



NEW

CARING COMMUNITY UPDATE



Incoming Board Chair Bill Hastie



Outgoing Board Chair Monica Tovar

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to 2024! We are looking forward to a successful, impactful year of service to our patients and their families, and we thank you for all that you do in support of our mission.

As 2023 came to a close, so did Monica Tovar's term of service as our Foundation Board Chair. We cannot thank her enough for her tireless service, her joyous enthusiasm for our cause, and her passion for our community. Monica will now step into the role of Past Chair, but she will still serve on the Foundation Board through the end of FY24.

Welcoming 2024 means that we also welcome our incoming Board Chair, Bill Hastie, who will serve as Chair for the remainder of FY24. Bill has served on the Salinas Valley Health Foundation Board since 2021, most recently as our Treasurer, and we are honored to have him lead our efforts into the future.



Congratulations to our winners!

Just before the end of the year, we had the privilege of presenting our 2023 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance Charity Drawing winners with their brand new INFINITI! Congratulations to the Secondos, and thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket for a chance to win, helping us to raise over \$76,000 for our Healthy Kids Fund. We are incredibly grateful to Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and to INFINITI for this unique opportunity.

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals 2024 Local Champion

MEET JESSICA

Diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) at age 4 and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at age 5, Jessica's life is a story of courage and resilience. Now at 9 years old, she has embraced her challenges with remarkable spirit and enthusiasm.

Through "Making More Miracles," the Pediatric Medical Needs Assistance Program at Salinas Valley Health Foundation, Jessica has had access to innovative programs like equine (horse) therapy and has received technological aids to enhance her communication skills. These interventions have played a crucial role in her social and emotional development. From her initial hesitation to her current confident, adventurous spirit, Jessica's transformation has been incredible.

Last summer Jessica was able to participate in the Days of Discovery program at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which is fully funded by donations made to our local Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Program. This unique program provides children with special needs the opportunity to surface-scuba dive in the Great Tide Pool Exhibit, paired with experienced volunteer divers. While she was apprehensive at first, with the right support and encouragement, Jessica transformed her fear into triumph, discovering not just the wonders of the ocean but also a newfound confidence in herself.

Contributions to our local Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Program make a real difference in the lives of children like Jessica, empowering them to overcome challenges and to live happier, healthier lives.



Scan the QR code to learn more about our local CMN Hospitals Program!



Children's Miracle Network Hospitals

Jessica, age 9 Monterey County

Comfort and Joy for the Holidays



Our second annual Adopt-a-Patient-Family campaign was an overwhelming success with over \$12,000 raised and 11 staff-nominated patient families receiving support. This internal campaign was supported exclusively by staff donations. Nominating departments helped to connect with the receiving families and in several cases even helped to deliver the donated items.

Adopted families received individualized support for basic needs like groceries, gas, hygiene products, blankets, infant car seats, shoes, diapers, and more.

Thank you to everyone who supported our year end fundraising through the annual Monterey County Gives Campaign! We raised over \$27,000 for our Comprehensive Cancer Care Fund and will receive a partial match on the donated funds.



Grateful patient Liz Castro and her family recently included MC Gives in their holiday light display to help give back to Salinas Valley Health for the care and comfort received during her cancer journey. When asked why she chose to help, Liz shared "Cancer changed my life, but together we can change the lives of so many for the better."



Donations made to our Healthy Kids Fund provided 227 Holiday Comfort Kits to local pediatric patients! Kits were distributed in the Emergency Department, the Pediatrics Unit, and through our Mobile Clinic, and each kit included a warm pair of PJs and a stuffed friend.

Are you on Social Media?



<u>Like us on Facebook</u>



Follow us on Instagram



<u>Follow us on X</u> (formerly Twitter)



<u>Follow our TikTok</u>



Follow us on LinkedIn



Follow us on YouTube





When it comes to making a difference in kids' health, every dollar counts! We recently launched a monthly giving program specifically geared toward our Children's Miracle Network Hospitals program, allowing our generous donor family to give monthly at a level that is both meaningful and manageable.

Whether you give \$15 per month or \$500, every dollar stays local and helps to #ChangsKidsHealth and #ChangeTheFuture! Scan the QR code to sign up today.

Salinas Valley Health Foundation

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