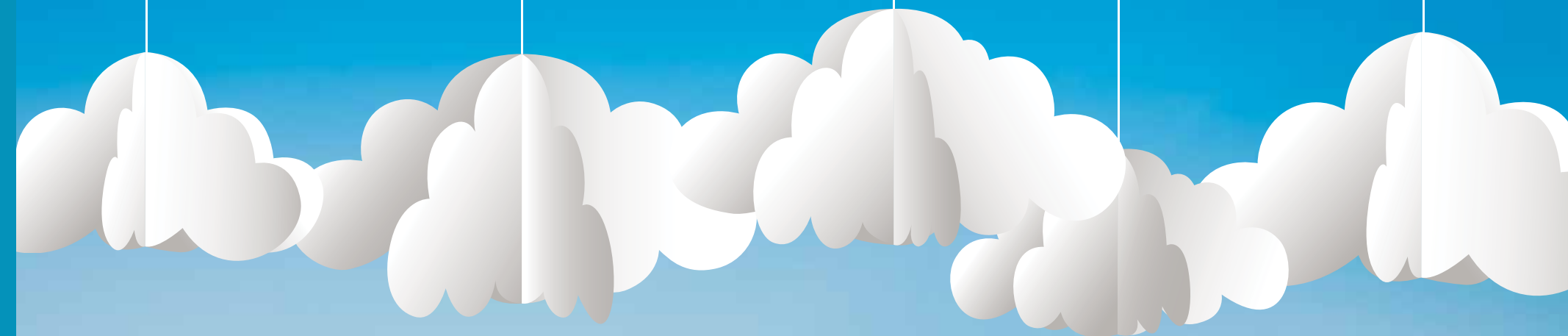


Futures

Worth Fighting For.



2015 Annual Report



Futures Worth Fighting For. 2015 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Fighting for Children's Futures	6
Working Together for Brighter Tomorrows	14
Providing Advanced Treatment for Healthier Futures	20
Where Are They Now?	34
Benefiting the Region	40
In the Spotlight	44
Financial Highlights	48
Making a Lasting Difference	52



Futures Worth Fighting For.



Todd A. Suntrapak
President and CEO
Valley Children's Healthcare

From the beginning, Valley Children's has been fighting for children's futures. And when I look back on 2015 and the significant milestones we achieved, I'm reminded that the founders of a small grassroots hospital could have never in their wildest dreams imagined the futures they were ensuring more than 65 years ago.

The passion and commitment that brought five young mothers together is what continues to bring the best pediatric care providers, volunteers and supporters together for Valley Children's today.

In 2015 we added a new specialty care center in Bakersfield, expanded partnerships with hospitals and physician groups as well as enhanced our pediatric residency and fellowship programs. And we saw increased patient volumes – which means we're helping more children and their families, and impacting more lives.

New technologies like MAGEC, a magnetic device that enables surgeons to straighten a child's spine gradually and non-invasively, have made the lives of countless families easier and futures brighter.

Expanded programs, like Interventional Radiology, which uses medical imaging to perform minimally invasive procedures, are helping our patients and their families get better answers and solutions more quickly and more safely.

Our recent designation as a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center – the only pediatric trauma center in Central California – allows us to receive ill and injured children directly from the field by helicopter or ambulance and provide lifesaving care even faster.

But we're not stopping here. We're continuing to strive for excellence and ensure the futures of the children of the Central Valley and beyond. Because these are futures worth fighting for.



Fighting For Children's Futures

Ensuring High-Quality Care

In fiscal year 2015, Valley Children's achieved 239 days without a single catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI), and in February, we celebrated a full year with zero CAUTIs.

We also fully met the Leapfrog Group's standards for:

- doctors ordering medications through a computer
- specially trained doctors caring for intensive care unit patients
- applying steps to avoid harm, and
- managing serious errors

outlined in the industry watchdog's 2015 report.

And due to our extraordinary performance in children's asthma care, The Joint Commission named Valley Children's a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures for 2014 data by achieving 95 percent or above on several accountability measures.

In addition, we achieved remarkable results compared to our peers nationally in terms of survival and morbidity for neonates with birthweights less than 1,500 grams. Our 88-bed, Regional Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Valley Children's Hospital provides the highest level, around-the-clock care possible for vulnerable babies in Central California.

"Doing the right thing, day after day, child after child, we will improve outcomes for our patients," Dr. Karen Dahl, vice president, quality and patient safety, said. "We're serious about patient safety and high-quality care and we won't take short-cuts. We work together as a team with the goal of zero harm for every patient and family every day."

To that end, Valley Children's emphasizes interdisciplinary teamwork and transparency both internally and externally. Steps this year to achieve our goal of delivering high-quality, safe patient care included:

- Adding a daily safety huddle to assess issues and develop real-time solutions that directly affect patient care.
- Increasing involvement in the national collaborative, Solutions for Patient Safety, including contributing to the development of national standards for the prevention of peripheral IV infiltrates.
- Joining the American College of Surgeons' National Surgical Quality Improvement Pediatric Program, a new national quality database that piloted in 2008, to improve surgical patient outcomes.
- Implementing programs like TeamSTEPS to empower all staff and patient families to speak up for patient safety.
- And more.

"To effect change, we shifted our emphasis toward identifying our strengths and opportunities, increasing communication, measuring improvements and comparing ourselves to others nationally," Dr. David Christensen, chief medical officer, said.

"Achieving the best quality outcomes and zero medical errors is not just a nice idea – it's real and something we can only do by working together as a team with our staff, physicians, patients and families."

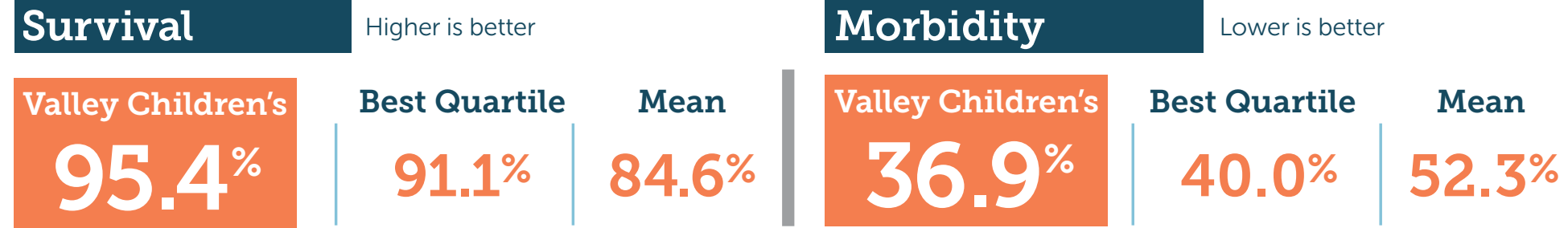


Ensuring High-Quality Care

Most Recent Valley Children's NICU Outcomes Data* (for babies with birthweight of <1,500 grams):

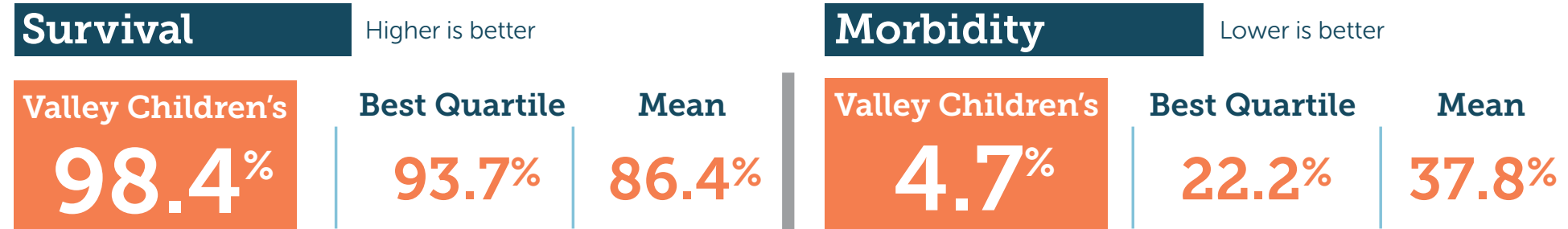
Valley Children's babies rank among the highest in terms of severity of illness among NICUs nationally in a comparative database, yet we achieve more remarkable results in terms of survival and morbidity compared to our peers.

