

INSIDE VALLEY

THE VALLEY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



2025 ISSUE 1

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Below: Karteek Bhavsar, Executive Vice President
& Chief Operating Officer; Audrey Meyers, CEO
Emeritus; Robert Brenner, MD, President & CEO

Thank You for Transforming Healthcare in Our Region

In 2024, Valley Health System ushered in a new era in healthcare for the people of Bergen County and the surrounding area with the opening of The Valley Hospital on our Paramus campus.

With its state-of-the-art facilities, latest technologies and compassionate care, The Valley Hospital is now the centerpiece of a 40-acre health and wellness campus that serves as a lifeline and healthcare destination for our entire region.

When The Valley Hospital Foundation launched the \$125 million *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign in 2021 to support construction of the new hospital, we turned to our community for support, and the response was remarkable.

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LETTER FROM DAVID J. BOHAN

Vice President & Chief Philanthropy Officer

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Your Support Made a Tremendous Impact



As we turned the page to a new year, we also began the next chapter of Valley's story with the successful completion of our *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign to support the construction of The Valley Hospital in Paramus.

When we announced our campaign three years ago, our generous donor community did not hesitate to make an investment in the health and wellness of our community. Gifts of all sizes contributed to the campaign's success, allowing us to meet and exceed our \$125 million campaign goal with a total of more than \$145 million raised by the end of 2024!

In large part, our new hospital was made possible by the philanthropic spirit of our community, and we are thankful for the individuals and organizations who saw the need for this project and stepped up to become a part of it.

This special edition of *Inside Valley* focuses on the success of the *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign, the journey to our new hospital, and the people who helped to make it a reality. You will read about support from our leadership donors, our employees and medical staff, and from members of our community who gave generously. You will also read about the support of our partner organizations like The Valley Hospital Auxiliary and *Women For Health*, whose support has been instrumental in helping us move the campaign forward. And lastly, you will learn about Valley's future plans and philanthropic priorities as we look toward the future.

Our campaign was a tremendous success and we are grateful for the partnership of donors like you. While the campaign has come to an end, meeting the healthcare needs of our patients and community in the years to come remains our top priority.

On behalf of Valley Health System, I thank you for your ongoing support and your impact on the communities we serve, enabling Valley to provide the highest level of care for generations to come. Thank you for being a part of this pivotal moment in Valley's story.

I wish you and your loved ones joy and good health in the New Year.

Sincerely,



Vice President & Chief Philanthropy Officer
The Valley Hospital Foundation

“While the campaign has come to an end, meeting the healthcare needs of our patients and community in the years to come remains our top priority.”



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

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Thank You for Transforming Healthcare in Our Region

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Our donors generously met and far exceeded the goal of the campaign – the largest in Valley's 70+ year history – which concluded at the end of 2024, raising a total of \$145 million! The beautiful hospital that stands before us in Paramus is so deeply enriched by the supporters who advocated for and contributed to its success.

When you come to The Valley Hospital to receive care or stop in to visit a loved one,

we hope you will pause for a moment to consider the important role you played in making this hospital – YOUR hospital – a reality.

While the hospital is now open, much work remains to continue to meet our region's evolving healthcare needs. We thank you again for your support and encourage you to visit www.valleyhospitalfoundation.org to learn more about how you can get involved in Valley's next chapter. ■

“Our donors generously met and far exceeded the goal of the campaign – the largest in Valley's 70+ year history – which concluded at the end of 2024, raising a total of \$145 million!”



Leadership Support

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The Valley Hospital Foundation is thankful for the support of campaign leadership who led the charge on the *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign. Thank you to campaign co-chairs Michael A. Ietta, MD, Bergen Anesthesia Group; Carol A. Gillespie; and Vincent A. Forlenza, Chair Emeritus, Valley Health System Board of Trustees, for their support, commitment, and leadership of this successful campaign and their many contributions to Valley Health System. ■



Serve. Care. Transform. campaign co-chairs Michael A. Ietta, MD; Carol A. Gillespie; and Vincent A. Forlenza.

