

INSIDE VALLEY

THE VALLEY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



2024 ISSUE 1



- 2 LETTER FROM DAVID BOHAN
.....
- 3 COVER STORY (CONTINUED)
.....
- 4 IMPACT STORIES
.....
- 7 THE VALLEY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY
.....
- 9 AWARDS & ACCOLADES
.....



Welcome to Valley's Next Chapter

On April 14th, The Valley Hospital officially opened its doors in Paramus and welcomed its first patients, marking the beginning of a new era in healthcare for our entire region.

"The Valley Hospital, now located in Paramus, is a critical resource that will revolutionize the way we provide care in Bergen County and beyond," said Audrey Meyers, Valley Health System Chief Executive Officer. "We have been looking forward to this exciting and historic day for many years, and we're honored to begin caring for our community in our new home in Paramus."

(Continued on Page 3)



LETTER FROM DAVID J. BOHAN

Chief Development Officer

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Greetings from Paramus!



It's hard to believe that the time has finally come — The Valley Hospital is officially open and serving our community in our new home.

We are honored to be able to care for you and your loved ones in our new, state-of-the-art facility, and we are thankful for the support of all who played a part in making this vision a reality. While much is different in the new hospital, what will always remain the same is the expert, compassionate care for which we have always been known.

Just as Valley Health System is looking a bit different these days, so is our *Inside Valley* newsletter. In this inaugural issue of the NEW *Inside Valley*, you'll read about the latest Valley news, including the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony marking this pivotal moment in Valley's history.

You'll also read about supporters who have made generous gifts to benefit Valley long into the future, like former Valley Hospital Foundation Trustees Vincent and Barbara Lewis, and orthopedic surgeon Doug Holden, M.D. and his wife Jean Weng Holden, D.D.S., whose philanthropy supported the construction of our new hospital.

As the *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign moves into its final months, concluding at the end of 2024, we are thankful to the Lewises and the Holdens, and to all whose philanthropy has made such a tremendous difference so far.

The Valley Hospital is so deeply enriched by the generosity of our donors who have supported the campaign to date. It is not too late to play a role in writing Valley's next chapter and helping to surpass the \$125 million campaign goal by the end of the year. Scan the QR code below to learn more about how you can get involved.

I know I speak on behalf of all of us at Valley when I say that it is our privilege to care for our community today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

Thank you again for your generosity, support, and partnership on this journey.

Sincerely,



Vice President & Chief Development Officer
The Valley Hospital Foundation

“The Valley Hospital is so deeply enriched by the generosity of our donors who have supported the campaign to date. We are thankful for the support of all who played a part in making this vision a reality.”



Scan the QR Code to donate to the *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign for The Valley Hospital.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Welcome to Valley's Next Chapter

The Valley Health System community was joined by Governor Phil Murphy, state and local leaders, and generous members of our donor community for a ribbon-cutting celebration on March 22nd to officially mark the momentous occasion.

“This will become not just one of the premier hospitals in the state or the Northeast, but in the United States of America.”

— NJ Governor Phil Murphy

With 370 private patient rooms, the latest medical innovations, and a flexible design that will allow Valley to adapt to future healthcare needs, The Valley Hospital will serve as our region's premier healthcare destination for generations to come.

Built with patient safety and comfort in mind, the new hospital brings together cutting-edge technology and world-class care. In addition, Valley believes that the support of families and caregivers contributes to healing, and the new facility is designed with space to accommodate a higher level of patient family engagement than ever before.

Sustainability has remained a focus for Valley, and the hospital was built in accordance with best practices for energy efficiency, space utilization, water consumption and the use of natural light, with anticipated Gold level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification. More than 30% of the new hospital setting is dedicated to green space, with beautiful gardens, lawns and walking paths for our patients, families, and visitors to enjoy.

The new facility is enriched by the support and commitment of our generous donor community, who saw the value of this important project and did not hesitate to offer their philanthropic support to make it a reality.



Led by co-chairs Vince Forlenza, Carol Gillespie and Dr. Michael Letta, the *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign has raised more than \$125 million so far, with nearly a year left to go in the campaign. In recognition of the generous contributions of our donors, many of their names are memorialized throughout the new hospital.

To learn more about The Valley Hospital and how you can still support the *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign through the end of 2024, visit www.valleyhospitalfoundation.org. ■



Scan the QR Code to watch a video from the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

IMPACT

Supporting Valley Then and Now

Vincent and Barbara Lewis' philanthropy supports The Valley Hospital in Paramus

For Barbara and Vincent Lewis, Valley has always been a part of their family's story.

