



Valley  
Children's  
HEALTHCARE



# ANNUAL REPORT AND PLAN

for Community Benefit Fiscal Year 2022

(October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022)

**Submitted to:**

California Department of Health Care Access and Information Healthcare Information Division  
Accounting and Reporting Systems Section - Sacramento, California



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## I. INTRODUCTION

More than 70 years ago, our five founding mothers had a dream to build a hospital in the Central Valley just for children. Valley Children's Healthcare (Valley Children's) has grown and flourished ever since, caring for generations of children since 1952.

### Our Mission

The mission of Valley Children's is to provide high-quality, comprehensive healthcare services to children, regardless of their ability to pay, and to continuously improve the health and well-being of children.

### Our Vision

Our vision is to provide the nation's best healthcare for kids and to become the nation's best children's hospital.

### Our Values

The following values guide every decision and define our commitment and the action supporting it.

**Excellence:** We are dedicated, disciplined and demonstrate high standards as we strive to be the best. We take ownership and empower ourselves to deliver an exceptional experience, every interaction, every time.

**Compassionate Care:** We are present in every interaction and respond to others with warmth and kindness.

**Integrity:** We are honest and ethical, demonstrate high standards of personal conduct, keep our word and take responsibility for our actions.

**Innovation:** We always look for ways to learn and make things better and are problem solvers.

**Collaboration:** We contribute to, support and respect decisions that are made by our teams and the organization. We build and promote positive working relationships and teamwork.

**Stewardship:** We are accountable for effectively managing our time and the organization's resources. We share resources to achieve the best outcome.

### Commitment to the Community

Valley Children's is Central California's only high-quality, comprehensive healthcare network dedicated to children, from before birth to young adulthood, as well as to high-risk pregnant women. It plays a vital role in meeting the healthcare needs of some of our region's sickest and most medically vulnerable residents.

Valley Children's network offers highly specialized medical and surgical services to care for children with conditions ranging from the common to the highly complex at its 358-bed stand-alone children's hospital that includes 28 regional neonatal intensive care unit beds. In addition, the Valley Children's network includes specialty care centers, pediatric primary care practices and women's health services.

- Valley Children's consistently ranks at the top of its peer group for quality patient outcomes as evidenced by the following:
  - Recognition by The Leapfrog Group as one of the nation's Top Children's Hospitals for excellence in patient safety and quality
  - Beacon Award for Excellence™ in critical care
  - U.S. News and World Report recognition in 2022-2023 as one of the nation's best children's hospitals in seven specialties including Neonatology, Pediatric Gastroenterology & Gastrointestinal Surgery, Pediatric Neurology & Neurosurgery, Pediatric Orthopedics, Pediatric Pulmonology & Lung Surgery and Pediatric Urology.

While providing exceptional healthcare is the single greatest contribution Valley Children’s makes to children and their families, Valley Children’s also recognizes that it is uniquely positioned to support the needs of children in other ways. To help advance its community-based work, Valley Children’s launched The Guilds Center for Community Health in November 2019. The Center is the first of its kind in the Central Valley to bridge the exceptional care kids receive within our network and the health impacts our children experience where they live, learn and play. Valley Children’s recognizes that the health of our children is impacted by social determinants such as the physical environment, health behaviors and economic status. According to research, of all the factors that influence our health, only 20% are linked to the clinical care we receive – and 80% are related to the social determinants of health. The Guilds Center for Community Health is an investment in that 80%.

This Community Benefit Report summarizes the contributions provided by Valley Children’s to its community for fiscal year 2022 (October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022).

## II. SERVICE AREA DEMOGRAPHICS AND PATIENT VOLUME

### Service Area Demographics

Valley Children’s service area extends from Sacramento County in the north to Kern County in the south and serves much of the Central Coast and eastern Sierra as well. The map below illustrates Valley Children’s service area, service locations and clinical partnerships.

For purposes of this Community Benefit Report, Valley Children’s service area is focused on the seven counties that collectively account for more than 90% of Valley Children’s inpatient and outpatient volume. Those counties are Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and Tulare. According to [www.kidsdata.org](http://www.kidsdata.org), more than one-quarter of children living in these seven counties live in poverty, approximately three-quarters are an ethnicity other than Caucasian and close to one in five speaks a language other than English at home.

### Valley Children’s Patient Volume

The table below lists Valley Children’s patient volumes in 2022.

| Valley Children’s Patient Volume in 2022   |         |
|--|---------|
| Inpatient Admissions   | 10,496  |
| Emergency Department Visits  | 86,895  |
| Hospital-Based Outpatient Specialty Care Center, Regional Specialty Care Center and Primary Care Center Visits | 279,027 |

Medi-Cal covered 73.8% of Valley Children’s total inpatient and outpatient visits in 2022.

### Valley Children’s Healthcare Network

-  Valley Children’s Hospital
  -  Valley Children’s Healthcare: Specialty Care Centers
  -  Valley Children’s Hospital: NICUs
  -  Valley Children’s Medical Group: Primary Care, OB/GYN
- PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER HOSPITALS
-  Hospitalists, Intensivists, and/or Neonatologists and Maternal Fetal Medicine
  -  Telemedicine
  -  Clinical Partnerships

Number in Shape Denotes Multiple Locations



\*ages 0-20

### III. ASSESSING COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

The community benefit activities summarized in this report are based on Valley Children’s Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) completed in 2019 and its Implementation Strategy for 2020 – 2022, which were presented to and approved by the Valley Children’s Healthcare Board of Trustees on September 19, 2019.

