



Our community continues to face the challenge of COVID-19 and high rates of infection. We are encouraged that our healthcare system staff have begun to be vaccinated so they can safely care for patients who are currently hospitalized, dealing with COVID-19 or other emergency and healthcare needs. As the situation rapidly evolves, the SVMHS team is strategizing daily to tackle new challenges, shifting circumstances, and to distribute COVID-19 vaccinations safely across our community as doses become available. [You can find the latest updates and more information here.](#)

Supporting grieving families in our community

The pandemic has brought grief and loss in many forms to families in the Salinas Valley—especially for those who have lost loved ones during this difficult time. Latino traditions, in particular, have been greatly impacted by COVID-19 precautions, making saying goodbye even harder when families are not able to be together. Through a generous grant from the Hospice Giving Foundation, we have been able to provide caring support through a grief counseling program for Spanish-speaking families who have lost someone to COVID-19. The process of grief looks different for each and every person—but with these funds, we are able to provide a resource to aid loved ones through this difficult journey. This grant from Hospice Giving Foundation, in combination with gifts made to our Greatest Needs fund, will provide this free resource to the families of patients lost for the next 12 months.

MC Gives—the impact from our caring community

We cannot thank you enough—generous gifts made through the year-end MC Gives campaign raised \$58,600 for the Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital Foundation in support of our Greatest Needs Fund. These donations provide patients and families at SVMHS better opportunities to receive the best possible care for their greatest needs across the healthcare system. These gifts also ensure that our COVID-19 efforts continue to be responsive to the highest priority challenges. We are grateful to the campaign sponsors, Monterey County Weekly, the Monterey Peninsula Foundation, and the Community Foundation for Monterey County.



Mobile clinic – New location!

The SVMHS Mobile Clinic has adjusted their locations to better meet the needs of the community, including the addition of a new site at Walmart on North Main Street in Salinas. Walmart is a longtime partner of ours through Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, and now they are partnering with us again by serving as a location for this free primary care clinic to help increase access to care for those who need it.

Funded by philanthropy, the Mobile Clinic operates at no cost to the patient, and provides primary care, simple urgent care, health screenings, immunizations, and health education. In the coming weeks and months, the Mobile Clinic will also be activated to support the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations when they become available to the general public. To support the efforts of the mobile clinic, please consider giving to our Health and Wellness Fund. [Click here to see the complete clinic schedule.](#)

Faces of Philanthropy: Susan Merrill

Philanthropy has been a part of Susan Merrill's life for as long as she can remember. The incredible impact that she has helped create for the health of our community through her generosity, both as a donor and as a Foundation Governor and Past President, teaches us all what caring for your community looks like. [Hear from Susan in her own words in this video.](#)



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