



Valley
Children's
GUILDS

2024

CELEBRATING



Years

OF THE GUILDS OF VALLEY CHILDREN'S



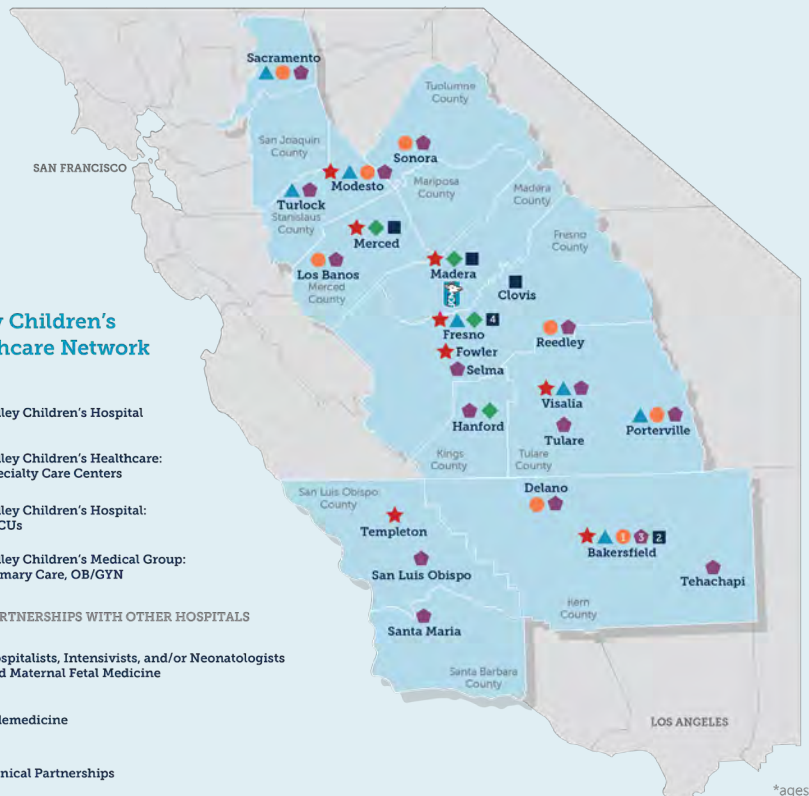
Valley Children's
HEALTHCARE



Steadfast Mission, *Transformative Impact*

For 75 years, the Guilds have stood united in Valley Children's mission to support the health and well-being of children across 13 counties in the Central Valley. What began with five visionary women, determined to build a hospital for children only, has grown into an enduring legacy of compassion and service.

Through bold fundraising initiatives, direct support for patients and families, and strong community partnerships, the Guilds continue to help Valley Children's deliver world-class care to over 1.3 million children within our service area. This report celebrates our collective impact and reaffirms our commitment to building a healthier future for generations to come.



*Number in Shape Denotes Multiple Locations

*ages 0-20

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A Word From Our CEO

I am often asked where Valley Children's got its start.

The question is rarely about the original physical location of our first hospital, but more about where the "heart" of our organization came from, and, more importantly, how that heart and compassion have endured and grown for more than seven decades.

My answer is always the same.

It is because of you.

The heart of Valley Children's came from our five founding mothers and from our earliest Guild members—and that compassion and clarity of purpose have been passed on, sustained, and deepened through each of you over time.

The vision, core values, and mission of any organization are tested as it faces new challenges, shifting economies, changing technology, and a growing region. That has certainly been the case for Valley Children's.

Through it all, we have met those tests and exceeded the expectations of many—especially the early skeptics who thought the idea of a hospital just for children in our Valley was an impossibility.

Our beginnings, who we are today, and our future successes are inextricably linked to the steadfast support from each of you—generations of Guild members who simply love our community and love our kids.

We are grateful.

