

Keeping You In Touch

June 2026

A Publication of the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Marketing Department

PVHMC Earns Advanced Perinatal Care and Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Recertifications from The Joint Commission



Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) has again earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Advanced Perinatal Care and Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a health care organization's commitment to providing safe and quality patient care.

For Perinatal Care, the recertification recognizes PVHMC's efforts to achieve integrated, coordinated, patient-centered care for clinically uncomplicated pregnancies and births. The certification process uses standards, guidelines and The Joint Commission's perinatal care core performance measures for managing and monitoring aspects of perinatal care that are critical to improving and maintaining the health of newborns and their mothers.

For Hip and Knee Replacement, the certification, offered in collaboration with the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, evaluates the full continuum of care, from the pre-surgical orthopedic consultation through the intraoperative experience, hospitalization or ambulatory surgical center

admission, rehabilitation and follow-up care.

"Advanced Perinatal Care and Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification recognizes health care organizations committed to striving for excellence and fostering continuous improvement in patient safety and quality of care," says Ken Grubbs, executive vice president of Accreditation and Certification Operations and chief nursing officer from The Joint Commission. "We commend Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center for using The Joint Commission certification process to reduce variation in clinical processes and to strengthen its clinical program to drive safer, higher quality and more compassionate care for individuals served."

PVHMC underwent rigorous surveys in March & April of 2026. During the visits, a team of Joint Commission reviewers evaluated compliance with related certification standards. Joint Commission standards are developed in consultation with health care experts and providers, measurement experts and patients. The reviewers also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

Six Straight "A" Grades! PVHMC Recognized for Patient Safety by The Leapfrog Group



On May 6, 2026, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) earned its sixth consecutive "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety, six consecutive reporting periods.



Leapfrog assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D" or "F" grade to general hospitals across the country based on over 30 measures of errors, accidents, injuries and infections as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent them.

"This sixth consecutive "A" grade distinction reflects our dedication to the highest standards in patient safety," said Richard E. Yochum, FACHE, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center President/CEO. "It is a testament to the collective leadership of our Associates and physicians in delivering care our community trusts and relies on."

The hospital implements countless programs and initiatives spanning all departments and units, including medication safety, hand hygiene, feedback and intervention processes, infection prevention and many more, to ensure patients receive the best possible care and outcomes.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade stands as the only hospital ratings program focused solely on preventable medical errors, infections and injuries that kill more than 500 patients a day in the United States. This program is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

"Achieving an 'A' Hospital Safety Grade reflects enormous dedication to patient safety," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "I extend my congratulations to Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, its leadership, clinicians, staff and volunteers for creating a culture where patients come first."





Expert care with a personal touch

Culture of Safety Survey June 8 - 30, 2026



Together we are better, stronger and safer.



Scan the QR code to access the survey during the survey period.



SAFETY IS SWEET!

Complete the survey and show the completion screen to the cashier in the cafeteria for a FREE ice cream bar (available daily, 6:00 am - 9:00 pm).

The ice cream survey is back.



Celebrating the Class of 2026

Congratulations to the Family Medicine Class of 2026! Your commitment to evidence-based care, community health, and patient-centered practice has set a high standard for our program. We look forward to the meaningful contributions you will make as leaders in family medicine.

We asked our graduates, "What's one thing PVHMC has taught you about being a physician?" Below, they share their reflections and where their next chapter will take them after graduation. We are incredibly proud of them and wish them all the best in this next stage of their journey.



Dr. Kaylinda Tran, DO
Kaiser Permanente Temecula
Medical Offices, CA

"I learned that medicine is equal parts science, patience, and learning to laugh when the pager goes off again."



Dr. Cecilia Cusimano Murillo, MD
Premier Family Medicine,
La Verne, CA

"Residency taught me two vital life skills: surviving on 2 hours of sleep and how to inhale a cold breakfast burrito while writing notes."



Dr. Sohee Chung, DO
MemorialCare Medical
Group, Anaheim CA

"I learned that discharge planning is both a science and an extreme sport."



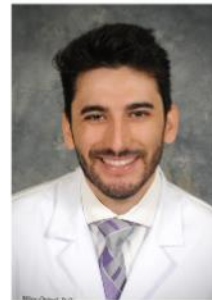
Dr. Crystal Estrada, MD
Urgent Care, CA

"It takes a whole team to care for the health of a being; I am glad I have the best team! I am grateful to all my PVHMC teachers and co-residents. Thank you Pomona Valley."



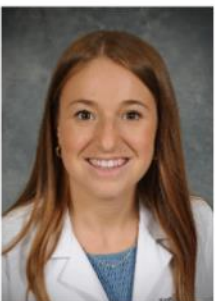
Dr. Alex Cortez, MD
Geriatric Fellowship,
UCLA Health, CA

"PVHMC has taught me that being a physician means combining clinical excellence with empathy, teamwork, and resilience."



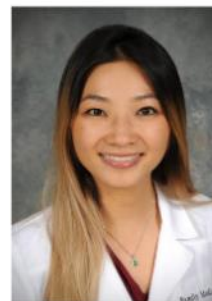
Dr. Bijan Origel, DO
Private Practice, CA

"This hospital taught me that all you need are three things: coffee, a supportive team, and some more coffee."



Dr. Rabiah Fresco, MD
UCLA Urgent Care, CA

"Residency is a marathon not a sprint...as a 10-time marathon runner."



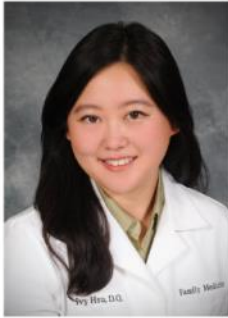
Dr. Shwe Lew, DO
Premier Family Medicine,
Chino Hills, CA

"This hospital taught me that while residency runs on caffeine, kindness and connections are what make the work truly meaningful."

Meet our new Chief Residents!

We are proud to introduce our 2026–2027 Chief Residents, who will lead our Family Medicine Residency Program in the year ahead with dedication, vision and a commitment to excellence.

Dr. Ivy Hsu, DO



Dr. Ivy Hsu grew up in Atlanta and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of California, Davis, where she majored in Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior. She then attended medical school at the A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona. As chief resident, Ivy looks forward to fostering a collaborative clinical learning environment that supports excellent patient care, high-quality education, and trainee development across both the clinic and hospital.

