turns to the hospital emergency department for help, only to be told that the best course for the child is to be hospitalized and that the only inpatient beds available are two, three or four hours away. And that the child might be there for a week or longer.

That will soon be changing, as Valley's Children's has partnered with Universal Health Services (UHS) to establish a behavioral health hospital for children and adults on our Madera campus.

The 128-bed facility will be constructed on a parcel of land just west of the current Valley Children's hospital. Scheduled to open in mid-2023, the behavioral health hospital will provide 24 beds exclusively for pediatric patients ages five to 17 – a 49% increase in available beds for kids from Kern to San Joaquin counties.

Additionally, Valley Children's and UHS are developing a psychiatric residency program as well as telepsychology services for children served by the Valley Children's network of care.

"Mental health services for children and adolescents are the single greatest challenge that we see in this Valley," said Todd Suntrapak, Valley Children's Healthcare President and CEO. "Now that we have added to the original 50-acre campus in Madera and created a 300-acre campus, we have matched up the greatest need with the biggest opportunity."

Lynne Ashbeck, Senior Vice President of Community Engagement and Population Wellness, echoed those sentiments, adding, "When we think about what makes a community healthy, part of that equation is access to care – physical healthcare and mental healthcare – and the more robust that network of care is, the healthier our overall community can be."

In addition to construction jobs, the new facility will employ more than 250 people, including clinicians, mental health technicians and support and administrative staff, all dedicated to changing the landscape of mental health in our region.

Valley Children's Earns

## TOPCHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ANA B

FOR QUALITY & SAFETY

One of the Nation's

Children's Hospitals in Quality and Patient Safety

**CHILDREN'S** 

**HOSPITAL** 

alley Children's was named a Top
Children's Hospital in the nation by
The Leapfrog Group for excellence
in patient safety and quality of care
– one of only 10 children's hospitals
in the US to achieve this honor.

"Every family who entrusts Valley Children's to care for their children expects the safest, highest quality care. And we have set the expectation for ourselves to deliver the nation's best care right here in the Central Valley," said Valley Children's President and CEO, Todd Suntrapak. "This award is a testament to the capabilities and commitment of our entire staff – and is yet another reason why Valley Children's is the best place for children's healthcare in the region."

To qualify as a Top Hospital, a facility must rank at the top among peers in the 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Survey, which assesses hospital performance against the industry's highest standards for quality and patient safety.

"Quality and patient safety are at the heart of everything we do," said Dr. David Christensen, Valley Children's Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Physician Executive. "It requires the commitment of every single clinical and non-clinical member of our team to deliver this level of care to children in the Central Valley."

As news of the prestigious award spread, a number of former Valley Children's patients and family members sent messages of support and gratitude. Among them:

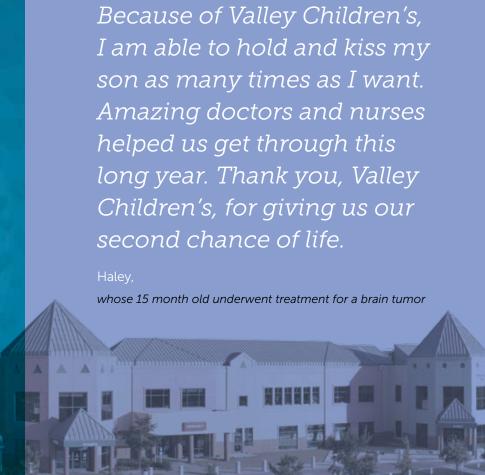
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Against all odds, I am here despite my cerebral palsy. I can do anything. I am living proof of the fantastic work of Valley Children's!

Valeri

whose first three months of life were spent in Valley Children's NICU

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Valley Children's gave me so much more than a clean bill of health. They gave me safety, comfort, care, a new family and purpose. Valley Children's gave me the greatest gift – a purpose – and for that, a million thank you's could never be enough.

Rebecca.

diagnosed with a congenital heart disorder at age 13

BY EVERY MEASURE,

# THE BEST IN PEDIATRIC



GABE

Statistics, trends and numbers can never tell the full story of a hospital's quality of care. But they are helpful for tracking a hospital's improvement over time in specific areas of care and patient outcomes. By prioritizing quality and patient safety in all aspects of care, Valley Children's has seen continuous and noteworthy improvements in quality. As our amazing staff and systems work together to provide medical excellence 365 days a year, Valley Children's continues to be honored as one of the nation's best hospitals for pediatric care.

## GETTING TO ZERO

95%

## REDUCTION

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

87%

## REDUCTION

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

100%

## ZERO DAYS

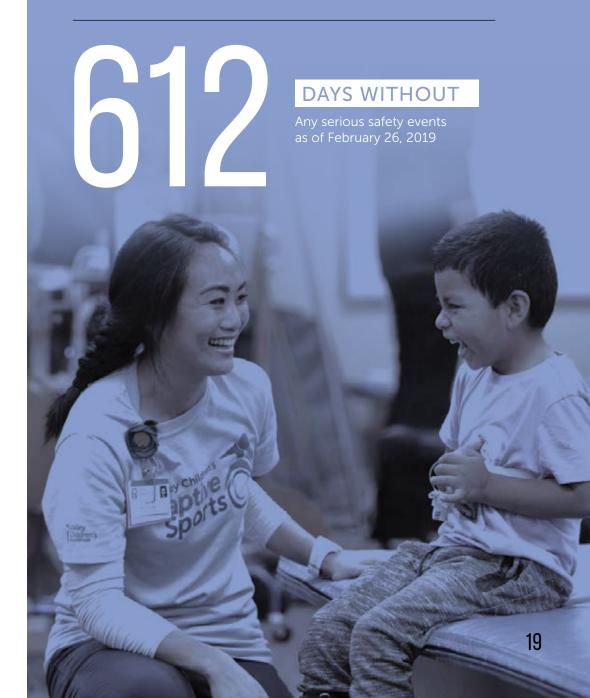
Last Fiscal Year Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP) as of February 26, 2019

