Valley Children's HEALTHCARE

CANCER AND BLOOD DISORDERS CENTER

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

WELCOME

Todd Suntrapak
President and CEO
Valley Children's Healthcare

Valley Children's is a nationally recognized leader in pediatric care, serving more than 1.3 million children across California's Central Valley. As the region's sole provider of pediatric hematology and oncology services between Los Angeles and the Bay Area, our teams care for children facing the most complex and rare diagnoses, delivering hope through advanced therapies and deeply coordinated, family-centered care — a commitment that stands at the heart of what we do, and a reflection of the extraordinary expertise, compassion and innovation that defines our Cancer and Blood Disorders Center.

This year marks a historic milestone in our continued growth and innovation with the launch of the Dr. Vonda Lee Crouse Bone Marrow Transplant and Cell Therapy Program, made possible by a transformative $15 million philanthropic gift. With the launch of this program, children in our region can now receive life-saving treatments close to home, surrounded by their families and support systems.

In this report, you will learn about the remarkable achievements that reflect the dedication of our physicians, nurses and staff — and our unwavering commitment to expanding access to world-class cancer care for the children of the Central Valley.

Vinod Balasa, MD
Medical Director
Valley Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center

At Valley Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center, our commitment to evidence-based medicine, multidisciplinary collaboration and improved outcomes drives every bit of innovation and growth. Our physicians, nurses and support teams deliver highly specialized care while advancing the future of pediatric oncology in the Central Valley.

The launch of the Dr. Vonda Lee Crouse Bone Marrow Transplant and Cell Therapy Program this year represents a defining milestone for our region, providing access to the highest level of care close to home. CAR T-cell therapy, for example, has achieved outcomes once considered unattainable as landmark studies have shown that approximately 60% of children with highly refractory or relapsed cancers remain cancer-free five years later with this therapy. To date, more than 2,000 children worldwide have received this therapy, many of whom would not have survived otherwise. Bone marrow transplants have also been successfully used for more than 50 years, with ongoing advances improving safety, outcomes and long-term survivorship.

With our new program, Valley Children's joins the nation's leading children's hospitals in offering these life-saving therapies — treatments that demand exceptional expertise and specialized infrastructure. Over the next few years, our program will achieve full accreditation, ensuring children in the Central Valley have access to nationally recognized, cutting-edge care from our renowned experts.

This advancement reflects our commitment to growth and innovation — and, most importantly, to ensuring children in the Central Valley have access to lifesaving care close to home. We are proud to share this impact with you in this report.

1.3 MILLION CHILDREN
across the Central Valley rely on Valley Children's for specialized care.

$15 MILLION INVESTMENT
brings the most advanced pediatric cancer therapies close to home.

More than 2,000 CHILDREN WORLDWIDE
have already been saved with CAR T-cell therapy.

Bone marrow transplant has been
SAVING CHILDREN'S LIVES FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS
and continues to evolve with safer, more effective technology.

Children who once had limited options for cancer treatment
NOW HAVE A POWERFUL NEW CHANCE TO SURVIVE
— right here in the Valley.

Momentum in Motion:

GROWING PROGRAMS AND PEDIATRIC CARE IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

Valley Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center continues to advance in meaningful ways, driven by a shared commitment to growth, innovation and expanding the specialized care available to children and families in our region. The continual progress of our team reflects that commitment at its best.

Dr. Audrey Murphy-Green's force behind the Neurofibromatosis (NF) Program is a great example of this progress. What started as a focused effort has grown into a strong, multidisciplinary program, built in close collaboration with the Valley Children's Neuroscience Center, and is reshaping NF care in the Central Valley. This growth reflects our continued commitment to building programs that address the most important needs of our patients.

We're also proud to have Dr. Ruetima Titapiwatanakun step into the role of Children's Oncology Group (COG) Principal Investigator. With more than 20 years of experience and having completed her pediatric hematology and oncology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, she brings tremendous expertise to this role. Her leadership expands access to national clinical trials and strengthens our commitment to bringing the most advanced therapies directly to the families we care for.

At the same time, Dr. Kanyalakshmi Ayyanar's contributions to the neuro-oncology program, in addition to advancing the Children's Oncology Group (COG) research and strengthening solid tumor care continues to move our mission forward. She has nearly three decades of specialized experience in diagnosing and treating complex blood disorders and cancers in children, including more than 25 years specifically as a pediatric hematologist/oncologist. Her work broadens treatment options and supports our mission to drive innovation across every area of pediatric care.

Together, through the strength of collaboration and the growth of our team, including our nurses, providers, pharmacists, research teams, navigators, case managers, social workers and clinical staff, our Center remains committed to making the most effective and innovative care accessible to the children who depend on us right here in the Central Valley. Overall, it reflects how our entire team continues to advance the specialized care offered at our Center through ongoing growth and innovation.

