



2023

YEAR IN REVIEW

Courage

MAC
2023 CMN Champion
Valley Children's Hospital



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Thank You!

*"We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give."*

In recognition of this distinguished group of individuals and organizations whose generosity demonstrates a commitment to the tradition of yesterday and the vision of tomorrow.

Donors recognized on this wall have reached a cumulative lifetime giving level of \$10,000 or more.

We offer each of you our deepest gratitude for your continued contributions to the children served by Valley Children's Healthcare.

How To Give to Our

Help kids by helping Valley Children's! Join us by becoming a supporter and help provide health, safety and a bright future for our kids and the future of the Valley we love.

There are many ways to help – but contributing directly to the services, programs, equipment and operations at Valley Children's Healthcare has the most immediate impact.

Your contributions will help us take care of our most precious resource – OUR Children.

Contact the Foundation Office at (559) 353-7100 or online at donate.valleychildrens.org to find out how you can make a difference in the life of a child.



A Letter from the Foundation President

Dear Friends,

In light of the tremendous courage we witnessed this past year from hospital staff and other clinicians across Valley Children's network of pediatric specialists, patients, sponsors and donors in this past fiscal year, we decided that "Courage" is the most appropriate theme for this year's Valley Children's Healthcare Foundation Year in Review. Courage captures who we are as an organization. Courageous battles are fought and won here at Valley Children's every day by our staff and patients, and you will read some of their stories here. And courageous efforts are made by our corporate partners and generous people like you who support our work through philanthropy, creativity and volunteerism. Snapshots of some of those stories are captured here as well.

As you peruse this Year in Review, my hope is that you will be greatly encouraged by the stories contained in these pages of courageous children facing medical challenges that would bring adults to tears, of courageous doctors working tirelessly to bring hope and healing, and donors helping to make all of this possible. The fact that we have been able to expand both the reach and scope of our services, while maintaining the highest standards of care for the Central Valley's children that this community has come to depend on, is only because of the compassionate generosity of you and others like you. Please do not forget that as you read these stories of families whose lives are forever changed by their Valley Children's experiences.

On behalf of Valley Children's Healthcare President and CEO Todd Suntrapak, we thank you for your devoted support. Your courageous generosity enables us to continue our focus on our precious mission: to continually improve the health and well-being of children. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

Gratefully,



Robert V. Saroyan
President
Valley Children's Healthcare Foundation

Amazing People. Incred

Merriman Family Gives Back to Trauma Center

In 2021, the Merriman family of Bakersfield, like many families, was home together. With kids ages 3, 6 and 9, as well as a new puppy, Kellie Merriman kept busy at home, but one day in particular will never be forgotten. On February 3, Kellie's husband, Jarrad found their 3-year-old son Jack unresponsive and pinned under their home treadmill. Jack was blue and lifeless. His parents immediately called 911. Fortunately, Jarrad is an orthopedic surgeon and Kellie is a nurse, and they were able to help restore Jack's breathing before the ambulance arrived. Jack was stabilized at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital before being airlifted to Valley Children's Hospital.

Jack had a brain injury as well as some abrasions, and he would stay at Valley Children's for almost two weeks, going from the PICU to step-down units and ultimately to rehab. He then had months of outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and neurology appointments. Jack has overcome

many lingering effects of his accident including temporary blindness, seizures, and other cognitive issues.



Now Jack is a thriving 6 year old who enjoys kindergarten. This year his parents' major gift to the Pediatric Trauma Center and Injury Prevention Program has helped other families learn about basic safety rules and prevent safety hazards in everyday life.

Trauma Nurse Liaison and Safe Kids Central California Coordinator Kristina Pasma says, "We are so very grateful for this major gift supporting our program. It is gifts like these that truly make the difference in the lives of children and not only allow us to take better care of them, but to also keep them safe and out of the hospital."

Kellie could not agree more. "I don't want anyone to go through the pain and trials that we did. If one child is kept safe, it will be worth it."



2023 Statistics

Valley Children's is a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center verified by American College of Surgeons Trauma Center Reverification Survey and is the only pediatric trauma center between San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles.



