

May 2022

CARING COMMUNITY UPDATE



YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A NEW LINCOLN WHILE SUPPORTING LOCAL CANCER PATIENTS

Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital Foundation is delighted to have been selected as a benefiting charity partner for the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance® for a fifth straight year. 100% of all ticket sales for the 2022 Charity Drawing will benefit our **Comprehensive Cancer Care Fund**, making a difference for local families during what is surely one of the most difficult times in their lives.

We are thrilled to announce that our partner for the charity drawing is **Lincoln**, maker of American luxury vehicles that keep comfort and personal wellness top of mind. While we await the details on the model that Lincoln is generously providing, ticket reservations have already started! Tickets are \$100 each, and you can reserve yours today by clicking [here](#).

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Maternal Mental Health Awareness

SVMHS' Labor and Delivery Unit and Perinatal Nurse Team recently hosted a diaper drive in support of Maternal Mental Health Awareness Week, recognized May 2-8, 2022.

Nationwide studies have found that diaper need is a greater contributor to postpartum depression than food insecurity and housing instability. Up to one in five mothers will experience a mental health disorder during pregnancy or the first year following childbirth.

An expensive necessity for every infant, one in three families struggles to provide clean diapers for their baby. WIC, SNAP and Medicaid do not cover diapers and TANF is rarely enough to help pay for them along with other basic needs. The poorest families spend the highest percentage of their income on diapers because they can't afford to buy them in bulk.

Parents in low-income households often make due by stretching the time between diaper changes or re-using diapers, both of which put babies at risk of infections, diaper rash and other health problems.

"For families that are struggling financially," said Adrienne Leyva, BSN, SVMHS Labor and Delivery Unit, "diapers are a basic need. Access to clean diapers can make the difference between a highly stressed family and one able to provide a healthy environment for their child."

Thanks to the generosity of donors and contributions made to our "Greatest Needs Fund," the SVMH Foundation was able to collaborate with our partners at Costco and purchase over 150 cases of diapers to contribute to the diaper drive.



Families line up to receive donated diapers from the SVMHS Mobile Health Clinic



Members of the Perinatal Care Team and the SVMH Foundation during "Operation: Foundation Diaper Drop"

Inaugural Kim Kelley Memorial Nursing Scholarship Awarded



Graduation ceremonies held last week at Hartnell College were bittersweet for the family of Kim Kelley, an Emergency Department Nurse and RN Preceptor at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital who passed away in March of 2021. The painful, unexpected loss gave birth to a legacy scholarship in Kim's memory and the inaugural gift is bestowed upon a first-generation college student with nursing dreams of her own.

Knowing how important nursing was to Kim, and how much she valued her experience at Hartnell College, Kim's family reached out to the Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital Foundation with the idea of creating a scholarship fund.

The Kim Kelley Memorial Nursing Scholarship Endowment Fund was created, with earnings dedicated to providing scholarships for nursing students at Hartnell College, ensuring that Kim's legacy and love of nursing would continue on long into the future.

The 2022 recipient of the Kim Kelley Memorial Nursing Scholarship is Vanessa Ramirez of Salinas, a 30 year old first generation college student, who is also a single mother of 2. She will graduate from Hartnell College with her degree in Registered Nursing today. Vanessa started her medical career as a pharmacy technician, then put herself through vocational school to become and LVN, and finally enrolled in Hartnell's nursing program at the start of the COVID pandemic in 2020.

"The most rewarding thing about nursing for me is being able to make a difference in people's lives, being there for them when they need assistance, and being able to help my community," says Vanessa, "I am thankful for being selected as the first recipient of the Kim Kelley Memorial Scholarship and I hope to make the Kelley family proud as I begin my career as an RN."

Vanessa hopes to work as a nurse at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, and is especially interested in the Emergency Department and its fast paced environment. She has already started working toward her Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) and will soon take the NCLEX exam with the California Board of Registered Nursing.



Vanessa Ramirez, recipient of the 2022 Kim Kelley Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Providing Culturally Inclusive Spiritual Care

Partially due to the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, and partially due to an increased focus on palliative care, staff throughout the hospital identified a demonstrated need for additional support for spiritual care services, especially for those patients and families within the Spanish speaking and / or Catholic communities.

Our long-standing partnership with Hospice Giving Foundation provided an opportunity to apply for funding to add this new full time position, which was approved and funded in 2021.

After an extensive search, we are proud to introduce the newest member of the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System's spiritual care services team, Chaplain Marlon Verduzco Peregrina.



Chaplain Marlon Verduzco Peregrina

With a heart for people and a passion for spiritual care, Chaplain Marlon brings with him valued chaplaincy experience both in hospital and hospice settings. He completed his theological training in Rome and is fluent in English, Spanish and Italian. Chaplain Marlon joins Chaplain Chriss Peterson in providing valuable services to our patients, their families, and our staff. We are incredibly grateful to Hospice Giving Foundation for helping to make this position possible.

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