Rougeh Awad, RN, MSN, FNP-BC
Executive Director of Clinical Practice and Assistant Chief Nursing Officer
Valley Children's Healthcare

MEET THE TEAM

Physicians

Vinod Balasa
MD
Medical Director

Kanyalakshmi Ayyanar
MD

John Gates
MD

Audrey Green-Murphy
DO

J. Daniel Ozeran
MD, PhD

Latha Rao
MD

Faisal Razzaqi
MD

Sarah Sahib
MD

Bindu Sathi
MD

Rajat Sharma
MD

Wendy Tcheng
MD

Ruetima Titapiwatanakun
MD

Nurse Practitioners

Rachel Albertson
CFNP

Katie Baker
MSN, CPNP

Jill Cielnicky
MSN, FNP-C

Kelly Folmer
MSN, CPNP

Pam Marsh
DNP, CPNP

Jillian Moffett
CPNP

Practice Operations

Rougeh Awad
MSN, FNP-BC
Executive Director of Clinical Practice and Assistant Chief Nursing Officer

Erica Tiboni
BSN, RN, CPN
Practice Manager

SERVICE IN NUMBERS

FY2025

Patient Visits

15,163

Hematology - 6,119
Oncology - 9,044

Unique Patients

4,481

Hematology - 2,893
Oncology - 1,588

ACCESS TO CARE

Beyond providing the best care, Valley Children's ensures timely care that patients and families can rely on. With the best systems in place, kids can receive the lifesaving care they need and deserve. At Valley Children's, our access-to-care average for fiscal year 2025 is as follows:

Hematology

Referral to Appointment: **38 days**

Median Days to Schedule: **3 days**

Oncology

Referral to Appointment: **14 days**

Median Days to Schedule: **4 days**

151 Newly Diagnosed Oncology Cases

Leukemia	**53**
Acute Myeloid Leukemia	4
B Lymphoblastic Leukemia	41
Chronic Myeloid Leukemia	2
T Lymphoblastic Leukemia	2
Transient Abnormal Myelopoiesis	4
Sarcomas	**22**
Angiomatoid Fibrous Histiocytoma	1
CIC-DUX4 Sarcoma	1
Desmoplastic Small Round Cell Tumor	1
Ewing Sarcoma	4
Infantile Fibrosarcoma	1
Myofibroblastic Tumor	1
Pleuropulmonary Blastoma	1
Osteosarcoma	6
Rhabdomyosarcoma	4
Spindle Cell Sarcoma	1
Synovial Sarcoma	1
Neuroblastic Tumors	**11**
Ganglioneuroma	3
Ganglioneuroblastoma	1
Neuroblastoma	7
Histiocytosis	**5**
HLH	1
Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH)	4
Liver Tumors	**3**
Hepatoblastoma	2
Hepatic Adenoma	1
Brain / CNS	**27**
Choroid Plexus Papilloma	1
Dysembryoplastic Neuroepithelial Tumor	1
Ependymoma	2
Ganglioglioma	3
Germinoma	1
Glioma, NOS	4
Glioneuronal Tumor	1
Medulloblastoma	2
Neurofibroma	2
Neurofibromatosis	3
Nongerminomatous Germ Cell Tumor	1
Pilocytic Astrocytoma	5
Schwannoma	1
Lymphomas	**16**
B-Cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma	2
Burkitt	1
Hodgkin	11
Primary Mediastinal B-cell Lymphoma (PMBCL)	1
T-Cell Lymphoblastic Lymphoma	1
Ovarian/Testicular Tumors	**7**
Germ Cell Tumors	4
Immature Teratoma	1
Juvenile Granulosa Cell Tumor	1
Kidney Tumors	**4**
Angiomyolipoma	1
Renal Cell Carcinoma	1
Wilms	2
Carcinomas	**2**
Adenocarcinoma of the Colon	1
Secretory Carcinoma	1
Other	**1**
Keratin-Positive Giant Rich Cell Tumor	1

A NEW ERA OF HOPE FOR CENTRAL VALLEY FAMILIES

For decades, Valley Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center has been a trusted home for expert pediatric cancer care — guiding families across the Central Valley through diagnosis, treatment and survivorship close to home. Now, that legacy of excellence is advancing to a powerful new chapter.

With the launch of the Dr. Vonda Lee Crouse Bone Marrow Transplant and Cell Therapy Program, families at Valley Children's will soon have access to CAR T-cell therapy — one of the most advanced and promising blood cancer treatments available today — with a long-term vision to expand into comprehensive bone marrow transplant services.

CAR T-cell therapy harnesses a child's own immune system by reengineering T-cells to recognize and destroy cancer. For children who have relapsed or are not responding to standard treatments, this therapy has transformed outcomes. Pediatric data shows survival rates of approximately 65.5% — meaning nearly 2 out of 3 children who once had limited options are now surviving.

Driving the Mission and Continuity of Care

Supporting this next phase is Dr. Rajat Sharma, who brings extensive experience in pediatric stem cell and cellular therapy leadership. He has devoted his career to advancing care for children with both malignant and non-malignant disorders and to building high-quality, accredited cellular therapy programs.

Dr. Sharma was drawn to Valley Children's by a clear purpose: to close a long-standing gap in specialized care for Central Valley families.

"I am honored to be part of a renowned team because together, we will elevate excellence by expanding the highest level of care while honoring family, community and continuity," he shared. "For many families, life-saving cellular therapy has required traveling across the state and even nationally. By bringing this care here, children can remain close to home and surrounded by their support systems while receiving world-class treatment."

CAR T-cell therapy achieves
~65.5% SURVIVAL
in children with relapsed or refractory cancers.