Dr. Grant Garcia, MD



Dr. Grant Garcia was born in Redlands, CA and received his undergraduate degree in Biochemistry and Bioethics at University of Puget Sound. Following that, he spent a few years working as an ED scribe at Redlands Community Hospital before attending University of Massachusetts for medical school. Dr. Grant is pursuing a career in outpatient primary care and has a passion for advocacy and community medicine. As Chief, he wants to facilitate more collaboration between hospital departments to help foster an environment that prioritizes residents' growth.



Pharmacy Resident Presents at Western States Conference

Congratulations to our Dr. Ana Santos, PharmD, PVHMC, for completing her informative presentation on quetiapine as an adjunct to sedation in the intensive care unit at the Western States Conference.

PET/CT Upgrade Project Completed

By William Richards, Project Manager, and James Westrum, RT(R), CT(MR), MRSO, Radiology Manager

The Projects Office recently completed an HCAI-3 and California Department of Public Health Project to upgrade the PET/CT Department at the MRI Building. Upgrades consist of replacement of PET/CT scanner and chiller, as well as to electrical, mechanical, structural, wall, floor, ceilings, casework and counters, new AC units. The project also modernized the Scan Room, Control Room, Hot Lab, Uptake Room and Equipment Room.



The new PET/CT replaces a machine that was more than 20 years old and will offer:

- **Faster Scans:** Rapid acquisition reduces time on the table, improving patient comfort and workflow efficiency.
- **Lower Radiation Dose:** Advanced reconstruction and dose-optimization technology minimize exposure without sacrificing image quality.
- **Enhanced Soft-Tissue Contrast:** Improved imaging for subtle structures, aiding in more accurate diagnoses.
- **Expanded capabilities:** Supports a wider range of clinical applications, including oncology and neurology.
- **Smarter workflows:** AI-assisted tools streamline operations, making the scanning process more efficient.
 - **Automatic Positioning and Motion Correction:** Reduces artifacts from patient movement, ensuring sharper images.
 - **Deep Learning-based AI reconstructions:** Adjusts reconstruction parameters automatically for patient size, dose, and clinical indication.
- **Patient comfort:** Quieter, quicker scans create a more comfortable experience for everyone.

We're excited for the improved diagnostic capabilities and the enhanced experience this brings to our patients and staff alike.

Special thanks to Cheyenne Smith, James Westrum, Heather and Susan, Jaime Clayton, Tim Perez, and Nancy for making this project a success while completing the project on time and under budget.



Director of Security Participates in Health Care Security and Emergency Preparedness Symposium Panel

Michelle Walsh-Fernandez, Director of Security, represented Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center as one of the top performing hospitals to discuss best practice safety standards at the Hospital Association of Southern California’s (HASC) Health Care Security and Emergency Preparedness Symposium on May 7, 2026.

The panel, called “Threats, Trends and Tactics,” included hospital security leaders Kevin Miller, Mark Reed, Trenton Jackson, MLK Community Healthcare, and Michelle Walsh-Fernandez. Michelle discussed active shooter preparedness, our K9 program, access control, tasers and our reality-based training program model.



Michelle Walsh-Fernandez, Director of Security Pictured third from the left.



According to HASC, attendees were able to gain a deeper understanding of the risks faced by Southern California hospitals and public safety agencies. They left with practical tips for strengthening organizational resilience and preparedness in addressing a range of physical and cyber emergencies and threats. The event also reinforced the importance of strong partnerships with city, county and federal agencies in meeting these challenges.

HASC will host its second Health Care Security symposium at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center’s Pitzer Auditorium on July 28, 2026. There is no cost to attend. To register, visit hasc.org.

HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION of Southern California **VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL** **POMONA VALLEY HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER**

HEALTH CARE SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SYMPOSIUMS

May 7 Valley Presbyterian Hospital, Van Nuys
July 28 Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Pomona





DIAPER DRIVE THRU & HEALTH RESOURCE FAIR



Healthy Babies. Strong Families. Thriving Communities



AFRICAN AMERICAN INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY PREVENTION INITIATIVE
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

POMONA VALLEY HOSPITAL
MEDICAL CENTER

Join the YWCA SGV AAIMM and Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center for our Diaper Drive Thru & Health Resource Fair.

Access essential resources, support and free health screenings for you and your little ones.



SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM



POMONA VALLEY HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER
1798 N Garey Ave,
Pomona, CA 91767



DRIVE THRU EVENT
We'll bring items to you!

FREE HEALTHCARE SCREENINGS



Blood Pressure Screening
Know your numbers, protect your health.



Blood Glucose Screening
Quick check for a healthier you.



Asthma/Lung Capacity
Breathe better, live better.



SCAN TO REGISTER

ITEMS BEING DISTRIBUTED



DIAPERS



WIPES



DIAPER RASH OINTMENT



BABY FORMULA



TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR OUR BABIES AND FAMILIES.

When the Lines Go Down: How Ham Radio Keeps Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Connected

By Steven Storbakken, HACP-PE, NHDP-BC, Director of Environmental Safety

Hospital-based amateur radio — often coordinated through organizations like the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) — serves as a crucial lifeline when primary telecommunications fail during disasters. When cell towers go down and landlines go silent, licensed ham radio volunteers step in to keep medical communications alive.

In Los Angeles County, the ARRL district known as LAX Northeast serves Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) and more than a dozen other area hospitals. During activations, trained volunteers deploy on-site to bridge communication between each hospital's incident command team and the LA County Medical Alert Center (MAC).

What makes modern ham radio especially powerful is its use of digital modes. Without internet or phone service, operators can send and receive email, submit HAVBED reports, request supplies and personnel, and update hospital status levels — all over the air. It's a complete communications solution that functions entirely independently of the infrastructure disasters tend to destroy first.

Why Hospital Ham Comms Matter

The most effective models don't rely on busy hospital staff to operate radios under pressure. Instead, hospitals partner with an on-call cadre of licensed amateur operators who arrive with portable "go-kits" — self-contained radio setups ready to deploy at a moment's notice. Pomona Valley Hospital takes this a step further, maintaining its own fixed amateur radio installation on-site as well as a dedicated command van that can be deployed to the field with similar communications capabilities — ensuring robust coverage whether the need is local or remote.