Valley Children’s completed an updated CHNA in 2022 and Implementation Strategy for 2023 – 2025. To see the 2019 and 2022 CHNAs and the associated Implementation Strategies, visit [www.valleychildrens.org/about-us/community-benefit](http://www.valleychildrens.org/about-us/community-benefit).

Valley Children’s 2019 CHNA was based on a joint needs assessment for Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties and separate needs assessments for Kern, Merced and Stanislaus counties. For Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties, Valley Children’s partnered with 14 hospitals to assess health needs for children and adults. The CHNA was coordinated by the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California and included a review of secondary data as well as significant community engagement of key stakeholders through surveys, focus groups and interviews.

To assess the needs of children and families in Kern, Merced and Stanislaus counties, Valley Children’s reviewed secondary data sources and worked with community partners to conduct one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders and focus groups with organizations representing low income, underserved communities.

Additionally, Valley Children’s staff engaged regularly with community-based organizations and participated in initiatives that kept us close to the issues impacting the health and well-being of children in the region. See pages 20 - 23 for a partial list of organizations and initiatives in which we were involved in 2022.



## IV. ADDRESSING HEALTH PRIORITIES IN 2022

From high rates of obesity and child abuse to poor access to primary healthcare, children and their families throughout the seven-county service area face many challenges to living healthy and productive lives. The implications of these challenges are significant. For children and their families, it means high rates of chronic illness, frequent visits to hospital emergency rooms, missed days at school and missed days at work for parents or caregivers. For healthcare providers, it means carefully considering the many needs that exist and determining which needs are the most critical and which needs they are best equipped to address.

In 2022, Valley Children's engaged in activities and programs that addressed the priority health needs identified in the 2020-2022 Implementation Strategy. Valley Children's committed to community benefit efforts that addressed: access to care, basic needs, chronic disease prevention, infant health, mental health, and violence and injury prevention. Selected activities and programs that highlight Valley Children's commitment to the community are summarized below.

### Access to Care

#### Access to Primary and Preventive Care for At-Risk Children

Pediatric physician residents participating in Valley Children's Pediatric Residency Program provided primary and preventive healthcare services to at-risk children in Fresno County as part of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools' Mobile Health Unit (MHU). Designed to help ensure that children are healthy and ready to learn, the MHU visited 38 different schools in 2022, including many located in rural and low-income communities. As a part of those visits, 1,001 childhood vaccinations were administered and 315 sports physicals were performed.

#### Enrollment in Health Insurance

Valley Children's identified and provided enrollment assistance to uninsured and under-insured patients who qualified for Medi-Cal, California Children's Services Program or Valley Children's Financial Assistance Program. Once eligibility was determined, Valley Children's staff assisted the families with completing necessary applications and submitting them to the appropriate agencies.

#### Transportation

Given the Central Valley's largely rural landscape and high concentration of poverty, transportation has long been a challenge for many families. Valley Children's continued to work with the community to improve public transportation and access to care. Valley Children's Social Work Department assisted families with transportation by providing gas cards, taxi vouchers, Amtrak tickets and bus tokens. Valley Children's also subsidized bus and other public transit services from the City of Fresno and Kings County.

#### Expanded Access to Pediatric Primary and Specialty Care

Valley Children's made cash contributions for the purchase of capital-related items to be used to increase access to healthcare services for children throughout the region.

### Basic Needs

#### Adaptive Sports Program

Valley Children's Adaptive Sports Program provided free recreational and athletic experiences for children, adolescents and young adults with disabilities, regardless of whether they have been or are currently patients at Valley Children's. The program, the only one of its kind in Central California, is designed for individuals with physical impairments and conditions ranging from cerebral palsy, spinal cord injuries and amputations. Disabled youth, up to age 21, were especially encouraged to attend. In 2022, approximately 120 children participated in a variety of activities including canoeing, kayaking and rock climbing.

## Food for Families

Valley Children's dietary department provided meal coupons to breastfeeding moms whose infants were at Valley Children's. Additionally, through a program called Meals of the Heart, which is sponsored by Ronald McDonald Charities of Central California, Valley Children's social work team provided patients' families who were not prepared for a long stay at the hospital with meal coupons when they arrived. The social work team also worked closely with the California Children's Services program to provide food for eligible families.

## Food Security - Central California Food Bank Partnership

In March 2022, Valley Children's entered into a three-year partnership with the Central California Food Bank to support access to healthy and nutritious food for children and families across our service area.

Through the partnership, Valley Children's has committed funding over three years that supports the following interventions: a) Food distributions to up to 70 families with children being served by Valley Children's Home Care. Qualifying families receive one food box per month; b) Food distributions to up to 100 families each year through a food pantry at West Fresno Elementary School; and c) Support for the First Fruits Market at City Center in Fresno that will be available to low-income families with children to access nutritious food, free of charge, in a setting much like any neighborhood grocery store.

