



YEAR IN REVIEW



I
BEAT CANCER
TWICE

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*Jeremy, 2024 Kids Day Ambassador
& Blood Disorder Patient
(See Kids Day, page 5)*



A LETTER FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Prepare to be moved by the power of your generosity.

At Valley Children’s Healthcare, we see miracles unfold daily—miracles made possible by your donations. This annual review is more than a report; it’s a testament to the extraordinary impact of your kindness. Each page tells a story of hope, healing and transformed young lives.

As you read through these accounts from fiscal year 2024, remember behind every statistic is a child whose life you’ve touched, a family you’ve supported, a future you’ve brightened. Your generosity isn’t just changing lives, it’s shaping futures.

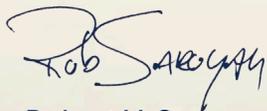
Your impact resonates through the halls in countless ways. Thanks to you, numerous NICU babies celebrated their first birthdays. Your support provided new wheelchairs throughout the hospital, enhancing mobility for our young patients. A transformative donation is laying the groundwork for a pioneering cell therapy and bone marrow transplant center at Valley Children’s, bringing hope closer to home for families. Moreover, countless families received crucial assistance with bills, transportation and emotional support during their most challenging times.

This year, we’ve reimagined our report to showcase the impact of every donation—from community events and grateful patients to legacy gifts and corporate sponsorships. Whether you’re a long-time supporter or a first-time donor, your contribution is a vital thread in the tapestry of care we weave.

On behalf of Valley Children’s Healthcare President and CEO Todd Suntrapak, our dedicated staff, and most importantly, the children and families we serve, thank you. Your unwavering support empowers us to pursue our mission of continually improving children’s health and well-being.

You’re not just donating to a hospital. You’re investing in the limitless potential of every child who walks through our doors.

Gratefully,



Robert V. Saroyan
President
Valley Children’s Healthcare Foundation

\$15 MILLION DONATION BRINGING LIFE-SAVING CANCER TREATMENTS TO VALLEY CHILDREN'S

On May 2, Valley Children's received an anonymous donation of \$15 million, earmarked to establish a center for bone marrow transplants and CAR T-cell therapy on the Madera campus. This monumental gift ensures not only the center's creation but also provides operational funding for the first decade.

Dr. Vonda Crouse, a pediatric hematologist/oncologist at Valley Children's Hospital since 1987, explained CAR T-cell therapy as a revolutionary approach that uses a child's own T-cells to fight their leukemia: "It's a much more targeted way to treat the disease because it attacks the cancer cells specifically, leaving the rest of the body unharmed."

Tristen, a spirited fourth-grader from Clovis, began his journey with leukemia at age 4. After years of treatments at Valley Children's, he had the joy of ringing the "No Mo' Chemo" bell, signifying his victory over cancer. But just as his family breathed a sigh of relief, Tristen's leukemia returned just days before his 8th birthday.

Tristen's new treatment plan required a bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately, at that time bone marrow transplants were not available in the Central Valley, forcing families to travel hours to Los Angeles or northern California. Tristen's father, Tyler, was identified as a perfect donor match. On July 3, 2023, the Clovis community gathered to send Tristen and his family off to Stanford and Tristen's transplant was a success.

His family feels immense gratitude and hope—not just for their future but for all families in the Central Valley. "The anonymous donor who made it possible for Valley Children's to build a CAR T-cell therapy and transplant center has given a priceless gift," Tyler reflects. "This center will be a beacon of hope for so many families like ours, who will soon have access to this type of world-class care without leaving their community."



CONTINUING GENEROSITY MAKING AN IMPACT

Claude and the late Betty Lou Laval, celebrated figures in the Central Valley, pledged \$1 million to the Angel Fund—a program crucial for covering a family’s non-medical bills during a child’s treatment. Their planned gift matches up to \$100,000 annually, leading to the fund being renamed the Claude and Betty Lou Laval Angel Fund.

In 2023, the Angel Fund provided crucial support to more than 200 families, distributing \$244,000. One of the significant beneficiaries was Ernie, an 8-month-old NICU patient who was admitted following a cardiac arrest. His family, from Santa Maria, faced the difficult decision to stop working in order to stay by his side during his recovery. The Angel Fund alleviated their financial burden, covering rent and enabling the family to remain at his bedside throughout the hospitalization.

Mr. Laval shared, “You often give and don’t know where it goes. Here, it’s fast, direct help. If more knew the need, more would give.”



