Elevating Behavioral Health
in Santa Clara County



Support dignity, recovery, and hope.

The landmark Behavioral Health Pavilion at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) marks a new era for mental health care close to home.

VALLEY HEALTH FOUNDATION

A Sanctuary Built for Recovery

When someone we love experiences a mental health crisis, receiving care close to home is vital. For too long, families across Santa Clara County faced a fragmented system. Young people were often sent hours away for inpatient care, while adults navigated disconnected services across multiple sites.

Every resident in our county, at every age and stage of life, deserves compassionate care surrounded by those who love them.

> "We have an opportunity to build the model behavioral health system that inspires national change."

Michael Elliott, Executive Director
Valley Health Foundation



Timing and Location Matter

Tessa, an 11-year-old San José resident, became psychotic and developmentally delayed overnight.

Misdiagnosed as bipolar, then as schizophrenic, and heavily medicated, Tessa spent ten agonizing months boomeranging between psychiatric facilities and a home that required three full-time aides just to keep her safe. Alternately catatonic and violent, she was trapped in a severe medical crisis with no clear answers.

After months on a waiting list, specialists ultimately diagnosed Tessa with pediatric acute-onset neuro-psychiatric syndrome (PANS).

By the time specialists finally identified the cause, months of precious time had been lost.

While years of treatment have helped Tessa rebuild, early local access to comprehensive care could have changed everything. With the opening of the Behavioral Health Pavilion, children like Tessa will receive the care they need in a timely manner.

> "The Behavioral Health Pavilion provides a safe and healing environment for individuals experiencing acute symptoms related to psychiatric illness and substance use. Philanthropic support enables us to consistently deliver the quality care that our community members deserve."

Kristoffer Strauss, MD, Medical Director
Acute Psychiatric Services, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center

Care Close to Home

Welcome to a space built specifically for our community.

The new Behavioral Health Pavilion represents a fundamental shift in how we care for our neighbors. By bringing specialized care for youth and adults under one umbrella, we are building a compassionate, unified home for mental health in Santa Clara County.

Previously, children under 18 needing inpatient care were often transferred hours away to facilities in Fremont, Vallejo, Concord, or Sacramento.

By uniting emergency assessment and specialized inpatient treatment in a single local campus, we help more patients receive care close to the people who support them.

With a complete continuum of behavioral and mental health care now rooted in our community, healing begins right here at home.



A Vision for a Clear and Supportive Path Forward

Building the facility was the first step. Bringing it to life takes all of us.

The Behavioral Health Pavilion lays an essential foundation for our region, but realizing a truly supportive path forward is a shared, long-term journey. Donor support turns this modern facility into a home for healing, expanding access to specialized therapies, emergency family aid, and innovative care for every neighbor in need.

Leading the way in uncertain times.

At a time when private providers are closing and scaling back mental health services nationwide, the opening of the Behavioral Health Pavilion represents the County of Santa Clara's commitment to do what's right for our community. The center will open during an era of unprecedented federal divestment in healthcare services. Local support will be needed to ensure the Behavioral Health Pavilion can meet its potential.



Prevention

Promoting mental wellness and reducing risk factors early.

Intervention

Identifying risks and providing assessment, and crisis support.

Recovery

Supporting healing, stability and independence.

Supporting Our Future

With your philanthropic support, the Behavioral Health Pavilion becomes the anchor for a complete, compassionate mental health safety net for our region. Restorative architecture and natural light combine to create a peaceful, welcoming environment built for healing.

Highlights of the New Pavilion

- **77 beds:** 42 for adults, 21 for adolescents ages 12 to 17, and 14 for children ages 5 to 11
- **The first of its kind in our county:** Delivering dedicated emergency psychiatric care and acute inpatient units for children and adolescents within a public health system
- **Separate emergency entrances** and assessment areas for adults and minors
- **A walk-in urgent care clinic** and outpatient pharmacy near the main entrance
- **An outdoor courtyard on every unit** and a protected rooftop court for basketball and other activities
- **Large group spaces** for art therapy, mindfulness, and daily activities
- **207,000 square feet** on the west side of the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center campus, the Behavioral Health Pavilion provides patients ready access to medical care.

Our Core Commitments

Age-Sensitive Spaces: Dedicated, separate spaces for children, adolescents, and adults.

Universal Access: Comprehensive care for every resident, whether privately insured, on Medi-Cal, or uninsured.

Complete Inclusivity: Dignified treatment for all community members, housed or unhoused.

A Healthier Community for All

Significant public investment built this landmark foundation. Philanthropic leadership brings it to life, ensuring no family faces a mental health crisis alone.

How Your Donation Can Help

Join us to help provide this vital home for recovery to ensure that our community, and children like Tessa, receive compassionate care right where they live, whenever they need it most.

Create the most comforting, therapeutic environment.

Art therapy, yoga and mindfulness, exercise, daily activities, and soothing artwork for the group spaces.

Support for worried families.

An emergency assistance fund for hotel stays, meals, and transportation so out-of-town family members can be present, plus welcoming visitor waiting areas.

Develop a center for research and innovation.

Investment in FDA-approved treatment technologies and the development of a clinical research program focused on outcomes for this understudied population.

Expand workforce development.

Scholarships for behavioral health nursing certification, conferences, and workshops; underwriting for a psychiatry residency program in partnership with local health systems.

Care for our dedicated staff.

Caregiver support, with focus on morale and wellness for our dedicated providers and staff who carry this work forward.

If you or someone you know is struggling, **call or text 988** to reach the **Suicide & Crisis Lifeline,** or call Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services at **800-704-0900**.

Valley Health Foundation (VHF) is the only nonprofit that supports Santa Clara Valley Healthcare (SCVH) in benefiting patients, families, and healthcare professionals to improve outcomes and address barriers.

VALLEY HEALTH FOUNDATION

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Valley Health Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization (EIN 77-0187890) that raises funds in support of Santa Clara Valley Healthcare. © 2026 Valley Health Foundation

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