



Valley Hospital Foundation Newsletter

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The Valley Hospital in Paramus Construction Update



Letter From the Chief Development Officer

David J. Bohan



Recently, it has been hard not to feel a sneaking sense of déjà vu. As the Omicron variant bore down on the country this winter, we once again experienced COVID-19 infections on the rise, virtual school, and a holiday season that, for many, felt different. At the time of this writing, data shows a continuing lower transmission rate, and we are hopeful that this trend continues in the coming days and months.

Two years since the start of the pandemic, the fight continues against COVID-19, here at Valley and across the world. What was clear in March 2020, and remains true to this day, is the fact that our Valley doctors and staff are resilient. “They have shown an incredible strength in dealing with a very difficult situation to ensure that patient care is not impacted,” remarked Dr. Robert Brenner, President, Clinical Integration & Physician Enterprise for Valley Health System, in a January 5 interview with *The Record* newspaper. Like health systems everywhere, we are not immune to the pressures and challenges the virus continues to present. We are grateful for the work that is ongoing at the hospital, and know it’s in these difficult moments that we are truly seeing the best of Valley.

At the Foundation, I am proud of the many achievements that have been accomplished under these unique circumstances. This January, working in partnership with Valley’s executive staff, we handed out more than 10,500 prepared meals to Valley employees to show our appreciation and gratitude for their tireless work. And we recently closed our 2021 books having raised \$15 million in philanthropic support, over \$600,000 more than the 2020 total. I commend our gift officers for their hard work, and you, our faithful donors, for your continued support. I know we all look forward to being able to meet in person soon.

At The Valley Hospital in Paramus, glass installation is being finalized on the building’s exterior, while inside, our team moves forward with the mechanical fit-out. Planning sessions with commercial real estate services company CBRE have begun, marking a major milestone in the development of the new hospital. The company’s Valley-dedicated team, which includes experienced healthcare operators and clinicians, will be working collaboratively with us to ensure a smooth transition from the current hospital to our new home in Paramus. CBRE’s overall facility activation process roadmap will include operational planning, facility activation readiness assessments, move planning and implementation, and facility readiness.

As we move into spring, a time of rebirth and renewal, I am excited to announce the launch of the Foundation’s new website! You can still find us at www.ValleyHospitalFoundation.org, but with a bold and fresh look. There you can find donor impact stories, campaign updates, information on the giving opportunities across the health system, and more. We look forward to having you join us in our own corner of the internet.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature of David J. Bohan in black ink.

David J. Bohan
Vice President
& Chief Development Officer

P.S. Please contact us if you are interested in taking a virtual tour of Valley’s new state-of-the-art hospital in Paramus. Call (201) 291-6300 or email VHF@ValleyHospitalFoundation.org

Aaron and Rachel Meyer Memorial Foundation Continues Leadership Support

Alissa Murphy remembers the first time she understood the transformative power of philanthropy. “When I was a kid, my parents made a donation that helped to save horses and move them upstate to an animal sanctuary,” she says. “From an early age, I saw the impact a charitable gift was able to have.” She learned firsthand from her family’s foundation, the Aaron and Rachel Meyer Memorial Foundation, which supported local and regional charities across New Jersey and New York. “The work of the foundation was always rooted in things that were meaningful to my family, like healthcare, education, and animal welfare,” Alissa continues. “I have so many beautiful memories of things we have been able to do.”

The Aaron and Rachel Meyer Memorial Foundation was established in 1964 by Philip Lowy, Alissa’s father, and named after his grandparents, who instilled in Philip the value of philanthropy. A lifetime resident of New Jersey, Philip was a successful entrepreneur who owned the Meyer Brothers Department Store in Paterson and the Wayne Hills Mall in Wayne before retiring in 1995. He was equally passionate about his role as director of the foundation, where he enjoyed working alongside his daughter Alissa and wife Janet to build personal relationships with different organizations in the area, including The Valley Hospital.

The family’s generous support of Valley dates back to the 1970s; in the years since, they have given more than \$2.5 million, marking leadership gifts for hospital campaigns, the NICU, and for a da Vinci surgical robot in the hospital’s gynecologic oncology program. For Alissa, their dedication to Valley stems from not only years of charitable giving but also an appreciation of the lifesaving care they’ve received themselves. “Everyone goes above and beyond. Plain and simple, Valley is near and dear to our hearts. We found our roots at Valley and know so many good people here. This is our hospital.”



Alissa Murphy and Janet Lowy

After Philip’s passing in 2016, Alissa stepped into the role of director of the Aaron and Rachel Meyer Memorial Foundation. Today, almost 60 years after the foundation’s establishment, she is proud to continue her father’s legacy and commitment to Valley. The foundation has designated their most recent \$750,000 gift for the Cardiac Catheterization Lab Operating Room at The Valley Hospital in Paramus. “I am inspired when I think of the patients we will be able to help with this lab. It was absolutely something we had to do for Valley,” Alissa says. As she reflects on her family’s long history with the hospital, she looks forward to having the Aaron and Rachel Meyer Memorial Foundation play a part in Valley’s next chapter. “There is so much to be excited about with the new hospital. It’s such a wonderful opportunity for Valley to grow.”



