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WINTER 2025



## Measure A

### *Together We said Yes*

On November 4, the people of Santa Clara County came together and said yes — to saving our hospitals, protecting emergency and trauma care, standing with our neighbors on Medi Cal, and safeguarding the health of our entire community.

**The Yes on Measure A campaign prevailed.**

This victory belongs to all of us: the nurses, doctors, first responders, advocates, volunteers and VHF donors who gave their time and voices. Measure A is about people — our patients, our families, our neighbors — and it proves what's possible when a community stands united. While we celebrate, our work continues to ensure this win delivers the care, safety, and compassion our community deserves. The recent passage of Measure A will help save essential services, **but the County still faces a deficit of over \$700 million.** Whether you voted for Measure A or not, this is a moment for us all to help. Valley Health Foundation exists to help support urgent patient needs, innovate healthier outcomes, and advocate for equitable access to healthcare.



Michael Elliott,  
President and  
Executive Director

## Ensuring Access to Care

### *Partnering with Silicon Valley Community Foundation*

Healthcare organizations across the U.S. are facing an unprecedented upheaval in the funding and delivery of safety net health services with the passage of HR1 and new restrictions on health coverage for millions of low-income families, immigrants, and people with disabilities. Maintaining health coverage is critical to the well-being of community members — and also to the financial sustainability of clinics, hospitals and other safety-net care providers.

**VHF is proud to partner with Silicon Valley Community Foundation as the health anchor partner for their Community Lifeline Fund, enabling the VHF Community Grants Partnership team to fund health providers,**

**enrollment entities, nonprofits, and schools to implement strategies that preserve coverage, support renewals, and maintain access to primary and preventive care for those at risk of exclusion.**

We are grateful to our community for voting for Measure A to approve emergency funding to stave off the worst impacts on our local hospitals and health centers. The path forward will require coordination, planning, and advocacy across the healthcare system and community providers to preserve access and limit the harmful health impacts for all of us.

For more information, visit <https://vhfca.link/health-access>.

## Healthier Beginnings Through Evidence-Based Practice

*VHF-funded study improves care for premature babies*

**Recent VHF-supported research shows that the first two weeks of life are a turning point for premature infants.**

Babies fed only human milk — whether from their mother or a donor — were able to reach full feeding volume milestones by week two. Those given formula alongside milk never reached that milestone. Higher volumes are linked to improved

neurodevelopmental outcomes and fewer complications.

At the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, our partners are putting this science into practice by combining early lactation support with donor milk programs.

These efforts give fragile infants the healthiest possible start.

**This breakthrough highlights how early lactation support and donor milk programs aren't just compassionate — they're innovative solutions that transform science into better outcomes.**

Narasimhan, S. R., Vallejo, M., Nudelman, M., & Jegatheesan, P. (2025). Type and volume of milk intake in premature infants <33 weeks gestational age in the NICU. *Children*, 12(4), 431. <https://doi.org/10.3390/children12040431>



## From Wheels to Wellness

*How bikes transform lives*

Turning Wheels for Kids (TWFK), a program of Valley Health Foundation, has delivered more than 50,000 bikes, helmets, and locks to children in need across Santa Clara County, creating lasting impact in health, education, and community equity.



On December 13, 2025, the Big Bike Build event was held at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, where volunteers assembled 1,000 new bikes, spreading joy and fostering active lifestyles.

Every bike promotes daily exercise, reduces the risk of chronic diseases, and encourages independence and access to school and programs. This initiative eases financial burdens for low-income families by providing safe, reliable transportation, paired with helmets and locks to ensure safety.

Beyond immediate benefits, the program supports cleaner air and healthier neighborhoods by reducing car trips. More than just bikes, Turning Wheels for Kids builds bridges to opportunity, mobility, and dignity — showing families their community cares and empowering kids to ride toward a brighter future.

**Every bike built is a gift of health, hope, and freedom, made possible by community generosity and the spirit of giving at the Big Bike Build event.**

## Make a Year-End Gift

Your support today for Valley Health Foundation (VHF) ensures that our public healthcare system has the capacity to provide the very best care to everyone who needs it. Every dollar makes a difference — whether it's exploring new models of care or investing in new technologies to do more with less.

For every friend, family member, or neighbor who has relied on our public healthcare system, your support helps dedicated and caring staff meet the challenges ahead.

Donations to VHF make a difference year-round — but if you want to ensure your next gift is received before the close of the 2025 tax year, it is easy to make a gift online.



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