Bike helmets distributed to families in need

16



Free Car Seats or Vouchers to families in need

90+



People taught at STOP THE BLEED® classes

2,000+



People educated at community events

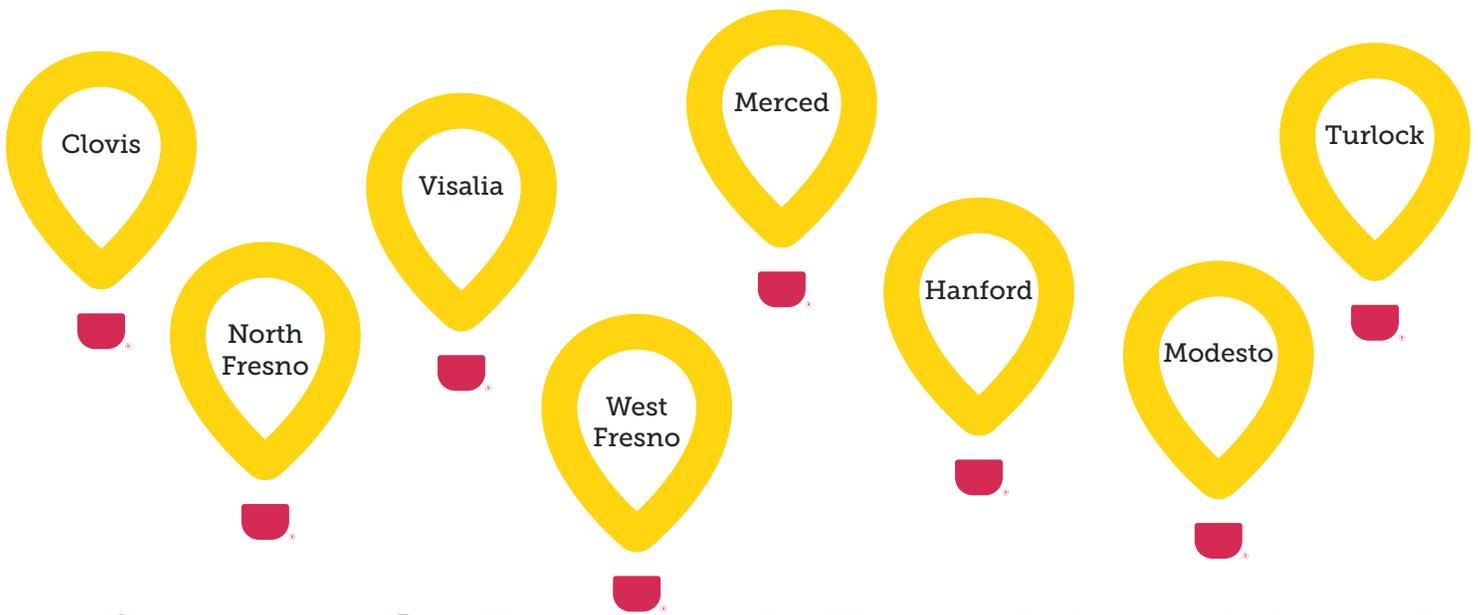
1,456



People reached on Facebook Live on prevention

4,100

*Injury and Illness Prevention Program statistics since Jan. 1, 2023



Costco's Record-Breaking Year!

We would like to thank Costco, its hardworking employees and generous Central Valley Costco members for an extraordinarily successful campaign in support of Valley Children's Hospital this year. This was a record-breaking year for eight Costco warehouses in the Central Valley, collectively raising \$923,989.55 during the month of May - a 15% increase from 2022 and more than double what they raised in 2020!

A special thanks to Costco's national headquarters for their 22% corporate match, and to the Costco Visalia team for their hard work to earn back the distinction of being the highest-fundraising warehouse in our Children's Miracle Network Hospitals market that extends from Modesto to Porterville.

Each year, the month-long campaign is met with enthusiasm by local warehouse staff. Employees at the register make hundreds of requests for donations every day. Valley Children's champions and their families are welcomed at stores, along with George, to travel through the warehouse and thank customers for supporting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Other true heroes include the warehouse managers, who inspire their teams through fun incentives, costumes, recognition and more.

Since 1990, Costco has contributed more than \$8.5 million to support Valley Children's through a combination of corporate donations and fundraising efforts. Costco is an outstanding CMN Hospitals partner that has consistently been among the 10 largest philanthropic contributors to Valley Children's every year since 1999. Thank you for enthusiastically supporting children's health, Costco!



The Fresno Truck Center Adopts Survivorship

The Fresno Truck Center has committed to support childhood cancer survivors cared for at Valley Children's on behalf of their customers. In honor of this generous support, the program adopted a new name this past year: The Fresno Truck Center Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program. We are humbled by this gift and know this transformational investment will help ensure the future of the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program.

Valley Children's created the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program to serve this at-risk population by providing these patients with personalized treatment therapy summaries, a tailored risk-assessment, screening and an

annual follow-up plan. Established in December 2009, the primary goals of the program are to promote healthy lifestyles for former cancer patients as they enter adulthood and to advance research efforts to discover the most effective treatments for cancer with the lowest risk of late effects on survivors. Since then, the program has served more than 1,200 childhood cancer survivors.

The Fresno Truck Center, part of California Truck Centers, is a local, multigenerational business owned by the Howard family in Fresno since 1930. Cancer has touched the Howard family several times. It has long been on Doug Howard's heart to try to help those battling cancer, especially kids. Several years ago, Fresno Truck Center began buying items from Valley Children's Christmas wish list of capital needs in lieu of Christmas presents for their clients each year, and their clients were thrilled. This led the Howard family to discuss an even more impactful approach to their philanthropy in the form of a donation to the Valley Children's Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program. We thank the Howard family for their extraordinary investment that will improve treatment of survivors of pediatric cancer for generations to come.



*Top image: The Howard Family
Bottom image left to right: The Howard Family with Claude Laval, Mendy Laval and Dr. John Gates, Director, The Fresno Truck Center Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program*



Kids Day Returns In Person

For the first time since 2019, volunteers were back on the streets raising money for Valley Children's, one dollar at a time. Kids Day took place virtually the last three years, and this year, the outpouring of love, support and service was especially overwhelming.

