

INSIDE VALLEY

THE VALLEY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



2025 ISSUE 2

2 LETTER FROM
DAVID BOHAN

3 MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN
VALLEY'S NEXT CHAPTER

5 IMPACT
STORIES

8 AWARDS &
ACCOLADES

9 THE VALLEY HOSPITAL
AUXILIARY

10 DONOR
RECOGNITION

Below: Robert Brenner, MD, President & CEO,
Valley Health System

Making a Difference in Valley's Next Chapter

Valley Health System is at the forefront of caring for the health and wellness needs of our community through all seasons of life.

The opening of The Valley Hospital on our Paramus campus marked a significant milestone in Valley's history and set our next chapter in motion. As the hospital moved from its long-time home in Ridgewood to its new home in Paramus, it did so with the support and commitment of so many who saw its value to our community and our region.

(Continued on Page 3)



LETTER FROM DAVID J. BOHAN

Vice President & Chief Philanthropy Officer

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Meeting Our Community's Healthcare Needs



The sun is shining, flowers are in bloom, and people are out and about enjoying the warm weather and spending time with family and friends. I hope your summer has been an enjoyable one so far.

At Valley Health System, we recently recognized the one-year anniversary of The Valley Hospital in our new home in Paramus. We celebrated the growth and successes of the past year, and together, we now look ahead and anticipate what is to come.

At the end of 2024, The Valley Hospital Foundation concluded the *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign — the largest and most successful campaign in our history — to support the development of the new hospital in Paramus, raising more than \$145 million! The campaign's success is a reflection of the generosity and support of our community and of donors like you. Thank you for making the health and well-being of our community a top priority.

Recently, we had the opportunity to celebrate our leadership donors at our annual Leadership Reception, which you will read more about in the following pages. You will also read about the generosity of The Valley Hospital Auxiliary, who recently fulfilled their \$3.1 million pledge to support the pediatric section of the emergency department at The Valley Hospital and the *Butterflies* program. The Auxiliary also made a new \$1.6 million commitment to support four important Valley programs. You will read about a national shortage of specialty-trained geriatric providers to meet the growing needs of our older patient population, and a generous gift from an anonymous donor to Valley's Geriatrics program to address the need here in our community. And lastly, you will read about ways that you can get involved in Valley's next chapter. I hope you'll consider joining us at an upcoming Valley event.

As we look ahead, we shift our focus from the development of our new hospital to the programs and services that our community members need to live long, healthy lives. The generosity of our donor community is as important as ever as we continue to meet the evolving healthcare needs of our community and we are honored to have you as partners in this journey.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Valley. I wish you and your family a happy and healthy rest of the summer.

Sincerely,



Vice President & Chief Philanthropy Officer
The Valley Hospital Foundation

“As we look ahead, we shift our focus from the development of our new hospital to the programs and services that our community members need to live long, healthy lives.”



Scan the QR code to make a gift to The Valley Hospital Foundation.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Making a Difference in Valley's Next Chapter

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

The Valley Hospital Foundation's *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign concluded at the end of 2024, raising more than \$145 million to support the new hospital. The support, advocacy, and generosity of our donor community enabled this incredible feat, and we are eternally grateful for your impact.

"The success of the *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign was confirmation that the collective efforts of many can make a tangible, lasting impact for all in our community," said David J. Bohan, Vice President and Chief Philanthropy Officer of The Valley Hospital Foundation. "We are honored by the trust our friends and neighbors place in us to care for them and their loved ones — a responsibility we do not take lightly."

Celebrating One Year in Paramus

Valley Health System honored the one-year anniversary of The Valley Hospital in its new home in Paramus on April 14, 2025 (see photos on this page). The celebration was attended by state and local elected officials and Valley leadership, and broadcast across



Congressman Josh Gottheimer



Paramus Mayor Chris DiPiazza



Valley so staff throughout the organization could enjoy the celebration.

In its first year, the new hospital has been transformative for our region, not just because of its new, state-of-the-art facilities but also thanks to the higher level of care that the new hospital and its innovative technologies enables.