Advancing a Center of Excellence

Behind the scenes, significant progress is already underway. With generous philanthropic support, Valley Children's is actively building the specialized infrastructure needed to support cellular therapies. A dedicated cell therapy laboratory — a critical cornerstone of the program — is nearing completion later this year, alongside recruitment of expert clinical and laboratory teams.

"Every step is guided by an uncompromising commitment to safety and clinical excellence," Dr. Sharma emphasized. "Patient safety is our absolute priority, and we are pursuing all necessary regulatory approvals and accreditations to ensure our care meets the highest standards."

Since 2017, Valley Children's has coordinated advanced CAR T and bone marrow transplant care for approximately 16 patients each year through national partners. While access to this care has been life-saving, the travel burden and limited availability have remained major challenges — and the need far exceeds current capacity. Bringing this level of care to the Central Valley will be truly life-changing.

NEARLY 2/3
2 out of 3 children now survive cancers that were once extremely difficult to treat because of CAR T.

Valley Children's currently
SUPPORTS more than 16 CHILDREN
each year who require CAR T or BMT therapies.

Valley Children's will be the
FIRST
pediatric provider in the Central Valley to offer CAR T-cell therapy locally.

Care That Preserves Quality of Life

Beyond clinical outcomes, the program will profoundly reshape the patient and family experience. By keeping this specialized care local, families will be able to stay together, remain connected to their communities and lean on the support systems that are essential to their healing.

"This will be life-changing for families," Dr. Sharma said. "We are not only delivering advanced treatment — we are preserving quality of life by allowing families to remain close to home during their most challenging moments. The day we treat our first patient at Valley Children's using CAR T-cell therapy will represent a promise kept — that children in the Central Valley will have closer access to the very best in modern cancer care. I

BRINGING HOPE CLOSER TO HOME

The Madrid Family's Journey and the Future of CAR T-cell Therapy at Valley Children's

When Royce was born, his parents never imagined that the first year of his life would be defined by hospitals, uncertainty and the fight of a lifetime. At just eight weeks old, subtle signs — unusual bruising, profound paleness and a hardened belly — began to appear. When the Madrid family rushed Royce to the emergency department, bloodwork revealed what no parent is prepared to hear: signs of leukemia.

Coordinated, Specialized Care Every Step of the Way

As Royce's leukemia proved aggressive, Valley Children's became their anchor by not only providing essential expert care, but also by coordinating it when they needed services not yet available in the Central Valley.

"Royce underwent chemotherapy to attain remission, but due to the high-risk nature of his leukemia, the decision was made for him to undergo a stem cell transplantation. This involved a strenuous process of finding a donor, making sure he was healthy enough to undergo the transplant and a lot of personal stress for his family," shared Valley Children's Pediatric Oncologist/Hematologist Dr. Faisal Razzaqi. "Unfortunately, not long after his transplant, his leukemia returned. Historically, there would have been no further treatment for Royce, but now there is the availability of CAR T-cell therapy which is a treatment that harnesses a patient's own immune system to fight the leukemia. This treatment was not available at Valley Children's, but through meticulous coordination, he was able to receive his CAR T treatment, which quickly induced remission of his leukemia."

Seeking Lifesaving Care

For the Madrids, that meant months of traveling more than four hours to the Bay Area — leaving jobs, routines and their other children behind. Some days, Royce's mother made the round trip in a single day just to be there for a major procedure and would return home to ensure their older children were cared for. Royce's father, Rudy, worked remotely from the hospital, balancing fear with necessity. "There was so much time lost to driving — time that we couldn't spend with our son," he recalls. "Our whole family sacrificed."

When Royce became critically ill with the flu and spiraled into respiratory failure, Valley Children's stepped in once again — stabilizing him, beginning chemotherapy and coordinating a highly complex transfer while he was on extracorporal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). What followed was a seamless partnership between Valley Children's and the hospital that was helping to provide care for Royce — shared planning, constant communication and unified purpose. "They worked hand-in-hand," Rudy says. "They kept us informed every step of the way."

CAR T: A Second Chance at Childhood

CAR T-cell therapy saved Royce's life. After treatment, he slowly regained strength, learned to eat again and began rediscovering the world with the joy of a child who finally had time to grow. Today, he is in preschool, running on a soccer field, living the carefree childhood his parents once feared was out of reach.

"Now, almost three years later, Royce remains in remission and is doing well. Royce's story is one of perseverance, availability of cutting-edge therapy and mutual support," added Dr. Razzaqi. "Infants with the aggressive form of leukemia Royce had, have limited treatment options that are toxic and not always effective. CAR T has allowed him to be treated and to grow up into the 4-year-old boy he is now. He started life with hospitalizations, intensive treatments and side effects from those treatments. As he catches up from this initial stress, every milestone he achieves is a testament to his and his family's strength."

For Rudy, what Valley Children's provided wasn't just expert care. It was continuity, compassion and a genuine connection. "They know us. They know Royce. We feel like we're talking to family," he says.

