

Impact Report



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FALL 2025

Our Health, Our Future

Keep our local hospitals open

Last month, the U.S. government signed into law the largest Medicaid cut in the program's 60-year history. In California, Medicaid fuels public hospitals, community clinics, and vital care for hundreds of thousands in Santa Clara County.

These cuts threaten more than inconvenience: overwhelmed ERs, rising premiums, and financial crisis for families. Even those with private insurance feel the strain when emergency rooms close and patients flood nearby hospitals.

Santa Clara Valley Healthcare (SCVH) serves one in four residents and operates two of three trauma centers within the county of Santa Clara. SCVH's four hospitals handle nearly half of all emergency visits — 750 daily. In 2024, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center treated more trauma patients than any other hospital in California. If it falters, the entire system feels it.

As federal support fades, local solutions must rise. After careful consideration, the Board of Directors of **Valley Health Foundation endorses Measure A** — a temporary five-eighths cent sales tax to offset devastating Medicaid losses.

The last thing our community needs is for a hospital or emergency room to close. Together, we've built one of the nation's strongest public healthcare systems. ***Let's keep it that way — for our health, and our future.***

Care Bags: Because Hope Should Travel Home

With support from Valley Health Foundation, the Care Bags program has reached hundreds of individuals discharged from psychiatric care following suicide attempts or severe suicidal thoughts. Launched five years ago by Evelyn Quintanilla, Community Outreach Specialist for Suicide and Crisis Services, **the program provides immediate comfort and care to roughly 240 high-risk individuals annually across Santa Clara County.**

Each bag contains items designed to ease stress and promote well-being — lavender satchels, pill boxes, squishy toys, personal care

items, 988 Lifeline resources, and more. The goal is to transform discharge from a moment of vulnerability into one of dignity and hope.

“These bags carry an unwritten message: You are not alone. You matter. Clinicians tell me how grateful they are to have something positive to offer patients at that critical point — it can make all the difference,” said Evelyn Quintanilla.

Now in its fifth year, the program continues to be funded by generous VHF donors — because hope should be within reach.



Michael Elliott,
President and
Executive Director

Equity in Action: South County HEALS!

Promotoras, partnerships, and grassroots change



Valley Health Foundation (VHF) proudly supports South County HEALS! (Health Equity Access for All Leadership Initiative), which advances health equity and leadership in underserved

communities through collaboration with residents and local agencies.

This quarter, five new promotoras joined the initiative, expanding outreach in East Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and nearby areas. Promotoras are bilingual, trusted health champions who bridge gaps between healthcare systems and Latinx communities.

Promotoras have advocated at the County Board of Supervisors, amplified Latino Health Assessment findings, and joined regional efforts with Vision y Compromiso.

With support from VHF's Wellness Fund and California Accountable Communities for Health Initiative (CACHI), South County HEALS! increased its presence at San Ysidro Park's food distribution site, hosted workshops, and promoted equity-based hiring.

Mini-grants supported grassroots projects in mental health, youth empowerment, and violence prevention — selected through community residents' consensus.

Healing Without Harm

Innovation, ethics, and sustainability in care

Healthcare contributes up to 8% of national carbon emissions, largely from single-use medical supplies discarded after one procedure. A better path is not only possible — it's already working.

On July 10, Valley Health Foundation and the SCVH Climate Collaborative hosted a powerful lecture by Dr. Mahmood Bhutta, Professor of Sustainable Healthcare. His topic exposed the ethical and environmental toll of current supply chains, including forced labor and child exploitation.

Dr. Bhutta advocates for ethical sourcing and reusable tools. In 142 global case studies, every system saved money by going green, **showing that climate action and cost-effective care can go hand in hand — without compromising safety.**

As Medicaid faces deep cuts, our community health systems must become more efficient and less wasteful. But this is more than financial — it's moral. Santa Clara Valley Healthcare has pledged to be 50% carbon neutral by 2030 and fully neutral by 2050.

Valley Health Foundation remains committed to advancing solutions that combine ethical sourcing, environmental responsibility, and innovative care.

Watch the full presentation: <https://vhfca.link/DrBhuttaZoom>

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To read more about our work and how donations make a difference, visit our website at valleyhealthfoundation.org



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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. If you would prefer not to receive mail from us, email optout@vhfca.org.



Tribute to Heroes Gala: Save Our Local Hospitals

We're changing the script — because the stakes have changed

This year, the Tribute to Heroes Gala isn't business as usual. With Medicaid cuts threatening our local safety-net hospitals, we're turning this black-tie evening into a stand for our community's health.

On **Saturday, September 13, 2025**, join us at the **Signia Hilton in San Jose** for a night that blends elegance with purpose. You'll be among Silicon Valley's leading healthcare professionals, business leaders, elected officials, and — most importantly — our donors and advocates who refuse to let our hospitals go underfunded.

Enjoy gourmet cuisine, fine wines, and live music — but know that every toast, conversation, and contribution is part of something bigger. Because this year, we'll raise more than glasses. We'll raise hope, resources, and resolve.

This year the heroes we celebrate are the ones investing in **our health, our future.**

Register or donate at: vhfca.link/gala