

## Valley View Hospital Expands and Renovates its Critical Care Unit

Valley View's 10-bed critical care unit (CCU) offers the area's most sophisticated intensive care for cardiology, surgical, trauma, pediatric and other patients. Valley View is the only hospital from Grand Junction to Denver that offers this level of intensive care. As our Valley grows, the number of patients requiring care in the CCU has increased to a point where additional rooms are needed. Concurrently, the complexity of patient health care needs also continues to increase, requiring renovation of existing rooms in the CCU to match that complexity.

**“As the only hospital in our region offering the level of intensive care our CCU provides, support from our community towards the renovation and expansion of Valley View’s Critical Care Unit will help ensure that you can continue to utilize this crucial resource and receive your critical care locally when you need it most.”**

*-Ellie Reichstein, Nursing Director of the Critical Care Unit*

Referring providers continue to choose our CCU to send their patients to when a higher level of care is required. Additionally, pediatric patients requiring hospitalization are cared for in Valley View's CCU, ensuring the highest level of care for these young patients. In turn, the unit's patient volumes have remained high.

The CCU was constructed in 2006 as part of a larger multi-phase masterplan that effectively expanded and rebuilt the hospital in-place. This project includes the renovation of six of the original 10 CCU rooms and construction of an additional three rooms. While four of the 10 original rooms have been previously renovated to create “step-down”

care for patients, six rooms remained outdated. Each renovated room will benefit from a new headwall system, the feature that combines electrical and medical gas functions while managing cords and tubing, at the head of the patient bed. New floors, cabinetry and other aesthetic upgrades will support both patient safety and experience plus nursing workflow.



Three new rooms will be constructed, repurposing space from the Acute Care wing adjacent to the CCU. These rooms will care for the highest acuity patients. A new nurses' station and storage will accompany these new rooms, as will a small physical therapy area. Lastly, a new family room will offer a dedicated space for family members or close friends of patients, enabling these care partners to remain close.

The cost of this project, including design, construction and equipment, totals \$4.1 million. **Valley View asks our community to join this effort to support and expand the advanced level of care available to our region.**

To make a gift, please contact Autumn Porter, Gift Officer, at 970.384.6624 or at [Autumn.Porter@vvh.org](mailto:Autumn.Porter@vvh.org). 100% of philanthropic gifts directed towards the Critical Care Unit will benefit this project.

## Letter from Patti Miely: Valley View Foundation President



As we enter the holiday season, I cannot help but think about how another year is passing by too quickly. Thanksgiving is upon us and please know how grateful Valley View is for all of your support throughout this past year.

This time of year is a great time to consider what you are thankful for. I cherish time with my family and friends, my health, my quiet walks along the river, the activities that I am involved in, the people I volunteer with at Valley View and so much more. Often, I ask myself what the most important aspects of a community are: the people, the schools, the local health care, and our beautiful surroundings. What would our community be without the people and services we have here in the Roaring Fork Valley?

Valley View provides us with excellent health care that is rarely found in a rural community such as ours. In addition to the unique breadth of services we offer, we are unique inasmuch we are not a tax-based hospital. While other hospitals in the area receive tax revenues from property owners, Valley View does not. That is one of the reasons

the generosity of our philanthropic donors helps support services offered at Valley View. That said, I am sending out an appeal to all of our community members to consider Valley View in their holiday giving. Many of us are of the age where RMD (Required Minimum Distributions) are required from our IRA's; please consider Valley View as one of your qualified charities. Maybe there is a piece of equipment that you would like to help purchase, perhaps there is a physician, nurse or staff member you would like to honor with a donation to Valley View, or maybe you'd like to make an unrestricted gift that can be used where needed. Please remember Valley View at this time of giving.

I know many of you and I cannot say THANK YOU enough as you are the silent stars that line the walls of Valley View. By working together, we can help ensure the excellent health care that Valley View provides throughout our region. There are so many ways to help with volunteer work, philanthropic support, neighborly caring and LOVE.