Two features make it especially well-suited for healthcare settings:

Resilient infrastructure. Ham radio bypasses the commercial networks that disasters tend to knock out first. It requires no cell towers, no internet, and no landlines — just a licensed operator and a radio.

Dedicated volunteer networks. LAX Northeast maintains its own roster of trained amateur radio operators who drill weekly, keeping skills sharp and procedures current. Rather than relying on an outside organization, Pomona Valley Hospital benefits from volunteers who already know the facility, the staff, and the local emergency landscape.

Equipment & Capabilities

Hospital communication rooms are uniquely equipped and tested for emergency operations:

- **Antennas and Power:** Supported hospitals frequently have permanent rooftop antennas installed for ham radio use, alongside backup power sources.
- **Digital and Voice Modes:** Hams use voice transmissions for tactical traffic and digital modes (like Winlink) for sending detailed, error-free text and email messages even during radio blackouts.
- **FCC Rulings:** The FCC permits amateur radio operators to participate in hospital disaster drills, allowing volunteers and facility staff to practice these essential procedures together.

The People Behind the Program

LAX Northeast's success at Pomona Valley Hospital is built on the dedication of a core team of volunteers. John Pozza (N3LO) serves as Emergency Coordinator within the ARRL, working under the direction of Steve Storbakken to operate and maintain the radio equipment on-site. Oliver Dulley (K6OLI) leads the effort as District Emergency Coordinator for LAX Northeast, overseeing communications support across multiple area hospitals and driving the weekly training that keeps the team ready to perform when it counts.

If you are a licensed operator looking to get involved, contact your regional [ARRL ARES Section](#) to find out how local hospitals and health networks train for emergency communications at [arrrl.org](#), or visit...



"While John serves as a badged volunteer at PVHMC and I participate strictly in my capacity as ARES District Emergency Coordinator, we are both deeply honored to support Pomona Valley Hospital's mission. John's deep-rooted sense of service to the community makes him a particularly perfect match for Pomona. We recognize and appreciate that the hospital is the beating heart of the community—both in good times and when disaster strikes—and we are proud to be part of that community fabric. Furthermore, it is a distinct privilege to work alongside Steve Storbakken. Being able to support his and the hospital's critical communications needs while learning from his extensive experience is incredibly rewarding. Through his leadership, Steve has truly made Pomona one of the best-prepared hospitals in Southern California."

Oliver Dullely - K6OLI



"I joined ARES because I wanted to do more with my ham radio license than casual conversation. What really drew me in were the digital modes — the ability to send error-free messages like HAVBED reports, and resource requests without internet or phone service still strikes me as remarkable technology. But honestly, it's the people at LAX Northeast that keep me engaged. The weekly exercises and quarterly drills aren't just training — they're a chance to work alongside a genuinely dedicated group of volunteers who take this mission seriously. When the time comes to perform for real, I know exactly who will be standing next to me."

John Pozza - N3LO

PVHMC Hosts Annual Emergency Medical Services Week BBQ for First Responders

When it comes to medical emergencies, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals are the heroes who answer the call. The EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers and support staff in EMS are the first people who will care for and comfort you in your time of need. From lifesaving resuscitation to bleeding control, pain management and beyond, they are more than just a ride to the hospital. Their critical, skilled work and communication ensures that you'll have the best possible outcome when you arrive at the Emergency Department.

We are beyond grateful to work alongside the BEST of the BEST in EMS here at PVHMC.



Service Desk Tip Sheet

For Every Day Success

Device Troubleshooting



Canon Printer Issues? Try This First!

Troubleshooting:

1. Remove any paper jams and reload paper.
2. Verify printer is on and not showing errors.
3. Check the tray isn't empty or overfilled.
4. Restart the printer. If that doesn't work, scan the QR code for service.



Tip: Most printing issues are caused by simple paper jams or empty trays — check those first.



Fujitsu Scanner Issues? Try This First!

Troubleshooting:

1. Remove any stuck or jammed documents.
2. Reload paper neatly (no staples or folds).
3. Verify scanner is connected from the rear.
4. Restart the scanner.

Tip: Staples or folded pages often cause jams — always check documents before scanning.



Zebra Label Printer Issues? Try This First!

Troubleshooting:

1. Make sure the printer is on and charged.
2. Reload labels properly (no misalignment).
3. Confirm connection (Wi-Fi).
4. Restart the printer.

Tip: Labels must be loaded straight — misaligned labels are the most common issue.



Avaya Phone Issues? Try This First!

Troubleshooting:

1. Verify phone is plugged in and screen is on.
2. Verify network cable is securely connected.
3. Restart the phone (unplug, wait 10 seconds, plug back in).

Tip: If the screen is blank, it usually means the network cable is loose or unplugged.

Need More Help?

Submit a Ticket or Contact the Service Desk



Email: service.desk@pvhmc.org



Service Desk - Call ext. 4357 (H-E-L-P)

Understanding Child Exploitation Signs

Submitted by Terry Robnett, RN, MICN, CEN, CPEN, Emergency Department

WHAT IS CSEC?

CSEC, or Commercially Sexually Exploited Children, refers to the sexual abuse of minors for money, goods, shelter, drugs, protection, or other forms of exchange. It includes trafficking, prostitution, online exploitation, and the production of explicit images involving children. Young people affected by CSEC are often manipulated, threatened, or controlled by adults who take advantage of their vulnerability. Many victims have experienced homelessness, abuse, neglect, or instability before being exploited.

CSEC is not a choice made by children; it is a form of abuse and exploitation. Victims may feel trapped because of fear, emotional manipulation, or dependence on the exploiter. Exploitation can happen in person or through social media and online platforms. Recognizing some of the warning signs can help adults intervene early. Some warning signs include:

1. Sudden changes in behavior
2. Unexplained gifts
3. Older controlling relationships
4. Secrecy online

Prevention is key and involves education, safe environments, supportive relationships, and access to community resources that protect our vulnerable youth.

Sources:

The National Children's Alliance - <https://learn.nationalchildrensalliance.org/CSEResourceToolkit>

California Department of Social Services -

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/csecextranet/res/PDF/CIP/SantaClara.pdf>

UNDERSTANDING CSEC: COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

WHAT IS CSEC?
CSEC involves any abuse where a child (under 18) is traded, forced, coerced, or deceived into a sexual act in exchange for something of value (money, goods, shelter, drugs, etc.).
IT IS A FORM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD ABUSE.