In 2024, Valley's clinicians cared for more than 58,000 inpatients, treated more than 78,000 emergency department patients, and performed more than 11,500 surgeries. Clinical teams conducted 44,000 diagnostic procedures, ran 1.2 million lab tests, and welcomed nearly 4,000 new babies into the world.

These metrics, in most instances, represent a substantial increase in volume from our days in Ridgewood and are a testament to Valley's continued growth. Beyond the walls of the hospital, Valley expanded the reach of Valley Medical Group, welcoming nearly 100 professional clinicians in 2024.



Above from left to right: Bergen County Board of Commissioners: Chair Mary Amoroso, Commissioner Tom Sullivan, Commissioner Raphael Marte, Dr. Robert Brenner, County Executive Jim Tedesco, Commissioner Germaine Ortiz, and Deputy Administrator Anthony Iacono

At left: Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco

What's Next?

Now that the campaign has ended, we shift our focus from the beautiful new hospital to the offerings within it and adopt a programmatic focus moving forward.

In the coming months, Valley will continue to enhance and revitalize our Ridgewood campus, which is now a convenient outpatient destination for our community. We will also expand the footprint of Valley Medical Group, opening new specialty practices in the communities we serve. Our Graduate Medical Education program, which welcomed its second class of residents this summer and launched a new surgical residency program, will continue to grow to train the next generation of Valley physicians.

The generosity and support of our donor community is as important as ever, and we're grateful for your ongoing support in our next chapter. ■

The Valley Hospital Auxiliary Fulfills \$3.1 Million Pledge and Makes New Philanthropic Commitment



Standing left to right: Sandy Carapezza, Executive Director, Development, The Valley Hospital Foundation; Carol Gillespie, Co-Vice President, Ways & Means and Vice President, Community Relations, The Valley Hospital Auxiliary; David Bohan, Vice President & Chief Philanthropy Officer, The Valley Hospital Foundation; Elaine Heimberger, Co-Vice President, Ways & Means, The Valley Hospital Auxiliary; Robert Brenner, MD, President & CEO, Valley Health System; Donna Mainardi Singer, President, The Valley Hospital Auxiliary; and Bette Moore, Co-Treasurer, The Valley Hospital Auxiliary.

For more than 80 years, the Valley Hospital Auxiliary has supported Valley Health System's programs and services and made significant contributions to benefit people in the communities Valley serves.

This summer, the Auxiliary officially fulfilled its latest pledge, \$3 million to support the Pediatric section of the emergency department at The Valley Hospital, and \$100,000 to

“We were proud to make this significant gift, and our members are excited to continue to support Valley, which means so much to all of us.”

**— Donna Mainardi Singer
President, The Valley Hospital Auxiliary**

support *Butterflies*, Valley's pediatric palliative care and hospice program.

“The Valley Hospital Auxiliary and its dedicated members are committed to the health and well-being of our community, and we have been honored to support Valley since before the Ridgewood hospital was even built,” said Auxiliary President Donna Mainardi Singer. “We were proud to make this significant gift, and our members are excited to continue to support Valley, which means so much to all of us.”

And just as soon as the Auxiliary fulfilled its latest pledge, members set their sights on their next philanthropic endeavor: a \$1.6 million gift to make a difference for four unique Valley programs that impact the health and well-being of women and children in our community.

The Auxiliary's new pledge supports Valley-Mount Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Care's Boutique for Integrative Healing to

“With our next gift, the Auxiliary chose to support these four worthy Valley programs to benefit important initiatives that change lives for Valley patients, particularly women and children, and to make a difference in their care.”

provide funding for free or low-cost wigs, head coverings, mastectomy bras, and other products for patients, as well as funding to support the cost of transportation to and from appointments. It will also support the Cancer Center's Cold Cap Therapy program, which uses a leading-edge scalp cooling system to support hair loss prevention during chemotherapy treatments.

In addition, the Auxiliary's gift supports the Cardio-OB initiative to support women with pregnancy-induced hypertension, as well as a renewed commitment to the *Butterflies* program.

“With our next gift, the Auxiliary chose to support these four worthy Valley programs to benefit important initiatives that change lives for Valley patients, particularly women and children, and to make a difference in their care,” Donna said.