William and Hwain Lee

Gratitude Inspires Gift From Cardiologist Dr. William Lee

For more than 30 years, Valley's top-ranked heart doctors have provided the region with exceptional cardiovascular care. Pairing a personalized patient experience with physicians, nurses, and technicians who are at the top of their field and an alliance with Cleveland Clinic, Valley's cardiac program is an established leader whose award-winning care rivals larger metropolitan health systems.

However, things looked different in 1980 when Dr. William Lee arrived at The Valley Hospital to a unique situation: a cardiologist without a cardiac surgery program. "When I joined Valley, I was sending patients first to New York City, then to St. Joe's. But we didn't want to have to send out, we wanted to keep patients in-house," he explains. "Today it's easy to take these types of programs for granted, but back then, it was not guaranteed." Dr. Lee was integral to the launch of Valley's comprehensive cardiac program in 1989, becoming the first Director of Interventional Cardiology.

Today Dr. Lee continues to practice full-time, now joined by his son, John H. Lee, M.D., (a fourth-generation physician after his great grandfather, grandfather, and father), and partners David Montgomery, M.D. and Navin Budhwani, M.D. "Not many people get to have this experience, 40 years in one industry, and most of it at one institution," reflects Dr. Lee. "The Valley Hospital has provided me with an opportunity to provide cardiac care to the community. For this I am grateful."

It is this feeling of appreciation toward Valley that has inspired Dr. Lee and wife Hwain's almost 40 years of giving to the hospital. "I see it as part of my duty as medical staff. You have to participate as a physician to support the hospital." The couple are Legacy Society members, having included Valley in their estate plans through a bequest, and recently committed to a \$300,000 leadership gift in support of The Valley Hospital in Paramus, where they will name the Vascular Ultrasound Suite. For the Lees, it was an opportunity to express their gratitude. "We are so happy to do something for The Valley Hospital, to which I owe so much," Dr. Lee says. For a doctor whose past is firmly rooted at Valley, he looks forward to what the future in Paramus holds. "The timing for a new hospital is just right. In the next 10 to 20 years, major transformations are coming to healthcare. With the new hospital, we will be able to innovate and bring new technologies into cardiovascular care. It's going to be great."

Jeff Seidler Makes Generous Gift in Honor of Life-Saving Care From Valley Doctors

One afternoon in March 2021, Jeff Seidler began to experience chest pain. Then 37, the active father of two was in good health and had just run four miles the day before. However, life changed in an instant that evening for the Seidler family when Jeff suffered a massive heart attack. "I had a poor chance of survival," Jeff says. "My wife performed CPR, and the Glen Rock Police, EMTs, and paramedics were at my house within five minutes of the 911 call. Ten minutes after that, I was at Valley. I am incredibly grateful to all of these people who were integral in saving my life."

In the emergency surgery that followed, Jeff had two stents put into his heart. That surgery was followed by a medically induced therapeutic hypothermia. Reflecting on the challenges faced by his family during this time, Jeff is grateful for the support they received from Valley's doctors, nurses, and staff. "Even when my wife wasn't able to be there in person, she was constantly being updated by my clinicians and doctors. They would put things into layman's terms she could understand."

Two weeks after his arrival at Valley, Jeff finally came off a ventilator. "I remember looking around the room and there were pictures of my family. I was amazed how much the staff knew about me and about my family. There was a real familiarity, and it was a nice welcome back."

Jeff then turned his focus to his recovery. He first returned home needing assistance with day-to-day activities. After a few months of at-home physical therapy and cardiac rehabilitation, Jeff was able to run again. "I really feel like I have made strides, thanks to my doctors and my rehab team at Valley. I can swim with my daughter, go to the park with my son, go out with my wife. I feel like I am getting back to normal." Four months later, Jeff had an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) and pacemaker put into his chest. "With the ICD, I can live life without worrying about another cardiac arrest at home. It has been an incredible relief."



The Seidler Family

Now living in Glen Rock after having grown up in Oradell, Jeff has long held Valley in high regard. "It's a great feeling of safety knowing we have such skilled healthcare workers and doctors right in our backyard," he explains. "Valley has always been an important part of our community. But now, as a recovering trauma patient, my connection has become even more personal." Thankful for the lifesaving and continuous care provided by a team that included Drs. Navin Budhwani, David Montgomery, Kariann Abbate, and Tina Sichrovsky, Jeff and wife Samantha made a generous gift to Valley in support of the hospital's critical care units, cardiac research, and cardiac rehab. "It's been a long healthcare journey, and giving back has played a major role in my healing process," Jeff says. "These are some of the smartest, kindest, and most compassionate people I've had the privilege of meeting. Our gift recognizes the importance of their work and just how important they are to our family." A year since his heart attack, Jeff feels lucky as he looks ahead to the future. "I am incredibly grateful to be alive. Every day now is the best day of my life."