Valley Children's Hospital Regional Level IV NICU



*Comparative 2014 data from the Vermont Oxford Network (VON) for Level III C NICUs, the Network's highest level NICU. (Level III C NICU is equivalent to the Level IV recognized as the highest level NICU by the American Academy of Pediatrics.) VON is a non-profit collaboration of healthcare professionals dedicated to improving medical care for newborn infants and their families. Composed of more than 900 neonatal intensive care units worldwide, the Network maintains a database including information about the care and outcomes of high-risk newborn infants.

Valley Children's Level II-III NICU at Saint Agnes Medical Center



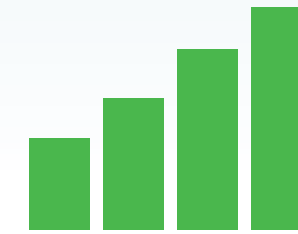
*Comparative 2014 data from the Vermont Oxford Network (VON) for Level II-III NICUs. Our intermediate Level II center provides specialty care. Our community Level III center provides subspecialty care for critically ill newborn infants.

The Leapfrog Hospital Survey 2015 Report

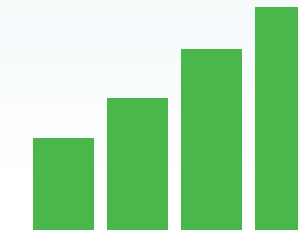
Valley Children's Hospital
ANCC Magnet Hospital



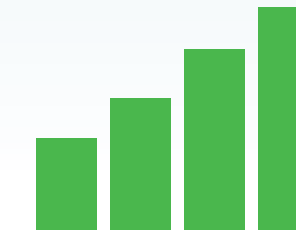
Doctors Order Medications Through A Computer



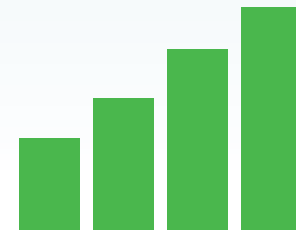
Specially Trained Doctors Care For ICU Patients



Steps To Avoid Harm



Managing Serious Errors





Pediatric Research Making an Impact

Complex heart defects, obesity, whooping cough, inflammatory bowel disease...

Valley Children's doctors and nurses are taking advantage of the rapidly advancing field of medical genetics and targeted therapies to increase research and treatment opportunities for our diverse patient population's unique needs.

This year, for example, some Valley Children's patients with cystic fibrosis benefited from a targeted, experimental medication that improves lung function in children with a particular genetic abnormality. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration ultimately approved the medication.

"This is exciting because precision medicine can use information specifically about a child's genetic makeup to prevent, diagnose, treat and manage their illness," Cathy Key, Valley Children's manager, research, said.

Our Cancer and Blood Diseases Center ranks in the top 4 percent of all therapeutic enrollments to Children's Oncology Group (COG), the world's largest organization devoted exclusively to childhood and adolescent cancer research with support from the National Cancer Institute. Our high enrollment makes us a valuable contributor to ensure advanced treatment protocols for the nation's children and beyond.

The National Hemophilia Foundation also honored our Hemophilia Treatment Center with the Champion of the Year 2015 award for enrolling a large number of hemophilia patients in a nationwide campaign to advance treatment and research of the rare blood disorder.

In collaboration with the University of California, Merced, many of our patients diagnosed with valley fever – a potentially deadly disease indigenous to the Valley – are participating in a study that compares certain markers in their blood to the blood of their unaffected siblings to determine why only some children fall ill after exposure.

And we offer family members of children with Type 1 diabetes the opportunity to test their blood to see if they are developing antibodies, which could predict whether insulin-producing cells in the pancreas are damaged. The effort may lead to increased knowledge of this devastating disease and the ability to more accurately predict who may be at risk for developing diabetes.

Valley Children's pediatric research program comprises more than 160 national clinical trials and research studies. Our high patient volume and variety of medical conditions enable us to offer families the option to submit tissue and blood samples to repositories in which researchers can evaluate genetic changes in children with illnesses. This provides Valley Children's the opportunity to significantly contribute to the development of more effective and/or targeted therapies that may cause fewer side effects and improve quality of life.

Other examples of how we're making a difference:

- Participating with 14 other hospitals worldwide in an endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) study to establish pediatric guidelines for this minimally invasive procedure that evaluates, diagnoses and treats diseases of the liver, bile ducts and pancreas.
- Providing nursing education for patients prior to surgery to evaluate whether this results in shorter lengths of stay.
- Evaluating best practices to prevent adverse drug events.
- Increasing enrollment of children to COG research studies by 44% compared to 2014.
- Consistently maintaining exemplary data submission of quality measures for COG research studies between 94-100% over the past three years.

1,679,960 INTERPRETING MINUTES



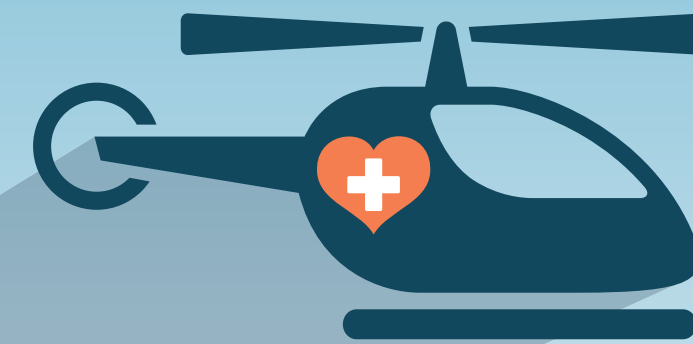
LBS. OF LINENS USED

1,320,032



118,298

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS



1,337

TRANSPORTS

(918 Ground & 419 Air)

12,348

PEDIATRIC SURGERIES

(Includes Cardiac Surgery, Interventional Cardiac Catheterization, Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedic, Otolaryngology, Pediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Urology)



358 BEDS



154,857

PHYSICIAN PRACTICES AND REGIONAL CENTER VISITS



46,668 VOLUNTEER HOURS



493,364 Diapers



24,100 Pacifiers



291,990 Bottles

Working Together for Brighter Tomorrows

Collaborating for the Best Care

Dr. Sze Ho had built a well-respected private practice in Bakersfield that served three generations of Kern County families. So when the longtime pediatrician decided to retire, he wanted to ensure that San Dimas Pediatrics remained open for his patients and staff.

Dr. Ho found his answer. Upon his retirement in December 2014, San Dimas Pediatrics joined Valley Children's Medical Group. Now Valley Children's can ensure Dr. Ho's well-established practice continues to provide the same excellent pediatric medical care for years to come.

Offering this type of opportunity is part of Valley Children's efforts to increase collaboration with a network of independent physicians, pediatric primary care practices and local hospitals along with our specialty care centers and satellite locations to deliver the best medical care to all children throughout Central California.

"As we work together with providers and practices across the Valley, greater numbers of children will have access to the expert, comprehensive care they need closer to where they live," Valley Children's CEO and President Todd Suntrapak said. "This will help all of us ensure high-quality care remains in the Valley."

Other examples range from Valley Children's offering clinical care and telemedicine support for top hospitals, to hosting continuing medical education symposiums. "As we co-manage pediatric patients earlier in the treatment process, we can reduce the need for hospitalization and advanced care," Randy Guerrero, title, said.