Margaret Corasick moved to Clovis in 2012 to be closer to her children and grandchildren after losing her spouse. In rebuilding her community, she began volunteering for the Cancer Survivorship program at Valley Children’s in 2014. Her time there forged strong bonds with the program and with Dr. John Gates and his wife, Jessica.

In 2017, Margaret gave \$1 million to the Fresno Truck Center Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program, which supports childhood cancer survivors with life-long side effects, mental health resources, and social opportunities. She continues to offer one-time gifts to enrich the program, helping fund trips and scholarships for survivors. Margaret has not just found a new community—she has profoundly transformed lives.

Philanthropists **Don and Cheryl Baker** have long supported Valley Children’s. Their \$125,000 donation to the ASN to BSN Pathway Program helps nurses with associate degrees earn their Bachelor of Science in Nursing through a partnership with Fresno State. This initiative offers financial reimbursement, study time and professional guidance. The Bakers’ donation brings this promising new program to the forefront, providing nurses with tools for professional advancement and enriching the level of care they provide at Valley Children’s.

Our staff is always ready to discuss ideas, the greatest needs and the many ways you can leave a legacy at Valley Children’s. Please contact us at 559-353-7100.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS BRINGING THEIR BEST

When local businesses, organizations, teams or individuals host a fundraising event or a cause marketing campaign, it rallies the community for a great cause - our Central Valley kids' health.

Since 2008, **Spirit Halloween** has raised an incredible \$1,097,052 for Valley Children's Child Life Department through their Spirit of Children in-store campaign, with \$140,872 of that in FY24. Thanks to their generosity, our Child Life Specialists can focus on helping our families navigate through challenging hospital stays with healing through music, play and therapeutic activities.



This year we had the opportunity to host the Spirit Halloween team at our hospital twice - once in October for their Spirit of Children Halloween Party and in January for their million-dollar fundraising milestone.

Meras Water Solutions has been a community partner since 2021, raising nearly \$80,000 for Valley Children's Hospital with an annual golf tournament. Dan Lindburg, CEO of the irrigation maintenance company, says, "We do work throughout the state of California and we see how many kids come out of Valley Children's Hospital. That stuck out to me. I wanted to give to Valley Children's the way they give to the community."



Since 2019, **The Pines Resort at Bass Lake** has raised more than \$11,000 for Valley Children's through their Holiday Fundraiser. This past holiday season, they hosted their 32nd Annual Bass Lake Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights with



an opportunity drawing to benefit Valley Children's George's Pass program. George's Pass is a unique program benefiting children with autism and sensory or behavioral issues. The Pines Resort raised an incredible \$5,000 for this program this fiscal year.

This fun, festive and life-changing partnership is another example of why we love our community partners.

This June, **Luke, a grateful patient**, along with his incredible parents, raised \$5,000 to benefit Valley Children's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and our Rehab Department. Luke's involvement with the hospital has also included participating in the Adaptive Sports Program and getting to attend the DC4KIDS event. Thanks to this young philanthropist's generosity, we can continue to make a powerful impact on the lives of the children we serve.



Just Porch It became a new community partner this year, with the help of local philanthropists Darren and Jene D'Ambrosio. Just Porch It offers community members a way of getting rid of unwanted clothes, shoes and household items for a cause. Proceeds generated from the repurposing of the items all go to support Valley Children's Child Life Department, which provided services to more than 13,000 patients in 2023. Since May, Just Porch It pick-ups benefiting Valley Children's have kept 66,000 lbs of textiles out of our landfills!

As we reflect on the last year, we are so grateful for all of our community partners who offered innovative ideas to help impact those with futures worth fighting for.

HEMATOLOGY UPGRADES UNDERWAY THANKS TO KIDS DAY SUPPORTERS

This year's Kids Day marked a significant milestone as we returned to offering the special Kids Day newspaper with more than 4,000 volunteers on the streets from Bakersfield to Modesto. Rain or shine, Kids Day happens, and the smiles on the faces of our volunteers and supporters this early rainy morning in March said it all - there is no stopping Kids Day!

More than \$500,000 was raised through this year's Kids Day. In honor of the 2,859 blood disorder patients like our Kids Day Ambassador, Jeremy, every dollar that was raised went to Valley Children's hematology department.

As one of only 140 Hemophilia Treatment Centers in the nation, Valley Children's has the only federally funded center in the Central Valley and is highly regarded for providing comprehensive care to individuals with bleeding and clotting problems as well as the management of conditions such as sickle cell anemia and thalassemia. Our program is also the only one in the Central Valley to implement red blood cell apheresis, which uses centrifuge to separate blood into its components by density to assist in treatment.