"I always say that Valley is in my DNA," Barbara jokes.

Growing up in Ho-Ho-Kus, Barbara's mother fundraised in the late 1940's for the new hospital planned in Ridgewood by participating in bake sales, monthly coffee klatches, and visiting train stops to collect donations to support The Valley Hospital in Ridgewood.

Once the Ridgewood hospital opened, Barbara and her sisters served as Nightingales, similar to Candy Strippers, and Barbara

“Recently, we had the opportunity to tour the new hospital and were so impressed with what we saw in the new facility.”

was presented at Valley's Cotillion in 1963 with the most special escort – her now husband of more than 55 years, Vin. She was later active in the Valley Hospital Auxiliary, serving as President from 1998 to 2000, was a member of the Valley Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees and is a member of Valley's *Women For Health*.



Vin, who is retired after more than 50 years on Wall Street, also served as a Trustee of The Valley Hospital Foundation, where he lent his expertise in finance and investment to support the hospital's efforts.

The Lewises, Lifetime Benefactors at the Gold level, recently made a \$1 million gift in support of The Valley Hospital. A section – or “pod” – of the emergency department in Paramus will be named in honor of their generosity.

“Recently, we had the opportunity to tour the new hospital and were so impressed with what we saw in the new facility. We learned that all employees were involved in the design process and were asked what they needed in order to provide the best care, not only for today, but long into the future. As patients, that meant a lot to us.”

Both Barbara and Vin have relied on Valley for their own medical care, and are thankful for doctors like Dr. Suneet Mittal, Dr. Rajiv Tayal, Dr. Roger Pollock, and Dr. Victor Hartanto, who have gone “above and beyond” to take care of them over the years.

“We have always received great care and we're appreciative of the professionalism and expertise of our doctors,” Vin said. “Receiving care from the best of the best without having to go over the bridge is an important thing, and we're proud to help support that for our community.” ■



Barbara and Vincent Lewis



Vincent and Barbara Lewis at the 1963 Valley Cotillion

IMPACT

A Family Tradition of Helping Others

Holden Family makes generous gift to benefit Valley's future

Drs. Doug Holden and Jean Weng Holden raised their three children with a core set of values: treat people with kindness, work hard, and give back when you can.

Growing up on a farm in upstate New York as the youngest of six children, Doug recalls a modest upbringing that was rich in values and lessons that the Holdens pass on to their own kids.

"Our parents always taught us to do the right thing and to help where we could. Jean's mother always says 'If you can feed someone, you should feed someone,' and I think that applies to much more than just food," Doug explains. "If you can help, you should. We believe in that."

Jean, a retired dentist and Doug, the Managing Partner at Garden State Orthopaedics and a member of Valley's medical staff for more than 20 years, first met at Columbia University College of Dental Medicine. They were both pursuing dental degrees before Doug went on to also earn his medical degree.

“The care at Valley has always been excellent, and I know it will continue to be exceptional in the new hospital, with a heightened attention to detail and a family-friendly atmosphere.”



"As the first one in my family to graduate with a four-year college degree and progress in higher education, I realize that if it wasn't for the generosity of others who provided scholarships and support, I would never have been able to achieve the success that I did," he says. "I believe people should always give to the best of their ability to help others."

Philanthropy and creating opportunities for others is important to the Holdens, who have started six endowed scholarships throughout the country to support students in achieving their goals.

The Holdens, who turn to Valley for their own family's care, also believe strongly in the future of The Valley Hospital, and recently made a \$500,000 gift to support the new

“I believe people should always give to the best of their ability to help others.”

The Holden family (L to R): Alexandra, Samantha, Doug, Jean, and Austin.

hospital in Paramus. In recognition of their generous gift, the orthopedic unit in the new hospital will be named in their family's honor.

"The care at Valley has always been excellent, and I know it will continue to be exceptional in the new hospital, with a heightened attention to detail and a family-friendly atmosphere where patients will feel comfortable," Doug says. "Jean and I are excited for what the new hospital will mean for our community, and we're blessed to be able to give back and support it." ■

Going the Distance for Valley's Breast Center



Bergen County Commissioner Steve Tanelli biked the length of Bergen County – from Mahwah to North Arlington – to raise funds and awareness about breast cancer in honor of his wife, Sharon, a breast cancer survivor.

Commissioner Tanelli and Sharon (pictured center), along with Commissioner Tracy Zur (far right), presented a check for \$13,000 from the fundraiser to Eleonora Teplinsky, M.D. and Laura Klein, M.D. to support the work of the Valley-Mount Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Care Center's Breast Center. ■

Supporting Butterflies Around the Globe

Grateful Valley patient and supporter Susan Homann takes a little piece of Valley Health System with her wherever she travels.