The Serve. Care. Transform. Campaign for The Valley Hospital in Paramus

Campaign Total: \$145,227,462
(of \$125M goal)

Largest Gift:
\$25M

37 Donors Made Gifts
OVER \$1M

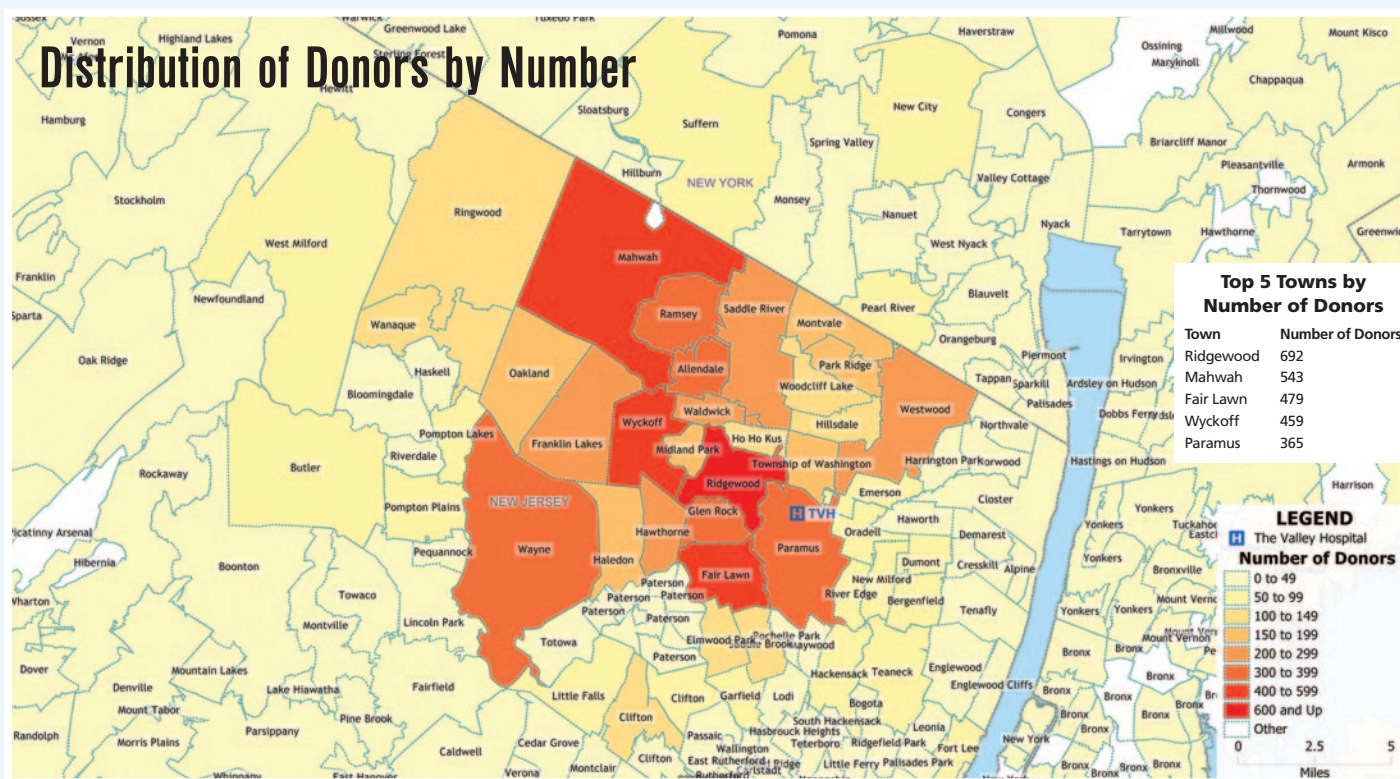


More than 15,000 donors gave to the
Serve. Care. Transform. campaign

More than 1,593 **EMPLOYEES AND MEDICAL STAFF** contributed to the campaign, giving more than **\$12.4 MILLION**

60% OF DONORS to the *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign were new donors to Valley

INDIVIDUAL DONORS 98.8% vs. CORPORATE DONORS 1.2%



Planned Gifts Support the Construction of The Valley Hospital in Paramus

The opening of The Valley Hospital in Paramus marked the beginning of a new era in healthcare for our entire region.

