



The Valley Hospital Foundation Newsletter

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# Letter From the Chief Development Officer

David J. Bohan



It is incredible to think that it has been one year since we announced our *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign for The Valley Hospital in Paramus. Even more impressive is seeing the progress being made both on-site and behind the scenes, as well as watching your philanthropic support approach our \$125 million goal. It has been an exciting journey in what continues to be an extraordinary time. Through it all, we have been constantly reminded how dedicated our Valley community is to our success and to making our new hospital a reality!

Our campaign has been about both emphasizing Valley’s unique standards for enhancing the patient and family experience and about transformation. You can see this firsthand as our campus in Paramus nears completion, on track for a late 2023 opening. Your response to this project has been enthusiastic and generous, helping us raise, at the time of this writing, over \$103 million. Much of this was accomplished with limited personal interactions due to COVID-19. Late this spring, with safety precautions in place, we resumed some of our events, including our Leadership Reception in June. After three years apart, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to say thank you in person, not to faces on a screen. That evening we recognized our newest Lifetime Benefactors who had reached milestones in their philanthropic contributions to Valley. In addition, we announced an expanded recognition program to include a new Lifetime Benefactor category, Nickel, for cumulative lifetime giving of \$250,000 to \$499,999. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months; in the meantime, please enjoy photos in this issue from our event.

In our winter issue earlier this year, you met grateful patient Jeff Seidler and his family. After a life-threatening heart attack in March 2021, Jeff focused on giving back as part of his recovery and healing process. After making a generous gift to Valley in support of the hospital’s critical care units, cardiac research, and cardiac rehabilitation, Jeff came up with the idea of a virtual fundraiser, *Step Up For Valley*. The week-long fitness challenge took place from July 17 to July 23, with 134 participants counting steps and completing over 1,400 miles and raising more than \$103,000 for our new hospital. Thank you to Jeff Seidler and all event sponsors, participants, and donors for helping fundraise for this important project.

It has always been the strong commitment of our donors that has helped to move strategic priorities forward at Valley. Today, I am grateful to count many new friends among our supporters as champions and advocates for the new hospital. Together, we will write Valley’s next chapter in Paramus. I can’t wait to see what the next year brings.

Sincerely,

David J. Bohan  
Vice President  
& Chief Development Officer

Join us on a virtual hard-hat tour and see the progress being made at the new hospital site!



## David’s Fund Continues Support of Valley Home Care’s Music Therapy Program

“Music helps us connect parts of us even when language can’t,” explains Jennifer Knittel, board-certified music therapist for Valley Hospice. “In hospice care, even when it appears someone is having a passive response, music is still actively working its way through their body systems.” Music therapy is an established health profession in which music is used within a therapeutic relationship to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals. Launched at Valley in 2018 with a philanthropic gift from David’s Fund, Music Therapy is a beloved and integral program to those navigating end-of-life care.

Established in 1996 by Tom and Lucy Ott in loving memory of their son David, David’s Fund is devoted to supporting the advancement of the field of music therapy. When brain damage from encephalitis left David with severe physical disabilities, he remained upbeat; when he could no longer play piano and tuba, music continued to bring him peace and joy as a form of therapy. After David passed in 1994, the fund was created to help others discover and know the joys and therapeutic benefits of music.

It was a dear friend’s stay at Valley that inspired the Otts’ partnership. After their friend enjoyed a visit from the hospital’s volunteer harpist, the Otts arranged for a visit by the harpist again when their friend made the transition to home hospice care. After a conversation with Valley Home Care’s (VHC) Bonnie Schneider, MSW, LCSW, manager of Social Services, Tom and Lucy made a donation that allowed Valley to introduce a Music Therapy Program for home care patients on VHC’s hospice service. Jennifer Knittel has led the program since the beginning and estimates that she has made over 600 hospice visits since November 2018. “Jennifer has been a real guiding force behind all of this,” remarks Tom. “She’s a remarkable therapist and has done a great job demonstrating the benefits of music therapy. She’s really one of a kind.”