HOW CSEC OCCURS

- STREET-BASED PROSTITUTION**
Children on street corners.
- CHAPERONED EXPLOITATION**
Family, acquaintances, or guardians involved in trafficking.

KEY CONCEPTS OF CSEC

COMMERCIAL	SEXUAL	EXPLOITATION
Exchange of payment (money, goods, services, etc.) by a third party.	Performing or being involved in a sexual act or activity.	The child is being used and abused for another person's gain or pleasure. There is no consent for a child.

CHILDREN CANNOT CONSENT TO SEXUAL ACTS WITH ADULTS.

THE DYNAMICS: THE CIRCLE OF CSEC

VULNERABILITIES: Portion, poverty, runaway

RECRUITMENT & CONTROL: Manipulation, coercion, force

THE TRAFFICKER & BUYER

THE TRANSACTION

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS VS. REALITY

MISCONCEPTION	REALITY
"CSEC only happens to runaways."	It happens to youth of all backgrounds, including those in stable homes.
"CSEC is consensual sex work."	Children cannot consent. The power dynamic is abusive and exploitative.
"The victim is to blame."	Only the exploiter, trafficker, and buyer are responsible for the crime.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT?
Trauma, mental health issues, physical harm, substance abuse, loss of educational opportunities.

CSEC IS A CRIME. PROTECT CHILDREN. RAISE AWARENESS.



Coming Up for June 2026...

- Physical Health: Alzheimer's: Will It Impact Your Life?
- Emotional Health: Make Sleep a Priority
- Financial Health: Raising Financially Savvy Kids
- Social Health: June 2026 FunExpress Deals

Access these and upcoming events/articles on the [Wellness for Life Intranet Page!](#)



Why name a beneficiary?

We'll tell you why



After your death, your retirement plan assets pass to the beneficiaries named on your account. If you haven't named beneficiaries and don't have a spouse or children, your money may become part of your estate and go through probate.

Avoid probate

Probate is the administration of a deceased person's will or estate. It can cost hundreds to thousands of dollars in attorney fees, court costs, and filing expenses. **If no heir is found, assets may become the property of the state where the deceased lived.**

Wait, what? That's right. If you don't have an heir, your money might go to the state! You don't want that, and you don't want your loved ones dealing with the time, cost, and stress of probate while they're already coping with your loss. Designate a beneficiary now so your savings go where you intend.



Scan the QR code to visit LincolnFinancial.com/Login.

Keep in mind

- Your beneficiary information doesn't carry over from other workplace benefits or other retirement accounts; you must name a beneficiary for every account.
- You can designate more than one beneficiary, including parents, family, friends, charities, or colleges.¹
- You don't need someone's Social Security number to make them your beneficiary.

It's important and easy to do

Log in to your account at LincolnFinancial.com/Login and select **Beneficiaries** under **My info**. Not registered? Choose **Register now** and set up your account in just a few minutes.

Our short video walks you through the simple steps.



Scan the QR code to watch the video.



Need personal help?

Call **800-234-3500**, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Eastern to speak with a customer service representative.

¹ If you're married, you may need spousal consent to designate a primary beneficiary other than your spouse.

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PVHMC Community Events

The Claremont Colleges, Claremont McKenna College - Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk - May 8, 2026

PVHMC's Emergency Department offered free Naloxone, fentanyl test strip kits and demonstrations to students.



HeartStrong Student Athlete Event - May 9, 2026

In partnership with a junior volunteer, Layla Raptis, who received a grant for student athlete education, PVHMC hosted a free "HeartStrong" event with free Sidewalk CPR demonstrations, blood pressure screenings and information on proper hydration, nutrition and cooling for student athletes.



Pomona CommUnity Pull Up - May 2, 2026

The cardiovascular team offered free blood pressure screenings and vital stroke education for Stroke Awareness Month in May.



Pomona African American Advisory Alliance - Black Community Wellness Day - May 23, 2026

The cardiovascular team offered free blood pressure and blood glucose screenings and stroke education for Stroke Awareness Month in May.



Los Angeles County Fair - May 2026

PVHMC had the opportunity to participate in multiple Community Corner Days at the Fair this year!

Thanks to our many service lines that participated and provided education to our community:

- Cardiac Team
- Stroke Team
- Sepsis Team
- Pediatrics
- Lung Cancer
- Orthopedics



Pilgrim Place Senior Health Fair - May 28

PVHMC provided free blood pressure screenings as well as fall prevention, cardiac and stroke education.



Mt. San Antonio Gardens Presentation - May 29

Ana Marrero, NP-C, Joint Replacement Program Coordinator, gave a presentation on joint health and joint replacement to our senior community.



Advancing Perinatal and Neonatal Care 32nd Annual Perinatal Symposium

By Jodi Previce, Customer Relations Liaison, Family Education & Resource Center

The 32nd Annual Perinatal Symposium, hosted by San Gabriel Valley Perinatal Center, Women's Services, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and the Family Education & Resource Center welcomed nearly 300 healthcare professionals representing approximately 50 hospitals throughout California on April 22, 2026. Held at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Ontario Airport, the symposium provided attendees with seven continuing education hours while delivering the latest updates in neonatal and perinatal care through expert led presentations and breakout sessions. This year also marked the symposium's first ever hybrid format, offering both in-person and virtual attendance options.

The symposium featured an impressive lineup of physicians and healthcare experts presenting on impactful topics in maternal and neonatal medicine. Sherrie Cisneros opened the program with a presentation on "Medication for Addiction Treatment; Opioid use Disorder in Pregnancy," addressing the growing importance of compassionate and evidence-based care for affected mothers and infants.

One of our Perinatologists, Dr. Fakhra Khalid presented on "Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing" and advances in prenatal screening. While Dr. Dalbir Singh explored the growing impact of "Medical Misinformation" in healthcare and strategies providers can use to educate patients effectively.

The afternoon panel discussion focused on "Home Birth: Understanding Women's Motivations and the Evidence on Safety Outcomes." This panel featured Dr. Carmen Stellar, Dr. M. Hellen Rodriguez, and a certified midwife, Dawn M. Dana encouraging thoughtful dialogue around patient centered care and informed decision making.