Thanks to the funds raised during Kids Day, upgrades for patient care areas are underway, including new infusion chairs, amenities and activities for the young patients. Ongoing education for the hematology team will be provided, as well as our ability to assist families navigating the financial challenges of pediatric hematological conditions. Our sickle cell program will have the opportunity to strengthen its collaborations with adult facilities and increase our knowledge base thanks to this incredible fundraising effort by our community.





THANKS TO OUR CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK HOSPITALS PARTNERS' SUPPORT

\$1M
LIFETIME DONATION

Eight **Costco** warehouses raised more than \$688,000 for Valley Children's in 2024. Costco provides much-needed funds to support patient services, equipment, education, charitable care and research at Valley Children's.

\$9.2M
LIFETIME DONATION



\$6.7M
LIFETIME DONATION

During their 2024 campaign, 31 **Walmart and Sam's Club** locations raised more than \$475,000 for Valley Children's, exceeding their 2023 totals by 17%. Walmart and Sam's Club are the only partners that have surpassed more than \$1 billion in lifetime fundraising for CMN Hospitals nationwide.

\$5.2M
LIFETIME DONATION



The **Panda Cares Center of Hope** at Valley Children's continues to thrive because of the commitment of 45 Panda Express restaurants in the Central Valley. The Panda Cares Center of Hope provides support for Valley Children's Child Life Services, Patient and Family Services, Rehabilitation and Spiritual Care Services.



Credit Unions for Kids celebrated a remarkable milestone this year, raising more than \$1 million for Valley Children's since 1997. We welcomed some of our CU4Kids partners, including EECU and Pacific Service Credit Union, for a check presentation and tour of the hospital.

\$87.7K
LIFETIME DONATION



Phi Mu Fraternity at CSU Stanislaus held a record-breaking dance marathon in April, raising more than \$18,000 this year.

\$3M
LIFETIME DONATION

For 26 years, the **"KISS Country for Kids" Radiothon** with KSKS 93.7FM has created miracles for thousands of children at Valley Children's. This year, the event raised \$64,023.



\$565K
LIFETIME DONATION



Ace Hardware store managers and co-op owners attended a check presentation with Valley Children's Adaptive Sports Program. Ace Hardware not only fundraises through its round-up campaign and Ace Bucket Days, they also provide community grants for special hospital programs such as Adaptive Sports.



Our 2024 CMN Hospitals Local Champion, Davey Jean, joined **7-Eleven** CEO Joe DePinto at the 33rd 7-Eleven Miracle Tournament in Ohio. Every year, the charity golf tournament raises thousands of dollars for CMN Hospitals nationwide.

CMN Hospitals Partners and Programs

- Ace Hardware
- Bob's Discount Furniture
- Chevron USA, Inc.
- Credit Unions for Kids
- Costco
- Dairy Queen
- Extra Life
- Entravision
- GameStop
- Great Clips
- InComm
- JOANN Stores
- Kirkland Signature
- KISS Country for Kids Radiothon
- Kiwanis International
- Knight Transportation
- Love's Travel Stops
- Marriott International
- McLane Pacific
- Panda Restaurant Group
- Phi Delta Epsilon
- Phi Mu - Eta Zeta Chapter
- Radio LAZER
- RADIO Merced Radiothon
- RE/MAX
- Rite Aid
- Sam's Club
- 7-Eleven
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon CAL-IOTA
- Speedway
- United Networks of America
- Vallarta Supermarkets
- Walgreens
- Walmart



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 DAVEY JEAN

Our 2024 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Champion is 10-year-old Clovis resident Davey Jean. Davey Jean was born with a rare genetic disorder called 22q11.2 deletion syndrome (22q). At 30 weeks in utero, Davey Jean was diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot, a compilation of four heart defects, and required open-heart surgery soon after her birth. Her parents entrusted her to the Willson Heart Center at Valley Children's, which serves more than 9,000 families each year with advanced technology and state-of-the-art therapeutics for both congenital and acquired pediatric cardiovascular diseases.

By the time she was 3 years old, she was still non-verbal and used American Sign Language to communicate. Her parents learned that she had conductive hearing loss and would need ear surgery. The Ear Nose and Throat department at Valley Children's, along with the plastic surgery, audiology and speech therapy teams, all joined to successfully help her become more verbal.

Davey Jean has already undergone five surgeries at Valley Children's, yet she is very active and enjoys gymnastics. Davey Jean's mom, Brittany, was also treated at Valley Children's as a child, and feels an extension of family with the hospital. She says, "Valley Children's is in our backyard, and we both grew up here. We love this hospital!"





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valleychildrens.org/foundation