The Auxiliary's more than 550 members — organized into 13 branches — fundraise and volunteer their time throughout the hospital, raising awareness and support for the hospital's programs and services. The Auxiliary hosts many exciting fundraisers each year, including the Annual Golf Outing, the Annual Sporting Clays Classic, the Annual Valley Ball, and many more. (*Read more about upcoming Auxiliary events on page 9.*)

Since its inception in 1944, The Valley Hospital Auxiliary has raised over \$21 million to support Valley. The Auxiliary's decades-long support has been instrumental to Valley's growth, and we are thankful for their ongoing partnership and lasting impact in our next chapter. ■



Leadership Reception: Celebrating Our Lifetime Benefactors

Philanthropic support is a critical component of Valley Health System's ability to provide the highest level of leading-edge, compassionate care to our community when they need us most. The Foundation was honored to celebrate its leadership donors for their ongoing support at the Annual Leadership Reception held at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes in June.

The reception included the recognition of the Foundation's newest Lifetime Benefactors at their individual giving levels (as of December 31, 2024). We are grateful to our Lifetime Benefactors and to all our donors for their ongoing commitment to Valley and to the communities we serve.



Gold Level (\$1 million+)

Michael and Christina Hayes
The A.L. Levine Family Foundation,
Carole A. and Joel L. Steiger, Esq.
The George Link, Jr. Foundation, Inc.
Ronald and Suzanne Mannino
National Mah Jongg League

Silver Level (\$500,000+)

Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Doherty
Dr. Douglas Holden and
Dr. Jean S. Weng Holden

Nickel Level (\$250,000+)

Armistead Mechanical, Inc.
Barbara Bender and Arthur Forkos
Sunny D. Choi, MD and
Douglas Semonche
Cushman & Wakefield
Dr. and Mrs. Allen M. Demby
The Walter Henry Freygang
Foundation
Estate of Richard Kylo
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce J. Mactas

Bronze Level (\$100,000+)

The Annitti Family
Kartee and Meera Bhavsar
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jakob
Arthur A. Klein, MD
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Levitsky
Lisa Patti
Jeff and Samantha Seidler

Pictured with Dr. Robert Brenner, President & CEO, Valley Health System and David Bohan, Vice President and Chief Philanthropy Officer, The Valley Hospital Foundation:

- A. Ronald and Suzanne Mannino
- B. Kartee Bhavsar, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Valley Health System
- C. David Unger, on behalf of the National Mah Jongg League
- D. Samantha and Jeff Seidler
- E. Dr. Jean S. Weng Holden and Dr. Douglas Holden

Meeting the Needs of Our Elderly Community

The aging population of the United States is growing at an unprecedented pace, with a record number of Americans turning 65 this year. While the demand for specialty-trained providers in geriatric care is skyrocketing, a national shortage in clinicians trained in this important field leaves a critical gap in care for these patients.

“Our program responds to the tremendous need for specialized care for our elderly community and the effective management of elderly, frail patients in our region,” said Bennett Leifer, MD, Medical Director, Geriatric Services, Valley Medical Group, and a geriatrician on staff at Valley for more than 35 years. “Our program provides a patient-centered approach to caring for our elderly patients as individuals, rather than caring only for their diseases.”

The need for geriatric care is not determined by age alone, says Dr. Leifer, adding that for some patients in their 70s, 80s, and even 90s, treatment by a primary care physician may be sufficient. Valley’s services focus on the long-term care of patients who suffer from conditions such as dementia, neurodegenerative diseases, neurological and

“Our program provides a patient-centered approach to caring for our elderly patients as individuals, rather than caring only for their diseases.”

physical impairment, decline in functional capabilities, and inability to independently manage daily activities.

Thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor – a grateful patient who experienced and wanted to invest in the critical future of Valley’s geriatrics program – Valley is taking steps to address this unmet need. A \$250,000 endowment established in Dr. Leifer’s honor, as well as gifts of over \$350,000 to support the program, allow Valley to enhance its offerings and expand its team.