Irene Mason and music therapist Jennifer Knittel

The Otts remain committed to the Music Therapy Program’s success. Now beginning its fifth year, the program has inspired additional philanthropic support and continues to be incorporated into patient care at Valley Hospice as well as *Butterflies*, a pediatric in-home palliative and hospice care program. “With the continued support of David’s Fund, staff can utilize music therapy more frequently and increase the number of patients and families seen,” explains Bonnie. “The funds will also allow for the expansion of education to staff on how music therapy can benefit not just our patients, but caretakers and loved ones as well.”

Testimonials over the years from Valley patients and families speak directly to the profound impact music therapy has had. “From the first time Jennifer came over, it was just transformative,” says Connie Wasmer, whose husband, Jack, received home hospice care. “After not being able to communicate for close to a year, I saw Jack mouth the words to songs he recognized — I was shocked! Jennifer was just wonderful and one of the best things that happened while Jack was on hospice. She did so much for both of us.” Reflecting on her work, Jennifer is grateful. “It’s amazing to see how music can still connect people,” she says. “If we can bring enjoyment to a hospice patient and their family, that’s the greatest moment. I can’t believe this is my job; it’s really special.”

## Nazzaro Family Makes Memorial Gift in Support of New Hospital Campaign



Sally Nazzaro

and his children — Jeffrey, Cindy, and Jennifer — made the decision to support the campaign for The Valley Hospital in Paramus in Sally's memory, choosing to name the School of Radiography suite at the new hospital. "Sally was a giver," Donald says fondly. "She would love that we were doing something for the community and in support of Valley's future. This is a lovely way to honor her."

For multiple generations of the Nazzaro family, The Valley Hospital has been a constant and compassionate care provider. Both Donald Nazzaro and wife Sally grew up in Glen Rock before marrying and settling in Ridgewood, and their three children were born at Valley. "I've been in Ridgewood now almost 50 years," Donald says. "And all through these years, Valley has taken care of us."

When Sally became ill in 2017, they turned again to Valley. Thankful for the care she received, the Nazzaros made a generous philanthropic gift in honor of Sally's medical team: Tiana Grieco, APN; Steven Jacoby, M.D.; Anabel Lucanie, M.D.; Dennis Reison, M.D.; and Daniel Van Engel, M.D. Even as her treatments progressed, Sally remained upbeat and grateful. "Hospitals see people in good times and in some of their most challenging times," Donald says. "Every time we would leave Valley, we would say to each other, 'It's amazing they do this job every day. They really are wonderful.'"

The Nazzaro family lovingly remembers Sally as strong, selfless, and kind, saying that she lived for helping others. After Sally passed in 2019, Donald

## Friends and Family Celebrate Valley's Breast Center in Honor of Sara Whiting



Sara Whiting and friends at Pink Out celebration

When Sara Whiting finished treatment for breast cancer at Valley's Breast Center, she looked forward to celebrating with friends and family. "I was lucky; it was caught early, and I had a fabulous team of doctors," Sara says. "I completed everything at the end of 2019 and set about planning for a party in 2020. And then COVID-19 happened."

More than two years later, in the spring of 2022, Sara and her family were finally able to host a celebratory "Pink Out," where guests were encouraged to wear pink in honor of Sara's fight against breast cancer. On the event's invitation, Sara had decided to include a link to The Valley Hospital Foundation's website, asking people to consider making a donation to Valley's Breast Center in honor of the care she had received. "All throughout my treatment, people asked questions and wanted to know about my doctors and what was going on. The care I was getting wasn't just top of mind for me, but for other people as well. It was amazing." Sara is thrilled at the response the link received, and grateful for her community's personal and philanthropic support. "This didn't start as a fundraiser; it really was so organic," Sara says. "I wanted to do something that would give back to Valley, and I'm delighted that, together with my friends and family, we could have an even bigger impact."