Following lunch, attendees heard an inspiring keynote presentation from Cambry Nelson who spoke on, "Stronger than Circumstance: The Daily practice of Gratitude and Grit," reminding healthcare professionals of the importance of resilience, compassion, and personal wellness in demanding clinical environments.



Breakout sessions allowed attendees to further explore specialized topics in both perinatal and neonatal care. The perinatal breakout session started off with Dr. Richard Burwick presenting on, "Angiogenic Biomarkers and Preeclampsia," highlighting emerging diagnostic tools and their potential impact on maternal outcomes. Secondly, Dr. Marcia Amelia Ciccone from UCLA discussed, "Adnexal Masses and Ovarian Malignancy in Pregnancy," providing valuable clinical insight into complex obstetrical cases. During the NICU breakout session, Dr. Sanjay Sinha spoke on, "Updates on the Management and Interventional Techniques in Premature PDA Closure," highlighting evolving approaches that continue to improve outcomes for neonatal patients in the NICU setting. Dr. Nita Doshi concluded the day with a presentation titled "Unraveling the Heart: Common Forms of Congenital Heart Disease in the Neonate," educating attendees on the recognition, stabilization, and management of newborns with congenital cardiac conditions and reinforcing the importance of early intervention and multidisciplinary care.



A special recognition was also given to this year's outstanding nursing honorees for their dedication, compassion, and exemplary contributions to patient care. Sabria Alvarado was recognized as the Perinatal Nurse of the Year for her exceptional commitment to supporting mothers and families through high quality perinatal care. Cheryl Bronson was honored as the NICU Nurse of the Year for her remarkable work caring for the hospital's smallest and most vulnerable patients. Their leadership, professionalism, and ongoing dedication continue to make a meaningful impact within their departments and throughout the organization.

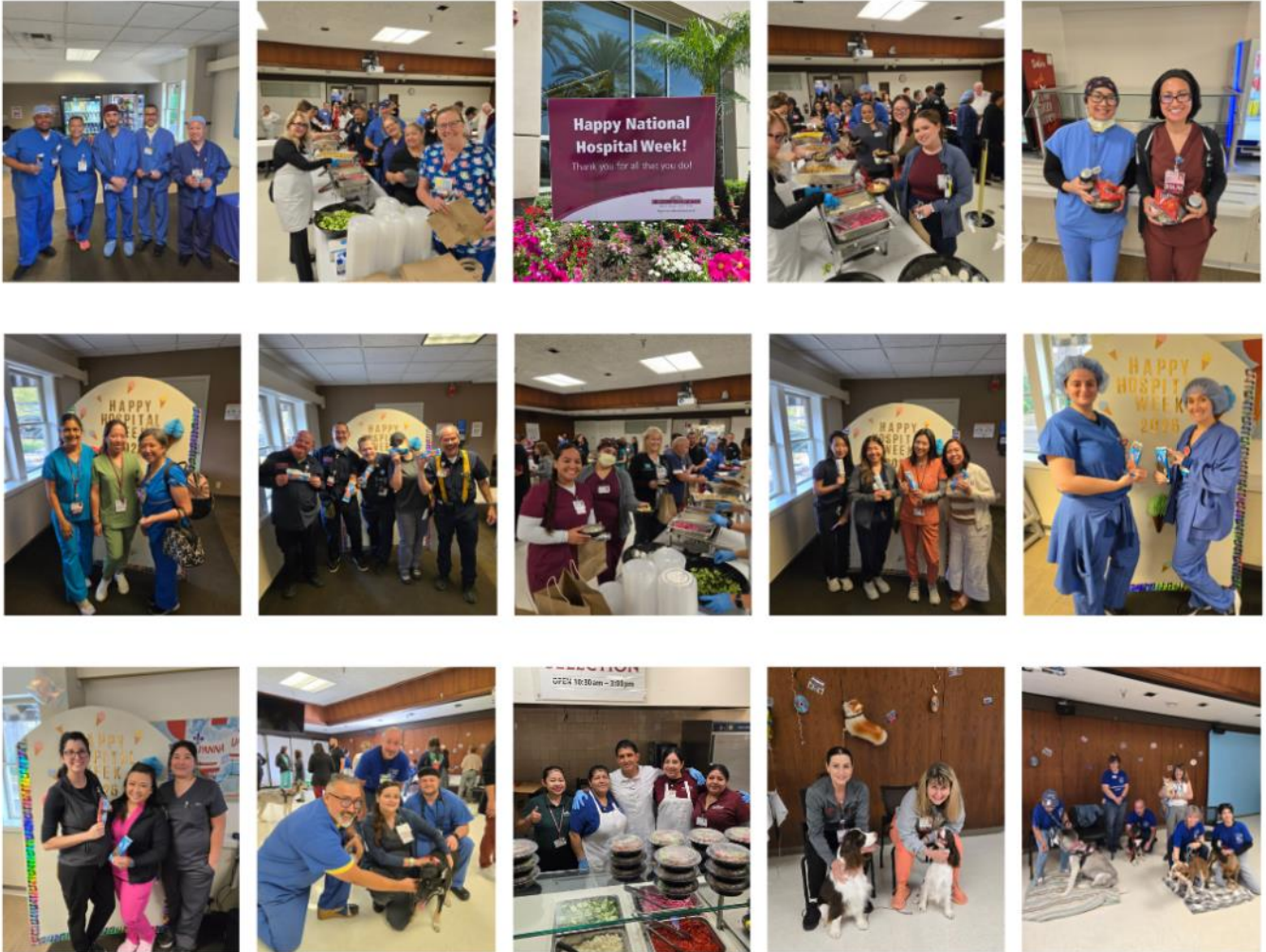


Overall, the 32nd Annual Perinatal Symposium successfully brought together healthcare professionals from across California for a day of education, collaboration, and inspiration focused on advancing maternal and neonatal care. Through specialized presentations on emerging clinical practices, medical innovation, and provider wellness, attendees gained valuable knowledge to apply within their own organizations and communities. From complex neonatal interventions to discussions surrounding women's health, prenatal testing, congenital heart disease, and resilience in healthcare, the symposium highlighted the importance of continuous learning and interdisciplinary collaboration in improving outcomes for mothers, newborns, and families. The event not only reinforced a shared commitment to excellence in perinatal and neonatal care, but also fostered meaningful professional connections that continue to strengthen the healthcare community.