In addition to Dr. Leifer, the team includes fellowship-trained geriatricians Alicia Prowse, M.D and Kinga Kiszko, DO, and will welcome Maria Cantu-Cooper, MD in the fall. Philanthropy also supports advanced training



Bennett Leifer, MD, Medical Director, Geriatric Services, Valley Medical Group

for medical staff, as well as opportunities for residents in Valley’s Graduate Medical Education program. Residents currently have a selective rotation in Geriatric medicine, which is a requirement for the program’s accreditation. This generous gift will allow providers to attend national conferences and participate in opportunities focused on best practices in geriatric care.

“We are so grateful for our anonymous donor’s support, which allows us to provide the very best geriatric care, train the next generation of healthcare professionals, and ensure that the growing numbers of older Americans receive the care they need to live fulfilling lives.”

“Our goal is to be a program that can positively impact the health and well-being of older adults and promote successful aging in place. We want to help prevent avoidable, unnecessary hospitalizations, keep older folks living in the community setting, and prevent avoidable declines,” said Dr. Leifer. “We are so grateful for our anonymous donor’s support, which allows us to provide the very best geriatric care, train the next generation of healthcare professionals, and ensure that the growing numbers of older Americans receive the care they need to live fulfilling lives.” ■



IMPACT

Bentolila Family Gift Supports Kosher Pantry



(L to R): Mason Jenkins, Supervisor, Spiritual Care, Valley Health System; Eric Bentolila, MD, Obstetrician and Gynecologist; Shulim Greenberg, Chesed 24/7; Moshe Greenberg, Chesed 24/7; David Bohan, Vice President and Chief Philanthropy Officer, The Valley Hospital Foundation; and Yossi Greenberg, Chesed 24/7, in front of The Bentolila Family Kosher Pantry.

The Valley Hospital Foundation celebrated the dedication of The Bentolila Family Kosher Pantry, named in honor of Eric Bentolila, MD, a long-time obstetrician and gynecologist at The Valley Hospital, and his family.

Dr. Bentolila has been a member of the Valley community for 25 years, joining the medical staff in 2000. The kosher pantry

honors the Bentolilas in recognition of their generous gift to the hospital.

Valley's kosher pantry addresses needs specific to Valley's Jewish patients, families, and visitors, offering kosher foods, snacks, and drinks, as well as religious reading materials.

Chesed 24/7, a community service organization based in Rockland County, attended the dedication celebration. The organization fills Valley's kosher pantries three times a week.

Tending to these important needs is a commitment Valley made to truly serve our communities to the best of our abilities, and we thank Dr. Bentolila and his family for their partnership in this effort. ■

Women For Health Welcomes Muffet McGraw as Speaker

More than 250 women gathered for the *Women For Health* Annual Luncheon at Edgewood Country Club on May 14th.

The event featured guest speaker Muffet McGraw, the former women's basketball



coach at the University of Notre Dame from 1987 to 2020. In a conversation moderated by Valley Hospital Foundation Trustee Karen Keyes, Muffet spoke about her experiences as a woman blazing her own trail in the male-dominated world of sports.

Women For Health is a women's giving circle in which women pool their philanthropic resources and select a recipient of their collective gift each year. The group has donated more than \$1.6 million to support important Valley programs and services since its inception.

Membership is open to all women. Visit www.valleyhospitalfoundation.org and click "Get Involved" to learn more about joining today! ■

Mark Your Calendar! Step Up for Valley Returns September 6 – 13



Registration opens soon for Step Up for Valley, Valley's annual virtual fitness challenge.

The weeklong event challenges participants to get active, have fun, and raise money to benefit Valley Health System. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit Valley's Cardio-OB program, which aims to screen, identify, treat, support and save the lives of pregnant and postpartum mothers with hypertensive disorders in pregnancy.

Participants can register for the challenge as individuals, or gather friends and form a team. After customizing their event pages to track their fundraising, record their physical activity, and engage friends and family, participants will have a chance to win great prizes based on their activity points AND their fundraising success.

Prizes include a ProForm Fitness Mirror with a one-year subscription, Apple watches, gym memberships, and more, in addition to daily chances to win door prizes during the challenge.