## Help Me Grow

Help Me Grow is a system used throughout the United States to help children reach their optimal development by kindergarten. Help Me Grow programs include a centralized intake and referral process, community outreach to promote early intervention systems, targeted outreach to child care and child health providers, and the collection and analysis of data to improve the system.

In 2022, Valley Children's and its primary care practices in Kern County and separately in Merced County partnered with stakeholders in both counties to implement Help Me Grow programs. Valley Children's has been an active participant in Fresno County's Help Me Grow program for a number of years.

Also in 2022, Valley Children's convened stakeholders from across its service area to explore opportunities to collaborate regionally on some of the Help Me Grow processes.

## Chronic Disease Prevention

### Schools for Healthy Thriving Students

In January 2022, Valley Children's Guilds Center for Community Health, in partnership with the Center for Wellness and Nutrition, launched Schools for Healthy Thriving Students Phase 2. This is a two-year initiative that aims to engage superintendents, board members and wellness champions from school districts in Fresno County and Madera County to provide them with the knowledge, skills, technical assistance and resources needed to effectively develop and implement local school wellness policies. The U.S. Department of Agriculture requires that school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program develop a wellness policy.

Schools for Healthy Thriving Students focuses efforts on the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention's Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child framework (WSCC). The WSCC model is student-centered and emphasizes the role of the community in supporting the school, the connections between health and academic achievement and the importance of evidence-based school policies and practices.

A total of 17 school districts from Fresno County and Madera County are participating in this initiative, which is jointly funded by Valley Children's and No Kid Hungry. Specific goals of the initiative are to: a) increase knowledge of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child framework; b) increase the number of

school districts adopting Local School Wellness Policies that incorporate evidence-based practices; and c) institute a regular, ongoing process by which the participating districts monitor their performance, share practices and develop accountability for comprehensive and ongoing implementation of their wellness policies.

Valley Children's, along with Madera Unified School District (one of the districts participating in this initiative), and the Center for Wellness and Nutrition, were invited to present their findings at the Action for Healthy Kids National Conference in Chicago. The invitation to present at the conference speaks to the importance of this work and the positive contributions we are having on child health and wellness.

## Infant Health

### Clinical Partnership Program

Valley Children's Clinical Partnership program brings together institutions focused on enhancing neonatal and pediatric care, regardless of whether the ill or injured child becomes a Valley Children's patient. This effort helped prevent children from being transferred or referred unnecessarily to Valley Children's, and helped to quickly identify when a child needs advanced pediatric care. With improved communication and tools, the program decreased stress for patients and families and increased provider confidence in providing pediatric care, while enhancing performance at Valley Children's and the partnering provider.

The goals of our Clinical Partnership included:

- Improved quality and confidence in providing pediatric care
- More care delivered closer to home
- Enhanced, coordinated care
- Improved access to Valley Children's hospitalists, specialists, resources and nursing and ancillary clinical expertise

In 2022, Valley Children's supported 17 inpatient clinical partners and, as a part of that support, convened 16 training and education events that drew more than 600 attendees. The average investment of time for each partner facility was more than 300 hours annually.

### Safe Sleep for Infants

In 2022, Valley Children's continued to support the Central Valley Safe Sleep Coalition, which now includes more than 50 members in eight counties across the region: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo and Tulare. The Coalition, which is currently co-chaired by Valley Children's and First 5 Fresno, has a vision of zero infant deaths due to unsafe sleep. To accomplish this, the Coalition is working to ensure that every parent and caregiver of an infant has access to culturally appropriate risk-reduction education and resources on infant sleep.

## Mental Health

Mental health is one of the most pressing needs facing children in California. Children living in Valley Children's service area are particularly underserved due to the geography, provider shortages and limited community-based services. In 2022, Valley Children's demonstrated its commitment to meeting the mental health needs of children in a number of ways, including those listed below.



## Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Project

In September 2022, Valley Children's Olivewood Pediatrics in Merced was the recipient of an ACEs Aware PRACTICE Pathfinder grant, which will continue through November 2023. The goals of the grant are threefold: 1) Strengthen partnerships among healthcare providers, community-based organizations, and Medi-Cal managed care plans to screen and respond to ACEs; 2) Develop new, evidence-based services to prevent and treat toxic stress physiology and ACE-associated health conditions; and 3) Build a sustainable workforce that supports screening and prevention of ACEs.

Additionally, Valley Children's implemented universal ACEs screenings in all of its primary care practices in summer 2022.

## Behavioral Health School Liaison

Through funding from the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Valley Children's hired an on-site Behavioral Health School Liaison. The Liaison collaborated with area school districts to ensure that children presenting to our emergency department and inpatient units with mental health needs receive appropriate resources and support when they return to school. This is a voluntary program and Valley Children's is working to enhance communication and use of resources for children seen at Valley Children's and their re-entry to school.

## Community-Based Education and Outreach

Valley Children's providers offered teen suicide prevention education to students and staff at high schools in the area, including to school nurses through a partnership with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools. In addition, Valley Children's staff either led or participated in several community-based initiatives, including serving as members of the Fresno Suicide Prevention Collaborative and the Madera County Suicide Education and Awareness Collaborative, convening a community collaborative focused specifically on children's mental health, as well as chairing Community Conversations, a community-wide partnership addressing issues of mental health, homelessness and the impact on families.

