



Valley
Children's
HOSPITAL

The Guilds of Valley Children's Hospital Spiritual Care Endowment

Encouragement, Hope, Peace and Comfort

A child's illness and hospitalization can be one of the most difficult times for any family. At Valley Children's we know attending to the spiritual and emotional needs of children and families is an important part of the healing process. Valley Children's Spiritual Care Services offers this care to individuals of all faith traditions and those who follow no traditional faith.

Our family-centered and culturally sensitive approach to spiritual care meets the needs of patients and families as well as members of our staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Chaplains and volunteers provide spiritual care in the form of prayers or blessings, religious and cultural rites, and traditions observing personal religious practices. Some patients and families only need a 15-minute visit for a prayer prior to undergoing surgery, while others may need two hours as they struggle with a difficult diagnosis, or worse yet, the loss of a child.

The Spiritual Care Services team is composed of chaplains, volunteers and community spiritual leaders. Our chaplains are specially trained clergy members who have the experience and understanding to reach across faith group boundaries. They can provide or arrange for sacraments, rituals and prayers of many traditions in the hospital setting. Chaplains also serve as mediators and reconcilers, and provide a communication bridge between patients, family members, institutions, spiritual leaders and staff.



\$1 Million: The Guilds Spiritual Care Endowment

Valley Children's has seen a considerable increase in the request for spiritual care services during the past few years. The current demand is expected to more than double with expanded hours and additional chaplains – from 5,300 patient/family contacts annually to nearly 12,000. On any given day Valley Children's may manage as many as 250 children on our inpatient floors or up to 400 cases in our emergency department, or perform over 75 surgeries or more than 300 diagnostic imaging studies. These numbers are growing as well.

Valley Children's currently provides spiritual care services through a combination of regular staff chaplains, per diem chaplains who are on call overnight and on weekends, and student and volunteer chaplains. The total number of hours this group provides is equivalent to 2.5 full-time chaplains. However, there are times when the demand for these services exceeds current staffing levels.

With philanthropy, the only source of revenue directly supporting this vital program, the \$1 million Guilds Spiritual Care Endowment will have a long-term impact. Spiritual care services are not reimbursable by insurance and Valley Children's does not receive local, state or federal support for these services. The endowment will enable us to expand our scope of spiritual care and ensure the availability of these services in perpetuity.

Because of You

Whether standing by a family to help them answer difficult questions or sitting with them to offer prayer, chaplains provide spiritual care to help patients progress toward healing. Your philanthropic support toward the Guilds Spiritual Care Endowment will bring peace and comfort to patients, families and friends, and medical staff engrossed in difficult and often emotional hospital experiences.

Thank you for your continued support.



“ We chaplains come into discouraging situations and we're able to offer encouragement and hope. ”

– Gilbert Barr-Dixon, Chaplain
Valley Children's

To learn more about the Guilds of Valley Children's Hospital and how you can support this important program, please contact the **Guilds Office at (559) 353-7145** or **Guilds@ValleyChildrens.org**.