Todd Suntrapak

President and Chief Executive Officer
Valley Children's Healthcare





2024 Coordinating Council Officers, Directors & Staff

*Back row, left to right: Laura Walberg, Manager - Amie Pitigliano, Las Madrinas Guild
Valerie Vuicich, Hospital and Medical Group Board of Trustees (La Feliz Guild) - Brad Smittcamp, Vice Chair (Padrinos Guild)
Trina Prins, Tenaya Guild - Shelley Ziegler, Holiday Guild - Lisa Neville, La Visionaria Guild
Marla McClaskey, Chair (Los Rancheros Guild) - Teresa Fierro, Secretary and Treasurer, Director*

*Front row, left to right: Lynette Duston, Kings Guild - Vanda McArthur, La Tienda Guild - Elaine Wells, Los Rancheros Guild
Melanie Chandler, La Feliz Guild - Lynne Miller, La Comida Guild - Connie McClaskey, Advisory Council Chair (Las Madrinas Guild)
Katy Miller, El Rio Reyes Guild - Lisa Salas, Alegria Guild - Aly DeYoung, Intern (Fall)*

Missing from the photo: Patty Spinelli, La Sierra Guild - Grant Lilles, Padrinos Guild - Isabella Amaya, Intern (Spring)

The History & Heart of the Guilds

Seventy-five years ago, five women came together with a shared vision: to create a hospital for children only. Their vision took shape through tireless fundraising, grassroots advocacy, and an unwavering belief in the power of community. In 1952, Valley Children’s Hospital opened its doors as a 42-bed pediatric facility, a direct result of their dedication and the fundraising efforts of our original Guilds.

Mission

To raise funds, advocate for children, and promote goodwill for Valley Children’s Healthcare.

While the hospital has grown into a nationally respected 358-bed pediatric hospital and network serving over 1.3 million children across 13 counties, the heart of the Guilds’ mission remains unchanged. Today, the Guilds are Valley Children’s largest financial contributors, having raised over \$35 million to ensure that every child receives the best care possible, regardless of their family’s ability to pay.

With creativity, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to children’s health, the Guilds continue the legacy of their founding mothers—transforming a vision into reality for 75 years and counting.

A Vision Realized

5 FOUNGING MOTHERS

75 YEARS OF TRADITION

13 GUILDS

1,200 MEMBERS

13 COUNTIES SERVED

\$35+ MILLION RAISED

Founding Mothers



AGNES CROCKET



GAIL GOODWIN



HELEN MAUPIN



PATTY RANDALL



CAROLYN PECK



A Time-Honored Tradition: The All Guild Picnic

Since May 1954, Guild members have come together for the All Guild Picnic, a cherished celebration of community, service, and success. At this annual tradition, the Guilds present a check to Valley Children's, commemorating the funds raised throughout the previous year.

Founding Mother Patty Randall's diary text, verbatim, in September 1963:

How the Guilds Make a Difference

The Guilds' fundraising success is built on partnership and purpose.

- 1 Guild leadership meets with Valley Children's CEO to identify endowments needed, which are voted on by the Guilds.
- 2 All funds raised by the Guilds are allocated to that specific endowment through restricted giving.
- 3 Once the endowment is fulfilled, interest ensures continued support year after year, providing long-lasting impact.

September 1963

Then and there it was decided to have a children's hospital.

... Visits were being made to groups up and down the valley, with two purposes:

1. To explain the idea of a Valley Children's Hospital, and seek moral and financial support.

2. To form local guilds, to raise funds to maintain the hospital and promote good will and understanding in their own communities.

These visits were made by several of the young mothers, with the advice and consent of the Advisory Board, which had been formed to guide the whole project.

FY2024

Valley Children’s Fiscal Year Oct. 1, 2023 - Sept. 30, 2024

Continuing a Legacy of *Impact*

For 75 years, the Guilds have been dedicated to ensuring that Valley Children’s remains a pillar of health and hope for families throughout the Central Valley. Through visionary fundraising and steadfast stewardship, the Guilds have established five significant endowments totaling \$14 million, with cumulative distributions surpassing \$5 million to date. In FY2024 alone, these endowments distributed \$823,501, funding critical programs that serve patients, families, and staff.

As of 2024, the Guilds have proudly raised more than \$35 million—a testament to their enduring dedication and generosity. This financial success reflects the Guilds’ commitment to long-term sustainability while ensuring immediate, meaningful impact.