Additionally, Valley Children's continued to support 360me, an initiative that is designed to provide families, schools and communities with tools and resources to make sure we are doing all that we can to safeguard our children's physical and mental health. 360me intentionally helps stakeholders recognize and understand the many connections between mental and physical wellness and to reduce the stigma society incorrectly associates with mental health.

## Universal Screening

In January 2022, Valley Children's initiated universal screening for suicide risk for every child, ages 12 and older, who was seen in our emergency department, day surgery or admitted to an inpatient unit. Any child who was determined to be at moderate or high for risk for suicide received an in-depth assessment by a Valley Children's social worker that included either the creation of a safety plan for home or transfer to an acute psychiatric facility for higher level of care.

## Regional Capacity

In September 2019, Valley Children's announced a partnership with Universal Health Services (UHS), one of the nation's largest and most respected providers of behavioral hospital and healthcare services. As part of the partnership, UHS will construct, own and operate an 81,600-square-foot, 128-bed behavioral health hospital for children and adults immediately adjacent to the Valley Children's campus in Madera. The facility will include a 24-bed inpatient unit for children and adolescents, ages 5 -17, representing a 49% increase in available beds for children from Kern to San Joaquin counties. The behavioral health hospital is expected to open by fall 2023.

## Violence and Injury Prevention

### Child Abuse Prevention

Valley Children's Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Center's mission is to provide comprehensive services to children, dependent adults and their families through a multidisciplinary, trauma-informed program, and to meet the physical and emotional needs of victims with abuse considerations.

The Center is recognized in Central California and around the state as a leader in advocacy, injury prevention and academic training. The Center prides itself on working collaboratively with prevention and intervention groups throughout the state to ensure they are addressing child maltreatment to the best of their ability. The Center is currently a member of the Child Advocacy Centers of California, Central California Coalition of Child Abuse Prevention Councils, and the Ray E. Helfer Society for child abuse pediatrics.

The Guilds Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Center includes the Child Advocacy Clinic, which operates five days a week and sees approximately 900 children each year. The Center's providers are available seven days a week, 24 hours a day, for emergency coverage. The Center includes an inpatient component that evaluates an additional 100 children annually in the pediatric emergency department, acute-care and pediatric intensive care units. In addition to the medical services offered, the Center has a team of social workers and a licensed mental health clinician that provides psycho-social assessment, linkages to community services and trauma therapy.

In 2022, the Center worked closely with law enforcement, Child Protective Services and district attorneys' offices in their investigative efforts of child maltreatment. Collaborative efforts included case consultation and monthly SCAN (Suspect Child Abuse and Neglect) meetings facilitated by our Child Advocacy Clinic in an effort to track, monitor and advocate for the health and safety of at-risk children throughout the Valley.

For prevention education, the Center continued to collaborate with internal and external partners to provide education to parents, caregivers, healthcare personnel, teachers and mandated reporters. These partners included Valley Children's Trauma Department's Injury Prevention Team and Emergency Department, Safe Kids Central California, Child Abuse Prevention Councils of California, Child Protective Services, District Attorney's Offices, local Law Enforcement Agencies, Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART), victim advocacy groups and county public health departments.

### Injury Prevention Program

Unintentional injury is the number one killer of children across the United States and around the world. Safe Kids Central California is one of 400 coalitions that are part of Safe Kids Worldwide, an extensive network of coalitions and partners in the United States and around the world to reduce injuries from motor vehicles, sports, drownings, falls, burns, poisonings and more. As the lead agency for Safe Kids Central California, Valley Children's is proud to be a leader in supporting pediatric injury prevention efforts throughout Central California and is committed to providing resources toward these efforts. Safe Kids Central California is a coalition of 30 agencies made up of healthcare, law enforcement, social services, education, media and other organizations that are dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children.

In 2022, Valley Children's Injury Prevention Program recorded 1,250 contacts with community members during 14 community-based teaching events on the following topics: ATV safety, car safety, car seat and child passenger safety, carbon monoxide poisoning prevention, concussions, fire prevention, gun storage safety, Halloween safety, home safety, lead prevention, overuse injuries, poison prevention, railroad safety, safe sleep, snake bites, teen driving, toy safety, vaping, vehicular heat stroke prevention and water safety.

In order to ensure that children were safe at home, Valley Children's distributed the following safety equipment to families in 2022:

- 461 bicycle helmets
- 100 gun safety locks
- 16 car seats

Additionally, Valley Children's hosted 25 social media live events with 20,234 contacts that focused on many of the injury prevention topics listed above.

### Disaster Preparedness

Valley Children's donated space to the California Department of Public Health to store pharmaceuticals to be used in regional disasters or medical emergencies.

### Poison Control

The Central California Poison Control Center is located on the Valley Children's campus and received a donation of office space in 2022 from Valley Children's. The Center answers calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and provides expert advice and information regarding exposure to potentially harmful substances.