The hospital was funded by a combination of bond financing, hospital equity, and private donations, which included millions in realized planned gifts. The Valley Hospital Foundation received financial support from

grateful patients and community members in their wills, trusts, and retirement plans.

Making a planned gift is a wonderful way to show your support and appreciation for Valley and its mission while accomplishing your own personal, financial, estate-planning, and philanthropic goals.

Every gift makes a difference, no matter the size. It is never too soon to start thinking about a meaningful legacy.

To learn more about ways to include Valley in your estate plans, please contact Bettina Daly at bdaly2@valleyhealth.com or call 201-291-6193. ■

The Valley Hospital Dedicates Audrey Meyers Family Care Pavilion

The Valley Hospital Foundation dedicated the Family Care Pavilion in honor of retired long-time President and CEO Audrey Meyers and her 45 years of service.



(Left to right): Vincent A. Forlenza, Chair Emeritus of the Valley Health System Board of Trustees; Kevin Lobo, Chair of the Valley Health System Board of Trustees; Audrey Meyers, Valley Health System CEO Emeritus; and Robert Brenner, MD, MMM, FACHE, President and CEO of Valley Health System.

The dedication of the Family Care Pavilion was made possible by a generous gift from an anonymous donor in support of The Valley Hospital Foundation's \$125 million *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign toward the construction of The Valley Hospital in Paramus.

The Family Care Pavilion is home to the Labor and Delivery, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Postpartum, and Pediatric units at The Valley Hospital. The pavilion's staff cares for thousands of women and children

“I am so thankful for this amazing honor. To know that my name will be on the building where so many families in our community will receive care is a lasting tribute for which I am profoundly grateful.”

— Audrey Meyers, CEO Emeritus

annually, and assists families in welcoming approximately 4,000 babies each year.

“I am so thankful for this amazing honor,” Audrey said. “To know that my name will be on the building where so many families in our community will receive care is a lasting tribute for which I am profoundly grateful. I thank Valley’s anonymous donor for making this possible and want all to know that I am humbled by this incredible gesture.”

Though Audrey’s professional achievements are many, her most significant legacy to Valley is the planning, design, financing, and building of Valley’s new campus and state-of-the-art hospital that opened in Paramus in April 2024.

During a December 2024 dedication ceremony, Audrey also announced her plans to retire at the end of January 2025. A portrait of Audrey, painted by portrait artist Paul Jannis through a gift from the Valley Health System Board of Trustees, was also shared for the first time. Over her 45-year career with Valley, Audrey has held virtually every key executive leadership position in strategic planning, management, operations, and governance. She served as both the President and CEO of The Valley Hospital and Valley Health System for two decades.

We thank Audrey for her leadership of Valley through all these years and look forward to her continued friendship and service on The Valley Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees. ■

The Valley Hospital's Path to Paramus

1 January 2017

Elected officials and community leaders joined Valley Health System to announce plans to build a new, state-of-the-art hospital on Winters Avenue in Paramus. The new hospital would be the focal point of a 40-acre health and wellness campus that would transform healthcare in our region.



2 2017-2018

Valley frontline employees, medical staff, and ancillary team members were called upon to help design the new hospital through the unique 3P design process – Process, Preparation, and Production.



3 November 2019

Valley Health System broke ground at the site of the new hospital in Paramus. At the same time, a number of leadership supporters committed generous gifts toward Valley's future in Paramus. Valley's new hospital was on its way to becoming a reality.