This year's event combined the best parts of Kids Day traditions and innovations from the last three years. Community supporters had missed participating in Kids Day in person in recent years, and they showed up in full force, with more than 2,000 volunteers hitting the streets from Porterville to Modesto. Our 2023 Kids Day ambassador, 11-year-old Connor, had a great time encouraging our volunteers, accompanied by his family, ABC30 and Valley Children's mascot, George the Giraffe.

Kids Day raised \$365,740 for Valley Children's this year! Since 1987, Kids Day has raised more than \$10.7 million to support The Children's Fund, which goes to meet the most immediate needs at Valley Children's. With this year's total surpassing last year's by \$47,000, we are only beginning to see the amazing impact of this incredible day.



Left to right: George the Giraffe, ABC30 Reporter Amanda Aguilar, Kids Day Ambassador Connor and Dr. Hailey Nelson

Celebrating Support for the Panda Cares Center of Hope

Valley Children's celebrated the third anniversary of the opening of the Panda Cares Center of Hope with a fun-filled day on Aug. 1, 2023. Panda Express local leadership and associates, along with Valley Children's staff, hosted a check presentation and a carnival with games, free toys and books for Valley Children's patients. Panda Express employees toured the hospital and saw how their efforts directly benefit our patients. George the Giraffe and Pei-Pei the Panda joined in the fun!

The Panda Cares Center of Hope promotes healing by providing specially-curated programs

and dedicated space inside Valley Children's Hospital that address each child's entire well-being, including their mental, emotional, physical and spiritual needs. Since 2009, Panda Express guests and associates in the Central Valley, with the support of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, have raised more than \$4.6 million for Valley Children's Hospital. Panda Express' visionary commitment to raise funds year-round for Valley Children's Hospital through 2030 will provide funding to launch and sustain the Panda Cares Center of Hope for a decade. Thank you, Panda Express, for giving children the strength to thrive!



The Gustine Community Pulls for a Cause

Gustine, California, is a town literally formed around the beloved memory of a child. Gustine was established in the early 1900s and named after Sara Miller, nicknamed "Gussie," the daughter of Henry Miller, who was an early California land baron and agricultural pioneer. Sara was killed when she was thrown from her horse when she was only eight years old.

Fast forward to the present day, when four friends decided to rally their community of Gustine to help save young lives. For the past three years, Eric Rocha, Junior Silveira, John Gomes and Tyler Lemas have held an event called Valley Pulls for a Cause, a truck-pulling exhibition in which all the proceeds support Valley Children's Hospital. Their efforts have raised more than \$195,000 for the hospital, and the event has grown in popularity, so much so that it had to be relocated to the Los Banos Fairgrounds in June of 2023.

Little did the event's founders know when they started the event in Gustine that their efforts to raise funds would soon benefit one of their own. Mikey Garcia is a 15 year old from Gustine who was in a terrible all-terrain vehicle accident in July 2022. He was airlifted to Valley Children's Hospital with an open femur fracture, fractured collar bone, collapsed lung, broken wrist, broken ankle, facial fractures, neck fracture, intracranial hematoma and diffuse axonal brain injury. Mikey's brain injury is a type that is often fatal or leaves a person in a vegetative state.

The community of Gustine and Mikey's entire school rallied to support Mikey and his family during this difficult time. On Aug. 26, 2022, Mikey's parents experienced a huge sense of relief as Mikey woke up from a two-month coma. The staff at Valley Children's Hospital, and especially the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and Rehabilitation Department staff, went above and beyond to provide their family with support and encouragement. Mikey has beaten all the odds, and he continues to improve each day. Mikey has re-learned to talk, walk and even run. But a true highlight of his recovery was when Mikey drove his gold Chevy truck in the first pull of the 2023 Valley Pulls for a Cause! Mikey and his family also joined the Valley Pulls for a Cause team for their check presentation this past July at Valley Children's.

This little community is getting to experience miracles together. We think Henry and "Gussie" would be proud!





Valley Children's serves the more than 1.3 million kids living in the Central Valley. They inspire us to be better, push us to fight harder and drive us to bring our best every day.

On behalf of Valley Children's and the children and families we serve, we want to express our appreciation for your support.

Through your generosity, we hope to continue that commitment to children's health for generations to come.

Every gift matters. Please consider making a donation to help care for Central Valley kids by calling Valley Children's Healthcare Foundation at 559-353-7100 or online at donate.valleychildrens.org.

Meet Mac!

Mac was born with Spina bifida and a severe form of Chiari malformation, a condition in which brain tissue extends to the spinal canal. He was immediately transferred to Valley Children's Hospital, where he spent two weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). He has been admitted at Valley Children's more than 100 times, with 12 weeks being his longest inpatient stay.

Through the years, Mac has undergone a total of 34 surgeries at Valley Children's. He is now 12 years old and in seventh grade. Mac has always been a happy child with a courageous and incredible spirit.





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

valleychildrens.org/foundation