Registration opens on August 4th. Visit www.valleyhospitalfoundation.org/stepup to learn more! ■

IMPACT

Families Gather for Camp NICU Celebration

Valley's annual Camp NICU fundraiser held at Spring Lake Day Camp in Ringwood, NJ, brought NICU graduates and their families together to reconnect, have fun, and support the services of the NICU's Family Support program, which promotes a family-centered approach to enhance the standard of care for infants and families in the NICU. This year's event featured pony rides, games, camp activities, music, and more! ■



VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM

Awards and Accolades

Valley Health System is proud to be recognized locally, nationally, and internationally for the exceptional care provided by our physicians, clinical staff, and employees each and every day. Please scan the QR code to read more about our most recent accolades.



Newsweek

The Valley Hospital was recently recognized by *Newsweek* as one of America's Best Maternity Hospitals, a distinction awarded to hospitals that provide high-quality maternity care and an outstanding childbirth experience. Last year, Valley welcomed nearly 4,000 babies in the Audrey Meyers Family Care Pavilion at The Valley Hospital.



The Valley Hospital has received two national accolades from Practice Greenhealth in recognition of its achievements and innovation in healthcare sustainability. Valley was awarded the Partner for Change Award for an ongoing commitment to improving environmental performance and for efforts to build sustainability and resiliency into the operations and culture of the institution, as well as the Greening the OR Recognition Award, for its efforts to improve environmental performance in the operating room.



Valley was named Best Medical Services Provider and Best Place to Work by (201) Magazine in the Best of Bergen poll, which asks readers to nominate and vote for their favorite services and companies.



Auxiliary Events Benefit Valley's Future

The Valley Hospital Auxiliary and its more than 550 members in 13 local branches volunteer their time in the hospital and host popular fundraisers throughout the year to support Valley Health System's programs and services. Scan the QR code to find your local Auxiliary branch, and learn more about the Auxiliary's new pledge.



The sun was out for the **Auxiliary's 52nd Annual Golf Outing** at the Ridgewood Country Club on June 2nd. Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor Torcon, and to all of the event's generous sponsors, donors, and participants.



The Valley Hospital Auxiliary's Annual Employee Branch **Flag Day Honor Ceremony** took place in June, honoring this important day in our nation's history. Honored speakers included BettyAnn Kempin, Valley Health System's Vice President of Administration and David Bohan, Vice President and Chief Philanthropy Officer of The Valley Hospital Foundation.

SAVE THE DATE – 2025

AUGUST 25 – 5TH Annual Sporting Clays Classic

Come enjoy a day of sporting clays, lunch, cocktails, and a delicious dinner at the Hudson Farm Club in Andover, NJ.

OCTOBER 19 – The Terri Roemer Paramus Run

The Valley Hospital Auxiliary will partner with the Terri Roemer organization on this year's Paramus Run. The run will take place at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in

Paramus and will include a 10k, 5k, and Kids' Run, as well as a 5k Health Walk led by Karteek Bhavsar, Executive Vice President and COO, Valley Health System.

NOVEMBER 7 – The 77TH Annual Valley Ball

This year's Valley Ball – "Glamour in the Garden State" – will be held at Seasons in Washington Township. This black-tie affair will offer a fun evening of cocktails, dinner, and dancing, all while benefiting the Auxiliary's support of Valley!

For more information about these events, please visit www.ValleyHealth.com/Auxiliary.

The Valley Hospital Auxiliary pledges to raise \$1.6 million to support and enhance patient care and comfort in the treatment of cancer, pregnancy-induced hypertension, and the *Butterflies* program for critically ill children.

Silver
Transparency
2025

Candid.

The Valley Hospital Foundation was awarded a *GuideStar Silver Seal* by *Candid* in recognition of its transparency and efforts to go above and beyond in sharing information about the Foundation's work and programs. To view The Valley Hospital Foundation's GuideStar profile, which enables our donors to see the impact of their generous gifts, please scan the QR code at right.



Contact Us

Email VHF@ValleyHospitalFoundation.org

Web www.ValleyHospitalFoundation.org

Phone 201.291.6300



4 Valley Health Plaza
Paramus, NJ 07652