\* Based on FY2012-FY2019 data (Resource link: leapfroggroup.org/ratings-reports/competitive-benchmarking)



O/O
Hand Hygiene

COMPLIANCE
as of January 29, 2019



## CENTRAL EPILEPSY CALIFORNIA'S EPILEPSY CENTER

## **LEVEL 4 EPILEPSY CENTER**

In 2019, Valley Children's received our designation as a Level 4 Epilepsy Center, representing the highest level of care and the only Level 4 center between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

It is the fourth most common neurological disease for children, with 150,00 new diagnoses a year in the United States or approximately one in every 250 people. Here in the 12-county area served by Valley Children's, that translates to some 5,000 children in need of epilepsy care.

diatric neurosciences is a highly specialized portfolio of interventions and the need for the highest level of care for our children is clear for our region. In 2019, Valley Children's is proud to provide that highest level care with our designation Central California's only Level 4 Epilepsy Center.

Earning Level 4 status from the National Association of Epilepsy Centers means that Valley Children's is able to provide the highest level of medical and surgical evaluation and treatment for patients with epilepsy, supported by leading-edge technologies and innovative research. All of which enables families to receive whatever type of care en with epilepsy might need added burden of traveling far

"Being a National Association of Epilepsy Center certified Level 4 Epilepsy Center recognizes the specialized expertise and innovative procedures Valley Children's neuroscience team has to offer," says Dr. Cesar Santos, Valley Children's Medical Director of Neurosciences. "It shows that anything an epilepsy patient might need, from neurodiagnostic monitoring to complex surgery, can be done right here in the Central Valley."

That level of care includes complex forms of intensive neurodiagnostic monitoring, extensive medical, neuropsychological and psychosocial treatment, complete evaluation for epilepsy surgery – including intracranial electrodes – and a full range of surgical care. With surgical options that include the ROSA robot, EEG, grid placement, brain mapping and hemispherotomy, /alley Children's is able to create an ndividualized plan for each child.

## Sariah: one year later

n the fall of 2018, while her classmates made plans for winter break, 13-year-old Sariah was preparing for a hemispherectomy at Valley Children's. Sariah had suffered from seizures since she was five months of age, the result of Sturge-Weber Syndrome.

"She had sometimes two a day, sometimes five, six a week," said Sariah's father, Albert Moreno. "She couldn't really recover from the first one, then the next one would hit."

Sariah underwent a lengthy procedure where Pediatric Neurosurgery Medical Director, Dr. Patricia Clerkin, and Pediatric Neurosurgeon, Dr. Julia Sharma, disconnected the two sides of the brain, allowing the left side of Sariah's brain to take over for the right, where the seizures originated.

Today Sariah is living seizure-free, thanks to the Neuroscience team at Valley Children's. While living 'seizure free' has profound implications to Sariah and her family, the impact can also be seen in something that many of us might take for granted. Just months after her surgery, Sariah traveled with her family to San Francisco. The trip marked the first time Sariah and her family were able to travel without worrying about having a seizure and being near a hospital.

Before her surgery, Sariah was missing so much school because she was always getting sick. She would have more than 30 absences a quarter. Now, she only misses for medical appointments or therapy. She's just everything you expect from a growing, normal teenager – and we couldn't be happier.

Barbi Moreno, Sariah's mom

At Valley Children's, our commitment to providing the best epilepsy care has continued beyond earning the Level 4 designation. In 2019, we also opened our dedicated Epilepsy Monitoring Unit, which includes six rooms with hard-wired beds, nine portable machines and a play area – all video monitored to give patients freedom to roam over multiple

For patients with epilepsy, Valley Children's offers a world of resources right here at home.



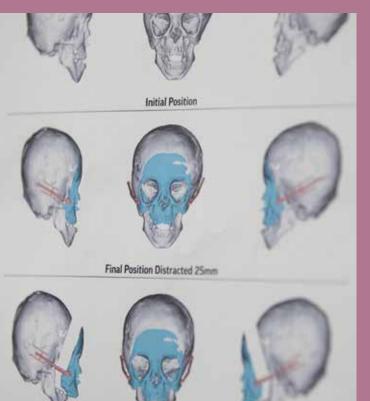


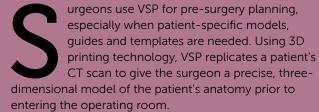
## TECHNOLOGY

in the hands of a masterful surgeon to create miraculous results

Olivia was born with facial deformities resulting from fluconazole embryopathy, craniosynostosis and midface hypoplasia. By age seven, Olivia's eyesight had begun noticeably deteriorating due to the bulging of her eyes. She also had difficulty breathing and opening and closing her mouth; in fact, she had a gastrostomy to aid with breathing and receiving nutrition. That's when her family consulted with pediatric plastic surgeon, Mimi Chao, MD, a specialist in Virtual Surgical Planning (VSP) at Valley Children's.