A Future Where Families Stay Close

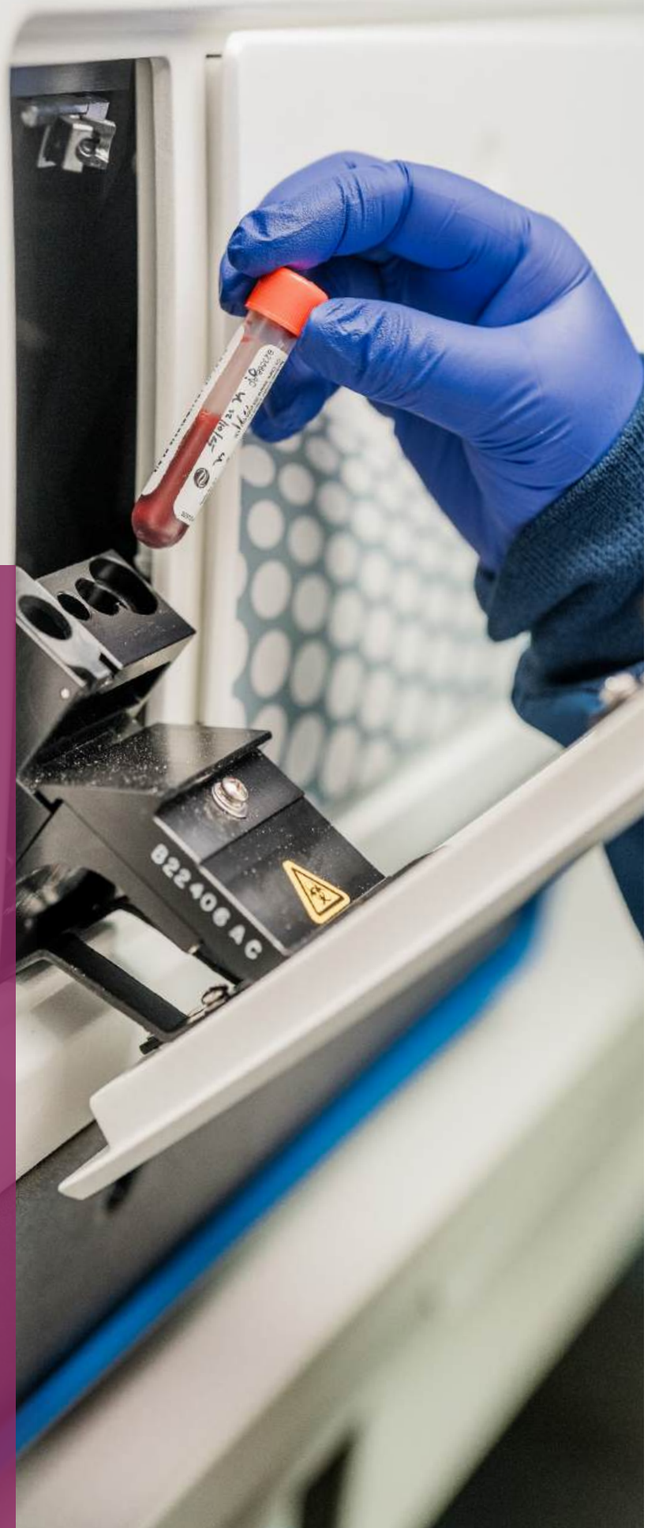
Soon, families like the Madrids will no longer have to choose between proximity and the most advanced life-saving treatments. CAR T-cell therapy is coming to Valley Children's —eliminating the burden of long-distance travel, reducing family separation and keeping critical moments close to home.

This milestone for the network that serves 1.3 million children in the Central region of California — one of the largest service areas in the country — will spare families the financial, emotional and logistical burdens the Madrids endured.

Rudy says it best: "I wish CAR T had been here a few years ago. But knowing it will be here now for other families — that's everything."

Building Tomorrow's Therapies Today:

THE VALLEY'S FIRST CELL PROCESSING LAB



> **Building this program from the ground up required significant investment, strong leadership and the collaboration of many dedicated teams. I am truly fortunate to work alongside such exceptional colleagues and partners, and I look forward to bringing this life-saving, cutting-edge treatment to children in the Central Valley. Our program will serve as a beacon for cell therapy in the region, and I am confident and proud that we will deliver the highest standard of care—giving our children the best possible chance for a healthier future.**
>
> Youngjoo "YJ" Lee, PhD
> Cell Therapy Lab Program Director
> Valley Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders

As cellular therapies transform the landscape of cancer treatment, Valley Children's is leading the way with a new state-of-the-art cell processing lab. Designed with precision and purpose, this lab will not only fuel the Valley Children's Dr. Vonda Lee Crouse Bone Marrow Transplant and Cell Therapy Program, it will also serve as a regional resource capable of supporting other hospitals, expanding access to life-saving treatments for cancer patients throughout the Valley.

A Purpose-Built Engine for CAR T-Cell Therapy

The cell processing lab is specifically engineered to safeguard the journey of a patient's own cells — from collection to infusion. In the CAR T workflow, T-cells are collected from the patient, tested for eligibility and cryopreserved at temperatures below –150°C before being shipped to a manufacturing facility for genetic modification. Once the engineered CAR T-cells return to the Valley, our lab performs the required quality checks, stores it under ultra-low temperature conditions and prepares the therapy for infusion by carefully thawing to maintain viability.