[Learn more about our newest endowments on page 18.](#)

Sustained Support

The Guilds continue to adapt and evolve with a strong commitment to meeting Valley Children’s ever-changing needs. These endowments are not just funds—they are lifelines supporting services that ensure every child receives the best care, today and for generations to come.

CY2023 Guilds Treasurer’s Report

Guilds Calendar Year Jan. 1, 2023 - Dec. 31, 2024

Funds Raised Toward \$5M Guilds Center for Community Health Endowment

Fundraising Events	\$1,134,630.89
Toyota Tundra Giveaway	\$76,300.00
Tributes & Memorials	\$8,505.00
Employee Giving	\$1,120.00
Planned Giving	\$59,249.06

Total: \$1,279,804.95

Other Funds Raised

Pink Pig Fund	\$11,734.84
Dues	\$2,145.00
Fund-a-Need	\$63,425.00

Total: \$77,304.84

Grand Total: \$1,357,109.79

FY2024 DISTRIBUTION

\$245,520

\$5M Guilds Center for
Community Health
Endowment

TOTAL FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$245,520

FY2024 DISTRIBUTION

\$293,423

\$5M Guilds Child Abuse
Prevention & Treatment
Center Endowment

TOTAL FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$3,218,450

FY2024 DISTRIBUTION

\$142,100

\$2M Guilds Willson
Heart Center
Endowment

TOTAL FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$842,002

FY2024 DISTRIBUTION

\$69,323

\$1M Guilds Spiritual
Care Endowment

TOTAL FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$409,406

FY2024 DISTRIBUTION

\$73,135

\$1M Guilds Child Life
Endowment

TOTAL FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$429,144

FY2024

\$823,501

Total Guild
Distributions

Fundraising Events: Funds raised through Guild fundraisers

Toyota Tundra Giveaway: All Guild Fundraiser at the World Ag Expo

Tributes & Memorials: Gifts to Valley Children's by means of honoring someone

Employee Giving: A gift from a Guild member or supporter who wishes to support the Guild commitment—NOT associated with a fundraiser or sponsorship

Planned Giving: A gift left to Valley Children's during a lifetime or at the time of death—bequest in a will, estates gift, gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, life insurance, or lead trust

Pink Pig Fund: Supported by Guild members—supports small projects and items not covered in Valley Children's budgets

Dues: Guild membership dues of \$5 per member to help support the Guild office's budget

Fund-a-Need: Additional funds raised at a Guild fundraiser, which support departments and/or the Guild funding commitment

Guild Fundraising Events

A Longstanding Tradition

The Guilds were created with the spirit of collective effort, and that spirit is alive and thriving today. Our 13 Guilds host annual fundraising events that raise critical funds for Valley Children's by bringing families, friends, and entire communities together. Each hour volunteered and ticket sold echoes the unwavering commitment of Guild members to children's health and well-being. Whether staffing a beloved storefront or organizing seasonal and themed celebrations, every Guild plays a unique and impactful role in advancing the mission we all hold dear.

Toyota Tundra Giveaway: An All Guild Fundraiser

The Toyota Tundra Giveaway is an annual fundraiser where all 13 Guilds unite, partnering with Central Valley Toyota Dealers, International Agri-Center, and World Ag Expo to support Valley Children's. Since its inception in 2015, this collaborative effort centers around raffling a brand-new, generously donated Toyota Tundra, ensuring that every single dollar raised through raffle ticket sales directly benefits Valley Children's. Ticket sales take place over several months—from September through February—culminating at the three-day World Ag Expo in Tulare.

The excitement peaks on the Expo's final day when the winning ticket is drawn and announced.

Over the past 10 years, the Toyota Tundra Giveaway has surpassed an incredible milestone: more than \$725,000 raised for Valley Children's—an incredible accomplishment that the Guilds can celebrate together.



A Tradition of Creativity & Community

With festive events like paint parties, raffles, and home tours, the Guilds of Valley Children's have proven that successful fundraising can take any shape or form. Each event reflects the ingenuity, dedication, and collective spirit that have defined the Guilds for 75 years. Through these creative and heartfelt efforts, the Guilds unite their communities to raise funds, foster goodwill, and build a healthier future for the children of the Central Valley.