Any artificial adjustments or add-ons are calibrated to the patient's exact needs based on the physician's input. Bone putty is then used for a smooth, aesthetically-pleasing exterior finish.

In Dr. Chao's specialty of craniofacial reconstruction, this modeling allows for more precise outcomes as she is able to pinpoint the exact points of drilling. She also appreciates how the virtual planning process leads to less operative time, less anesthesia and more control over the outcome. And because the 3D printed models help surgeons more clearly explain procedures, their patients and families have a better, more accurate understanding of what to expect.

For Olivia, the improvement since her surgery has been dramatic. Not only is her appearance significantly improved, but her eyes no longer bulge, she is breathing better and she can open and close her mouth more easily. Dr. Chao believes her long-term outcome will be very good.

Virtual Surgical Planning is one more way Valley Children's ensures the best physicians are equipped to provide the best care to our patients.



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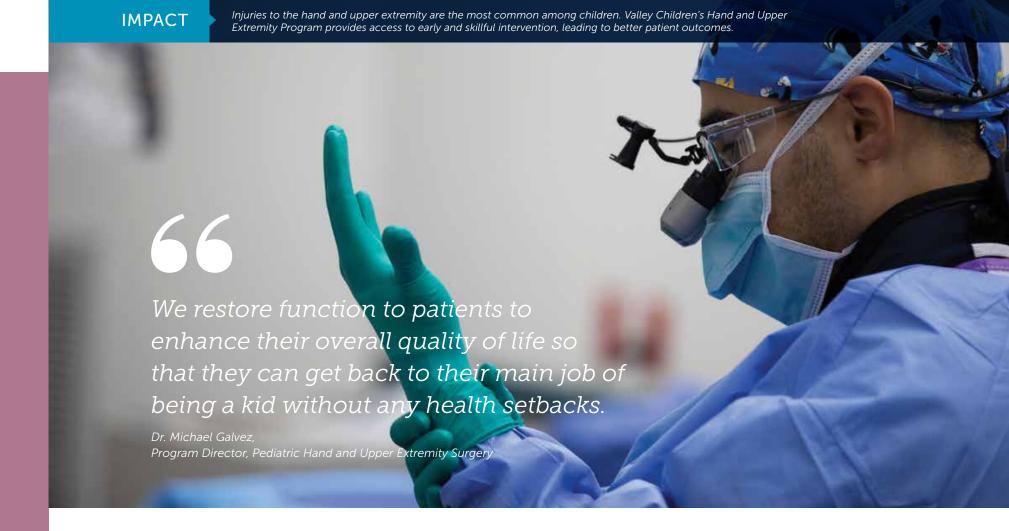
I appreciate how Valley
Children's supports me in
bringing world-class surgical
technologies to the Central
Valley. With VSP, we are better
equipped to give children the
best and most up-to-date care
right here at home.

Dr. Mimi Chao

# RESTORING FUNCTION THROUGHTHE MOST INTERIOR AT EACH SURFACE SU

The human hand is a marvel of biomechanical engineering, able to grasp heavy objects with a powerful grip, delicately cradle fragile objects and manipulate a wide range of instruments from pencils to piano keys with precise dexterity. Its structure is complex, with a profusion of small bones, ligaments and tendons, remotely controlled by muscles in the forearm.

Complex anatomy of the extensor tendon mechanism. Sketch by Dr. Michael Galvez.



n injury or deformity to the hand often requires highly specialized and intricate surgical intervention – a level of care provided daily at Valley Children's by the plastic surgery specialists in the Hand and Upper Extremity program led by Dr. Michael Galvez.

Born and raised in Peru, Dr. Galvez was inspired by his grandfather – a pediatric surgeon – to pursue an education and become a physician. That pursuit ultimately led him to attend college and study medicine in the United States at University of California, Berkeley, University of Washington Medical School and Stanford University. As a resident at Stanford, he was drawn to plastic and reconstructive surgery, then felt further called to specialize in pediatric hand surgery while serving with a medical team in La Paz, Bolivia.



Injuries to the hand and upper extremity are the most common injuries among children, ranging from a finger or wrist fracture to deformities discovered at birth or that develop over time. With early intervention, patients are more likely to avoid long-term hand and upper extremity disabilities such as stiffness and reduced function.

At Valley Children's, Dr. Galvez is something of a renaissance man, as comfortable with the latest high-tech microsurgical instrument as he is with the old school pad and pencil he uses to sketch detailed illustrations of the human hand. He is fluent in English and Spanish, and a gifted sculptor, creating clay models of various upper extremity structure for surgery planning and to help patients and families better understand the affected mechanism and how his intervention can help.

Dr. Galvez and his team in our Hand and Upper Extremity program are changing the course of children's lives through their unique expertise in the issues and injuries involving the hand and upper extremities, and by providing access to early intervention, leading to better patient outcomes.

Dr. Galvez often creates handmade bone sculptures for surgery planning.