To protect the integrity of these living therapies, the entire environment is constructed to meet good tissue practice (GTP) standards and align with the more rigorous expectations of FDA-regulated good manufacturing practice (GMP). Aseptic processing rooms feature continuous temperature and humidity monitoring, biological safety cabinets and a fully closed processing system that ensures cells never come into contact with open air. Controlled-rate freezing technology and vapor-phase liquid nitrogen storage further safeguard each product — maintaining stability while minimizing cross-contamination risk.

Marking Milestones for Cell-Based Care

Behind every wall under construction lies years of planning, collaboration and achievement. The program has already reached several major milestones:

- A quality management plan aligned with Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Foundation for Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) standards
- Complete standard operating procedure development reflecting the latest cellular therapy science
- A precisely engineered lab layout, now under construction and projected for completion by early 2026
- Implementation of electronic recordkeeping system and quality oversight
- The forthcoming launch of Epic's cell and gene therapy feature set

These foundational accomplishments position Valley Children's not only to launch CAR T-cell therapy, but to build a platform capable of supporting future cellular therapies.

Designing for Quality and Compliance From the Ground Up

Creating a fully functional cell therapy lab requires meticulous planning that prioritizes sterility, workflow integrity and patient safety. The lab is purpose-built with distinct, physically separated work zones — receiving, processing, cryostorage and dispensing — to prevent contamination and product mix-ups.

Every aspect of the build is intentional and evidence-based:

- Aseptic, controlled environments for processing live cells
- Liquid nitrogen–ready cryopreservation rooms with oxygen monitoring and advanced safety controls
- Extensive staff training in both cell processing and cryopreservation
- Quality infrastructure enabling full traceability, chain of identity and chain of custody

Before any procedure begins, equipment, supplies and processes undergo extensive qualification and validation. Continuous monitoring, routine audits and environmental testing reinforces a culture of safety and quality.

A Multidisciplinary Effort Powered by Expertise

The success of this program reflects the collective strength of a deeply collaborative clinical and scientific community. Physicians, advanced practice providers (APPs) and nurses guide patient care and manage treatment protocols. Specialized apheresis nurses perform complex pediatric cell collections, technologists process and preserve cells with precision, and clinical laboratories support cell therapy product testing. Meanwhile, regulatory, information technology (IT) and administrative teams ensure compliance, data integrity and operational sustainability.

Together, Valley Children's has formed a tightly coordinated system — one that brings the promise of cellular therapy to life.

A Future Defined by Innovation — and Expanded Access

The impact of our lab will reach far beyond Valley Children's campus. As cellular therapies transform outcomes for children whose diseases have resisted traditional treatments, this space brings the critical infrastructure needed to support these therapies closer to home — not only for our patients, but also for hospitals across the Central Valley. With the capacity to process cellular products for regional partners, the lab broadens access to cutting-edge care and strengthens oncology capabilities throughout the Valley.

More than a new physical space, this cell therapy lab represents a shared commitment to innovation, equity and ensuring that every child — and every hospital in our region — has access to the most advanced therapies available closer to home.

MEET MILA

Mila was doing what energetic little girls do — running, playing and laughing — when she first mentioned that her leg hurt. At first, it seemed harmless, the kind of ache that comes from a busy day of play. But the pain didn't fade.

"When her pain lingered throughout the weekend, I just knew something wasn't right so I took her in to the doctor first thing the following Monday morning," shared Mila's Mom, Ana.

What followed was a series of visits for symptoms that mimicked common childhood illnesses. Fever, limb pain and fatigue pointed toward infection, delaying the true diagnosis, as her overall pain worsened and began in other parts of her body, halting her activity.

A Rare and Complex Diagnosis

Mila's experience reflects a critical reality in pediatric oncology: aggressive cancers like neuroblastoma can initially look like routine childhood conditions, making early recognition both challenging and essential.

"When she arrived at Valley Children's, comprehensive imaging and specialized testing revealed the full picture — high-risk metastatic neuroblastoma, an aggressive pediatric cancer that had already spread throughout her body," shared Valley Children's Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist Dr. Ruetima (Ti) Titapiwatanakun. "Mila's care transitioned quickly into a highly coordinated, multidisciplinary treatment plan. Her diagnosis required immediate, intensive therapy, careful monitoring and collaboration across numerous clinical specialties."

Comprehensive, Coordinated Continuum of Care

Over the course of a year, Mila received intensive treatment, including five rounds of chemotherapy, bone marrow procedures and a stem cell transplant.

"Our goal was to move quickly while thoughtfully sequencing each phase of therapy," explained Dr. Ti. "Every scan, medication and admission had to align to ensure her safety. Her care includes a multi-agent chemotherapy, stem cell collection, tandem stem cell transplants specialized radiation therapy and immunotherapy — each step requiring precise planning and constant collaboration between oncology, imaging, pharmacy, nursing and supportive care teams."

Mila's care involved coordination across multiple hospitals, specialists and clinical trials. Her journey illustrates both the complexity of treating advanced cancer in children and the teamwork required to deliver lifesaving care.

A Family's Perspective

Behind the clinical milestones were months of travel, hospital stays and difficult decisions. Mila's mom balanced extended time away from home while also caring for Mila's sister.