Happy holidays to all and warm, cozy wishes for the season!

Patricia Miely  
Board President, Valley View Foundation

## Leave a Lasting Legacy with Valley View

Make an impact on the health of our community for generations to come with a planned or estate gift to Valley View. Your legacy gift helps ensure world-class, personalized health care for you, your family and loved ones.

Together with your advisors, we can help you design a planned gift that meets your personal, financial and philanthropic goals. Contact Autumn Porter, Gift Officer, at 970.384.6624 or [Autumn.Porter@vvh.org](mailto:Autumn.Porter@vvh.org) to start this conversation today.



*The original Valley View Hospital building; image courtesy of the Glenwood Springs Historical Society*

# Bear With Me: A calming voice, a soft touch during emergency situations



It may seem like a small thing, and it is, in fact, a small thing, a toy teddy bear, but when a child or a parent has to leave Valley View and be moved to another hospital, having the sound of a loved one's voice close by, is really a big thing.

This was the thinking behind the Bear With Me program at Valley View. It started seven years ago when Watts Brooks, the son of Dr. Ellen Brooks and Dr. David Brooks, envisioned the program. "When Watts was 13 he was bar mitzvah-ed, and with any bar mitzvah, he needed a community service project," says Dr. Ellen Brooks. "He was interested in aviation and so he wanted to do something related to that. He spent a lot of time at the hospital and would watch the helicopter take off."

Knowing how many children were often flown to Denver and other locations without their parents for comfort, Watts created this program of providing teddy bears with the ability to record a family member's voice that was then given to the child during what was a frightening time.

"The idea is to have a comforting voice with an infant, a child or even with an adult who needs the support," says Dr. Brooks.

While the program began with Pediatric Partners patients, it has expanded through the hospital's various departments. Case managers have access to the bears and can offer them to any patient encountering a medical flight and are deemed in need of a soothing message.

Hundreds of Bear With Me bears have been tucked into the arm, blanket or crib of patients since 2014, and while it's a small token of love, it means a lot to the patient and their families. The purchase of these bears is funded through private donations via the Valley View Foundation.

"Parents often feel helpless when they are being separated from a child," says Dr. Brooks. "In some ways this program is as much for the parent as it is for the child. It gives parents something they can do, and in part distracts them from the weight of what's going on."

*Make a gift today to support pediatric care at Valley View. In addition to the Bear with Me project, donors can help Valley View purchase a Giraffe Bed Warmer for newborns in the Family Birthplace. Visit [TinyUrl.com/GiveATI](https://TinyUrl.com/GiveATI) and mention your desired project in the Donor Note section.*

## Save the Date for Colorado Gives Day Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Support strong, independent healthcare at Valley View through Colorado Gives! Schedule your donation today or make a gift through December 10 at [TinyURL.com/VVCOGives](https://TinyURL.com/VVCOGives)



## Summit Circle's Newest Members



Valley View is thrilled to welcome the newest members of the Summit Circle. The Summit Circle is a leading group of philanthropists who have donated or pledged at least \$10,000 in lifetime giving. Welcome to the following new members who have joined the Summit Circle since Spring of 2024:

### The Brandt Family

**Karen Brinkley\***

### The Cameron Family Foundation

**Patrick & Rebecca Guerra**

**Ryan Kolczak\***

**David & Dora Lee**

**Bill & Marina Marcoux**

**Henrik & Jennifer Parker**

**Kiko & Grace Peña**

**Doug & Lynda Weiser**

*\*Names with asterisks signify 2024 Valley View employee donors.*

## Cornerstone Employee Giving Spotlight

Valley View employees change lives and make a positive impact each day. Every gift made by a staff member supports comprehensive, personalized care to patients. A portion of each employee donation also benefits the Silver Lining Fund, which provides financial assistance to Valley View employees facing financial hardships. Thank you, team!