PVHMC Celebrates National Hospital Week

In May, we joined the nation in celebrating Hospital Week. Our Food and Nutrition Services Department served up a delicious Mediterranean-style bowl, cookies, coffee and ice cream during the week...but one of our favorite activities was having pups from the Friends of Upland Animal Shelter and our PVHMC Dog Therapy Program come out to visit with our Associates. That we know of, at least two pups have been adopted by Associates from the shelter!



Congratulations to Our Raffle Winners!



Exciting news! At least two pups have been adopted by Associates from the shelter! Enjoy your new homes!



Nurses Week 2026

Community & Connections: The Power of Nursing Care Back to the Future Edition

By Jessica Rivera, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Nursing Services

This Nurses Week, we celebrated our incredible nurses with a fun-filled week of appreciation, connection, and 80s-inspired festivities!

Throughout the week, staff enjoyed themed celebrations including our "Nurses at 88 MPH" luncheon, unit celebrations, games, raffles, music, photo opportunities, sweet treats, puppy visits and time to connect and celebrate one another. From start to finish, the week was dedicated to recognizing the compassion, excellence, and hard work our nurses bring every day.

Thank you to all our nurses for the extraordinary care you provide for our patients, families, and community. Your dedication truly makes a difference.



Happy Nurses Week!

Thank you for your compassion, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to excellence. It is an honor to celebrate such an incredible nursing team.

Your dedication and the care you provide each day continue to have a lasting impact on so many lives.

I hope you all had a joyful and well-deserved Nurses Week!

Lolla Mitchell, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Vice President of Nursing Services

Nurses Week 2026: Professional Development Breakfast and Cherie Rudoll Nursing Scholarship Celebration

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC), in partnership with the Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Foundation, hosted its 14th annual Professional Development Breakfast and Cherie Rudoll Nursing Scholarship Celebration on Friday, May 8, 2026, during national Nurses Week.

The celebration, held at the OneLegacy Conference Center in Azusa, recognized nurses in categories including The Exemplary Professional Practice Award, Preceptor of the Year, the Starfish Award and the DAISY Awards.



The event also honored Associates/Volunteers with the Cherie Rudoll Nursing Scholarship. The awards are granted in memory of the late Cherie Rudoll, RN, a long-time model Associate and nurse who served as Vice President of Nursing and Patient Care Services. Rudoll was known for her commitment to improving the development of nursing through the establishment of new programs and ideas. The award was created in 2007 to honor her impact throughout the hospital and the community of Pomona. The scholarships will support those who are currently enrolled or who have been accepted into an entry-level nursing program.

The hospital was honored to have members of the Rudoll family present, as well as members of the Champion Family Foundation, whose donations to the PVHMC Foundation have allowed the scholarship fund to continue its legacy of supporting future generations of nurses. The Awardees were selected based on a submitted application and a narrative on why they want to continue to pursue a career in nursing.

Exemplary Professional Practice

Jamie Spiker, RN - ED
 Todd Francis, RN - Cath Lab
 Sarah Brownen, RN - Trauma ICU
 Allan Calderon, RN - Tele 3 St 1
 Laura Ramirez Smith, RN - Tele 6
 Helena Nguyen, RN - ICU2
 Alvin Sinulingga, RN - OPP
 Cheryl Bronson, RN - NICU
 Antonia Velasco, RN - LDRP

Preceptor of the Year

Priscilla Iraheta, RN - MS5
 Carmel Villahermosa, RN - Tele 3 St 1
 April Castorillo, RN - ICU2
 Rosebelle Balajadia, RN - NICU
 Nancy Cordero, RN - LDRP
 Cristina Martinez, RN - ED

Starfish Award

Debbie Keasler, RN

Cherie Rudoll Scholars

Shannon Alarid
 Jessica Bravo
 Sebastian Caballero
 Mayra Contreras
 Jing Du
 Sarita Garcia
 Sarai Lopez Salinas
 Denise Luna
 Paige Payan
 Noe Samaniego
 Cassidy Lirio
 Tangi Hollis
 Ellyza Lazar
 Dennice Pro
 Genelle Santana
 Jayden Kisselovich
 Casey Villagracia

Berenice Gaona
 Cynthia Mendoza
 Guadalupe Cambero
 Sevana Gharibian
 Isabelle Gargantos
 Kevin Ramos
 Abdel Marron
 Jakelin Sanchez



Exhibition of Excellence 2026

By Carrie Dupee, DNP, RN, PCNS-BC, Manager, Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Program

On May 4th, the Exhibition of Excellence kicked off Nurses Week Celebrations for 2026, with our 4th annual poster presentation day celebrating nursing clinical inquiry and interprofessional collaboration. Showcasing innovative clinical practice projects that highlight Evidence-Based Practice, Quality Improvement Initiatives and Nursing Research, these posters highlight the ongoing work that happens every day at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC).

Carrying out the mission that focuses on provision of high-quality, evidence-based care for the patients we serve, these posters highlight the culture of excellence that emanates throughout the organization. If you missed the event, you may find the posters on the Intranet Nurses page.

First Place Prize

Todd Francis and Tamera Freehling: Reducing Door-to-Ballon Time in STEMI Through Multidisciplinary Process Optimization



Second Place Prize

Rosephil Facundo and Usha Bhandari: Say No to Waste: A Cost-saving Unit Initiative



Third Place Prize

Sheri Landazuri, Susan Wilkinson and Michele Atkins-Young: Decreasing NEC in the NICU

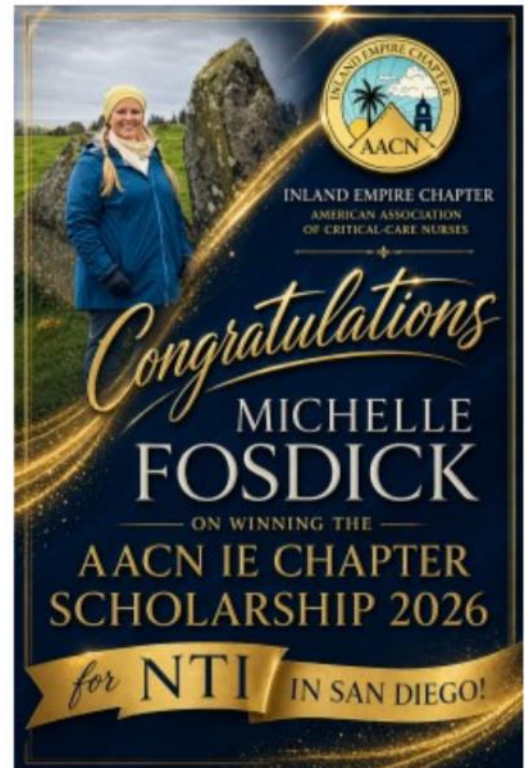


ICU Associate Receives National Scholarship from American Association of Critical-Care Nurses