MADERA COUNTY

Alegria Guild (est. 1950)

Day in the Country | An artisan faire and luncheon featuring famous baked goods, raffles, and shopping.

KINGSBURG, REEDLEY, DINUBA

El Rio Reyes Guild (est. 2021)

Toss for a Cause | A family-friendly cornhole tournament with kids activities.

Holiday Bunco Night | A festive evening of dice-rolling fun for a great cause.

KINGS COUNTY

Kings Guild (est. 1949)

Annual Dinner Dance & Auction | A lively evening featuring music, food, and spirited auctions.

FRESNO

La Comida Guild (est. 1953)

Holiday Home Tour | A two-day event showcasing beautiful, festively decorated homes with teas, boutiques, and evening reception.

FRESNO

La Feliz Guild (est. 1949)

Derby Down: A Day at the Races | A Kentucky Derby-themed event with southern cuisine, auctions, and live viewing of the big race.

MARIPOSA & MADERA COUNTIES

La Sierra Guild (est. 1999)

Cinco de Mayo Luncheon | A festive event featuring a Cinco de Mayo-inspired lunch, extensive raffle, and no shortage of fun.

FRESNO

Holiday Guild (est. 1953)

Holiday Boutique | A year-round boutique offering curated gifts, home décor, and registry options.

1772 W. Bullard Ave. | Fresno, CA 93711

FRESNO/CLOVIS

La Visionaria Guild (est. 2007)

Cocktails for a Cause | A glamorous fall ball with auctions, entertainment, and plenty of photo-worthy moments.

TULARE COUNTY

Las Madrinas Guild (est. 1950)

Holiday Luncheon | A festive gathering featuring a holiday boutique, raffles, and silent auctions.

CLOVIS

Los Rancheros Guild (est. 1949)

Seasonal Paint Parties | Guided paint classes with refreshments and giveaways, themed for holidays like Mother's Day with Moms & Mimosas.

FRESNO

Padrinos Guild (re-est. 2015)

Clay Shoot | An outdoor sporting event with lunch, auctions, and trophies.

Chalk Talk with David Carr | A night of football insights, dinner, and meet-and-greets with the NFL Network analyst.

CHOWCHILLA

Tenaya Guild (est. 1950)

Annual Christmas Dinner | A festive winter gathering with dinner, auctions, and dancing.

FRESNO

La Tienda Guild (est. 1952)

La Tienda Thrift Shop | A community treasure trove offering clothes, collectibles, and household goods, staffed entirely by Guild members.

708 E. Olive Ave. | Fresno, CA 93728

Evolving Needs, *Enduring Hearts*

Over 75 years, the Guilds of Valley Children's have evolved alongside the ever-changing needs of Valley Children's and the communities served while remaining faithful to their tradition.

Since 1949, the Guilds have played a vital role in helping establish Valley Children's as the beacon of care in the Central Valley that it is today. With the rallying of community support and hosted fundraisers, Valley Children's opened its doors in 1952. Later, when services expanded in response to community needs, the Guilds made up the difference between a profit and a loss. As technology advanced and new specialized equipment was needed, all turned to the Guilds, who worked hard to secure the latest MRI, surgery, and cardiology equipment. Today, through strategic investments in endowments, we are ensuring that the hospital's vital programs and services will endure and adapt for generations to come.

Making a Difference for Future Generations

The Guilds Center for Community Health is a strong example of our commitment to lasting strategic impact. With the funding of a \$5 million endowment, the Guilds are supporting efforts to create healthier communities and improve the lives of children where they live, learn, and play, well into the future. By addressing factors like food security, literacy, mental health, and safe sleep, the Guilds Center for Community Health ensures that children across the Central Valley have the resources and support they need to thrive.

Read more about the Center for Community Health on Page 16.

Continuing a Legacy of Advocacy

Another cornerstone of the Guilds' work is the Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Center. Established through a \$5 million endowment, this program has transformed how Valley Children's addresses child maltreatment. The Guilds Center provides comprehensive care for children experiencing abuse, including head-to-toe medical evaluations and ongoing collaboration with law enforcement and child welfare agencies. Before the Guilds' support, the Center didn't exist. Today, it is recognized as a leader in advocacy, injury prevention, and training.