## Valley Children's Response to COVID-19

Since the start of COVID-19, Valley Children's has recognized that it has a critical role to play in meeting the health needs of its patients and its workforce, and in helping the broader community meet the challenges created by the pandemic. While the need was not as great in 2022 due to the decline in the number of COVID-19 cases, Valley Children's provided the following support in 2022:

- **COVID-19 Test Sample Processing:** Valley Children's processed more than 5,000 COVID-19 testing samples for five different community-based providers, including hospitals and federally qualified health centers that lacked adequate laboratory capacity of their own.
- **Financial Support for Community-Based Organizations Serving Children and Families:** Valley Children's provided critical financial support to those organizations working to address a variety of needs and challenges that children and families were facing due to the pandemic, including inadequate access to healthy foods and an increase in child trauma.
- **Support for Schools and Families:** Valley Children's provided resources and education to schools and to parents to ensure that they could best meet the physical, social and emotional needs of children during this crisis. Support included the following:
  - Hosted five Facebook Live events in Spanish and English that addressed topics including COVID-19 and flu vaccines for infants and children and COVID-19 variants and vaccine boosters.
  - Maintained a webpage, in Spanish and English, with resources for schools, families and the community and a dedicated email address for school leaders to reach out to Valley Children's for information and guidance ([schoolhealth@valleychildrens.org](mailto:schoolhealth@valleychildrens.org)).
  - Participated in the California School Nurse Organization – Central Valley Section's quarterly meeting during which Valley Children's physicians provided important education on issues specific to recognizing and addressing the impact of COVID-19 on children.
  - Valley Children's Pediatric Residency Program organized a series of free COVID-19 vaccine clinics at Orosi High School from 2021-2022 to improve vaccine accessibility for the local community.
- **Support for other Key Stakeholders:** Valley Children's published its "State of Our Children" briefings regarding COVID-19 and its impact on children. These briefings were distributed to key decision makers across our region including elected officials, county public health directors, county superintendents of schools, school nurses and others.

## V. OTHER COMMUNITY BENEFIT SERVICES

Valley Children's provided community benefit services in addition to those programs focused on addressing the priority health needs.

### Health Professions Education

Valley Children's is committed to promoting an adequate supply of highly trained professionals to meet our region's demand for pediatric healthcare services. Activities supported by Valley Children's in 2022 included the following.

## Pediatric Physician Training

Valley Children's Pediatric Residency Program, affiliated with Stanford University School of Medicine, provides general and advanced clinical pediatric training in a fast-paced, tertiary care environment, with a focus on quality and patient safety, interprofessional education, and scholarship and community partnerships. The residents rotate through Valley Children's main teaching hospital – the 358-bed, state-of-the-art Valley Children's Hospital – and Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. They work closely with physicians, nurses, pharmacists, administrators and other healthcare professionals, including our partners in local hospitals and medical groups.

Physicians tend to practice where they learn. In June 2022, the program graduated its third class of 13 pediatricians, retaining 41% of the graduates within the Central Valley, physicians who are helping to bring healthcare closer to home for our community.

In 2022, Valley Children's provided training to 38 pediatric physician residents enrolled in Valley Children's Pediatric Residency Program, 222 outside physician residents from 18 other programs, and 70 medical students from 15 different medical schools. Residents received training in a number of different disciplines including general pediatrics, cardiology, emergency medicine, family medicine, pediatric surgery and orthopaedic surgery.

## Continuing Medical Education

In 2022, Valley Children's hosted 15 separate continuing medical education virtual sessions for community-based physicians with a combined attendance of more than 1,000 providers. Pediatric subspecialty physicians from Valley Children's served as featured faculty, providing community-based physicians with critical guidance on medical conditions in children including constipation, abdominal pain, concussions, COVID-19, hematuria and proteinuria, neurofibromatosis, obesity, pediatric hearing loss, epilepsy, precocious puberty, sleep disorders and spinal conditions.

Valley Children's Voice Podcast is a monthly podcast for community pediatricians that invites Valley Children's pediatric healthcare experts to discuss topics that affect children in Central California. Topics covered in 2022 included constipation, self-care during the holidays, adverse childhood experiences, avoidant restrictive food intake disorder, safe sleep, talking about mental health with children, somatic symptom disorder and women in healthcare leadership.

In support of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools' lecture series for school nurses, Valley Children's physician residents presented at three different seminars that addressed a variety of issues, including the toll of COVID-19 on children's mental health, diabetes care for school-aged children, asthma, allergies and anaphylaxis reactions in children. About 30 individuals attended each of the three seminars.

## Nursing and Other Health Professions Training

Valley Children's partnered with health professions education programs throughout the state and around the country to provide students with a variety of educational opportunities to observe or participate in the care of pediatric patients. In 2022, Valley Children's provided more than 33,000 hours of clinical instruction for 592 nursing students from nine different nursing programs. Valley Children's also hosted 239 non-nursing students, representing 14 different clinical disciplines, for more than 23,000 hours of clinical instruction.

## Pharmacist Training

Valley Children's supported a pharmacy residency program in 2022 that provided training to eight residents and two fellows.

## Research

Valley Children's research program consists of both national multi-center clinical trials and locally generated, physician-initiated research studies. Our focus is to participate in studies that are tailored to meet the varying needs of our patient population. More than 245 studies are available to children and their families. Studies include Phase II through Phase IV clinical research, as well as social and behavioral research.

Evaluation of healthcare disparities among children was a particular focus in 2022. Our faculty developed a resident curriculum to care for our LGBTQ pediatric population, and developed a study on perspectives on care and communication for limited-English proficient families.