## Valley and Mount Sinai Expand Partnership to Provide Specialty Children's Services in Northern New Jersey

Valley Health System has announced a clinical collaboration with Mount Sinai Health System to offer an expanded roster of children's services in northern New Jersey. This partnership will offer local access to specialty pediatric providers affiliated with Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital and support the development of new pediatric health programs and services at Valley.

"We are very pleased to welcome our colleagues from Mount Sinai to our team of well-established pediatric subspecialists," said J. Antonio Quiros, M.D., DHA, Chair of Children's Services for Valley Medical Group

and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and faculty at Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "Through this relationship, we will be able to expand our range of services and provide our pediatric patients the benefit of world-class expertise close to home, here in Bergen County."

The children's health alliance is the second of such collaborations between the two organizations. After announcing plans in December 2015 to join forces on clinical programs, research, and educational offerings, Valley-Mount Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Care

was established in 2016 to provide enhanced inpatient and outpatient cancer services. The alliance offers to an expanded roster of clinical trials and Mount Sinai's nationally renowned experts in the field of cancer care, and promotes the development of new programs and services.

Since then, Valley has welcomed Mount Sinai specialists in the areas of cardiology, endocrinology, allergy/immunology, and gastroenterology to its team of pediatric specialty care providers. Mount Sinai specialists will join a team of Valley pediatric specialists in an array of clinical areas,

including developmental pediatrics, physiatry, psychiatry, pulmonology, and weight management. Additional clinical areas will be added in the coming months.

"Valley and Mount Sinai share a dedication to providing outstanding patient care," said Audrey Meyers, President and CEO of Valley Health System. "We look forward to continuing to build our relationship with Mount Sinai."





## 2022 Leadership Reception

On Wednesday, June 1, the Foundation hosted their annual Leadership Reception at The Ridgewood Country Club — the first time the event has been held in person since 2019. The event recognizes the newest Lifetime Benefactor donors who have reached significant milestones in their philanthropic contributions and Legacy Donors who have generously included Valley in their estate plans.



Bob and Heidi Fink



Rich Keenan



Denis and Pat Sullivan



Hwain and William Lee, MD



Diane and Gerald Bedrin



Ed and Deany Rubin



John Alfano



Dr. Thomas and Carol Rakowski



Paul and Judy Bedrin



Dr. Erwin Lin of Radiology Associates of Ridgewood



John and Ann Oros



Grace Galvin



Dick and Lindsay Moynihan



Stan and Elaine Heimberger



Barbara and Vincent Lewis



Dr. Marc Dreier and Dr. George Becker, III of Valley Emergency Room Associates



The Auxiliary's Employee Branch hosted its 2nd Annual Sporting Clays Classic on August 29 and raised \$66,000! The sold-out event was held at the Hudson Farm Club in Andover, New Jersey, and featured lunch, followed by a round of sporting clays, drinks, and dinner. Thank you to our premier sponsor, Airside Sheet Metal, Inc., for their support!



For the first time, The Valley Hospital Auxiliary and the Terri Roemer Organization are partnering on the Paramus Run being held on Sunday, October 16, by the Fairfield Inn & Suites Paramus. The run will include a 10K, 5K, and a One Mile Fun Run for Kids. To register or become a sponsor, please visit [www.valleyhealth.com/services/auxiliary/paramus-run](http://www.valleyhealth.com/services/auxiliary/paramus-run).



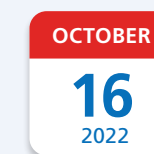
Planning is in full swing for the Auxiliary's 74th Annual Valley Ball at The Plaza Hotel in New York, taking place on October 29. The black-tie affair will include cocktails, dinner, and dancing, and entertainment will be provided by the stars of Broadway's Jersey Boys, who will perform the Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons Tribute. Thank you to our early sponsors: Armistead Mechanical, Inc.; Concord Healthcare; Dancker; HDR; PNC Private Bank; Stickel, Koenig, Sullivan & Drill, LLC; Torcon; Valley Emergency Room Associates; Van Dyk Health Care; and Victor and Susan Wortmann. For more information, please visit [www.valleyhealth.com/services/auxiliary/valley-ball](http://www.valleyhealth.com/services/auxiliary/valley-ball).