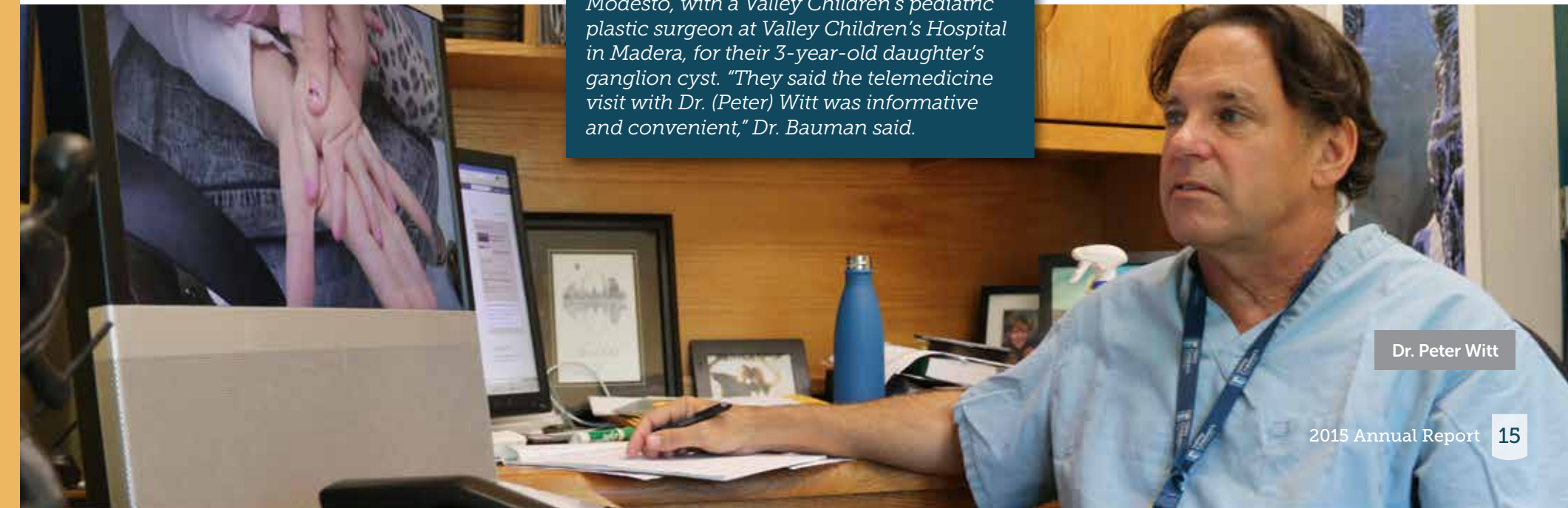
Dr. Philip Bauman, a Modesto pediatrician, said the Zambrana family was pleased they could consult electronically from Valley Children's McHenry Specialty Care Center in Modesto, with a Valley Children's pediatric plastic surgeon at Valley Children's Hospital in Madera, for their 3-year-old daughter's ganglion cyst. "They said the telemedicine visit with Dr. (Peter) Witt was informative and convenient," Dr. Bauman said.

For instance, using telemedicine a Valley Children's neonatologist recommended that a baby at Sierra View District Hospital didn't need to be transferred yet to Valley Children's Hospital for higher level care.

"This enabled the baby and his family to avoid an unnecessary transport and kept them close to home," Jeff Hudson, Sierra View District Hospital's vice president, patient care, in Porterville, said.

Dr. Emerson Walls, a pediatrician in Fresno, values the accessibility of Valley Children's pediatric subspecialists. "It's nice to be able to just call them, to have that support," he said.

Pediatrician Dr. Bharati Shah appreciates Valley Children's new 34th Street Specialty Care Center in Bakersfield. "It's more convenient for patients and saves them from unnecessary travel," she said.



Dr. Peter Witt

Training The Next Generation

Valley Children's has developed an innovative program to ensure our future pediatricians and pediatric specialists are prepared to participate in and lead today's evolving model of patient-centered care focused on quality improvement, safety and interdisciplinary teamwork.

Providing strong thought leadership for more than six decades, Valley Children's has trained residents throughout the Valley for the past 40 years.

This year, we took the lead in training the next generation of pediatricians and pediatric surgical and medical specialists by creating our own three-year pediatric residency program.

Our vision for the Valley Children's Pediatric Residency Program, Affiliated with Stanford University School of Medicine*, includes concentrating on quality and patient safety, interprofessional education, and community partnerships, as well as hands-on care in our Hospital.

"Our goal is to help meet the Valley's increasing demand for skilled pediatricians and pediatric specialists for years to come," Dr. Jolie Limon, chief of pediatrics, said.

Beginning in July 2017, 13 pediatric resident physicians per class will perform multiple roles of student, teacher and clinician simultaneously. They will work closely with physicians, nurses, pharmacists, administrators and other healthcare professionals, including our partners in local hospitals and medical groups.

"Gone are the days of only stressing diagnosis and management of patients and training physicians in silos," Dr. Limon said. "Medical education needs to integrate continuous quality improvement, evidence-based outcomes, teamwork, seamless transitions and more into clinical curricula to effect lasting change."

Valley Children's diverse and underserved region offers unique clinical opportunities with a full array of pediatric subspecialty and support services.

Our residents will be exposed to a high volume and wide variety of complex and critically ill children while backed by state-of-the-art technology and a comprehensive healthcare network.

With Stanford as our partner, Stanford residents will begin one-month rotations at Valley Children's emergency department in July 2016. Valley Children's residents will spend two months at Stanford training in adolescent medicine and developmental and behavioral pediatrics.

*Institutional Accreditation by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) of the American Medical Association received in October 2015.

“Our goal is to help meet the Valley's increasing demand for skilled pediatricians and pediatric specialists for years to come.”

Dr. Jolie Limon
Chief of Pediatrics



Dr. Jolie Limon, chief of pediatrics (center), and a medical resident check on a patient.



Improving Quality of Life for Children with Autism

Helping children with autism step into their futures with greater skills and increased quality of life: That's the mission of the Fresno State Autism Center at Valley Children's Hospital.

Valley Children's Healthcare and Fresno State formed this partnership in August. The program is centered at Valley Children's Madera campus.

"Nationwide, autism rates are rising, and together Valley Children's and Fresno State can help more families that need our support," David Hodge, Jr., Valley Children's executive director, ambulatory services, said.

"We are two organizations solely focused on the wellbeing of young people, and this is an opportunity for us to come together to address the needs of children with autism. We are united in fighting for their futures. We want these children to lead as productive and happy lives as possible, despite the challenges autism presents."

The Autism Center selected the Madera campus as its first satellite location away from its headquarters at Fresno State. Children receive therapy at both locations to improve language, learning, motor and social skills.

The Madera location cuts down on travel time for families in north Fresno and Madera County. Tim Yeager, the Autism Center's clinical director, notes that this location also provides a seamless transition for children receiving other services at the Hospital.

Nine children are currently receiving services at the Madera campus. Most come every weekday and receive 15 to 30 hours of therapy a week. Fresno State students in related majors provide the therapy, and they benefit from being at Valley Children's. "It gives our staff an opportunity to work in an environment of professionals geared toward serving children," Yeager said.

California State University, Fresno, students Paola Nieto (left) and Ludvik Papikian (right), help provide therapeutic services for Alex Boling and other children with autism.



Providing Advanced Treatment for Healthier Futures



TECHNOLOGY

Medical MAGEC for Early-Onset Scoliosis

Youngsters with severe scoliosis are benefiting from new technology using magnets to improve spinal curvatures. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved MAGEC (MAGnetic Expansion Control) in 2014, and we were among the first in the state to offer it.

Dr. Michael Elliott, pediatric orthopaedic surgeon, implants an adjustable rod and over months uses a magnetic device to lengthen it, eliminating the need for multiple surgeries. "It (treatment) feels like a nice massage," Jayden Ortiz, 5, our first patient, said.

New Procedure Treats GI Problems Without Surgery

New technologies allow us to offer a remarkable procedure to fix serious digestive problems without major surgery.

Dr. Roberto Gugig is one of a few gastroenterologists in California certified to perform pediatric endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) to diagnose and treat complex problems in children's livers, pancreases and gall bladders. "It's amazing," Carolina Martinez said. The minimally invasive procedure allowed her baby, Jaxson, to keep a major bile duct slightly bigger than the thickness of a credit card.

TECHNOLOGY

Carolina Martinez is thankful for the care that her son, Jaxson, received at Valley Children's.



TECHNOLOGY

Wendy Nagle, NP, assists Jessica Leon during a follow-up visit at Valley Children's.

Upgraded Therapy Aims to Prevent Seizures

We are improving the quality of life for patients who have epilepsy using upgraded vagus nerve stimulation therapy to stop many seizures before they occur. A new FDA-approved device is used in the therapy to monitor heart rate and short-circuit impending seizures with electrical impulses to the brain.

Jessica Leon was our first patient – and the third in California – to receive the implant. "It's a significant advancement," Dr. Steven Ehrreich, medical director, pediatric neurology, said.



Summer Soto

TECHNOLOGY

Interventional Radiology Offers a Less Invasive Approach

Summer Soto once had trouble getting out of bed. Her body leaned to one side, and she often needed pain medication to make it through the day.

At first, mom Jamie Cook thought her daughter had growing pains. But as Summer's condition worsened last year, Cook consulted her pediatrician and Valley Children's.

They discovered that Summer, now a second-grader in North Fork, had a large aneurysmal bone cyst of her spine that caused pain and twisting of the spine (scoliosis). Typically, surgery would be used to remove a portion of her spine, with rods then inserted in her back.