4 Spring 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic turned the world upside down and halted construction projects across the country. Luckily, Valley's careful planning and ordering of construction materials allowed Valley to avoid supply chain challenges that other organizations faced and continue progress on the state-of-the-art hospital.

5 December 2020

Valley Health System celebrated its "topping out" ceremony, a tradition in construction that celebrates a project reaching its highest point.



Many generous supporters signed the beam that would be raised to the construction project's highest point.

6 2021

The Valley Hospital Foundation officially announced its \$125 million *Serve. Care. Transform: The Next Chapter of The Valley Hospital* campaign to build the new hospital in Paramus. The largest campaign in Valley's history, the campaign's success included 37 leadership gifts (over \$1 million) by the campaign's conclusion in 2024.

October 2023

The Valley Hospital Auxiliary celebrated the 75th annual Valley Ball, a time-honored Valley



Hospital Auxiliary tradition, right in the lobby of the new hospital. The celebration allowed many of Valley's most generous supporters to see the hospital before it officially opened its doors.

8 December 2023

Construction on The Valley Hospital in Paramus was nearly complete, and clinical and support teams gathered to develop workflows and participate in Day in the Life training exercises to ensure they were prepared to provide the highest level of care on Day One. The entire Valley family looked ahead to opening day.



9

March 2024

Joined by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, state and local legislators, Valley leadership and staff, as well as System and Foundation board members, Valley officially cut the ribbon on the new hospital, marking the ceremonial beginning of Valley's next chapter.

10 April 14, 2024

The Valley Hospital in Paramus is officially open! In less than eight hours, Valley leadership, staff, and an army of volunteers successfully moved some 200 patients from Ridgewood to Paramus. By the end of the day, all clinical staff were providing care to the community in the new hospital, and the Ridgewood campus' transformation into an outpatient destination began.



11



July 2024

Valley launches its Graduate Medical Education (GME) program, welcoming its first class of residents in internal medicine and OB-GYN to Valley. The GME program will welcome its second class of residents and launch a surgical residency program in 2025.

12 December 2024

The Family Care Pavilion in The Valley Hospital in Paramus was officially dedicated in honor of long-time Valley President and CEO Audrey Meyers. The dedication, made possible by a generous gift from an anonymous donor, named the premier pavilion in Audrey's honor. During the ceremony, Audrey announced her retirement after 45 years of service to Valley. *Read more on page 5.*



13 December 2024

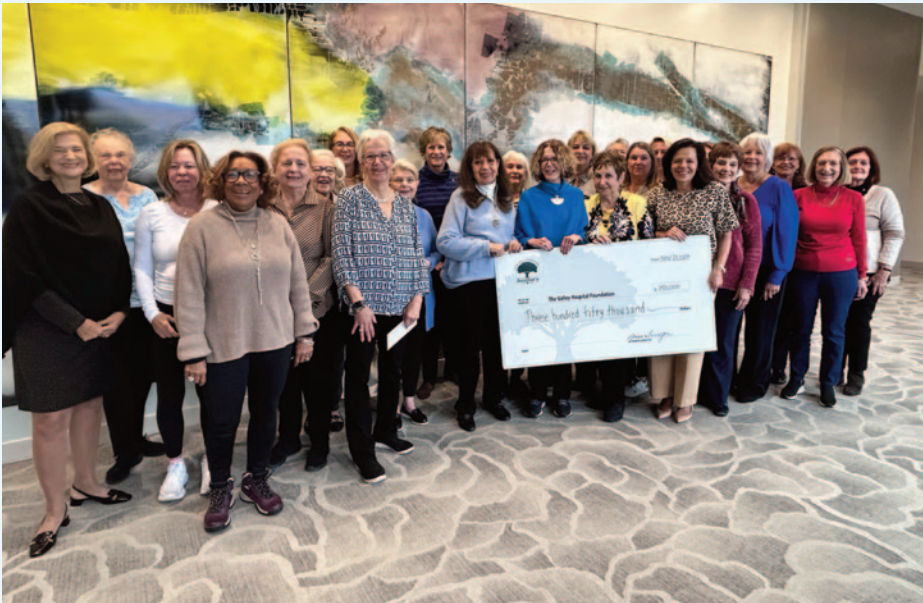
The Valley Hospital Foundation concluded its *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign on December 31, 2024. The campaign raised more than \$145 million toward the construction of The Valley Hospital in Paramus.