Read more about the Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Center on Page 14.





“ For 75 years, the Guilds of Valley Children’s have been the heartbeat of our mission, supporting us as we provide exceptional care for children across the Central Valley. The Guilds’ vision and generosity have set a foundation that ensures we can meet the needs of today’s families while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow. We are profoundly grateful for their dedication and partnership in this journey. ”

Todd Suntrapak

President and Chief Executive Officer
Valley Children’s Healthcare

Supporting Immediate Needs

While the Guilds’ main fundraising focus is on building for the future, members remain equally committed to meeting the immediate needs of the hospital and its patients. The Pink Pig Fund, one of our most beloved and impactful initiatives, allows us to support the “little things” that make a big difference. From providing families with books and educational materials to ensuring parents in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) have snacks and supplies during long hours by their babies’ sides, the Pink Pig Fund embodies our belief that every gesture of kindness matters.

*Read more about the
Pink Pig Fund on Page 12.*

Reflecting on Our Progress

What makes these accomplishments possible is the unity of the Guilds. It is central to who we are and how we approach every effort—large or small—with the same commitment to compassion and care. We are inspired by our founding mothers who, 75 years ago, created a network rooted in compassion, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to the children of the Central Valley. Today, Guild members honorably carry their vision forward, adapting to new challenges and opportunities while remaining true to their original mission. Whether through the creation of transformative endowments or the simple joy of providing a child with a book to call their own, the Guilds’ work is a testament to the power of collective action.

The Power of a Pink Pig: A Little Fund With a *Big Heart*

In 1952, a whimsical idea took shape that would grow into a lasting legacy for the Guilds of Valley Children's. What began as a simple pink piggy bank has grown into a legacy of generosity and impact that reaches every corner of Valley Children's Healthcare. The Pink Pig Fund, established at a Guild luau nearly 75 years ago, represents the enduring spirit of community and care that defines who we are as Guilds. It was created as a way for the Guilds to pool their resources in support of smaller, immediate needs—those little extras that make a big difference in the lives of patients and families.

Over the decades, the Pink Pig Fund has remained true to its original purpose: to empower staff to identify specific needs that directly support our patients and families while at Valley Children's. While the Guilds' efforts have shifted toward creating endowments to ensure long-term sustainability, the Pink Pig Fund continues to provide tangible, immediate support—a reminder of how small acts of kindness can ripple outward to create lasting impact.

Tangible Support, Big Impact

One area that has consistently relied on support is the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Parent-to-Parent Program. For nearly two decades, the fund has provided essentials such as snacks, refreshments, and craft supplies for families spending countless hours in the NICU. These simple items create a sense of comfort and community, offering families moments of reprieve during an incredibly challenging time. The program, supported by the Pink Pig Fund, extends the care and compassion of Valley Children's beyond the medical to the deeply personal.

“That fund allows us to do so much—providing things that might seem small but mean the world to families navigating some of the toughest days of their lives.”

Tracy Gong

Nurse, Former NICU Parent, and Parent Partner
NICU Parent-to-Parent Program
Valley Children's Healthcare





Creative Giving

Over the years, Guild members—true to their innovative spirit—have devised countless creative ways to personally contribute to the Pink Pig Fund. From raffles and silent auctions to the simple passing of a piggy bank at meetings, the methods may vary but the purpose remains the same: to make an immediate and visible impact for our patients and families. These grassroots efforts reflect the Guilds' collective ingenuity and determination to make a difference.

Empowering Staff and Patients

One of the most remarkable aspects of the Pink Pig Fund is how it enables Valley Children's staff to enhance the patient and family experience during the most challenging of times. Requests come directly from staff members who see opportunities to provide that little extra care, whether it's educational books for children with chronic conditions, safe sleep materials for newborns, or medical boxes to help young patients transition to independent care. This approach ensures that every dollar is used with compassion and intention.