But Valley Children's Hospital, home to one of the largest pediatric imaging centers in the state, offered a less invasive option. Summer was a candidate for an interventional radiology procedure – an approach that uses medical imaging, such as computed tomography (CT), X-ray or ultrasound, to diagnose and treat a variety of conditions.

Summer has undergone two procedures to treat the aneurysmal bone cyst. Dr. Trevor Davis, who heads Valley Children's Pediatric Interventional Radiology Program, said the medical team used a CT scan to guide needles in various compartments of the cyst to deliver medicine that kills abnormal tumor cells.

"She's doing very well," he said. "I expect the tumor will be completely treated after two or three more treatments."

"Summer has handled the procedures well," Cook said. "It's great to see her acting like a normal 8-year-old kid."

Summer is standing up straight, no longer needs regular pain medication, and is itching to play sports. "She says, 'I feel better now – when can I play soccer?'" her mom said. "I have to tell her to stop bouncing around."



Procedure Benefits

- Many conditions that once required surgery can be treated noninvasively by interventional radiologists.
- Patients who undergo interventional radiology procedures often go home the same day as the procedure.
- The benefits of interventional radiology include faster recovery times, less pain and reduced scarring.
- Most procedures are performed with ultrasound, which does not use radiation.

Life With a New Thumb

Writing with a pencil, tying a shoelace or buttoning a button may seem like simple tasks – unless you don't have a thumb.

"I couldn't imagine Mila growing up without being able to do these things," Athena Servin said, referring to her daughter who was born with an undeveloped left thumb.

The thumb is very different than the rest of the hand. Representing more than 60 percent of the hand's function, the thumb is responsible for fine motor skills and complex activities such as picking a coin up off a flat surface or swinging a hammer.

Fortunately, Mila and her parents did not have to travel far from their Merced home for help. Dr. Peter Witt at Valley Children's had the answer. He is only one of about 40 doctors triple-boarded in hand, plastic and general surgery nationwide.

Dr. Witt performed a procedure called pollicization in which he surgically created a thumb from Mila's neighboring index finger. The highly complex, five-hour operation involved shortening, rotating and repositioning the muscles in her hand to achieve both a functional and cosmetic result.

"This is the queen of all hand surgeries," Dr. Witt, medical director, pediatric plastic surgery, said. "We like to correct it before the child starts school."

In utero, the baby's face and hands develop at the same time. "So if there's a craniofacial problem, often there's a hand problem as well," Dr. Witt said.

In Mila's case, she experienced multiple congenital anomalies due to genetic defects that affected her heart, spine, esophagus, kidneys, eyes and more. Most of these issues have been resolved, but she continues to receive specialized pediatric orthopaedic services at Valley Children's.

Now 4 years old, the bright, energetic preschooler has adapted well to her new thumb. "I'm so glad we did this surgery," her mom said. "She's doing great. We're very grateful for Dr. Witt and Valley Children's."

Pediatric Plastic Surgery Services

- A visible disfigurement can negatively impact a child's self-esteem during critical years of development.
- Valley Children's is the only provider of comprehensive inpatient and outpatient pediatric plastic surgery services in the region.
- Our dedicated, board-certified pediatric plastic surgery team specializes in hand abnormalities, trauma, craniofacial anomalies, vascular anomalies, and skin and soft tissue tumors.



TREATMENT

Mila Sanchez



Beatriz Torres

TREATMENT

'Valley Children's Is Waiting For You'

The anxious Torres family thought they were lost while heading 70 miles south from Ceres toward Valley Children's Hospital in Madera. Suddenly, the large, colorful campus set in an open field emerged on the horizon.

"It looked like Disneyland!" Gerardo Torres recalled.

The inspiring sight helped calm their fears. Gerardo and his wife, Lydia, had just learned from their pediatrician that their joyful, 13-month-old daughter, Beatriz, had a significant mass on her right kidney, and "Valley Children's is waiting for you."

The mass turned out to be Wilms' tumor, a rare kidney cancer that makes up about 6 percent of all childhood cancers. The Torres' quickly realized the skilled team inside Valley Children's reflected their same positive first impression.

"When you hear the 'c' word, your heart sinks," Lydia said, remembering how pediatric hematologist/oncologist Dr. J. Daniel Ozeran compassionately delivered the news. "You think this can't be happening. You want to know you're in the best place – and we did."

"Everyone is caring and confident; they listen," Beatriz's grandparents, Sal and Mary Prieto, agreed.

With prompt and aggressive treatment, Wilms' tumor is successfully treated in most children. Our pediatric intensive care specialists controlled Beatriz's dangerously high blood pressure due to her condition before one of our pediatric surgeons surgically removed the mass.

After surgery, Beatriz began a comprehensive, five-month treatment plan of chemotherapy and radiation to kill any remaining cancerous tumor cells.

"Beatriz is an old soul; she never cried and always smiled," Lydia said, as Beatriz laughed and twirled in a pink tutu at their home. "She gave us our strength," Gerardo added.

Now age 3, Beatriz undergoes regular imaging scans and checkups with cancer and nephrology specialists all in the same day at Valley Children's to ensure she remains healthy – a task an oncology nurse navigator helps coordinate.

"We know Valley Children's is always here for us," Lydia said, as Beatriz hugged her lovingly. "That means everything."

Pediatric Cancer and Blood Diseases Center

- A leading childhood cancer center on the West Coast.
- Diagnoses and treats more than 120 new cancer cases a year.
- Provides and significantly contributes to the advanced treatment protocols established by the Children's Oncology Group, the world's largest organization dedicated to childhood cancer and research.

Mendiburu Magic Foundation Honors Dr. John Gates



The Mendiburu Magic Foundation awarded the Nancy Mendiburu Compassion Award for Innovative Cancer Research to Dr. John Gates, director of Valley Children's

Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program. This award is given to individuals who demonstrate excellence in pediatric cancer research and embrace Nancy's values of humility, integrity and compassion. Dr. Gates leads Central California's only childhood cancer survivorship program, which helps prepare survivors for adulthood and maintain excellent health for years to come.

The Foundation helps meet the needs of Kern County families with children facing cancer or other catastrophic illnesses. Since 2005, it has invested \$40,000 to support these families at Valley Children's.



Treating the Body and Spirit

Peyton Laffoon, a high school senior from Bakersfield with cystic fibrosis, will never forget how Valley Children's made it possible for him to enjoy a big moment in his young life. He was hospitalized with a lung infection and couldn't play in his high school's homecoming football game. But Peyton wanted to cheer his buddies from the stands.

Doctors at our nationally-recognized Cystic Fibrosis Center were determined to help him be there. Peyton made it. "It showed how much the doctors really cared and loved me," he said.

Our experienced doctors and staff know how to treat the body and the spirit. They provide the best care to families facing the difficult diagnosis of cystic fibrosis. Outside agencies agree.

California Children's Services and the national Cystic Fibrosis Foundation both recognize our center as a multidisciplinary clinic that provides a high standard of care.

Cystic fibrosis is a life-threatening genetic disease that causes persistent lung infections and over time limits the ability to breathe. "Life expectancy is now close to 40, nearly double from 25 years ago," said Dr. Reddivalam Sudhakar, medical director for pediatric pulmonology and our cystic fibrosis program.

He has treated patients with complex pulmonary disorders for nearly 25 years at Valley Children's.