"Being away from home for so long was one of the hardest parts," she said. "But at Valley Children's, the team really became our family. They knew Mila, they knew us — and they never stopped supporting us."

Child life specialists, social workers, nurse navigators and bedside caregivers worked together to provide emotional, logistical and practical support throughout Mila's journey.

Why Care Close to Home Changes Everything

"Today, Mila is enrolled in a Children's Oncology Group clinical trial that integrates immunotherapy into frontline treatment — an advanced approach that works alongside chemotherapy to harness the body's immune system," added Dr. Ti. "Her most recent scans show no evidence of disease, and she is expected to complete the trial in May, while continuing close follow-up with her care team here at Valley Children's."

With the launch of Valley Children's Dr. Vonda Lee Crouse Bone Marrow Transplant and Cell Therapy Program, families like Mila's will soon be able to receive some of the most complex treatments without traveling far from home. This reduces emotional strain, strengthens family support systems and allows parents to focus more fully on what matters most — their child's healing.

For peer hospitals and providers, this advancement represents an expanded regional capability for delivering high-acuity oncology and cellular therapies. For families, it means fewer miles, fewer disruptions and more time together.

"When families can stay closer to home for complex treatments, it truly changes everything," Ana added. "Valley Children's has been there for us all along the way. And the fact that it is closer to home truly helps me be a parent — to both my kids — and helps us get through this hard time the best way we know how ... together."

Fresno Truck Center Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program:

GROWING WITH SURVIVORS

In 2009, there was no formal childhood cancer survivorship program in the Central Valley. Survivors completed treatment, rang the bell and too often, were left to navigate life after cancer without a coordinated system of long-term care, education or support. It was this gap in care that led to the creation of what is now The Fresno Truck Center Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program — because survivorship does not end when treatment does.

A Program With Purpose

"The program began with a grant that allowed us to hire a nurse and formally launch a survivorship clinic, and the generosity of private donor Margaret Corasick — who established Valley Children's first endowed position — cemented a permanent program director to ensure the program's long-term sustainability," shared Valley Children's Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist Dr. John Gates. "From the outset, it was clear that survivorship required a different care model — one not defined by traditional billing, but by coordination, education and lifelong follow up."

Philanthropy became essential — a special purpose fund, endowment and the major milestone of naming our program, The Fresno Truck Center has ensured financial independence that allows us to remain focused on survivor needs.

"This independence matters because a single annual physician visit does not reflect the complexity of survivorship care," added Dr. Gates. "Our program has a nurse practitioner, social worker and coordinator to support survivors who rely on ongoing referrals to radiology, audiology, pulmonary and cardiac testing and nearly every subspecialty across the hospital, yet the survivorship program cannot bill for the full scope of time and services required."

Care That Extends Across a Lifetime

Survivors face late effects of therapy that can appear five to 80 years after treatment. Our program provides lifelong, risk-based medical screening while also addressing psychosocial health, including depression, anxiety, body image concerns and high-risk behaviors.

Equally important is education. Survivors and their families learn how to navigate fear of relapse, adjust to a new normal and understand late effects and prepare for adulthood. The program supports advocacy — both on behalf of survivors and by teaching them how to advocate for themselves in healthcare, education and employment settings.

Educational and vocational support has remained a cornerstone, addressing learning differences, IEPs and 504 plans, neuropsychological evaluations and career planning. Survivors receive guidance on disclosure of cancer history, insurance navigation, fertility and sexual health, relationships and family planning — areas often overlooked but critical to long-term quality of life.

Growth That Reflects Survivor Need

"In 2010, the survivorship clinic saw 134 visits. In 2025, this number reached approximately 900 visits — growth that reflects both increased demand and growing trust which makes our ongoing commitment essential ... because survivorship is lifelong," shared Dr. Gates.

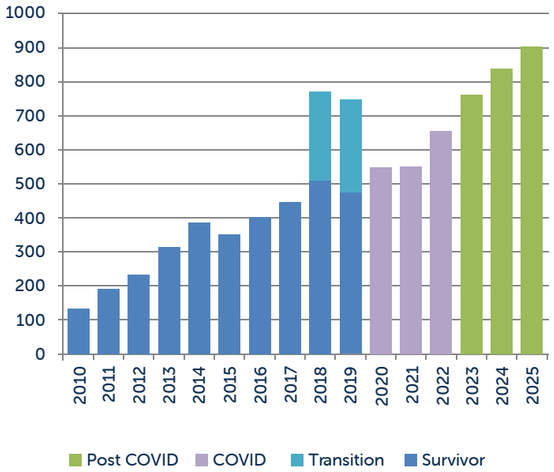
Connection has also remained central to the program. This year marked the 10th Annual Fall Conference, with nearly 200 survivors and families in attendance. Survivors are brought together through social activities and volunteer opportunities — community partnerships with organizations including Blood Cancer United, Tigerfight, Rotary Club, Hunter's Hope, Bags of Love, Surfing for Hope and others further strengthen these connections.

Additionally, The Fresno Truck Center Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program Scholarship Program awards $1,000 scholarships for patients who are pursing educational and vocational career aspirations. The number of recipients has multiplied in just four years with scholarships awarded to 71 patients in 2025 alone.

Looking Ahead With Gratitude

The Fresno Truck Center Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program exists because a community believed survivors deserved more than survival, and it has grown because care must evolve as survivors do.