The Heart of the Guilds

As we celebrate the Guilds' 75th anniversary, we honor the legacy of the Pink Pig Fund and its role in shaping our mission. This legacy was built on the vision of our founding mothers, sustained by the creativity of our members and brought to life through the dedication of Valley Children's staff. Together, we've proven that even the smallest contributions can have the biggest impact. Just like that pink piggy bank first envisioned in the 1950s, the spirit of the Pink Pig Fund endures—and so does its impact.

Items Funded in 2024*

- ♥ Manual Patient Lift—Rehab
- ♥ Board Books—High Risk Infant Follow Up
- ♥ Mamaroo Swing Sets—Apollo, Inpatient Unit
- ♥ iPad and Case—Oncology Clinic
- ♥ Mobile Movie Cart and TV—Day Surgery
- ♥ Inspirational Precious Moments Stuffed Animals—Spiritual Care
- ♥ Toys and Coloring Supplies—Willson Heart Center
- ♥ Eye Shields and Ear Plugs—PICU

*Partial list



Protecting the Vulnerable With *Healing & Hope*

In 2007, the Guilds of Valley Children's made a historic commitment that would forever change the landscape of care for children in the Central Valley. Recognizing a critical gap in services for children experiencing abuse, the Guilds established the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Endowment—a \$5 million fund dedicated to creating a multidisciplinary program to address one of the most heart-wrenching challenges faced by children and families. The result was the Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Center (GCATC), a guiding light of hope and healing for the most vulnerable in our community.

Giving a Voice to the Voiceless

Before the Guilds' intervention, resources to address child abuse in our 13-county region were sparse. The hospital's efforts consisted of a single, part-time physician who worked on-call to review suspected abuse cases—an overwhelming responsibility, especially as case numbers rose year after year. By 2007, the number of suspected cases under review had increased by 33%, reaching 300 annually. It was clear that more needed to be done.

The Guilds answered this need with characteristic determination and vision. A \$5 million endowment laid the foundation for the establishment of a comprehensive center that could meet the growing demand for services.

Today, the GCATC is a multidisciplinary, kid-friendly program led by Dr. Wan-Keung Chen. The team now includes four specially trained physicians, licensed clinical and forensic staff, mental health professionals, and support personnel, who all work side-by-side to ensure that every child receives the care they need.

The GCATC's approach goes beyond addressing physical injuries. It focuses on holistic, trauma-informed care that addresses the emotional and psychological toll of abuse, creating a pathway to healing and resilience for children and their families. From comprehensive medical evaluations to mental health support, the GCATC's services have become an irreplaceable resource for our community.





Collaborative Advocacy

The GCATC doesn't work alone—collaboration is at the heart of its mission. The GCATC works closely with law enforcement, Child Protective Services, and district attorney's offices to provide expert consultation, support investigations, and advocate for the health and safety of at-risk children.

Established in 2000 and facilitated by the GCATC, monthly Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) meetings bring together these key stakeholders to track cases, monitor progress, and ensure accountability. This partnership-based approach has established the GCATC as a leader in advocacy, injury prevention, and education, both within the Central Valley and across the entire state.

A Future of Healing

The GCATC is a shining example of what our community can achieve together—a legacy of protection and advocacy that will endure for generations to come. This vital program stands as a testament to our founding mothers' vision of ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy, safe, and supported.

The GCATC's success is also a reflection of the incredible staff who bring the vision to life. Their unwavering dedication to children and families means they provide care that goes above and beyond, transforming lives and creating a ripple effect of hope across the community. As the Guilds celebrate 75 years of service, we reaffirm our commitment to the Center and to the children it serves. Together, we will ensure that every child has a voice, a champion, and a safe place to heal.

“ This endowment represents more than financial support. It's a symbol of the Guilds' unwavering commitment to the well-being of our children. Every child who comes through our doors is treated with the utmost care, respect, and compassion, and that is only possible because of their vision. ”

Jerica Secula

Child Advocacy Coordinator
Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Center
Valley Children's Healthcare

FY2024

301

Outpatient
Clinic Visits

80

Inpatient
Consults

16

Forensic
Interviews

90

Hours of Education and
Community Outreach

361

Cases Reviewed
by the SCAN Team

Building Healthier Communities *Beyond Hospital Walls*

Valley Children's has always believed that the health of the children in our community is shaped not just by the medical care they receive, but by the environments in which they live, learn, and play. This guiding principle inspired the creation of the Guilds Center for Community Health, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at addressing the factors that affect children's health far beyond clinical care.

