

# Grateful Journeys

GRATITUDE IN ACTION

April 2023 – Spring Edition



## Lauren Day, MA, CFRE

Philanthropy Executive,  
Central Valley Network

Philanthropy comes from the Greek word *philanthropos*, meaning “love for mankind,” and Meriam-Webster dictionary defines philanthropy as “goodwill to fellow members of the human race.” Philanthropy often begins with gratitude: gratitude for lifesaving treatments, for an act of kindness or for efforts to make a community stronger. At the Central Valley Health Foundation, my role is to celebrate gratitude. Every gift to our foundation stays within the Central Valley, ensuring we have the very best care right here in our community. If you have a story to share or would like to get involved in the good work happening here, feel free to reach out to me directly. It is a privilege to serve you.

Feel free to reach out to Lauren directly at [dayl@ah.org](mailto:dayl@ah.org) or 559-537-0050.

## Foundation Matters



*“At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”*

- Albert Schweitzer

A very special congratulations to Lauren Ricks, RN for receiving the DAISY Award! It was an absolutely beautiful experience to witness a grateful family acknowledge the incredible work of one of our nurses.

Hanford Birth Center registered nurse **Lauren Ricks** recently received the DAISY Award for saving a newborn’s life! The award recognizes extraordinary nurses throughout the United States.

The little boy, who was born full term and seemed healthy, was being prepared to go home, but Lauren didn’t feel comfortable with that idea, his mother wrote.

“Lauren Ricks saved our son’s life” by properly doing the newborn screening and “trusting her gut that something wasn’t right with his appearance and the machines,” she wrote.

Instead of going home, the newborn was sent to Valley Children’s Hospital, and he was found to have multiple heart birth defects, his mother said. “The surgeon had said he would have only survived hours or days at best if his defects were not corrected.”

The infant went through an 11-hour surgery and stayed in the hospital for six weeks. “It was the longest six weeks of our lives, ... but we owe everything to [the] medical team,” she said. “Lauren will forever hold a special place in our hearts and in our home.”

Thank you, Lauren, for recognizing the signs that something just wasn’t right and knowing exactly what to do.

## Because of You...



### Hanford Birth Center Receives New Beds

Funds left over from the Hanford Birth Center building campaign have been used to give rest to our patients' support people. The campaign funds, which were raised through the foundation, were used to purchase 16 new beds for those who support mothers before and after birth. These beds look like couches, but with a few moves, they change into a very comfortable resting place for mothers' helpers. We are so grateful to use that funding to support an important initiative within the Birth Center.



### Compassion Cart for Grieving Families in the Emergency Department

A Compassion Cart was purchased for our Hanford Emergency Department to support our mission of living God's love. This idea came from one of our nurse navigators, Valerie Remy. The Compassion Cart, which replaces bereavement trays that previously were used, offers personal and professional support to families experiencing a death in the emergency department. The tray will come with a selection of hot and cold beverages and snacks to nourish the family in their time of grief. Should other Emergency Departments be interested in implementing a Compassion Cart, please connect with the Central Valley Health Foundation.



### Hospice Earns Recognition for Veterans Care

Congratulations to our Hospice Department for receiving a four-star recognition from We Honor Veterans, a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Receiving four stars signifies an increase in access and improved quality of care for veterans in our community. Factors include strengthening relationships with VA medical centers and other veterans organizations, building capacity to provide quality care for veterans, providing veteran-centric education for staff and volunteers and identifying patients with military experience. Thank you to our Hospice team for their work on this recognition and the level of care they provide.



### Hospice Butterfly Release Event

Our Hospice Department will host their annual Memorial Butterfly Release and Service of Remembrance event on Saturday, April 29, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have experienced the loss of a loved one, we welcome you to be a part of this event, which will include guest speakers, musical selections, refreshments and an opportunity to release a live butterfly as a symbol of hope.

More information is available on our website at [Memorial Butterfly Release | Adventist Health Central Valley](#).



### New Central Valley Health Foundation Website

We are extremely excited to announce that our new and improved Central Valley Health Foundation Website is now live! It has a lot of great information, stories and ways to get involved. Please visit [centralvalley.give.adventisthealth.org](http://centralvalley.give.adventisthealth.org) to see what's new.