Other areas of research in 2022 included the following:

- The use of daily meditation to help ease stress, compassion fatigue and burnout for our healthcare workers.
- The long-term impacts of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) and trauma from COVID-19 in children .
- The use of an early mobility intervention with children in the intensive care unit to see if it can decrease the amount of time on ventilators, to reduce delirium and increase functional status more quickly.
- The screening of students for mental health and overall awareness/confidence of school nurses in performing mental health assessments.
- Bedside staff knowledge and perceptions regarding implementing the American Academy of Pediatrics' Recommended Safe Sleep Practices in the Inpatient Setting.
- A new method for the rapid diagnosis of Valley fever.
- A public health surveillance project run by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor the health status and improve the care of children with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.

## Cash and In-Kind Contributions

### Cash Donations and Sponsorships

Valley Children's participated as a financial sponsor of community-based organizations whose purpose aligns closely with Valley Children's mission and community benefit priorities. Valley Children's directed much of its financial support to organizations providing services to children and families adversely impacted by the pandemic, including food banks, Catholic Charities, Court Appointed Special Advocate agencies, the Community Action Partnership of Madera County, the Marjaree Mason Center in Fresno, Garden Pathways in Bakersfield, the Center for Human Services in Stanislaus County and others.

### In-Kind Donations

Valley Children's provided in-kind support in 2022 including the following:

**Ronald McDonald House** - Valley Children's owns the land on which the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) of Central California is located and leases the land to the RMH for \$1 per year. The lease arrangement helps the RMH to offer services to families whose children are hospitalized or receiving treatment, including:

- 18 bedrooms with a private bathroom
- Three wings equipped with a laundry room, kitchen and dining area
- Fully stocked pantry and private refrigerators for each room
- Home-cooked meals
- Playroom for siblings
- Large communal living area with small reading room
- Outdoor dining and play area

**Leadership in Community Health** - The Valley Children's team is active throughout our service area, working to address a number of issues critical to child health and wellness. Members of the hospital's leadership team and clinical staff support many healthcare-related initiatives through an in-kind donation of time and resources, including the following:

***Child Maltreatment***

- Central California Coalition of Child Abuse Prevention Councils
- Children's Advocacy Centers of California
- County Child Abuse Prevention Councils, Fresno and Madera counties
- County Pediatric Death Review and Child Maltreatment Teams, Fresno, Kern, Kings Madera and Merced counties
- Fresno County Human Trafficking Task Force
- Growing Healthy Families – Madera County Child Abuse Prevention Workgroup
- Madera County Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Multi-Disciplinary Team
- Madera County Out of Home Youth Advisory Board
- Sexual Assault Response Teams, Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Merced counties
- Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Team, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, and Merced counties
- Tulare County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Review Team

***Childhood Obesity Prevention***

- Fresno County Food Security Network
- Live Well Madera County Obesity and Diabetes Workgroup

***Community Health Improvement***

- California School Nurse Organization – Central Valley Section
- Cradle to Career Fresno County
- Cradle to Career Kern County
- Cradle to Career Stanislaus County
- Fresno County Community Health Improvement Partnership
- Fresno Food Policy Council
- Fresno Unified School District School Health Advisory Committee
- Merced County Healthcare Consortium

***Developmental Disabilities***

- Bi-Annual Babies First Coordinating Council
- California Breastfeeding Coalition Communication Committee
- Fresno Babies First Breastfeeding Task Force
- Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Teen Parent Support Collaborative
- Help Me Grow, Fresno County
- Help Me Grow, Kern County
- Help Me Grow, Merced County
- Madera County Breast Feeding Coalition

- Madera County Office of Education Pregnant or Parenting Teen Youth Conference
- March of Dimes California Advocacy and Government Affairs Committee
- Preterm Birth Collective Impact Initiative, Fresno County
- Teen Parent Support Program, First 5 Fresno County
- Tulare and Kings Counties Breastfeeding Coalition

### ***Mental Health***

- California Children’s Hospital Association Behavioral Health Work Group
- Central California Perinatal Mental Health Collaborative
- Clovis Unified School District Comprehensive Wellness Committee
- Community Conversations on Mental Health, Fresno County
- Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
- Fresno County 5150 Task Force
- Fresno County Suicide Prevention Collaborative
- Fresno County Trauma and Resiliency Network
- Kings County ACEs Network of Care
- Madera County Department of Behavioral Health Cultural Competency Advisory Committee
- Madera County Suicide Prevention Collaborative
- Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, California
- Merced County Trauma and Resilience Network
- National Alliance on Mental Illness, Fresno County
- Resource Center for Survivors, Fresno County Rape Crisis Services
- Survivors of Suicide Loss, Fresno County
- Trauma Informed Kern County

### ***Unintentional Injury***

- California Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Project
- Central Valley Safe Sleep Coalition
- Children in Autonomous Vehicles Consortium
- Regional Safe Sleep Task Force
- Regional Trauma Audit Committee-Unintentional Injury Subcommittee
- Safe Kids California
- Safe Kids Central California
- Safe Kids Worldwide Network Advisory Council
- Safe Storage Coalition for Firearm Safety, Fresno County
- Water Safety Council of Fresno County