A Vision Rooted in Community

The Guilds Center for Community Health was established to address the 80% of health outcomes impacted by social determinants such as access to nutritious food, safe housing, and educational opportunities. From its inception, the Guilds Center has worked to bridge the gap between clinical care and these broader influences, ensuring that children receive comprehensive support that nurtures their overall well-being. This approach has been transformative, especially in the Central Valley, where economic and environmental challenges often amplify disparities in health outcomes.



“The Guilds Center for Community Health allows us to expand our impact from treating illnesses to addressing the root causes that impact children's well-being. It's an approach that is proactive, preventive, and deeply compassionate.”

Carmela Sosa, M.D.

Director
Guilds Center for Community Health
Valley Children's Healthcare

A Closer Look at Programs Making a Difference

The Guilds Center for Community Health has spearheaded several impactful programs, each addressing critical needs within our community.

♥ PROMOTING SAFER SLEEP

Recognizing that the Valley has some of the highest rates of infant mortality due to unsafe sleep practices, the Guilds Center led the establishment of a nine-county collaborative program called the Safe Sleep Initiative to address the issues of safe sleep in our communities. Through community education and screening, the Guilds Center has worked with partner organizations like the Fresno Hope Hub to provide resources such as infant swaddle blankets, pack-and-plays, and safe sleep education.



♥ FOCUSING ON FOOD SECURITY

The Central Valley produces approximately one-quarter of the nation's table foods, yet one in four children in the area faces hunger. In response to this pervasive challenge, the Guilds Center, in a long-standing partnership with the Central California Food Bank, launched three pilot programs to better meet the food needs of our Valley's children and families. A home food delivery program, working with our own Home Health team, reached families with medically complex kids to ensure that the family's basic food needs were met. A school food pantry and support for Fresh Fruits Market, a market startup led by the Fresno Rescue Mission, provided two other ways to ensure that more children had a chance for healthy food every day. Our partnerships with Tulare FoodLink, as well as the Merced County Food Bank, have allowed us to work on issues around food insecurity in schools and across those communities.

♥ ADDRESSING ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACES)

One of the Guilds Center's most significant areas of focus is the impact of ACEs. Research shows that children who endure high levels of ACEs are more likely to face chronic health issues as adults. To combat this, the Guilds Center collaborates with partners like ACE Overcomers and the Merced County Office of Education to provide parenting classes, educational modules for teachers, and support for foster youth. By addressing these challenges early, the Guilds Center helps set the stage for healthier, more resilient futures.

♥ PREVENTING YOUTH SUICIDE

The Guilds Center led the organization's participation in a national collaborative effort with 15 other children's hospitals to focus on the goal of having zero suicides among the kids we care for and the kids in our communities. Through this national work group, we improved our own screening and safety planning, identified new promising practices to implement, and strengthened our community partnerships with schools and others working on this shared goal.

Generational Commitment to Healthier Children

Health inequities cannot be solved overnight, but by fostering long-term programs and partnerships, the Guilds Center is laying the groundwork for sustainable, generational change. These efforts reflect the Guilds' longstanding philosophy: real impact happens when communities come together.

The Guilds Center represents a new frontier in pediatric care—one that acknowledges the complex, interconnected factors that shape health. As we look toward the future, the Guilds Center will continue to expand its reach, guided by the voices of the community and informed by ongoing research. We remain committed to supporting the Guilds Center's work and ensuring that every child has the tools and opportunities they need to lead a healthy life.

Securing the Future of *Valley Children's*

For 75 years, the Guilds of Valley Children's have remained steadfast in their mission to support the health and well-being of children across the Central Valley. As we continue to look to the future, we are honored to announce our next commitment: two transformative endowments totaling \$12 million that will expand lifesaving care and provide support for generations to come.