"I give as a staff Summit Circle and Cornerstone Employee Donor because I believe in Valley View as a crucial health care resource for our rural community. Working in the Cardiac Cath Lab, and as a patient myself, I've seen firsthand how Valley View's personalized, patient-centered approach can be life-changing for

our patients and their families. I am proud to be a part of our community and support Valley View through my work and philanthropic contributions!"

*– Karen "Brinks" Brinkley, Cardiac Cath Lab Tech, Summit Circle and Cornerstone Employee Donor*

## Did You Know?

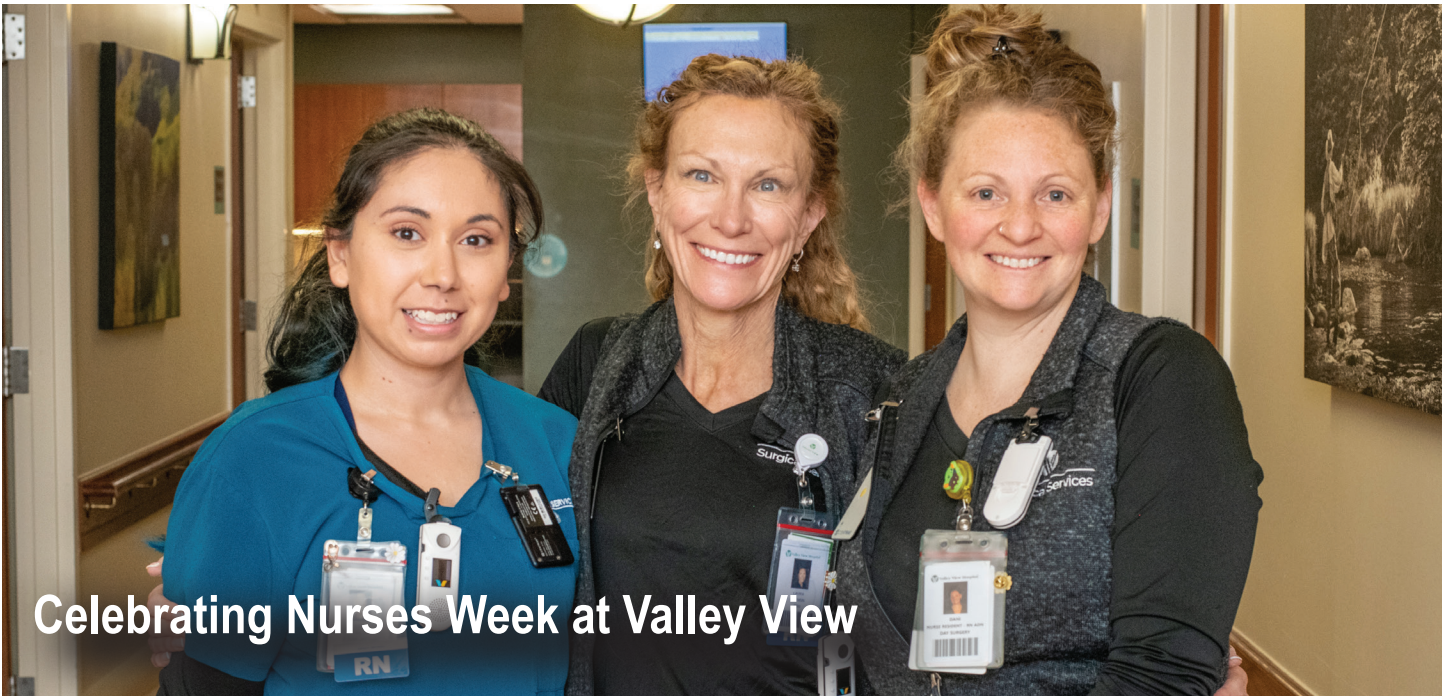
Valley View Hospital features the region's only 24/7 Cardiac Cath Lab. This incredible resource, accessible to the Roaring Fork Valley and beyond, is available to you whenever it's needed – whether that's on a Sunday afternoon or in the middle of the night. Generous support from donors in our community helped bring the Cardiac Cath Lab to our region. We are so grateful to the donors who helped make this resource a reality for our community!