"I am honored to be able to help cancer survivors achieve success, and I am grateful for our team and community partners that help us achieve that," added Dr. Gates. "Together, we remain committed to supporting survivors as they build healthy, meaningful lives."



> Together, we remain committed to supporting survivors as they build healthy, meaningful lives.
>
> John Gates, MD
> Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist
> Valley Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders

PUBLICATIONS

Gernez, Y., **Sathi, B. K.**, Camacho, J. V., **Rao, L.**, Glader, B., et al. (2024). A multidisciplinary approach to unraveling genetic forms of immune dysregulation in children with refractory multilineage cytopenia. Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaci.2023.11.601

Gernez, Y., **Sathi, B. K., Rao, L.**, Hernandez, J., Glader, B., et al. (2025). Patients with genetic immune diseases in the hematologist's waiting room. Journal of Human Immunity. https://doi.org/10.70962/CIS2025abstract.7

Galley, C. J., Sathi, S., Davis, A. W., Sutherland, T., Klein, O. R., **Sathi, B. K.**, et al. (2025). Successful treatment of COVID-19 and multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children associated severe aplastic anemia with unrelated donor stem cell transplantation. International Journal of Clinical Pediatrics.

Rush, G. Q., Mohamed, R. E., Moffatt-Bazile, K., Jamalpur, S. L., **Sathi, B. K.**, et al. (2024). Reproductive health surveys administered in sickle cell clinics can inform personalized care and multidisciplinary collaboration. Blood, 144 (Suppl. 1), 2239. https://doi.org/10.1182/blood-2024-207617

Gernez, Y., Narula, M., Cepika, A. M., Valdes Camacho, J., **Sathi, B. K.**, et al. (2024). Case report: Refractory Evans syndrome in two patients with spondyloenchondrodysplasia with immune dysregulation treated successfully with JAK1/JAK2 inhibition. Frontiers in Immunology. (DOI pending)

Pacaja-Rojas, A. F. and **Fernandez, K. S.** (2025). A pheochromocytoma mimicker: Mercury poisoning. Pediatric Blood & Cancer, e31883. https://doi.org/10.1002/pbc.31883. PMID: 40563203.

Sanghavi, R., **Fernandez, K. S.** and **Vijayan, V.** (2025). GATA2 deficiency in an adolescent with disseminated herpes simplex virus hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis. Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. https://doi.org/10.1097/MPH.0000000000003088. PMID: 40742286.

PRESENTATIONS AND ABSTRACTS

Rush, G. Q., **Sathi, B. K.**, et al. Short-term erythrocytapheresis is associated with resolution of vertebral osteonecrosis in children with sickle cell disease. Poster presentation at the American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting, December 2025.

Sathi, B. K. Pediatric thrombocytopenia. Oral presentation at United Health Centers, Feb. 15, 2025.

Sathi, B. K. αβ T-cell/CD19 B-cell depleted haploidentical stem cell transplant for treating hemoglobinopathies. Round-table oral presentation at the International Symposium on Alpha Beta Depleted Haplo-Transplantation, Aug. 19, 2024.

Yehudah, J. & **Sathi, B.** Attitudes, perceptions and decision-making of sickle cell disease patients and parents surrounding disease-modifying therapies. Oral presentation at the PSCRC-ECHO Program, August 2024.

HEMOSTASIS AND THROMBOSIS NETWORK PRESENTATIONS

Saravia, S. & **Balasa, V.** ATHN10 – A single-center experience. Poster presentation at the Western States Regional Hemophilia Network Annual Meeting, Fish Camp, California, April 2024.

Sathi, B. K. & **Balasa, V.** Evaluation and treatment of rare bleeding disorders in the Central California cohort. Poster presentation at the Western States Regional Hemophilia Network Annual Meeting, Fish Camp, California, April 2024.

Saravia, S., Htoon, J., **Carmichael, J. & Balasa, V.** Genetics (ATHN10) and phenotypic presentation of factor XI deficiency patients in the Central Valley. Poster presentation at the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network Data Summit, Atlanta, Georgia, October 2024.

Nugent, D. J., Williams, S., Acharya, S., Ashburner, C., **Balasa, V., et al.** ATHN10 – Novel variants in persons with rare coagulation disorders across hemophilia treatment centers in the United States. Poster presentation at the 66th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Hematology, San Diego, California, December 2024.

Sidonio, R., Al-Hunit, A., **Balasa, V.**, et al. Real-world effectiveness of eptacog beta (coagulation factor VIIa, recombinant) in the United States. Accepted poster presentation at the 18th Congress of the European Association for Hemophilia and Allied Disorders, Milan, Italy, February 2025.

Sidonio, R., Al-Hunit, A., **Balasa, V.**, et al. Real-world utilization of eptacog beta in the United States. Accepted poster presentation at the Scientific Symposium of the Hemostasis & Thrombosis Research Society, San Diego, California, March 2025.

SUPPORTING HOPE AND HEALING

at the Cancer and Blood Disorders Center

Valley Children's Healthcare Foundation remains committed to ensuring every child receives exceptional care and the resources to thrive beyond treatment. This year, our community demonstrated extraordinary generosity to support the Cancer and Blood Disorders Center.