On a recent trip to the Arctic Circle, Susan carried a banner honoring Valley's *Butterflies* program, which offers pediatric home care, hospice, and palliative care services to children and families.

Dressed as a butterfly, Susan took a swim in Arctic waters, and later made a generous gift to support the *Butterflies* program.

Last year, Susan trekked up Mt. Kilimanjaro carrying a Valley Health System banner and made a generous gift to Valley's Breast Center to commemorate this achievement.

Scan the QR code to make your own gift to the *Butterflies* program. ■



Women For Health Making a Difference



Women For Health is a women's giving circle making a tremendous impact throughout Valley Health System.

This group of female philanthropists pool their resources, each committing a gift of at least \$1,000, and collectively select a worthwhile Valley initiative to support each year.

With two annual events – the Spring Luncheon and the Annual Meeting in the Fall – members of *Women For Health* join forces to make a significant impact in our community. To date, members have given approximately \$1.5 million in program grants.

Membership is open to all women who want to join and impact important programs and initiatives.

Scan the QR code above to learn more about *Women For Health* and find out how you can get involved! ■

THE VALLEY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Celebrating 80 Years of The Valley Hospital Auxiliary



This year, we celebrate the 80th anniversary of The Valley Hospital Auxiliary and recognize its decades of support to The Valley Hospital and the communities we serve.

Since its founding in 1944, The Valley Hospital Auxiliary has been a trusted partner to Valley, raising nearly \$19 million to support programs and services throughout Valley Health System.

Today, the Auxiliary consists of more than 500 volunteer Auxilians representing 10 chapters

in surrounding towns – Allendale, Franklin Lakes, Glen Rock, Mahwah, Midland Park/Wyckoff, Oakland, Ramsey, Ridgewood, Saddle River and Waldwick – as well as a Valley employee branch.

Members of the Auxiliary volunteer their time to support the hospital, hosting fundraisers such as the Sporting Clays Classic, the Annual Golf Outing, Vegas Night, and the time-honored annual tradition, The Valley Ball,

among others. Each branch meets regularly and hosts many exciting outings, programs, and events throughout the year.

Are you interested in getting involved and making a difference? Please consider joining your local Auxiliary branch today! Visit www.valleyhealth.com/auxiliary to learn more. ■



SAVE THE DATE – 2024

MAY 1 – Vegas Night

Seasons Catering,
Washington Township, NJ

JUNE 3 – 51ST Annual Valley Hospital Auxiliary Golf Outing

Ridgewood Country Club, Paramus, NJ

JUNE 14 – Auxiliary Employee Branch Flag Day Ceremony

The Valley Hospital

AUGUST 26 – Sporting Clays Classic

Hudson Farms, Andover, NJ

OCTOBER 20 – Terri Roemer Paramus Run

NOVEMBER 2 – The 76TH Annual Valley Ball

The Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers

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

Proceeds from Auxiliary events support the Auxiliary's pledge of \$3.1 million to establish the Pediatric section of the Emergency Department at The Valley Hospital, and to fund an endowment for Valley Home Care's *Butterflies*, a pediatric in-home palliative and hospice care program for seriously ill children.

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.



In recognition of its exceptional care, **The Valley Hospital has been named among the World's Best Hospitals by Newsweek** in its 2024 rankings. Valley ranked among the top three hospitals in New Jersey and 137th in the country in this year's rankings.



For the second year in a row, **The Valley Hospital was named by Healthgrades as one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for 2024**. This achievement puts Valley in the top 2% of hospitals nationwide for overall clinical performance across the most common conditions and procedures.

In addition, Valley is one of only three hospitals in New Jersey – and the only hospital in Bergen County – to earn a spot on this list.



The Valley Hospital was recognized by Healthgrades with the 2023 Patient Safety Excellence Award, placing Valley among the top 10% of all short-term acute care hospitals, as evaluated by Healthgrades.

Valley is one of 12 hospitals in New Jersey – and just one of two hospitals in Bergen County – to be recognized with this award.



The Valley Hospital was ranked one of the 115 best hospitals in the United States on Money.com's Best Hospitals of 2024 list, and is one of only three hospitals in New Jersey to receive this recognition. The award evaluates facilities based on safety records, patient satisfaction, the experience of doctors and other practitioners, and mortality rates.

The hospital was also ranked as one of only 25 hospitals in the United States on Money.com's **Best Hospitals for Pediatrics list in March 2023**, in partnership with The Leapfrog Group.



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