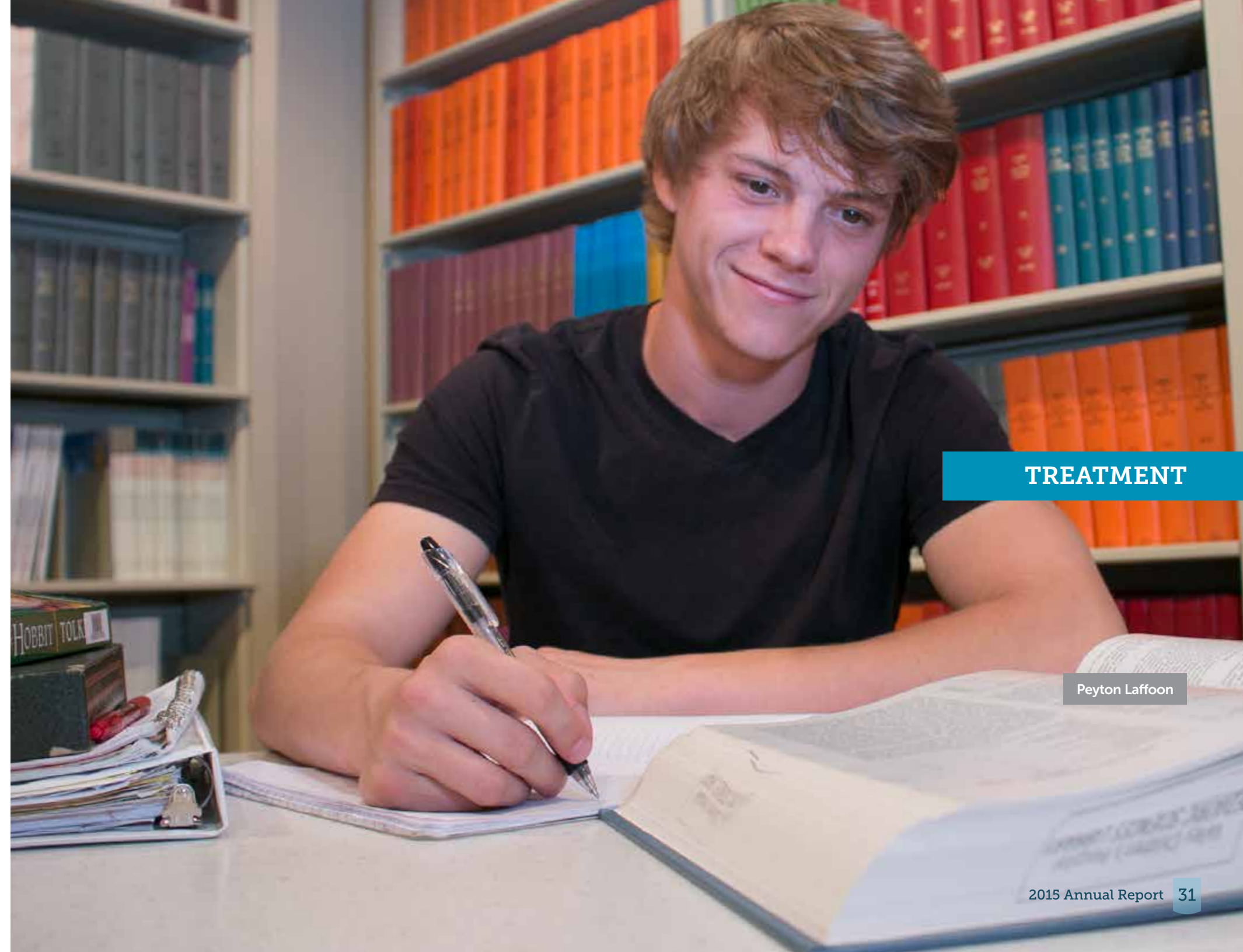
Dr. Sudhakar encourages Peyton to face the future with optimism. Peyton has better lung function than many peers without cystic fibrosis. "Medical breakthroughs, including a cure, are possible in the near future," Dr. Sudhakar said.

Peyton takes the encouragement to heart and is determined not to let the disease define his life. He's an Eagle Scout and serves as president of his church youth group. He has a 4.3 GPA and an academic scholarship to Arizona State University.

Peyton tries to contribute positively to life. When he comes to our Madera campus for checkups, he brings his guitar and sings. Some of the doctors and nurses join in the songs. "They're like family," Peyton said.

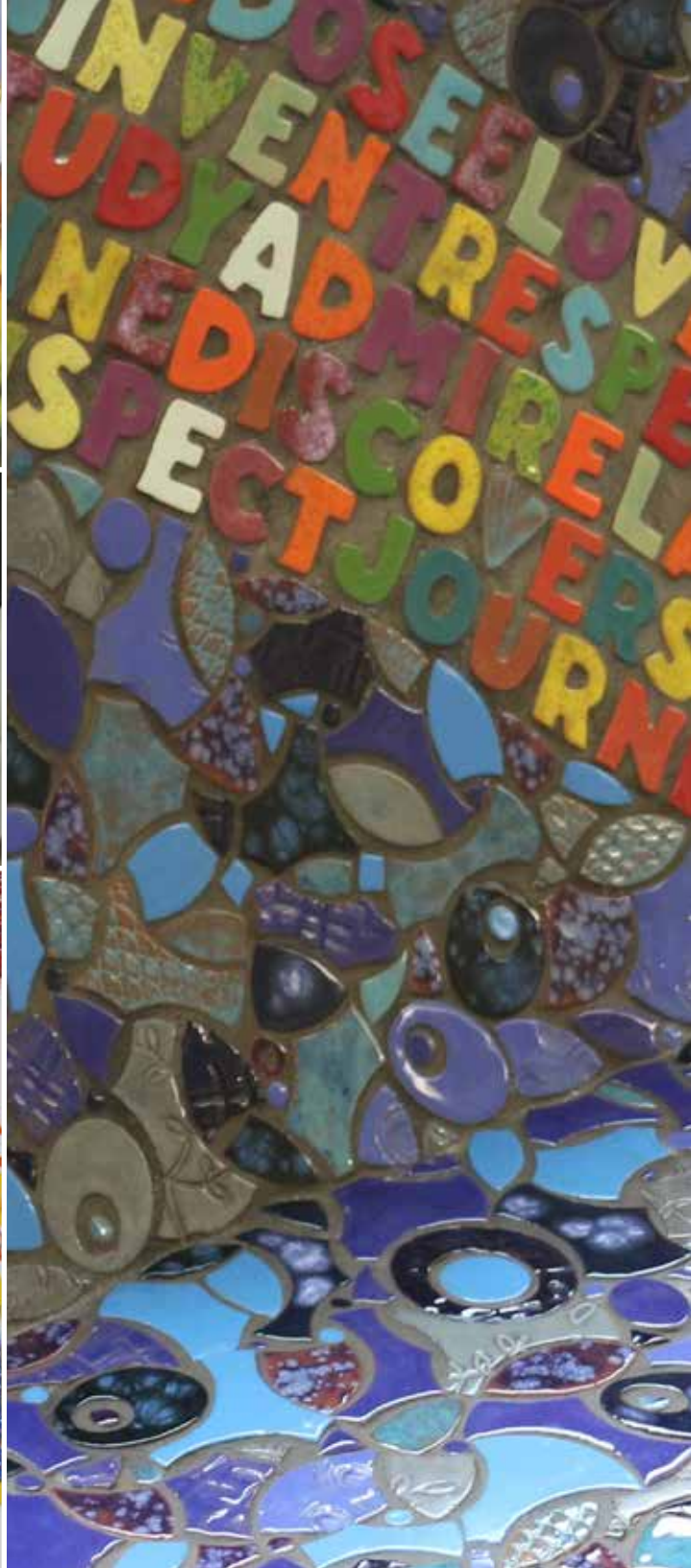
Cystic Fibrosis Care

- We are a multidisciplinary California Children's Services recognized Cystic Fibrosis Center and Home Ventilator Clinic, as well as a Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF)-accredited care center affiliated with the CFF Core Center at Stanford Medical Center, providing the highest quality care.
- Led by board-certified pediatric pulmonologists, our Cystic Fibrosis Center sees about 170 patients a year.
- Our cystic fibrosis patients voluntarily participate in a research project that compares their progress to patients at other recognized centers across the nation. Our doctors use the data to create the best individualized treatment plans.