## 

to transform pediatric healthcare

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Valley Children's was built on a culture of innovation. Our five founding mothers imagined a better way to provide healthcare for children and our network that we see today is a direct result of their ability to innovate. Valley Children's staff is in a unique position to identify needs in the delivery of pediatric healthcare – specifically, a product or service that might help ease a child's hospital experience, enhance recovery or improve outcomes – and to come up with a potential solution. We're excited to have a program within our healthcare network that can make these ideas a reality.

Todd Suntrapak, President and CEO, Valley Children's Healthcare







alley Children's joined a handful of the nation's leading healthcare organizations as the seventh member of The Innovation Institute, a national, independent medical product incubator and healthcare services provider, and launched George's Idea Lab as a way to harness the innovative ideas that our physicians and staff identify every day as they work to improve the care we deliver and to improve the lives of the children we serve. When any member of Valley Children's team identifies a need – a product, process, or service – inspired by experiences in their unique roles, they are invited to submit their suggestion for addressing that need to George's Idea Lab.

From there, the idea is sent to The Innovation Institute's Innovation Lab for evaluation by scientists, doctors and commercialization experts. If the idea is found to have merit, it is prototyped, protected, licensed and taken to market, with royalties shared between the creator and Valley Children's.

There is no better way to transform pediatric healthcare – in ways large and small – than through the lens of our physicians and staff who do this important work every day. We look forward to the innovations that lie ahead!



Physicians and staff identify a need inspired by experiences in their unique roles.

2

Idea is sent to The Innovation Institute's Innovation lab for evaluation.



**\*** 

The innovation team will evaluate the idea, research if similar products or patents exist and follow up to provide feedback on their discoveries.

4

Approved ideas are passed on to the Innovation Lab to develop a prototype, obtain necessary patents and tests to ensure the product is the best it can be.





The idea is taken to potential partners.

6

Royalties are shared between the creator and Valley Children's, transforming pediatric healthcare together.



## STRENGTHENING E 3 3 STRENGTHENING

Access to care remains of one of the most challenging issues facing children and families in our Valley, given the large geography, the distance of many communities from urban centers, inadequate transportation networks across the region and the shortage of physicians and other specialty providers.

alley Children's has been laserfocused on this issue for more than a decade. Our commitment to provide care as close to a child's home as possible has been the driver behind several key organizational initiatives, including clinical partnerships, telemedicine, an expanding primary care network and construction of specialty care centers in targeted locations from one end of our Valley to another.

Following on the heels of the 2018 opening of Valley Children's Eagle Oaks Specialty Care Center in Bakersfield, 2019 saw the final touches and opening of its 'sister' center in Modesto. Valley Children's Pelandale Specialty Care Center opened its doors in February 2019 and is home to 16 specialties, some new to the community and others moving into the new facility from leased space not far from downtown Modesto. Valley Children's Pelandale Specialty Care Center is expected to see more than 27,500 annual patient visits within the next decade.

In June, we celebrated the opening of the Fowler Medical Plaza, a partnership with Adventist Health, to improve access to care in the southern part of Fresno County. This facility provides services for both adults, provided by our Adventist Health partners, and children, delivered by Valley Children's physicians.

Valley Children's also acquired property in Merced for future construction of a combined primary and specialty care facility. In July, the opening of Valley Children's Magnolia

Pediatrics in Clovis was a welcome addition to families on the eastern side of the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan region. And, finally, we are in the final stages of land acquisition in Visalia to better serve the growing demand for pediatric services in the South Valley.





There are moments in the history of a community that change the trajectory of that place for generations to come, and today's grand opening is one of those moments. Here in Fowler, we now have world-class medical offices and a new park for our children to play. Our community is stronger because of the partnership between Valley Children's and Adventist Health.

Mayor David Cardenas, City of Fowler



**CARE CENTER** 

Modesto, CA

MFRCFD CA

**Future Site** 

FOWLER MEDICAL PLAZA Fowler, CA



VISALIA. CA **Future Site** 

MAGNOLIA PEDIATRICS

Clovis, CA

**EAGLE OAKS SPECIALTY CARE CENTER** 

Bakersfield, CA



Stanislaus County is better and the well-being of our kids will be better – because Valley Children's is a part of our community.'

Marian Kaanon, President and Chief Executive Officer, Stanislaus Community Foundation

# PROJECT DAD PROJECT DAD ONE YEAR LATER

In 2018, Valley Children's became one of six California hospitals to participate in Project Baby Bear, a pilot program providing rapid Whole Genome Sequencing (rWGS) to reduce the time involved in diagnosing rare diseases in critically ill newborns, to enable physicians to better treat their patients and ease the burden of uncertainty for parents.

After a year of trial, Project Baby Bear has lived up to its promise. n 2019, Valley Children's screened 36 patients under Project Baby Bear, resulting in 18 diagnoses – the most among all six participating hospitals. Valley Children's has a track record of caring for the some of the most complex and unique cases, making the chance to participate in this pilot program a valuable, instructive and important opportunity.