## **Other**

- ABC30 Fresno Community Advisory Committee
- California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee
- Fresno Coalition for Digital Inclusion
- Kings County Multi-Disciplinary Team
- Madera County Interagency Council for Children
- Mariposa County Interagency Team Member
- Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno, Health Ministry Office

## **Community Benefit Operations**

Reported costs included:

- Community benefit staff salary, benefits and expenses
- Administrative support for community benefit
- Community benefit consultants

## **Community Building Activities - Advocacy**

One of the ways we care for children is by advocating to help improve pediatric healthcare on a local, state and national level. Examples of our advocacy work include:

### **Child Development**

Fresno, Kern and Stanislaus counties have launched formal Cradle to Career initiatives for the purpose of convening public and private sector stakeholders to work together to improve outcomes for children in their communities, from pre-conception to college and/or vocational training. In 2022, Valley Children's participated in all three initiatives and has been a strong voice for the inclusion of outcomes and indicators focused on child health and wellness.

### **Maternal and Infant Health**

Valley Children's partnered with the March of Dimes to advocate for public policy positions that promote healthy pregnancies and healthy babies. Several major accomplishments in 2022 included funding to support continuous Medi-Cal coverage for children ages 0 – 5 and funding to support implementation of the California Omnibus Act enacted in 2021. The Omnibus Act increases training opportunities for nurse midwives, adds doula care as a covered benefit under Medi-Cal and strengthens California's Fetal and Infant Mortality Review process.

Also, Valley Children's Director of Community and Government Relations continued to chair the March of Dimes of California's Advocacy and Government Affairs Committee.

### **Unintentional Injury Prevention**

Valley Children's continued to advocate for policies that protect children from unintentional injury including working to oppose state legislation that would have allowed children to treat stops signs as yield signs while approaching an intersection on their bicycles.

## Community Building Activities - Workforce Development

Valley Children’s Pediatric Residency Program partnered with Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District to mentor and guide students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers. Program residents provided insight into the world of medicine, shared experiences and journeys, discussed required skills and education, and offered guidance on college preparation and applications. Activities with the school district have included college and career fairs, mock interview practice and other mentorship events. The partnership aims to inspire and support young students in the community and help to build a strong foundation for the future of healthcare.

## VI. FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Valley Children’s financial summary of community benefit for FY22 (October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022) is summarized in the table below. Valley Children’s provides financial assistance and community benefit services, programs and activities that serve children and their families. The costs of providing these services are not fully reimbursed. Valley Children’s community benefit costs comply with Internal Revenue Service instructions for Form 990 Schedule H.

| Community Benefit Categories   | Net Benefit         |
|--|---------------------|
| Charity care <sup>1</sup>  | \$181,952           |
| Unpaid costs of Medi-Cal <sup>2</sup>  | --                  |
| Education and research <sup>3</sup>  | \$11,237,390        |
| Other for the broader community <sup>4</sup>                                 | \$5,445,903         |
| <b>Total quantifiable community benefit prior to unpaid cost of Medicare</b> | <b>\$16,865,245</b> |
| Unpaid costs of Medicare   | \$83,381            |
| <b>Total quantifiable community benefit</b>                                  | <b>\$16,948,626</b> |

<sup>1</sup>Charity Care - In keeping with its Mission, Valley Children’s continues to accept all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. This amount represents costs associated with patients who meet certain criteria under the organization’s charity care policy without charge, or at amounts less than its established rates in relation to the cost of these services. Charity care includes indigent and free care, which is based on the patient’s inability to pay for services.

<sup>2</sup>Unpaid costs of Medi-Cal, net of disproportionate share funds received, were \$85,452,070 in fiscal year 2022. Valley Children’s recognized net revenue from the Hospital Quality Assurance Program in excess of the unpaid cost of Medi-Cal in fiscal year 2022 and therefore has reported \$0 unpaid costs of Medi-Cal.

<sup>3</sup>Costs related to the medical and health professions education programs and research that the hospital supports.

<sup>4</sup>Includes non-billed activities, such as health education, community health improvement, health support services, community benefit operations, cash and in-kind donations.

## VII. COMMUNITY BENEFIT PLAN FISCAL YEAR 2023

### Significant Needs the Hospital Intends to Address

The Guilds Center for Community Health created a framework that is organized around the social determinants of health. The 2022 CHNA served as a resource document for the review of health needs as it provided data on the scope and severity of issues and included community input on the health needs. The community prioritization of needs was also taken into consideration. Using the Guilds Center for Community Health framework as a guide, Valley Children's will address the following needs as detailed in the FY23-FY25 Implementation Strategy:

- Access to healthcare
- Chronic diseases
- Maternal and infant health
- Mental health
- Violence and injury prevention

| Center for Community Health Framework   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Social Determinants of Health   | CHNA Alignment                 |
| Economic stability<br>Education access and quality<br>Healthcare access and quality<br>Neighborhood and built environment<br>Social and community context | Access to healthcare           |
| Food security<br>Healthcare access and quality<br>Neighborhood and built environment<br>Social and community context                                      | Chronic diseases               |
| Education access and quality<br>Healthcare access and quality   | Maternal and infant health     |
| Healthcare access and quality<br>Social and community context   | Mental health                  |
| Neighborhood and built environment  | Violence and injury prevention |