TREATMENT

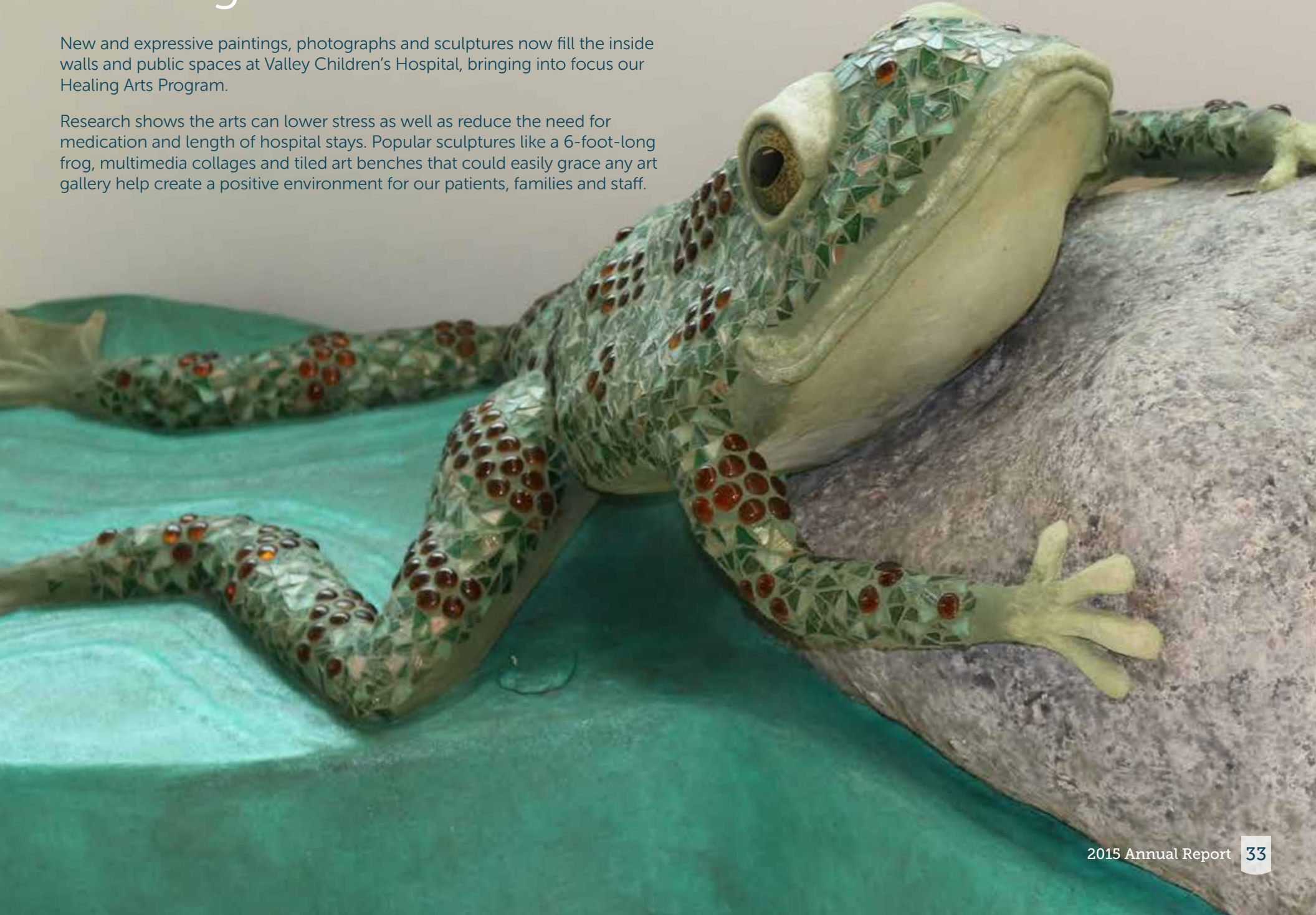
Peyton Laffoon



Healing Art

New and expressive paintings, photographs and sculptures now fill the inside walls and public spaces at Valley Children's Hospital, bringing into focus our Healing Arts Program.

Research shows the arts can lower stress as well as reduce the need for medication and length of hospital stays. Popular sculptures like a 6-foot-long frog, multimedia collages and tiled art benches that could easily grace any art gallery help create a positive environment for our patients, families and staff.



Where Are They Now?

Matthew Alvarado

At age 21, Matthew Alvarado already lives his dream as a professional athlete and coach. But he'll never forget how the Valley Children's team fought hard for his life – and future – when he nearly died six years ago following high school water polo practice.

"They say I'm 'one in a million,'" Alvarado said. "Sometimes that's still hard to grasp."

During that fateful evening in Fresno, Alvarado's blood pressure and oxygen levels suddenly plummeted, while his heart rate and lung pressure escalated to alarming levels. The reason became clear only after he arrived at Valley Children's.

Pediatric specialists in our Willson Heart Center quickly determined the otherwise healthy 15-year-old suffered a deadly congenital heart defect normally detected shortly after birth.

"It's amazing he survived so many years," Dr. Narakesari Heragu, a pediatric cardiologist, said.

The defect – cor triatriatum – involved a membrane with a pin-size hole that subdivided Alvarado's left upper heart chamber, creating an unnecessary chamber. The condition backed blood up into his lungs and prevented enough blood from reaching the rest of his body.


Fortunately, Valley Children's treats complex cases like Alvarado's every day. Unable to breathe on his own, he received skilled supportive care in our pediatric intensive care unit. Meanwhile, Alvarado's frail condition made open-heart surgery to remove the hazardous membrane unsafe.

So Dr. Carl Owada, a pediatric interventional cardiologist, prepared to perform a less-invasive procedure in our advanced pediatric catheterization laboratory to decompress Alvarado's lungs.

But before Dr. Owada began enlarging the membrane hole with a tiny inflated balloon, he discovered the hole rested dangerously close to Alvarado's heart wall. Now what? Known for innovative solutions, Dr. Owada devised and performed an alternate approach – and it worked.

Dr. Edwin Petrossian, a pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon, later removed the membrane. Only two months after open-heart surgery, Alvarado won second place in a diving competition. Today, the Manteca resident coaches children in Livermore at California All-Stars, a top cheerleading gym in the world, and also competes.

"Now I strive to help athletes reach their full potential," Alvarado said, demonstrating dramatic flips for his students. "Valley Children's made my future possible."



Matthew Alvarado couldn't wait to return to high school sports following his open-heart surgery.



"Matthew is my favorite coach," says Joe Grubbs of Matthew Alvarado today.

John Pepper

When John Pepper recently attended his 7-year-old grandson's consultation at Valley Children's Willson Heart Center, he felt an uncanny moment of déjà vu.

When the 65-year-old Pepper was 6, his parents took him to Valley Children's because he was experiencing frequent nose bleeds and fatigue. The cardiology specialists discovered he had coarctation of the aorta, a critical congenital heart defect that can lead to heart failure if untreated.

The condition causes narrowing of the aorta, a major artery, and blocks normal blood flow. Although usually detected shortly after birth, the defect may not be diagnosed until later in life depending on the severity of symptoms.

Today, the artery is widened through surgery or balloon angioplasty, a less invasive procedure performed in the catheterization lab. But in 1956, surgery was the only option for Pepper, and considered experimental.

With one less rib and a scar that wraps under his left underarm and down his back, Pepper went on to play high school and college football, marry and have children, and enjoy a career in restaurant management and owning a janitorial business. "I've felt fine ever since," Pepper, one of Valley Children's first patients to undergo a closed-heart surgery, said. "I'm thankful to be alive."

Tests indicated Pepper's grandson doesn't have a heart issue, but if he did, Pepper knows he'd be in good hands.

Valley Children's has a long history of adopting the latest technology early. The nation's first open-heart surgery occurred in 1952, the same year Valley Children's opened and eventually became the Valley's then sole provider of pediatric and adult heart surgical care.

Among other achievements, Valley Children's received international recognition for performing a mitral valve replacement on the youngest known survivor in the world in 1968, and did the region's first heart valve replacements without open-heart surgery in 2013. "I'm blessed to be part of such a treasured legacy," Pepper, a Bullard High School graduate from Fresno, said.



John Pepper



John Pepper (center) was about the age of his grandson, Kade Flanagan (right), when he underwent a significant heart procedure at Valley Children's.

Christine Banda

Seventeen years ago, Christine Banda was a frightened teenager with severe scoliosis.

She came to Valley Children's for surgery to improve her spinal curvature, and the caring atmosphere created lasting memories and a dream for her future.

Someday, she wanted to work for the health network where she found healing and humanity. Three years ago, she started at the Madera campus as a clinical research coordinator. Banda is currently assisting on an innovative research study focused on a new instrument that may help reduce bleeding during orthopaedic surgeries like the one she had.

We have partnered in this study with four other children's hospitals in the United States. Dr. Michael Elliott, pediatric orthopaedic surgeon, heads the effort at the Madera campus. "Our research will enhance surgical outcomes for children across the nation, and it reflects our dedication to actively pursuing the highest standard of care," Dr. Elliott said.

Banda uses her past experience to comfort scoliosis patients and their families about futures that seem scary. Many parents don't know anyone who's had the surgery, and the unknown can create anxiety. "They see me, and they're full of relief," Banda said. "They say, 'She looks completely normal, and she's here today. Maybe we shouldn't be so afraid.'"

Other details of her life provide additional comfort. The 32-year-old is married with two children. "I don't go skydiving, but I pretty much live a normal life," she said.