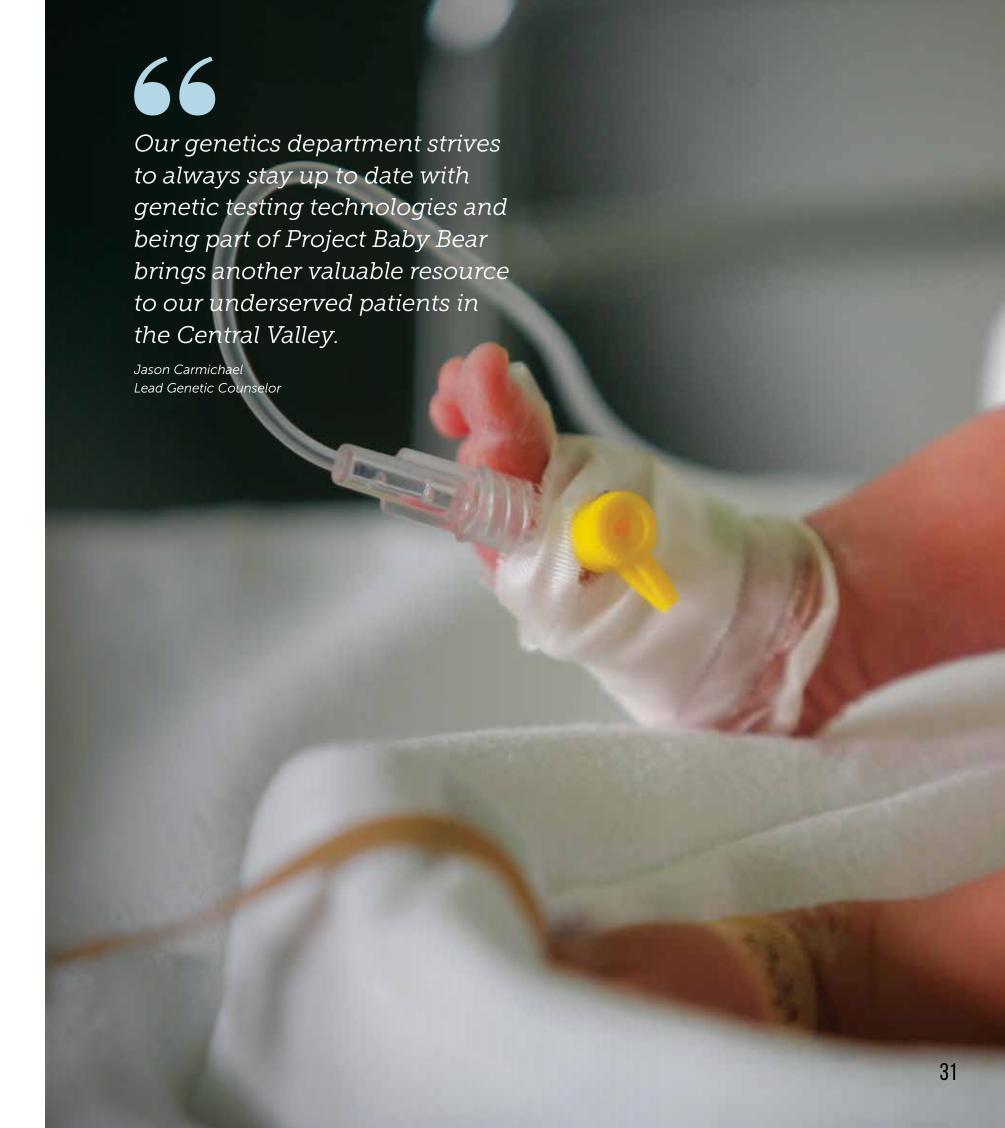
The impacts of this cutting-edge technology were profound in told and untold ways for both our physicians and families. Valley Children's neonatologists reported the ability to more effectively manage a child's conditions with new medication protocol, to more precisely and clearly communicate with families facing decisions about the withdrawal of medical care when it could be confirmed that the child would not survive. And, on one occasion, the test results allowed a family to be reunited after a Child Protective Services intervention had removed a child from their family, suspecting the child's condition was the result of abuse.

The results of the Project Baby Bear testing often provided a clearer path of care for patients and their families, minimizing their own anxieties and lessening their worries about the financial implications of an uncertain future or care needs.

By every measure, Project Baby Bear has been a success – and improved the lives of our most vulnerable patients and their families.

We are grateful to Rady Children's Hospital for the invitation to participate in this pilot program and will join them as we continue to advocate for this testing to be a covered Medi-Cal benefit in the State of California.

It makes sense at every level – especially at the human one.



GEORGE OUR BELOVED BLUE-HEARTED GIRAFFE

Out & About

George Makes a

SPLASALA

In Fresno 61

Out With

George Makes a

A Book About

Water Safety

United by Claire Notane

Whiteen by Claire Notane

Notane

Weeters av

Claire

Notane

Nota

"George Makes a Splash," a book about water safety, the leading cause of accidental death in children ages one-four, and "Out and About with George in Fresno and Madera Counties," a tribute to the original hospital location and the campus in Madera County, were both released in 2019.

A huggable George for kids of all ages also arrived just in time for the holidays. The joy on the face of our patients to receive their very own George to keep them company while in the hospital or after they have gone home is priceless...and a wonderful reminder that the joy George spreads to our patients is important to share everywhere he goes.