14 2025 and Beyond

Looking ahead, Valley Health System will continue to grow its Graduate Medical Education program, expand the capabilities of Valley's signature programs and services, and widen the reach of its specialty practices through Valley Medical Group. *Read more on page 18.* ■

Support from Valley's Partners

The Valley Hospital Auxiliary



Now in its 81st year, the Valley Hospital Auxiliary has been a trusted partner of Valley Health System since before the Ridgewood Hospital was even built.

The Auxiliary's 13 branches and more than 550 members made a pledge to the *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign to raise \$3.1 million — \$3 million to establish the

pediatric section of the emergency department and \$100,000 to support *Butterflies*, Valley Home Care's pediatric home care and hospice program.

Auxilians volunteer their time in the hospital and host several popular fundraisers throughout the year, including the Annual Golf Outing, the Annual Sporting Clays Classic, the Tree of Light Illumination Ceremony, and of course, The Valley Ball.

Members of the Auxiliary recently presented a check for \$350,000 to The Valley Hospital Foundation and are on track to fulfill the remainder of their pledge in 2025.



Scan the QR code to learn more and find your local Auxiliary branch.

Women For Health

Valley's *Women For Health*, a group of female philanthropists who pool their resources and select a worthy Valley program or service to fund each year, generously supported the *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign. In 2020, the group's members voted to dedicate \$167,000 toward construction of The Valley Hospital in Paramus, and in appreciation for this gift, the new hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Family Lounge is named in honor of *Women For Health* and its members.

In addition, *Women For Health's* 2023 gift benefited efforts to improve the overall experience of mental health patients in the emergency department of the new hospital, and the group's 2024 gift benefited expanded staff education on care for LGBTQ+ patients throughout Valley Health System. *Women For Health's* total support during the campaign duration totaled nearly \$1 million.



Scan the QR code to learn more about *Women For Health*





Employee and Medical Staff Giving

The success of Valley's *Serve. Care. Transform.* campaign would not have been possible without the support of those who know Valley best – our very own doctors, nurses, and staff.

Throughout the campaign, our team members have stepped up with their own generous philanthropic contributions and made a lasting impact on our organization, sending a powerful message about their pride and confidence in Valley and their commitment to serving the region for generations to come.

We thank our employees and members of the medical staff, who collectively gave more than \$12.4 million to the campaign, for all of their contributions to Valley. In their honor, employees who contributed to the campaign through February 2024 are honored on a plaque in the Servedy, the employee dining area in the new hospital. ■

Recognizing Our Donors



If you find yourself at The Valley Hospital in Paramus, please visit our digital donor wall, located near the staircase in the first floor lobby.

Use your mobile phone to scan the QR code on the screen to navigate, view our latest donor recognition lists, and celebrate the generosity of our donors and the tradition of philanthropy at Valley. ■



What's Next?

The Valley Hospital in Paramus is open and caring for the people of our region. As we celebrate this milestone, we also look ahead, identifying future needs and ways to provide the highest-quality, compassionate care to the people in our community who rely on us.

As we look to the future, Valley continues to invest in its people, facilities, technology, and services. Valley will continue to grow and expand its signature programs, ensuring the latest technologies and providing advanced care close to home.