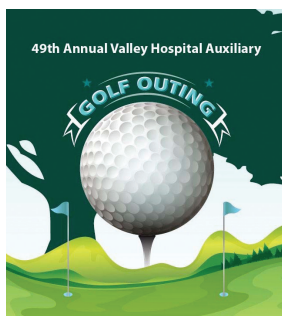
Vegas Night!

APRIL 27, 2022

The Valley Hospital Auxiliary is in full swing planning for their upcoming event, Vegas Night! on April 27, 2022, at the Indian Trail Club. This fun-filled evening will feature an open bar, great food, wonderful prizes, a silent auction, 50/50 prize raffle, and various games, including blackjack, roulette, craps, poker, Texas Hold'em, money wheel, and other surprises.

For more information on the event, please visit:

www.valleyhealth.com/services/auxiliary/vegas-night



49th Annual Golf Outing

JUNE 6, 2022

Please mark your calendar for the Auxiliary's 49th Annual Valley Hospital Auxiliary Golf Outing on June 6, 2022, at The Ridgewood Country Club. Enjoy a great day of golf on a championship course, a delicious lunch, and a spectacular cocktail hour and dinner. This event always sells out early, so be sure to reserve your spot no later than May 20, 2022!

For more information on the event, please visit:

www.valleyhealth.com/services/auxiliary/auxiliary-golf-outing

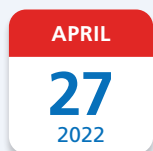
Please note: The Auxiliary is taking all necessary COVID-19 precautions and will require proof of vaccination, including booster, to attend all Auxiliary events.

All proceeds from Auxiliary events will support the Auxiliary's pledge of \$3.1 million to establish the Pediatric Section of the Emergency Department of The Valley Hospital in Paramus, and \$100,000 to fund an endowment for Valley Home Care's Butterflies—a pediatric in-home palliative and hospice care program for seriously ill children.

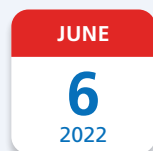
For more information, please visit: www.ValleyHealth.com/Auxiliary

SAVE THE DATE

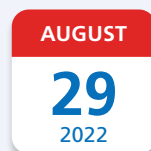
While we understand the current situation is ever-changing, we hope you will mark your calendars for the following:



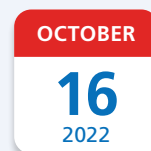
Vegas Night!
at the Indian Trail Club



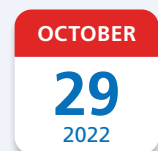
The Valley Hospital
Auxiliary Golf Outing
at The Ridgewood
Country Club



Second Annual
Sporting Clay Classic
at Hudson Farm Club



Roemer/VHA
Paramus Run



The Valley Ball
at The Plaza Hotel



The Valley Hospital Fertility Center has once again been named a **Nursing Center of Excellence by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine**. This designation, valid through 2024, recognizes Valley's Fertility Center nurses and nurse practitioners for completing advanced training in reproductive endocrinology – a commitment that underscores their continued dedication to clinical excellence and patient satisfaction.



The Valley Hospital has received the **Healthgrades America's 250 Best Hospitals Award for 2022** for the fourth consecutive year. The America's 250 Best Hospitals Award recognizes hospitals that meet rigorous criteria for superior clinical performance and outcomes. Valley placed in the top 5% of the nearly 4,500 hospitals assessed nationwide. Valley is also one of only five hospitals in New Jersey – and the only hospital in Bergen, Passaic, and Hudson counties – to be recognized with the 2022 America's 250 Best Hospitals Award. Valley has also been recognized with the **Healthgrades America's 100 Best Hospitals for Stroke Care, Gastrointestinal Surgery, and Gastrointestinal Care**, as well as **Excellence Awards for Neurosciences, Cranial Neurosurgery, Stroke Care, Gastrointestinal Care, and Gastrointestinal Surgery**.



For the fourth consecutive year, The Valley Hospital has been named among the **World's Best Hospitals by Newsweek**. Valley is listed among the top 2,200 hospitals across 27 countries, ranking 111th in the United States – and third-highest in New Jersey – for 2022. In addition, Valley was ranked among the **World's Best Hospitals for Infection Prevention**.



The Valley Hospital has earned **Exemplar recognition from Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE)**. This distinction – the highest available from NICHE – is given to healthcare organizations that implement successful, system-wide interventions and initiatives focusing on the care of older adults.



Audrey Meyers, President and CEO of Valley Health System, has been named to the NJBIZ 2022 Power 100 list for the fourth consecutive year. The annual list recognizes forward-thinking leaders in business, politics, healthcare, and more who are shaping New Jersey's future. Audrey was also named to the **NJBIZ 2022 Healthcare Power 50 list**, which recognizes leaders across the state who are impacting healthcare in a positive way. Audrey was honored for her many accomplishments as one of the longest-serving CEOs in the state. Among those accomplishments is Valley's new state-of-the-art healthcare destination in Paramus, which is slated to open next year.

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