A part of our healthcare family from the earliest days, George the Giraffe is synonymous with Valley Children's and is easily recognized wherever he goes (it is easy to be recognized when you are seven feet tall, too!). George brings smiles to kids' faces, lots of hugs and high fives and a comforting wave from across the cafe or peeking into the room of a sick patient.

ommitted to sharing the love and kindness that George represents for children both inside and outside of the hospital, two new books were added to our collection of "George" books this year – bringing our total to five books in the George series – to help spread George's kindness and curiosity and love of reading to kids and their families.



## AWARUS **ACHIEVEMENTS**

At Valley Children's, we are gratified to be recognized for our commitment to providing the nation's best pediatric healthcare, and honored to share these accolades with our physicians, staff and supporters. But, most of all, we share these with our patients and families that we have the privilege of caring for every day.





In its 2019-2020 "Best Children's Hospitals" rankings, U.S. News & World Report recognized Valley Children's as one of the nation's top 50 children's hospitals in five pediatric specialties: Pediatric Diabetes & Endocrinology, Pediatric Gastroenterology & Gastrointestinal (GI) Surgery, Neonatology, Pediatric Orthopedics and Pediatric Urology. The rankings rely on clinical data – including survival rates, adequacy of nursing staff and procedure volume - and an annual survey of pediatric specialists nationwide. This is the fourth consecutive year Valley Children's has earned recognition by U.S. News & World Report.









Valley Children's is one of only 51 hospitals in the United States to receive a fourth Magnet® designation for nursing excellence from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. The Magnet® designation is the highest national honor for professional nursing excellence, reflecting superior nursing satisfaction, patient/family satisfaction and patient outcomes.



One of the Nation's

Children's Hospitals

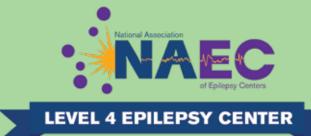
in Quality and Patient Safety



Valley Children's was named a Top Children's Hospital in the nation by The Leapfrog Group for excellence in patient safety and quality of care – one of only 10 children's hospitals in the US to achieve this honor.



Valley Children's extracorporeal life support program earned the Silver Level ELSO Award from the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO). This highly-complex clinical intervention provides infants and children with advanced lifesaving treatment for failing heart and/or lung function. The ELSO Award recognizes exceptional commitment to such criteria as quality measures, staff training, patient satisfaction and ongoing clinical care.



Valley Children's received a prestigious Level 4 accreditation from the National Association of Epilepsy Centers, making it the only Level 4 Epilepsy Center in Central California and one of five in California offering care for pediatric patients. The Level 4 designation is reserved for facilities capable of providing the most advanced medical therapies and surgical treatments an epilepsy patient might require.

35

34



Founding Mothers:

Agnes Crocket,

Gail Goodwin,

Helen Maupin,

Carolyn Peck

Patty Randall and

YEARS OF COMMITMENT

## to the Children of this Valley

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can make a difference that can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

nthropologist Margaret Mead expressed that sentiment nearly 30 years after the first Valley Children's Guild was founded – but, by then, our Guilds were well on their way to demonstrating the true wisdom of those words.

Each and every time a child walks through our doors, we are reminded of and grateful for – the profound vision of our five founding mothers who started it all – a vision which created a hospital "for children only." Their vision also included the establishment of our Guilds, recognizing that the success of this special place would require ongoing and generous community support. The Llanada Guild's first fundraiser, a benefit barbeque at the Bernal Giffen Ranch, generated \$5,744.40, setting the "first stage in the realization of the Hospital...from a plan into a project." (Valley Children's Hospital Newsletter, November – 1949. "Hospital Plan Becomes a Project.")

The Guilds of Valley Children's celebrated their 70th anniversary in 2019. From our first Guild in 1949, we currently have 14 Guilds spanning from one end of the Valley to the other. Each of our Guilds is firmly committed to those original goals set by our founding mothers: to raise





financial support and develop ongoing community support for Valley Children's.

Our Guilds range in size, location, events, and membership – some having third and fourth generations of members – but all share a deep commitment to Valley Children's Healthcare and to the children of this Valley.

The contributions of our Guilds can be found across the Valley Children's network. From providing funds for much-needed equipment – a new MRI machine and the first pharmacy robot – to the funds required to build the helipad that makes Air George's flights possible, getting critically ill infants and children to the hospital quickly – the Guild's handprint is present. The Guilds have also supported the work of our Child Life and Spiritual Services staff and the clinical care provided by the Willson Heart Center.

In 2006, the Guilds shifted their fundraising commitments to needs spanning over several years and beyond, establishing their first endowment to launch the Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Endowment. In 2014, the Guilds established similar endowments for Child

Life, the Willson Heart Center, and Spiritual Care. Those endowment funds will continue for generations to support this important work of Valley Children's.