## Access to Healthcare

**Goal:** Increase access to healthcare and preventive care services in the community.

### Strategies

1. Provide financial assistance through free and discounted care and government health programs for low-income patients, consistent with the hospital's financial assistance policy.
2. Provide transportation services to help children and their families access healthcare services, routine appointments and diagnostic tests.
3. Complete an assessment of digital health literacy and internet access in the San Joaquin Valley.
4. Provide primary and preventive healthcare services to at-risk children in Fresno County through the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools' Mobile Health Unit (MHU).
5. In partnership with the Center for Wellness and Nutrition, support the Schools for Healthy and Thriving Students: A Wellness Policy Consortium. Support school districts in the Central Valley of California to update, strengthen, and develop more comprehensive Local School Wellness Policies (LSWP).
6. Provide donations and in-kind support to nonprofit community organizations that address access to healthcare and preventive care services.

## Chronic Diseases

**Goal:** Reduce the impact of chronic diseases on the health and well-being of children.

### Strategies

1. Provide health education sessions and resources for children and their families/caregivers experiencing asthma, diabetes and obesity.
2. Promote healthy eating and healthy snacks.
3. Screen children/families for food insecurity. Distribute food through primary care clinics and in the community.
4. Install clean drinking water stations at schools.
5. Explore installation of playground equipment to increase outside activity among school-age children.
6. Provide donations and in-kind support to nonprofit community organizations dedicated to addressing chronic diseases and obesity, nutrition and physical activity.

## Maternal and Infant Health

**Goals:** Improve the health of new mothers and their babies through preventive and postpartum practices and improve birth outcomes.

### Strategies

1. Participate in a Safe Sleep coalition to reduce number of infant deaths from unsafe sleep. Secure certification as a safe sleep hospital.
2. Through Help Me Grow, promote developmental and social-emotional screening for children between birth and age 5.
3. Provide donations and in-kind support to nonprofit community organizations that address maternal and infant health.

## Mental Health

**Goal:** Improve the mental health of children and their families.

### Strategies

1. Participate in community initiatives to reduce the incidence of suicide.
2. Facilitate a community-wide partnership addressing issues of mental health, homelessness and their impact on families.
3. Conduct screening for ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) in primary care settings. Strengthen partnerships among clinics, community-based organizations and Medi-Cal managed care plans to identify and fill gaps in services needed to respond effectively to ACEs and toxic stress in the community.
4. Provide education and outreach messages focused on mental health issues. Provide information on available community resources to provide mental health services.
5. Through 360me, provide families, schools and communities with tools and resources to safeguard children's physical and mental health. Help stakeholders recognize and understand the many connections between mental and physical wellness and reduce the stigma society incorrectly associates with mental health.
6. Provide donations and in-kind support to nonprofit community organizations that address access to mental healthcare and supportive services.

## Violence and Injury Prevention

**Goal:** Improve the health of children through violence and injury prevention.

### Strategies

1. As part of the Safe Kids Coalition, implement evidence-based programs, such as car-seat checkups, safety workshops and sports clinics, that help parents and caregivers prevent childhood injuries.
2. Provide education and outreach messages to focus on safety and injury prevention.
3. Valley Children's Guilds Center for Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment will work with law enforcement, Child Protective Services and district attorneys' offices in their investigative efforts of child maltreatment and will collaborate on case consultations and monthly SCAN (Suspect Child Abuse and Neglect) meetings facilitated by the Child Advocacy Clinic in an effort to track, monitor and advocate for the health and safety of at-risk children throughout the Central Valley.
4. Provide donations and in-kind support to nonprofit community organizations dedicated to addressing violence and injury prevention.

## Evaluation of Impact

Valley Children's will monitor and evaluate the programs and activities outlined above. The hospital has a system that tracks the implementation of the strategies. The reporting process includes the collection and documentation of tracking measures, such as the number of people reached/served and collaborative efforts to address health needs. An evaluation of the impact of the hospital's actions to address these significant health needs will be reported in the next scheduled Community Health Needs Assessment.

## Fostering Community Partnerships

Valley Children's is committed to fostering partnerships with community-based organizations, community clinics, government agencies, schools and school districts, the faith community, public health and public safety agencies. The organization's community benefit plan includes maintaining current partnerships and exploring opportunities to engage with new partners.

## Significant Needs the Hospital Does Not Intend to Address

Knowing that there are not sufficient resources to address all the community health needs, Valley Children's chooses to concentrate on those health needs that can most effectively be addressed given the organization's areas of focus and expertise. Valley Children's will not directly address the remaining health needs identified in the CHNA, including economic insecurity, housing and homelessness, and substance use. It is important to note that this plan is not exhaustive of everything Valley Children's does to enhance the health of the communities we serve. Valley Children's will continue to look for opportunities to address community needs where it can appropriately contribute to addressing those needs, either directly or in collaboration with others.



## VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION

### Address

Valley Children's Hospital  
9300 Valley Children's Place  
Madera, CA 93636

### Web Address

[valleychildrens.org](http://valleychildrens.org)

### Community Benefit Contact

Tim Curley, Director  
Community and Government Relations  
559-353-8610  
[tcurley@valleychildrens.org](mailto:tcurley@valleychildrens.org)



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Children's**  
HEALTHCARE