



## The Guilds of Valley Children's Hospital Willson Heart Center Endowment

### More Than a Facility

The Willson Heart Center at Valley Children's is more than a facility. It's a team of pediatric cardiologists and cardiac surgeons who save and sustain lives every day. It's an organization of experts who specialize in repairing hearts the size of a walnut. It's a hub of multidisciplinary care where medical professionals skillfully provide pediatric healthcare to heart patients who would not survive without treatment.

Twenty years ago less than 20 percent of babies born with a rare and complex defect known as hypoplastic left heart syndrome survived to 6 years of age. Today, more than 78 percent of patients born with this heart condition and treated at Valley Children's will celebrate their sixth birthday. Although congenital heart defects continue to be the leading cause of all infant deaths in the United States, more than 50 percent of surviving patients have now reached adulthood.

The Willson Heart Center's specially trained medical staff and advanced technologies ensure that every patient who comes to Valley Children's receives the best cardiac care. Philanthropy plays an integral role in continuing to fund this exceptional level of expertise and innovation.

### \$2 Million: The Guilds Heart Center Endowment

According to the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, in 2014 there were 64,147 births in Valley Children's 11-county service area. Statistics indicate about 640 may have been born with a heart defect. Advances in treating congenital heart defects over the past 20 years offer these preschoolers a bright future. The possibility of even greater advances in the years ahead grows stronger when experienced pediatric specialists, nurses and therapists increase their knowledge, expand their capabilities and bring innovation to Valley Children's medical facilities.



For example, The Willson Heart Center recently brought to the Valley the ability to perform heart valve replacement without surgery by implanting Melody transcatheter pulmonary valves. The ground-breaking, minimally invasive procedure requires only an overnight hospital stay. Valley Children's has about 150 patients who previously had surgery to replace a defective pulmonary valve. Most all are potential candidates for future valve replacement. By establishing the Melody valve as a protocol, these children may avoid another heart surgery.

**The Guilds \$2 million commitment** will help continue to provide the necessary funding to bring innovations like the Melody valve to Valley Children's well into the future.

## Because of You

Valley Children's is committed to helping babies born with heart defects reach adulthood. Your philanthropic support toward The Guilds Heart Center Endowment will ensure our patients continue to receive access to advanced tools and procedures, and most importantly, the people who bring innovation to repair hearts and promote healing. This will enable many more children not only celebrate their first day of kindergarten, but also live long, healthy lives.

Thank you for your continued support.

*“We need help to achieve our vision.”*

— Dr. James Prochazka, Medical Director,  
Pediatric Cardiology, 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](mailto:Guilds@ValleyChildrens.org)**.