When Banda had her surgery, she had high praise for her caring doctors, and especially for her nurses. "They were awesome! The way they treated my family was so positive. My mom still talks about the nurses."



Christine Banda shown here shortly before her orthopaedic surgery as a teenager (left), recently reviews a patient's X-ray with Dr. Joseph Gerardi, medical director, pediatric orthopaedic surgery (right), at Valley Children's.

Shelley Krikorian

Shelley Krikorian was 11 years old when she started to experience double vision and lose an alarming amount of weight.

Just after Christmas 1991, she was diagnosed with leukemia and began months of treatment at Valley Children's. Krikorian underwent chemotherapy and radiation, and has been cancer-free for 25 years.

"Having leukemia and having cancer – it was the worst and the best experience of my life," Krikorian, now 35, said. "It was awful for me and my parents, but it molded me into the person I am."

Today, Krikorian is healthy, married and the mother of two boys. She's also a nurse and professional baker – careers inspired partly by her childhood battle.

While undergoing cancer treatment, Krikorian often was cooped up at home. She baked to pass the time but made the choice to pursue nursing in college. Over the years, she has worked at several hospitals, including Valley Children's.

Yet she never lost her passion for baking. Krikorian now splits her time between Saint Agnes Medical Center, where she is a per diem nurse, and her bakery in Clovis. Sweet Izzy's Cupcakes and Confections is named for her late maternal grandmother and fellow baker.

Krikorian is grateful to Valley Children's for the treatment and support that ensured her future. "I received great care," she said. "I couldn't have asked for better oncologists."

Dr. Vonda Crouse, who established the first pediatric oncology program in the Central Valley, was one of Krikorian's oncologists at Valley Children's.

"We've made great strides in treating and curing childhood cancers over the past few decades," Dr. Crouse said. "Now, the vast majority of our patients are just like Shelley – survivors."



Shelley Krikorian reminisces with Dr. Vonda Crouse, a Valley Children's pediatric hematologist/oncologist, at Krikorian's bakery, Sweet Izzy's Cupcakes & Confections.



Shelley Krikorian

Benefiting the Region

Helping Children Hear

We helped close the gap for children with hearing problems created when a state funding controversy left many with nowhere to get hearing aids.

In 2015, our new Hearing Aid Dispensing Program provided 222 hearing devices, sold about 17,000 batteries and repaired 136 devices – helping nearly 300 children. “This is part of Valley Children’s philosophy of serving every child regardless of ability to pay,” Dan Duran, PhD, hearing aid program coordinator, said.



Down Syndrome Services

Valley Children's launched a major initiative in 2015 to partner with community physicians and parents to provide the best medical care for children with Down syndrome, a genetic disorder.

Dr. Carmela Sosa, a pediatrician at our Charlie Mitchell Children's Center, developed treatment guides to help primary care doctors and families. We also shared information with nearly 200 doctors and other medical professionals at symposiums we sponsored, and we established a resource telephone line to answer questions.



Combatting Obesity

Nearly half the youngsters in Valley Children's 11-county service area are overweight or obese. It's a significant health issue, and this year we continued our alliance with school districts, county health departments and other community partners in search of solutions.

"As the only healthcare network in Central California dedicated to children, we're committed to helping families because excess childhood weight causes illness, angst and suffering," Tim Curley, our director of community and government relations, said.



In the Spotlight

Our Superheroes

Superheroes really do exist.

Captain America with his signature shield, Darth Vader and Princess Leia from Star Wars, and popular Transformers characters took time out of their busy schedules to bring smiles and hope to our young patients at Valley Children's Hospital.

But the costumed adventurers weren't the only "action" figures to share their talents in support of our ill and injured kids. U.S. Navy pilots and crew members from Naval Air Station Lemoore who fly F/A-18 Super Hornets, and Quincy Pondexter, professional basketball star, shared laughs and stories with patients, families and staff.

Professional quarterback Derek Carr and his brother and national sports commentator David Carr, of Bakersfield, generously volunteered their time to participate in TV and radio public service announcements to raise awareness about Valley Children's. Derek and his wife, Heather, are grateful to Valley Children's for saving their newborn son's life. "It's my hospital. It's your hospital," Derek emphasized to Valley residents.

"Grammy," also known as Cindee Espalin, has expanded a family tradition of crocheting baby blankets for all newborn patients who come through our doors at San Dimas Pediatrics in Bakersfield. "Every newborn gets a handmade blanket at their first visit," Grammy's daughter, Dr. Suzanne Espalin Pardo, said. "It's that extra step that makes everyone feel like family."

Former San Francisco Giants star J.T. Snow supported Valley Children's at the 10th Annual Modesto Business Expo, making more North Valley families aware of the high-quality pediatric care at our specialty care center in their hometown and at our Hospital in Madera.

The Fresno Grizzlies, the Triple-A affiliate of the Houston Astros, brightened the spirits of Jackson Standifer, one of our former patients and a Grizzlies fan, by offering him a contract to join the team during Good Karma Night at Chukchansi Park, with half of all ticket sales benefiting Valley Children's.

And when Parker, the Grizzlies mascot, needed specialized medical attention, he turned to Valley Children's, of course! Dr. Michael Allshouse, medical director of pediatric surgery and of Central California's only designated Level II Pediatric Trauma Center, was happy to help.

Valley Children's patients with cancer, their families and staff demonstrated the ultimate tribute to our bravest superheroes of all – our patients – when they recorded their own inspirational version of the popular "Fight Song" by Rachel Platten.





Financial Highlights

Consolidated Operating Revenues and Expenses

	FY 2015	FY 2014
Net Patient Services Revenue*	\$606,513,180	\$468,045,604
Other Operating Revenue	26,676,916	21,331,670
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Operating Revenues	633,190,096	489,377,274
Salaries and Benefits	305,670,486	294,809,633
Services, Supplies and Other*	203,787,985	130,880,074
Depreciation	26,003,539	24,227,752
Interest	7,292,779	8,030,433
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Operating Expenses	542,754,789	457,947,892
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Available to Reinvest in the Mission*	\$90,435,307	\$31,429,382

* Includes provider fee revenue and expense, which currently is a temporary program.



Consolidated Condensed Balance Sheet

	FY 2015	FY 2014
Assets		
Cash & Equivalents	\$12,167,027	\$12,965,725
Patient Accounts Receivable, Net of Allowances for Uncollectible Amounts	67,388,372	64,300,483
Board Designated Investments, Current Portion	6,029,294	5,405,000
Other Current Assets	83,623,956	50,375,750
Current Assets	169,208,649	133,046,958
Board Designated Investments, Net of Current Portion	670,506,561	652,898,885
Bond Trustee Assets	15,225,387	14,972,554
Property and Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	252,516,805	253,682,336
Other Long-Term Assets	17,209,209	16,813,399
Total Assets	\$1,124,666,611	\$1,071,414,132
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$72,566,588	\$64,480,993
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	5,745,000	5,405,000
Current Liabilities	78,311,588	69,885,993
Long-Term Debt	123,295,378	140,603,626
Other Long-Term Liabilities	85,876,241	66,651,596
Total Liabilities	287,483,207	277,141,215
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	799,054,196	773,118,994
Temporarily Restricted	21,802,163	7,252,148
Permanently Restricted	16,327,045	13,901,775
Total Net Assets	837,183,404	794,272,917
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,124,666,611	\$1,071,414,132

Making a Lasting Difference

Shadowing Program Offers Unique Experience

On a given day each month, members of Valley Children's 14 Guilds share in the joy, compassion and medical wonders that define the region's top pediatric hospital.

A special "shadowing" program provides members with a unique insider's experience of areas supported in the Guilds' \$4 million endowments goal. Members follow in the footsteps of children and their families. They watch procedures in The Willson Heart Center, observe Child Life specialists educate and encourage through play, and walk with chaplains who provide comfort through the Spiritual Care Services team.

"The shadowings have been a life-changing experience for many of our members," Guild Manager Teresa Fierro said. "Seeing the miracles firsthand is such an impactful experience."

Since 2014, more than 60 Guild members have participated in the shadowing experience – some more than once. Another 45 are expected to participate in 2016.

The program began shortly before the all-volunteer membership voted on a new funding goal: \$1 million endowments each to the Child Life Program and Spiritual Care Services, and \$2 million to The Willson Heart Center.

Members spend about an hour in each area, and these often-emotional experiences give them even more insight into those critical functions and needs.