Proceeds from Auxiliary events 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 its pledge of \$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.

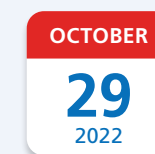
For more information, please visit: [www.ValleyHealth.com/Auxiliary](http://www.ValleyHealth.com/Auxiliary)

## SAVE THE DATE — Mark your calendar!

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



43rd Annual  
Terri Roemer  
Paramus Run



The 74th Annual  
Valley Ball at  
The Plaza Hotel



# ACCOLADES



**The Valley Hospital Emergency Department was selected as a recipient of the prestigious Lantern Award from the Emergency Nurses Association.** Valley is one of only 29 hospitals nationwide, and the only hospital in Bergen County to earn this award for 2022. The award showcases Valley’s accomplishments in incorporating evidence-based practice into emergency care and is a symbol of our commitment to quality, safety, and a healthy work environment.



**Valley Health System is ranked as the top healthcare employer in New Jersey in the Forbes 2022 list of best-in-state employers.** Valley ranked first in the Healthcare & Social Industry category and among the top 15 best employers in New Jersey overall.



**The Valley Hospital was awarded the Greenhealth Emerald Award from Practice Greenhealth in recognition of our sustainability practices.** This award recognizes healthcare organizations for their dedication to making sustainability part of the fabric of their operations and culture. Practice Greenhealth also awarded Valley its Greening the OR Recognition Award for our efforts in improving environmental performance in the operating room.



**Anne Brennecke, APN, Manager of Valley’s Wound, Ostomy & Continence Center, was selected as a New Jersey Fifth District Hometown Hero by U.S. Congressman Josh Gottheimer.** Anne was recognized for her incredible 50 years of service to Valley and for her role in establishing the Wound, Ostomy & Continence Center — the only nurse-run outpatient facility of its kind in northern New Jersey.



**Jersey’s Best magazine named 25 physicians from The Valley Hospital medical staff to its July 2022 list of Top Cancer Doctors.** The 25 Valley Medical Staff members come from multiple specialties, including colon and rectal cancer, gynecologic cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, pancreatic cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer, solid tumors, brain tumors, breast reconstruction, body imaging, and more.



In the fifth edition of “Humanizing Brand Experience,” a national research report conducted by brand consultant Monigle, the American Hospital Association, and the Society for Health Care Strategy & Market Development, **Valley Health System was named a top health system brand, ranking eighth on the list of the top 201 healthcare brands in the country.** In addition, Valley ranked second on a list of top 10 brands that have the best people and fourth on a list of top 10 brands that are most committed to improving diversity and inclusion.



**The Valley Hospital has been ranked among the top three hospitals by NJBiz, based on inpatient activity.** Valley posted nearly 34,000 discharges in 2021, moving up two spots from last year’s list.



**Eleonora Teplinsky, M.D. Head of Breast Medical Oncology at Valley-Mount Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Care, was chosen as a 2022 NJBiz Healthcare Hero in the Healthcare Professional category.** Since joining Valley in 2017, Dr. Teplinsky has served as the Principal Investigator for clinical trials that advance treatment for breast cancer, presented at national conferences, has been published in peer-reviewed journals, and serves as a member of the Gynecologic Cancer Advisory Panel for Cancer.Net.



**U.S. News & World Report ranked The Valley Hospital among the best hospitals in New Jersey, placing Valley third on the list of 98 New Jersey hospitals evaluated for their 2022-2023 list of best hospitals.** Valley also achieved an overall ranking as the 16th best hospital in a two-way tie in the entire New York metropolitan area. In addition, Valley also achieved the highest possible rating — high performing — in 13 areas of care.





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