Guilds ECMO Endowment: \$10 Million

At the forefront of this commitment is the Guilds Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) Endowment—a \$10 million investment to grow and enhance Valley Children's ECMO Program, the only one of its kind in the Central Valley. ECMO provides advanced heart and lung support to critically ill infants and children, giving them a chance to heal when conventional treatments are no longer enough. The Guilds' support will allow Valley Children's to:

- ♥ Expand capacity to care for more than two ECMO patients at a time
- ♥ Invest in specialized training and advanced simulation technology
- ♥ Enhance follow-up care and support for ECMO patients and their families

Valley Children's ECMO program is one of only 16 centers worldwide to be recognized as a Designated Platinum Center of Excellence by the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO). This prestigious designation reflects the program's exceptional commitment to evidence-based processes, staff training, patient satisfaction, and clinical care. The Guilds' investment will expand this world-class care, ensuring that more children have access to lifesaving treatment when they need it most.

Guilds of Valley Children's Healthcare Endowment: \$2 Million

While the Guilds' established endowments continue to support the Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Center, Child Life, Spiritual Care, Willson Heart Center, and Guilds Center for Community Health, this \$2 million endowment will provide something unique: flexibility and reach. Once fully funded, this endowment will create a grant application process to directly support different areas of Valley Children's network, empowering staff to:

- ♥ Launch new initiatives that benefit children and families
- ♥ Enhance existing programs and fulfill immediate needs
- ♥ Foster innovation and strengthen care across the Valley Children's network

This forward-looking approach ensures that the Guilds' impact adapts alongside the hospital's evolving priorities, supporting both groundbreaking advancements and the everyday needs of staff, patients, and families.



Building the Future Together

These two new endowments mark the next chapter in the Guilds' remarkable legacy. With their vision, creativity, and unwavering dedication, the Guilds continue to propel Valley Children's forward—ensuring that no matter what the future holds, our region's children will always have access to the best care possible.

Together, we are creating something extraordinary: a healthier, brighter future for every child who enters the doors of Valley Children's.

“The Guilds are an essential part of the Valley Children's story. Their commitment to raising funds, advocating for children, and fostering community support has helped shape who we are today—and who we will become tomorrow. With their continued partnership, we can meet the challenges ahead and create a brighter future for every child and family we serve.”

Lynne Ashbeck

Senior Vice President and
Chief Community Impact Officer
Valley Children's Healthcare

Acknowledgments

Closing Comments from Marla McClaskey

The Guilds' story is one of impact and endurance. Over the past 75 years, we have adapted to meet new challenges while staying true to the mission set forth by our founding mothers. The strength of that mission is reflected in the thousands of lives touched by the programs we support and the generosity of those who make our work possible.



Marla McClaskey
Coordinating Council Chair

With Gratitude

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Guild members, whose dedication and creativity have driven our mission forward for decades, and to the supporters who have stood by our side with their generous contributions and unwavering belief in the power of community.

To every volunteer, donor, hospital staff member, and friend of the Guilds: thank you for being part of this incredible journey. Your efforts have inspired hope and transformed lives.



Looking Ahead

As we look toward the future, we remain deeply committed to Valley Children's and the patients and families we serve. We know there is more work to be done, more people to support, and more opportunities to make a difference. We are humbled by the opportunity to contribute to a mission that touches so many lives.

With every event, every donation, and every act of service, we continue to strengthen the legacy of the Guilds and ensure that Valley Children's remains a beacon of hope for generations to come.

Here's to another 75 years of making an impact—together.

Board of Trustees Guild Representative Position

In 2020, we established our first application process of seeking Guild members interested in serving on the Hospital and Medical Group Board of Trustees as an elected member—no longer as an ex officio member like in years past. We had several applicants and submitted our ranking for our top three candidates. Then, in 2022, the Healthcare Board of Trustees elected Valerie Vuicich as the Guild Representative to serve on the Hospital and Medical Group Board of Trustees for a three-year term.

Valerie served in this role from 2022–2024, and we are thankful for her dedication and commitment to the role, the Guilds, and Valley Children's.



Valerie Vuicich
Hospital and Medical
Group Board of Trustees
(Guild Representative)



Valley Children's GUILDS





www.ValleyChildrens.org/Guilds

559-353-7145