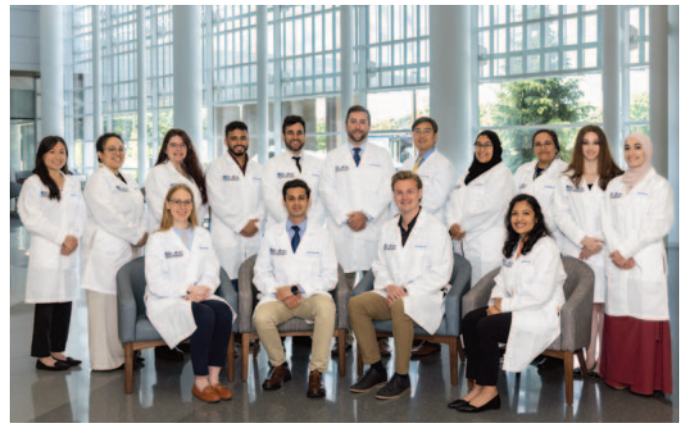
In 2024, Valley launched a Graduate Medical Education program in collaboration with Mount Sinai's Icahn School of Medicine. Training the next generation of Valley physicians, the partnership resulted in Valley's first class of residents in internal medicine and OB-GYN, with a second class arriving in Summer 2025. In addition, Valley will launch its surgical residency program this year and plans to introduce additional specialties in the future.

Valley Medical Group continues to grow its medical practices and clinical services, making care even more accessible in local communities and meeting the evolving needs of patients in our region. Valley Home Care will continue to grow its services, caring for our region's growing aging population and others, and serving more than 12,000 patients annually.

In Ridgewood, the former hospital campus is transforming into an outpatient destination for our region. The Ridgewood campus houses Valley's outpatient diagnostic imaging center, the Valley Breast Center, physical medicine and rehabilitation, a full-service outpatient laboratory, the inpatient Wellness and Recovery Unit, and Valley's Earl A. Wheaton, Jr., M.D. Family Care Center, ensuring access to high-quality care for all who need it.

With space to add additional services as needed in the future, Valley's Ridgewood campus will continue to grow and thrive to meet our community's needs for years to come.

Philanthropy has been a cornerstone throughout Valley's history, from the early days before the Ridgewood hospital was built to the present day in Paramus. The generosity of our donors will continue to be critical in providing the high level of compassionate care for which Valley is known, and we are grateful for your ongoing support in Valley's next chapter. ■



Valley's first class of residents in Internal Medicine and OB-GYN joined Valley in July 2024.



Valley Medical Group continues to expand and grow its services throughout the region.

VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM

Awards and Accolades

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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.



The Valley Hospital has been named one of America's 100 Best Hospitals by *Healthgrades* for the third consecutive year. Valley is one of only four hospitals in New Jersey — and the only hospital in Bergen County — to earn a spot on this elite list, which places Valley among the top 2% of hospitals nationwide to be recognized for exceptional patient outcomes and clinical excellence.



Robert Brenner, MD, MMM, FACHE, President and CEO of Valley Health System, was named a "Champion of the C-Suite" by ROI-NJ. Rob joins 140 leaders across the state from a variety of business sectors on this prestigious list, who were selected for their keen strategic insights and the impact they have on their organizations and communities.

Robert Brenner, MD, MMM, FACHE, President and CEO of Valley Health System, and **Karteek Bhavsar, MHA, FACHE**, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Valley Health System, earned recognition on ROI-NJ's "ROI Influencers: Health Care 2024 – Top 25" list.



The Valley Hospital has been honored by the American Hospital Association (AHA) in recognition of 75 years of participation and leadership in the AHA community. Valley is proud to be a long-time member of the American Hospital Association.



Raffaele M. Bernardo, DO, Medical Director of LGBTQ+ Services at Valley Medical Group, was named a New Jersey Fifth District Hometown Hero by Congressman Josh Gottheimer for his efforts to improve the lives of fellow New Jerseyans. Dr. Bernardo was selected for his dedication to the health and well-being of the LGBTQ+ community, and his steadfast advocacy for healthcare.



Silver
Transparency
2025

Candid.

The Valley Hospital Foundation was recently 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.



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