In September, the 27th Annual KISS Country for Kids Radiothon united sponsors, volunteers and donors across the region with one mission: to Knock Out Cancer for Kids. Through heartfelt interviews and inspiring acts of kindness, the event raised $102,151. Every dollar helps provide critical treatments, emotional support and essential resources for families facing unimaginable challenges. We extend our gratitude to KISS Country for its unwavering partnership and to every individual who made this event a success.

Beyond treatment, we celebrate survivorship. In May, Valley Children's hosted the fourth annual Cancer Survivorship Scholarship Ceremony, honoring remarkable young people who have overcome childhood cancer and are now pursuing their academic dreams. Thanks to nearly $275,000 in donor contributions, the Fresno Truck Center Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program has grown from 13 applicants in 2022 to 71 in 2025. Led by Valley Children's Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist Dr. John Gates, a pediatric cancer survivor himself, the program eases the financial burden for survivors striving for higher education.

From funding cutting-edge care to empowering survivors, these initiatives reflect Valley Children's mission: to continuously improve the health and well-being of children. None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors and partners. Thank you for standing with us in the fight against childhood cancer.

GRATEFUL
FOR OUR DONORS

Valley Children's would like to thank the following individuals and organizations who generously supported the Cancer and Blood Disorders Center during fiscal year 2025 (Oct. 1, 2024 - Sept. 30, 2025). Lifetime giving is recognized on the donor wall at Valley Children's Hospital.

$100,000 to $260,000

Fresno Truck Center & The Howard Family

The James G. Boswell Foundation

Leon S. Peters Foundation

$50,000 to $99,999

Taco Bell Restaurants

United States Cold Storage

$25,000 to $49,999

Anonymous (1)

St. Baldrick's Foundation

$10,000 to $24,999

American Cancer Society

CSP Corcoran

Epic Systems Corporation

Sharon Evert

Elaine D. McCain

Nasim Rad Hope Foundation

Sawtooth Ranch

Larry J. Ritchie

Sigma Chi Fraternity - Epsilon Eta Chapter, CSUF

Nick & Liz Wagner

West Coast Carriers Foundation

$5,000 to $9,999

Applied Process Cooling Corporation

Crinklaw Farm Services LP

Educational Employees Credit Union

Robert & Sharon Fritts

Gordon & Pamela Osmus

Pacific Service Credit Union

R&R Truck & Trailer Repair

Sprouts Foundation

Matthew & Caroline Stevens

$2,500 to $4,999

Laura B. Andrews

Bebereia Farms Inc

Jayesh & Sushma Bhakta

EYE-Q

Robert Huebert & Kathy Horstmann Huebert

Noble Credit Union

Philoptochos Society #4011

Pro Citrus Network Inc

Brian Stagno

Valley Oak Credit Union

Walmart & Walmart Foundation & Sam's Club

Yvonne & Bryan Wood

$1,000 to $2,499

Advantage Specialties

The Brownie Baker

Isabel Cambridge

Vonda Lee Crouse, MD

John & Sara Fletcher

Grand Canyon Education Inc

Verna M. Healey

Hunter's Hope International Foundation

Joseph & Brittany Macedo

Agnes Modi

Sarbjit Pannu & Parminder Kaur

Lucas & Michelle Quaccia

Alistair Robertson

SignWorks

The Station BBQ

Sunshine Saver

Tigerfight Foundation

United Local Credit Union

NGC "FORE The Cause" Event

ABC Supply Co Inc

BH Engineering & Consulting

Bic Enterprises Inc

BITCO Insurance Co

Bradley Bickers

Broken Drum Insulation Visalia Inc.

Bryan Brown

Builders FirstSource

Calportland

Calibuilt Graphics

Christopher Carnahan

Cart Addictions

CEMEX

Rosanna Cerpa

Clinch-On Cornerbead Company

Colleen Coleman

CONCRETE VALUE CORP

John R. Davis

Judson Diehl

DR Horton America's Builder

E Man Electric Inc

EMC Construction

EPIC Insurance Brokers & Consultants

John D. Evangelo

First American Title Co

FSA

Emmanuel Guerrero

Meire Hatch

Vance Herring

Holliday Rock Co Inc

Jim Crawford Construction Co Inc

JNM Contracting Inc

Mikael Jujan

Andrew C. Kern

Landscape Development

Oscar Lopez

Mikael Lujan

Michael Marsh

Veronica Mendoza

Timothy Morse

Rigo Moya

Anthony Myers

Frank Nava

NGC Construction

PABCO Building Products

Poliestireno Alfa Gamma SA de CV

PPG Paints

Rescue Electric

Chris D Rios

Noel Ruiz

SJV Construction Services Inc

True Clean Construction Cleanup Inc

Valley Best Trucking Inc

Viking Ready Mix Co Inc

Vulcan Materials

Woodside Homes of Fresno

Valley Children's HEALTHCARE

9300 Valley Children's Place
Madera, CA 93636-8762

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
FRESNO, CA
PERMIT NO. 114

Valley Children's HEALTHCARE

9300 Valley Children's Place, Madera, CA 93636

559-353-3000 • valleychildrens.org

Cancer and Blood Disorders Center
valleychildrens.org/cancer