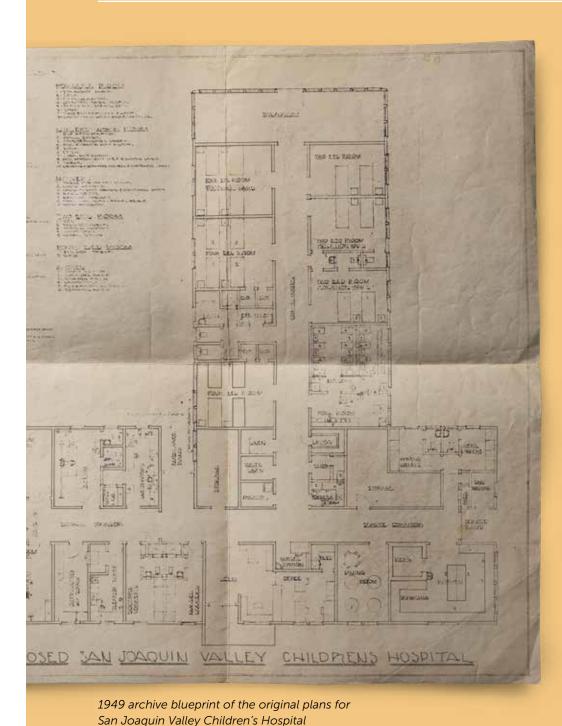
In 2019, the Guilds announced their next endowment to establish the Guilds Center for Community Health. Just as our founding mothers saw the need to change the health of kids for generations to come, today's Guild members saw a similar need to support the health of our kids where they live, learn and play. This is the first-of-its-kind in the Central Valley, and with the Guilds foresight and commitment will allow Valley Children's to develop, implement and expand our work to keep kids healthy more of the time – really the ultimate goal for healthcare.

66

There is something incredibly powerful about looking out a gathering of Guild members – from varying communities, professions, backgrounds – and to recognize that they all share a commitment to Valley Children's and the kids we are privileged to serve. These Guild members represent the best of our Valley – and remind me of a well-known quote: "Plant a tree under which you will never sit." Every day, our beloved Guild members work to make the lives of kids better – kids they likely will never know, never see – and generations of Valley children are better for their generosity.

vnne Ashbeck.

Senior Vice President, Community Engagement and Population Wellness, Valley Children's Healthcare



## GUILD ENDOWMENTS

9/30/19 Market Value: \$11,347,834

The Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Endowment \$5,742,606

The Guilds Child Life Endowment \$1.385.352

The Guilds Heart Center Endowment \$2.853.083

The Guilds Spiritual Care Endowment \$1,366,793

The Guilds Center for Community Health \$888,000

## GUILDS OF VALLEY CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE

Alegria Guild (1950)

Color the Skies Guild (2017)

Holiday Guild (1953)

Kings Guild (1949)

La Comida Guild (1953)

La Feliz Guild (1949)

Las Madrinas Guild (1950)

La Sierra Guild (1999)

La Tienda Guild (1952)

La Visionaria Guild (2007)

Los Ninos Guild (2009)

Los Rancheros Guild (1949)

Padrinos Guild (2015)

Tenaya Guild (1950)

Proceeds raised by the Guilds, 1949-2019:

\$32.5M net

## ANSWERING Valley Children's FOUNDATION THE CALL

alley Children's Healthcare was built on the generosity of this remarkable region, and that same generosity remains at the heart of our organization today. For seven decades, Central Valley residents have been answering the call to help ensure that kids have access to excellent healthcare closer to home. Generations of Valley families and children have been impacted by the care of Valley Children's physicians, nurses, staff, donors and volunteers.

This year, the generosity of Valley Children's supporters has made a significant impact on our ability to ensure that every child that needs access to care can get it closer to their own communities. The new facilities in Modesto and Fowler were graced by many donors and, for that, we are grateful. Donations also allowed Valley Children's to purchase lifesaving equipment, recruit expert pediatric specialists, and improve our facilities and technology at the Madera hospital campus.

In 2019, tens of thousands of our businesses, neighbors and friends answered the call to help. That expression of compassionate concern through philanthropy is deeply appreciated by patients, families and staff at Valley Children's who can see daily the difference your generosity makes in the life of a child.

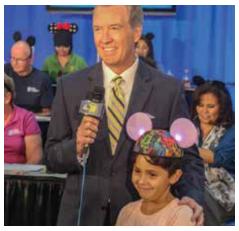
The true measure of giving might just be in knowing that you are personally lifting up a sick child, comforting a family or giving our clinicians the tools needed to bring hope and life to so many – and in most cases, helping children you may never know. To those who have answered the call, thank you.

You are heroes to our patients. And to all of us at Valley Children's. We are humbled knowing that we could not do what we do without you.









Farming Icon and Philanthropist Makes

## RANSFORMATIONAL TO VALLEY CHILDREN'S

or 124 years, the Giannini companies were farming giants in the Central Valley. LeRoy G. Giannini started farming at an early age on 20 acres. LeRoy was 16 when his father was killed in a train accident and, shortly after his high school graduation, he took over the family farming operation.

Under his innovative leadership and steady, hard work, the family business grew to more than 2,000 acres of nectarines and plums, along with a processing plant in Dinuba. At one time in the late 1970s, Mr. Giannini was the largest producer of nectarines in the world. Over the years, the family also raised cattle along the Central Coast.

Mr. Giannini was as generous as he was private. Over the course of his lifetime, he made sizeable contributions to support educational and faith-based organizations in his community but his gifts were not widely publicized. Mr. Jim Burnett, longtime friend and employee of Mr. Giannini and the trustee to his estate, shared that, over the years, Mr. Giannini paid for every Little League team in Dinuba that did not have a sponsor. For his employees and their family members, he would pay for life's unexpected emergencies, pay to send their children to college and cover funeral expenses for every employee or family member. In Mr. Burnett's words, Mr. Giannini was a remarkably generous man who ran his business as a family.

