

Stewardship Report 2004

Thanks to you and hundreds of other generous donors, we have exceeded the financial goal of \$30 million to fund three very important projects:

- The construction of The Robert & Audrey Luckow Pavilion, which houses The Daniel and Gloria Blumenthal Cancer Center and the George R. Jaqua Same Day Services Center
- Expansion and renovations of the Bolger Emergency Department
- Creation of an Endowment for Valley Home Care

I would like to update you on these projects.

Over 3500 procedures were performed last year at the Jaqua Same Day Services Center, located at the Robert and Audrey Luckow Pavilion and over 900 were performed in the first quarter of 2004. The Center has received national recognition for its patient satisfaction, which is in the 99th percentile in the country. In fact, the staff has been asked to present at national healthcare conferences. This facility includes six same-day surgery suites and four procedure rooms and is ideal for ophthalmologic, arthroscopic and other procedures that do not require an overnight stay in the hospital.

The Blumenthal Cancer Center, also located at the Robert and Audrey Luckow Pavilion, houses all cancer treatment and support services -- radiation therapy, chemotherapy, physician consultations, an image salon, a resource center, complementary medicine, support groups and other services -- in one comfortable, convenient location. Further enhancing cancer treatment is the addition of a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner located within the Cancer Center. Unlike other imaging techniques, such as CT or MRI which are limited to showing the structures of the body, PET scans show the actual biological functioning of the tissues of the human body. Using this technology, PET scans are used to more accurately identify a cancer's stage, allowing physicians to design and refine highly targeted patient treatment plans.

The Blumenthal Center is providing the most advanced mode of radiation therapy now available—Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy—which pinpoints the destruction of cancer cells while protecting healthy tissue. In 2003, Valley delivered over 5100 IMRT treatments. In the first quarter of 2004, we have delivered 2100 treatments.

The Bolger Emergency Department expansion and renovation is well under way with completion expected in early 2005. The new Emergency Department will have a total of 40 private treatment rooms, including a 5-bed pediatric suite. Also included in the newly renovated facility will be a new CT Scanner and two Digital X-Ray Machines in a Radiology Suite. The expansion will provide more capacity

for the 55,000 residents of our communities who seek treatment in Valley's Emergency Department each year. We have already added new clinical staff to the ED, including doctors who are Board Certified in Pediatric Emergency Care. Our goal is to see that patients receive treatment more quickly and have more privacy and comfort during their stay.

The CT scanner in the ED will ensure faster treatment and diagnosis for the 8,000 patients each year who require a CT scan. In no diagnosis will this be more important than in that of stroke. Over 950 patients arrive at Valley each year with a possible stroke. From the onset of stroke symptoms, the Stroke Team has a three hour window during which life saving clot busting drugs can be administered. The location of CT technology in the department will cut several minutes off the time for diagnosis. Valley is one of only 26 hospitals in the country to be designated as a Center of Excellence for the treatment of stroke by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

The Valley Home Care Endowment was established to help provide programs and services that are not reimbursed by Medicare, managed care or other health care insurance providers and for which families in need cannot pay themselves.

Today's trend of shorter hospital stays and same day surgery often leaves patients requiring more than just routine care and attention upon returning home. Valley Home Care provides in-home care ranging from specialized nursing care to home health aides. Social workers, a chaplain and trained volunteers provide emotional and spiritual support to patients and families. During 2003, Valley Home Care staff made over 195,000 visits to patients recovering from surgery, childbirth, and other procedures, and to patients coping with chronic illness.

Valley Home Care's 2004 operating budget is \$23.7 million. Revenue from insurance payments, Medicare and patient co-pays is expected to cover about 95% of the operating expenses, which means that approximately \$1 million must be covered from other sources. Services such as disease management programs, bereavement counseling, pastoral care and nutrition are not routinely covered by health insurance. The income from the Endowment Fund will be used to provide essential services for which there is no payment from other sources.

Again, thank you for what you have made possible. Your contribution is at work, serving thousands of your neighbors during the course of the year. Please let us know at any time if we can be of service to you or your family.

Sincerely,

Ann L. Swenson
President