By Aiida Grant, BSN, RN, CCRN, Clinical Nurse III – Emergency Department, PVHMC, Membership Chair, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) Inland Empire Chapter

Congratulations to Michelle Fosdick, RN, who practices in ICU 2! She was recently selected as the recipient of the AACN Inland Empire Chapter National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition (NTI) 2026 Scholarship. Michelle received the scholarship award at the NTI in San Diego in mid-May.

This is a competitive award that recognizes leadership, professional engagement, and excellence in critical care nursing. This scholarship was developed and supported by the AACN Inland Empire Chapter board to recognize and celebrate nurses who demonstrate a strong commitment to clinical excellence and continued professional growth.



Warrior for Children Donates Comfort Bags for our Adolescent and Pediatric Patients



By Jennifer Hinson, RN, Pediatrics

The Pediatric Unit has partnered with Warrior for Children/the Jeremy Giambi Fund to provide activity bags for our patients while they are hospitalized. These bags were initially implemented a few years back for our adolescent population to support our objectives with educating our teens and provide comfort during their stay. We provide education about topics that can affect our teen population during adolescence such as bullying, peer pressure, sex, drugs, alcohol, vaping, etc.

Since that time, we have continued to partner with Warrior for Children/the Jeremy Giambi Fund for our pediatric needs, and these bags have now grown to encompass all age groups. The bags are filled with age appropriate toys, games, activities, stickers, a water bottle and a blanket. The kids absolutely love them!! We are so very thankful for their continued support of our kiddos and assisting us with bringing them a little joy during their hospital stay.

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PVHMC Partners with Mt. San Antonio College for Mass Casualty Incident Drill



Students from Mt. San Antonio College's health career programs participated in a large-scale active shooter mass casualty incident (MCI) drill in partnership with Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC) on Thursday, April 30, 2026.

The full-scale exercise simulated an active shooter scenario requiring coordinated emergency response, triage, transport, and hospital intake of multiple patients. Students in Nursing, EMT/Paramedic, Respiratory Therapy, and Psychiatric Technology programs participated in both responder and victim roles, gaining hands-on experience in crisis response.

The drill is part of the Los Angeles County Healthcare Coalition's annual Medical and Health Exercise, designed to evaluate hospital and regional response capabilities during a patient surge event. PVHMC, licensed for 427 beds, tested its ability to manage a surge of more than 40 patients.

This exercise prepares emergency responders, hospital staff and students to respond to active shooter incidents and other large-scale emergencies. It focused on coordination, triage, communication, and patient care in a high-pressure environment.



2026 BLOOD DRIVE CALENDAR

Save the dates for our 2026 American Red Cross blood drives! Book your appointments at redcrossblood.org and enter our sponsor code: PVHMC. Stay tuned to PVHMC Announcements for updates on blood drive times and promotions from the Red Cross.

January **April** **April**

For Associate
Their Family
Members, Only

COUNTY FAIR PLAY YOUR WAY

COUNTY FAIR PLAY YOUR WAY

June **August**

7 am - 1 pm 7 am - 1 pm

19 **14**

October **December**

7 am - 1 pm 7 am - 1 pm

16 **11**



POMONA VALLEY HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER

STOP *the* Bleed CLASS



Learn how to save a life by recognizing and controlling life-threatening bleeding.
The number one cause of preventable death after an injury is bleeding.
A person can bleed to death in minutes.

This free one-hour course, hosted by Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's Trauma & Acute Care Surgery Services team, will teach you to recognize and control life-threatening bleeding in order to save a life. The class is open to those ages 14 years and older.

2026 Class Dates - Wednesdays

Classes are offered twice per day: 9 - 10 am & 5 - 6 pm

July 8

August 12

September 9

October 7

November 11

December 9

Location: Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center Trauma Services Office
160 E. Artesia St., 3rd Floor Suite 310, Pomona, CA 91767

RSVP at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) or email stopthebleed@pvhmc.org.

*Class space is limited.

This class is offered at no cost by Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's Trauma & Acute Care Surgery Services Program.





Diabetes 101 Class

Diabetes management is not a simple task. When you are informed about the best steps to take, you can manage it more successfully. Attending these **FREE** educational classes will help you gain a better understanding of living well with diabetes. These classes are for those with both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, and is hosted by a clinical diabetes specialist from Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center's Diabetes Team.

Come and learn about:

- Diabetes in general
- What glucose levels mean
- How episodes of high and low sugar are treated
- How to check sugars
- Medications and their side effects
- Preventing complications
- Lifestyle modifications like diet and exercise and how they can (positively) affect your health

**Every 2nd Tuesday
of the month**

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Diabetes Nutrition Class

Come and learn about:

- **Healthy eating with prediabetes and diabetes:** what are calories, essential nutrients, food groups and more
- Plan balanced meals to support steady blood sugars
- Shop smart on a budget and read labels with confidence
- Cook healthier meals and use mindful eating strategies, especially during the holidays

**Offered quarterly on
the the 3rd Tuesday
of the month in
January, April,
July and October**

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Space is limited, please RSVP.

Held on the 3rd floor
Robert and Beverly Lewis Outpatient Pavilion
1798 N. Garey Ave., CA 91767

For more information, or to RSVP, please call our
**Diabetes Education Program at
909.865.9501 ext. 4020.**



MEDICAL CENTER

Expert care with a personal touch

Sun Salutations

By Elizabeth Grainger, Palliative Care Chaplain

Seasonal celebrations are likely the earliest form of human holidays. Even today, people continue to visit ancient sites like Stonehenge in the UK and Machu Pichu in Peru, to observe the changing of the seasons. Stonehenge was built to align with the sun on the solstices. On the Summer Solstice (June 21), the sun rises behind one specific stone in the ring, and its first rays shine into the heart of Stonehenge. Visitors who have experienced this amazing sight often describe it as humbling, and spiritually meaningful. We can only imagine what the experience was like for people who constructed the stone circle with such precision thousands of years ago, and what it has meant to those gathering there for centuries to come. Similarly, the Incans held magnificent ceremonies at Machu Picchu honoring the changing of the seasons. Their winter solstice festival Inti Raymi (sun festival, in the Quecha language) is traditionally celebrated around June 24; these ceremonies call on the sun god to reappear.