Mr. Giannini's son, LeRoy A. Giannini, passed in 2018 and left more than \$8 million to Valley Children's in honor of his parents, Ruth E. and LeRoy G. Giannini. Their generosity represented the largest single gift in the organization's history. The new outpatient facility planned for construction on the Valley Children's Hospital campus will be named in honor of the Giannini family to serve as a powerful tribute to their generosity.



LeRoy G. Giannini

LeRoy G. Giannini with Safeway Executives

The new outpatient facility planned for construction on the Valley Children's Hospital campus will be named in honor of the Giannini family to serve as a powerful tribute to their generosity.

38

## DONNR!

Valley Children's gratefully recognizes new gifts, multiyear pledges and payments on past years' pledges during the 2019 calendar year. Life-to-Date giving is recognized on the donor wall at Valley Children's Hospital.

## \$5 Million & Above

The Giannini Family

## \$1,000,000 to \$4,999,999

Marvin and Janell Boldt Children's Miracle Network Hospitals\* Mr. Charles P. Gorini The Guilds of Valley Children's Healthcare\*\*

## \$500.000 to \$999.999

Ruiz Foods The Walt Disney Company

## \$250.000 to \$499.999

Living Legacy Foundation The Wonderful Company & the Resnick Family Foundation

\$100,000 to \$249,999 ABC30 BBVA Bee Sweet Citrus Central California Alliance for Health E. & J. Gallo Winery The Fresno Bee Mr. Don B. Huntley Richard and Gerrilyn lest Isnardi Foundation Mr. Cecil King Legacy Health Endowment Leon S. Peters Foundation Manuel & Katye Mancebo

The Mitchell Family Foundation

Lance & Jamie Mouw National Raisin Company Porges Family Foundation Fund Mr. Melvin Pruitt Taco Bell Restaurants Dr. Carol Wong and Mr. Edward Wong

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The Bill & Linda Smittcamp Family Spirit Halloween Superstores, LLC St. Baldrick's Foundation Bernard & Maxine te Velde Terra Family Foundation

**US Acute Care Solutions** Wells Fargo Bank

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

Dr. & Mrs. John Abdulian ARCO ampm Central Valley Mr. & Mrs. Don Baker Tom & Kim Beck Mrs. Carlotta Bedrosian

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

Foundation The Swager Family Trust Table Mountain Rancheria and Casino Travaille & Phippen, Inc.

Triple B Ranch Eddie Warmerdam Wild Electric, Inc.

## \$10,000 to \$24,999

99 Pipeline, Inc. Mr. & Mrs. Terrance Alvord Ms. Clara Ashworth Bakersfield Rotary West Foundation Bank of America Ms. Mary Bebereia

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Fresno Truck Center 2019 Funski Invitational Golf Tournament G.L. Bruno Family Foundation

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\*Children's Miracle Network Hospitals are listed on page 45.

\*\*The Guilds of Valley Children's Healthcare are listed on page 37.

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Every year, thousands of patients gain a brighter future because of the care they receive at Valley Children's. With your support, we can continue providing the services, programs, equipment and operations that are funded in part through your generous giving.

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Valley Children's Healthcare Foundation 9300 Valley Children's Place M/S PC17 Madera, CA 93636-8762

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## Join or Support a Guild

The Guilds of Valley Children's have been a vital source of fundraising since 1949, raising more than \$32.5 million to provide Central Valley children with excellent medical care. By joining or supporting a guild, you can be part of this rich tradition. Contact the Guilds Office at **559-353-7145** or

guilds@valleychildrens.org, or visit valleychildrens.org/guilds.

## 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.

45

Rail Best Transfer

Dr. Robert P. Raines-Hepple

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hile each Board has clear and distinct accountabilities, they are each composed of dedicated and diverse leaders from communities and sectors from throughout the Central Valley and across the State. They are each highly accomplished industry and civic leaders in their own right.

For some, their involvement is personal, with Valley Children's having provided life-saving care for themselves or their own children over generations. For others, their commitment is driven by what they have seen Valley Children's provide for their neighbors' children, their employee's children, and the children in their own communities.

But for each Board member, their commitment is rooted in the deeply held belief that it is a privilege to ensure that this 70-year legacy of Valley Children's continues, grows, advances - and that every child in the Valley deserve adults who care.

Our Trustees guide Valley Children's with strategic insights, wisdom and resourcefulness. And we are thankful for their service.

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## 2010 STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

CARED FOR KIDS FROM

43<sub>STATES</sub>

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

**OUTPATIENT VISITS** 

305,725

**EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS** 

108,335

INPATIENT DISCHARGES

12,144

SPECIALTY CARE VISITS

209,413

PRIMARY CARE VISITS

71,503

**URGENT CARE VISITS** 

17,865

STAFF

640+ Physicians

3,500+ Employees

**400+** Volunteers

**OB/GYN VISITS** 

6,944

REFERRING HEALTH PROVIDERS

3,000+

**ACTIVE RESEARCH STUDIES** 

170

**CLINICAL TRAINING & EDUCATION** 

198 Residents and medical students

**985** Nurses and allied health professionals





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