# Summit Circle Donors Celebrate at Annual Reception

In August, members of the Summit Circle and the Legacy Society gathered for an annual reception to celebrate the monumental impact of their philanthropic support. Attendees heard about the impact of their giving from a fantastic panel featuring Dr. Brian Murphy (*Valley View CEO*), Dr. Jennifer Butterfield (*Plastic Surgeon, Mt. Sopris Plastic Surgery Center*), Dr. Ethan Munzinger (*Interventional Cardiologist, Heart & Vascular Center*) and Dr. Brett Hesse (*Chief of Medical Staff, Hospitalist, Emergency Department Physician*).

Contact Autumn Porter, Gift Officer, at 970.384.6624 or [Autumn.Porter@vvh.org](mailto:Autumn.Porter@vvh.org) to learn more about joining the Summit Circle or Legacy Society. Thank you to all those who were able to join the Foundation at the annual Summit Circle reception this year!





## Celebrating Nurses Week at Valley View

No matter the situation, when we're ill or injured, we can count on the nurses at our bedside to make sure we receive the treatment we need to recover and stay healthy. The role of nurses, in short, is to make a meaningful impact on our care and in our lives. Thank you, nurses!

Valley View celebrates National Nurses Week annually to honor the immeasurable contributions made by the nurses who care for us. We recognize the outstanding work of the 350-plus nurses who manage patients' treatment with a week full of appreciation, prizes, awards and celebrations. Thank you so much to **Presenting Sponsor Alpine Bank** for their phenomenal leading support of Nurses Week at Valley View this year!



## Recognizing Cancer Survivors in June



On June 18, members of our community convened to celebrate the resilience of our friends, family and loved ones who have experienced or who are currently experiencing cancer. The celebration featured a tribute to honor survivors past and present, live music and provided attendees with an opportunity to spend time with the exceptional care teams and providers



at the Calaway•Young Cancer Center. We are grateful to **Presenting Sponsors Path Forward IT and The Marriott Glenwood Springs** for their incredible support of Cancer Survivorship Month at Valley View. Thank you to all those who joined us for this heartfelt gathering to honor the resilience of cancer survivors in our community!

## Tough Enough to Wear Pink at the Carbondale Rodeo

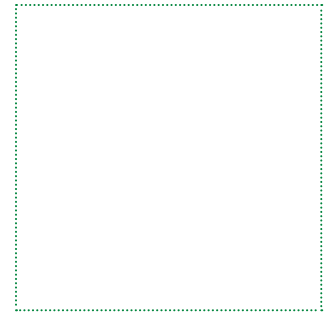
Community members gathered at the Tough Enough to Wear Pink Rodeo in July to celebrate breast cancer survivors and support cancer patients in our community. An evening filled with pink cowboy hats, pink-clad cowboys and cowgirls alike, horse wrangling and mutton busting, it was an event to remember.

Thanks to the support of the Carbondale Wild West Rodeo and amazing rodeo attendees, \$10,000 were donated to support cancer patients. Valley View is grateful to the Carbondale Wild West Rodeo for helping patients of the Calaway•Young Cancer Center. Thank you too to the Foundation's **Presenting Sponsor Nuance, a Microsoft Company** for their support at the event.





1906 Blake Avenue | Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601



## Silver Lining Fund Uplifts Valley View Employees

As a powerful reflection of the culture of Valley View, a portion of each employee donation is directed to our employee assistance fund, the Silver Lining Fund. Silver Lining helps employees in a wide variety of situations: from providing assistance for a month's rent, putting groceries on the table, or making sure the power stays on, Silver Lining can be a financial lifeline for staff members in crisis.

Without the generous support of donors to fuel the Silver Lining Fund, Valley View would not be able to provide this crucial resource to our employees. **Join the outstanding Valley View staff donors supporting their colleagues with a gift to the Silver Lining Fund today!** Simply visit [TinyUrl.com/VVHSilverLining](https://TinyUrl.com/VVHSilverLining) to make your donation.