The \$4 million in endowments will contribute to continued growth, success and technological innovations like the Melody valve, a minimally invasive heart valve replacement procedure that can help some children avoid open-heart surgery. The Guilds have already raised \$1 million in a single year – a record start to meeting the Guilds' funding goals.

"I was committed before, but the shadowing experience has made this more personal and meaningful. It was such an eye-opener."

– Sharon Fisher, La Feliz Guild



Legacy of Healing

More than 20 years ago, a neighbor invited Noreen Wade to join one of the 14 Guilds that help support Valley Children's.

Wade became a member of La Comida – the Guild known for its annual holiday home tour. She has since devoted thousands of volunteer hours to Valley Children's, inspired greatly by a hospital tour and glimpse of the tiny neonatal intensive care unit babies.

"I was just stunned," Wade, the 2014-15 chair of the Guilds' coordinating council, said. "It hit my heart and I've been involved ever since."

Her latest goal is an effort to assure that Guild members know about planned giving and the Legacies of Healing Society, which celebrates donors who provide for Valley Children's in estate plans. Wade speaks often about planned giving and is working on enhancing the marketing and communication strategies of the program.

"I want the Guilds to become better informed and see how easy it can be to leave a legacy," she said. "It's a fulfilling experience."

Through planned giving, Valley Children's is remembered in an estate or will. The donor can be honored while living for leaving a legacy that will live on for generations.

The Legacies of Healing Society is an opportunity to celebrate the Guilds' important role as ambassadors in sharing planned giving opportunities. Since 1949, the Guilds and their 1,200 volunteer members have been Valley Children's largest financial contributors, raising more than \$27 million.

Wade and her husband, Leif, are providing for Valley Children's as part of their estate planning and are proud members of the Legacies of Healing Society. She remains committed to the mission and work of the Guilds.

"I love helping the hospital and the kids," Wade said. "It's all for the little ones."



Noreen Wade

Major Gifts

Parnagian Family Supporting Child Life Services

The Parnagian family extended their generous support of Valley Children's with \$1 million to establish the Sam and Gladys Parnagian Child Life Endowment and \$500,000 to assist other areas of need. To honor the owners of Fowler Packing Company, the playground at a future Fowler specialty care center will bear the Parnagian name.

"We are truly blessed to be able to support the vital mission of Valley Children's Healthcare," Dennis Parnagian, president of the company, said.

"Starting with my parents Sam and Gladys, each generation of the Parnagian family has been passionate about helping children. We are fortunate to have Valley Children's in our backyard and grateful that our gift can help assure the future of this tremendous community resource."

– Dennis Parnagian, President, Fowler Packing Company



Leaving a Legacy

Visalia philanthropist Leota Burton was known for volunteer work, charitable contributions and compassion toward children. She died at age 101, ensuring her legacy through a \$445,000 estate gift to Valley Children's.

"Living near a grade school, she often opened her front door just to listen to the sounds of children playing," friend and caregiver Linda Reese said. "She had a generous spirit, and her donation to Valley Children's reflects her priorities in life."

"Leota volunteered her time and also regularly contributed to many charities that benefit children. She saw a lot of underprivileged kids as a volunteer, and I believe there is a connection between that work and her generous donation to Valley Children's."

– Linda Reese, longtime friend and caregiver



Improving Access to Healthcare

A \$1 million gift from Bee Sweet Citrus furthers Valley Children's plans for an outpatient specialty care center in Fowler. This joint venture with Adventist Health/Central Valley Network will improve healthcare access for company employees and area families. The center's pediatric service area will be named for Bee Sweet Citrus.

"We are happy to support Valley Children's and look forward to welcoming our new neighbor," Jim Marderosian, president of Bee Sweet Citrus, said.

"Valley Children's new partnership with Adventist Health/Central Valley Network is a much-needed addition to Fowler's growing residential community. Not only will the new medical facility assist many of Bee Sweet's employees, it will also benefit numerous parents and children in and around the surrounding areas. We're thrilled to be a part of such an amazing project."

– Jim Marderosian, President, Bee Sweet Citrus



Annual Events

Harvest Ball

More than 900 guests attended the 19th Annual Harvest Ball and raised \$701,000 for Valley Children's. The event featured video profiles of families whose children – Hunter Jameson (non-Hodgkin's lymphoma), Davey Jean Prickett (congenital heart defects), and the Parmers (Peyton, born prematurely, and Jamie, leukemia) – received life-saving treatment at Valley Children's.



Kids Day

Neymar Mendez of Corcoran sparked as ambassador of Valley Children's 28th annual Kids Day. Neymar, who has Down syndrome, and his family relied on the Hospital's sophisticated medical team as he battled a congenital heart defect, cancer and other health issues. His courage helped inspire donations of \$547,000



President's Fund

New in 2015, the President's Fund gives donors the opportunity to make a broad impact on the care we provide to our patients and families. We thank all members for their annual philanthropic investments that benefit our greatest needs, inspire innovation, and help ensure that the families we serve have the resources they need.

"I am very thankful to President's Fund members whose donations have already allowed us to train five new child passenger safety technicians, inspect over 30 car seats for proper installation and provide many seats to families who didn't have the ability to purchase proper equipment for their children. There are many Central Valley families who are transporting their children much more safely thanks to the generosity of our President's Fund members"

– Kristina Pasma, Trauma Nurse Liaison



Children's Miracle Network Hospitals & Partners

A partnership with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMNH) generated \$1.75 million in support of Valley Children's. Our Hospital is one of 170 members in the U.S. and Canada that benefit from CMNH's relationships with corporations and organizations. Fundraising for hospitals like Valley Children's is one way that CMNH and its partners help save children's lives.



Donor List

Valley Children's gratefully recognizes new gifts, multiyear pledges and payments on past years' pledges during the 2015 calendar year. Cumulative giving totals are listed on our donor wall at the main hospital and our website at donate.valleychildrens.org/donorreport.

\$1 Million & Above

Bee Sweet Citrus
Children's Miracle Network Hospitals & Partners*
The Guilds of Valley Children's Hospital**
The Mitchell Family Foundation
The Parnagian Family

\$250,000 - \$999,999

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* Children's Miracle Network Hospitals & Partners include:

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** The Guilds of Valley Children's Hospital include:

Alegria Guild
Holiday Guild
Padrinos Guild
Kings Guild
La Comida Guild
La Feliz Guild
La Sierra Guild
La Tienda Guild
La Visionaria Guild
Las Madrinan Guild
Los Niños Guild
Los Rancheros Guild
Sequoia Guild
Tenaya Guild



We love supporting Valley Children's Hospital because of the loving, compassionate, knowledgeable group of people that takes care of your children like they would their own. Truly they are angels watching over your child.

Trisha Iest
Grateful parent

Donor List

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\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Table Mountain Rancheria



Hospitals are not for healthy patients. Valley Children's Hospital is an environment where voices are heard and where they care for patients, which become their family. They use the full extent of their knowledge, abilities and skills to heal this world that is hurting. Legacy Foundation is proud to partner with this team!

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Board Member and Grant Researcher, Legacy Foundation

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Paul McDougal
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“ As a business owner, there are so many opportunities to invest in our community. Along with my church, Valley Children’s is the pinnacle for me. Having the chance to ensure the best healthcare for the kids in our Valley is one of the biggest gifts.

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We invite you to participate in a rewarding endeavor by becoming a member of one of our Guilds. Each one takes a unique approach to fundraising, from events hosted to membership requirements.

Learn how you can become part of a valued tradition.

Contact the Guilds office at 559-353-7145 or guilds@valleychildrens.org.

How to Volunteer

Valley Children's values our volunteers, who range in age from 13 to 90+ and give their time on either an ongoing or short-term basis. Most volunteers interact directly with patients by playing games, reading books and assisting with arts and crafts at the bedside or in the Robert M. Shapazian Child Life Center.

Volunteers also deliver crafts, magazines and movies to patients, assist in the Gift Shop, and provide support for our various clinics, offices and information desks. Each year, approximately 500 volunteers help care for our patients, and you could be one of them.

Contact the volunteer office at 559-353-5222 or visit donate.valleychildrens.org/volunteers.

We value our donors and wish to recognize each one. While we make every effort to be as accurate as possible, we apologize if we overlooked any individual, company or organization or made any errors in reporting.

If you find an error, please do us the favor of letting us know by calling the Valley Children's Foundation at 559-353-7100.

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