



# IMPACTReport



SPRING  
2017



## Greetings Supporters,



Go Public! That's the theme around here these days as Santa Clara Valley Medical Center recently launched a major public awareness campaign. Inspiring

messages of excellent top-tier care, unparalleled staff commitment, and pride in our County's public hospital have us all celebrating. You can watch all the ads at [scvmc.org](http://scvmc.org). Let me know what you think!

This is shaping up to be a big year for the VMC Foundation. We're getting ready to celebrate our donors at an unveiling of VMC's new hospital wing, the Sobrato Pavilion. It's thrilling to see years of construction and community investment come to life. We can't wait to show you the stunning new space.

As always, thank you for your commitment and for partnering with us to ensure that *all* of our fellow neighbors have access to the highest quality care, regardless of their ability to pay. We couldn't do this without you.

I love hearing from donors, so please don't hesitate to contact me any time at 408.885.5299 or [christopher.wilder@hhs.sccgov.org](mailto:christopher.wilder@hhs.sccgov.org).

Chris Wilder, CEO

## Donors Raise more than \$100,000 for VMC's Neonatal ICU!

Rozalyn Mendence and Gary Pollack opened The Great Highway in 2012 to showcase Gary's impressive collection of classic cars. The venue hosts dozens of private events every year, including birthday and anniversary parties, family reunions, corporate functions, and more. The Great Highway opens its doors for an annual charity Lobster Feed, raising thousands in donations for one lucky organization. The VMC Foundation was thrilled to be the most recent recipient!

Roz visited VMC last year and was inspired by the life-saving care provided every day in VMC's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). She learned that the VMC Foundation was raising funds to replace the aging Giraffe Bed isolettes that house premature newborns during their first weeks of life in the NICU. The machines simulate the safety and conditions of a mother's womb, making it the best possible environment for the fragile infants.

As many donors know, visiting the NICU is an incredibly moving experience. Roz was committed to helping, and she set a goal to raise \$40,000 at the next Lobster Feed – nearly double what they raised the year before.

Roz and Gary got to work and organized the most successful Lobster Feed in the company's history. Together with the generosity of the 150 guests in attendance, they blew their fundraising goal out of the water, raising more than \$100,000!

Thanks to the support of The Great Highway, the VMC Foundation will be purchasing two new Giraffe Beds for the NICU, and we're well on our way to having enough funds for a third unit. Our deepest gratitude goes to Roz and Gary for their leadership and generosity. VMC's tiniest patients thank you!

Rozalyn Mendence and Gary Pollack of The Great Highway



## VMC Team Connects the Dots to Diagnose Dangerous Headache



◀ **Steven Gutierrez** could no longer stand the pain. The headache, which had worsened over the month of December, was debilitating. Weak and unable to eat, he called his mother, Doris. She recalls, "I'd never seen him like this.

He told me his brain was on fire. I don't like driving on freeways, but I knew I needed to get him to a doctor."

Doris took her son to a local emergency room because Steven was uninsured and didn't have a primary care doctor. ER staff conducted tests, but after 8 hours they told Steven they could find nothing wrong. He was discharged with pain medication and a list of area physicians. Steven's symptoms continued to worsen. They returned to the ER, with the same result.

Doris became increasingly concerned and began reaching out to friends. It was then she learned about VMC. "My friend told me, 'Go to VMC. They'll find out what's wrong.' It also helped that they would see Steven even though he didn't have insurance."

Once at VMC, staff began performing tests and connecting the dots. A spinal tap revealed blood in Steven's spinal fluid. Doctors also diagnosed diabetes. Other tests revealed that it was likely he had a herniated disc. But most concerning was some bleeding on the brain...the cause of the intense, burning pain and a very serious situation. Steven needed to be hospitalized and treated immediately to stop the bleeding and decrease the pressure and damage.

Steven is now home, continuing to follow up with his VMC neurologist and diabetes specialists and hoping to go back to work soon. VMC staff also helped him to apply for health insurance. Steven says, "I knew I was in good hands when they told me, 'We're going to fix this.' VMC really went above and beyond."

The VMC Foundation is connecting the dots too, from the support of generous donors, like you, to the world-class technology able to tackle mysterious diagnoses like Steven's. Your support does make a difference and we thank you!

## Urgent Care in Downtown San Jose Now Open, Again!

After serving downtown residents for more than 30 years, San Jose Medical Center closed abruptly in 2004. Without local urgent and preventive care, patients began streaming into other hospitals, especially the VMC Emergency Department which was treating two to three times the usual number of patients.

Local activists began working to ensure that downtown residents – regardless of insurance status – had somewhere to go for urgent and ongoing medical care. Their plan began to take shape when voters passed Measure A in 2008. With its passage, funding could be used to build a new health center at the SJMC site.

Eight years later – and on-budget – Valley Health Center Downtown opened as a part of Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System. It has the capacity to serve more than 30,000 individuals, providing adult and children's urgent care, family medicine, ob/gyn, pediatrics, lab, radiology/ diagnostic imaging, and a pharmacy.



### Mark Your Calendar!

**National Hospital Week: May 7-13**

**VMC Foundation Annual Gala: September 23**

**The Heroes Run: November 4**

## The VMC Foundation Board of Directors

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