For Native/Indigenous Americans, the summer can be a time of renewal, reflection, and spiritual significance. Historically, indigenous people across North America have celebrated the solstice with ceremonies and prayer, viewing it as a sacred event that marks the beginning of a new cycle. Each tribe has its own way of honoring the changing of the seasons. Plains tribes like the Sioux, Blackfeet, Shoshone, and Arapaho hold a profoundly sacred ceremony called the Sun Dance at the time of solstice. The Sun Dance is a four-day visionary ceremony involving intense prayer, ritualized dancing, and fasting as a way to give thanks to the Creator and the sun. The Zuni people of the southwest perform the Shalako ceremony, a series of dances and rituals that celebrate the renewal of life. Throughout the month of June, Hopi villages across northern Arizona hold Katsina dances that are the highlight of their spiritual year. These rituals feature costumed and masked dancers embodying spirits to bring rain, ensure bountiful harvests, and promote community harmony. Many Americans who live away from their tribal lands (either their traditional tribal homelands, or the reservation lands to which they were displaced by the US government) make a point of returning at this

time of year.

Due to its proximity to Summer Solstice, many celebrations of the birth of St. John the Baptist (June 24) take on a quality of summer rituals. Celebrations often include bonfires lit the night before. In Puerto Rico the celebration begins the night of June 23, when people gather at beaches and jump backwards into the ocean at midnight in honor of their island's patron saint. The Noche de San Juan ritual of bathing in seawater is thought to rid participants of negative forces and sinful acts. After immersion in the water, there is plenty of time to celebrate with music and dancing, special foods, and fireworks. The day is so special that Bad Bunny commemorated it with his 2024 ad Bunny x Adidas Gazelle "San Juan" sneaker. The shoe's blue color was inspired by the clear waters and blue cobblestone of Puerto Rico's capital city, and was released on Noche de San Juan.



The chaplains of PVHMC are here to support YOU! To speak with a Chaplain (available daily, 8:30am-4:30pm), please phone 469-9305. To request support for a patient or family, enter a Spiritual Care Services referral in Power-Chart.

June 2026 Holidays

- 1-30 Hopi Katsina Dances—Indigenous American
- 3-4 Eid al-Ghadir—Islam
- 7 Feast of Corpus Christi—Catholic
- 8-28 Apostles' Fast—Christian Orthodox
- 12 Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus—Catholic
- 15 Hijri New Year/Al-Hijra (Islamic lunar New Year)—Islam
- 18 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib—Sikh
- 19 Juneteenth (Freedom Day)
- 21 Summer Solstice—beginning of summer, longest day of the year
Sun Dance—Indigenous American
- 23 Noche de San Juan—Puerto Rican/Catholic
- 24 Feast of St. John the Baptist—Christian
Ashura—Shia Islam
- 29 Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul—Christian
- 29 Ghambar Maidyoshem (mid-summer festival)—Zoroastrian

A Leader's Journey

By Rufus Roney, Nursing Assistant, CVICU

You are a winner! You will succeed! With great joy and gladness I bid you greetings on this most beautiful of days! I am taking a tour through our magnificent hospital where some of the greatest men and women to ever put on a uniform reside! I am your brother Rufus Roney.

One day I was observing ICU 2 and then decided I had to find out who was the conductor of the floor. I peered into the door of the office and it was like I stepped into a glorious Hollywood mansion! The decor was so splendid, I took a glance around the room and there was a table even for tea. It was so beautiful, I think if Elizabeth Taylor, the famous Hollywood actress was alive, she would have called that her office.



They say behind every great person, there is a wonderful story! This great person is our very own Tiffany Markham DNP, MSN, BSN, PHN, RN, the manager of ICU 2. In reverence I sat down and asked her some questions about excellence, and determination. I first wanted to know how she became a nurse and she told me that nursing has always been a part of who she was. Her mother was a nurse, and her grandmother was also a nurse. So she said, "Nursing is truly in my blood".

I asked her, what does she consider herself after all of these years of working? She said that she considered herself, "A multi-hyphenate, a wife, a mother, grandmother, nurse, a leader, mentor, friend, and a life-long learner." I asked her also what has these roles shaped her into and she said, "These roles have shaped me into the leader that I am today."

I asked her how her journey began at PVHMC. Tiffany said that her journey began as a nursing student completing clinical rotations. From there she continued as an extern and was hired as a staff nurse.

Tiffany worked her way through leadership roles including charge nurse, supervisor, and now manager-all this while earning her doctoral degree. She says Pomona Valley has not only been her workplace but also a place of growth, opportunity, mentorship and purpose.

Tiffany's favorite quote is by Maya Angelou, "People will forget what you say. People will forget what you did. But, people will never forget how you made them feel." And that quote resonates deeply with Tiffany because it reflects the type of nurse, leader, and person that she strives to be each day.

Thank you Tiffany for coming to work today! We love you!



PVHMC IN THE NEWS

2 Valley Hospitals Earn 'Straight A' Grades In New Hospital Safety Ranking, Patch.com

May 7, 2026

Read more [here](#).



When the Heat Hits, It's Time to Switch Up Your Routine — Here's What You Need to Enjoy Summer Fitness All Season Long, Everyday Health with Dr. Jay Shah

May 8, 2026

Read more [here](#).




Event: California healthcare executives discuss interoperability strategies - Kent Hoyos, MHA, Vice President / Chief Information Officer

May 12, 2026

Read more [here](#).



E-Bikes causing serious injuries - Univision Edicion Digital with Dr. Rudy Murillo

May 15, 2026

Watch the segment [here](#).




LA County Farmers Market Guide: What To Know About The County's 160+ Markets - PVHMC's Monday Farmer's Market Highlighted, Patch.com

May 15, 2026

Read more [here](#).



PVHMC Partners with Mt. SAC for Mass Casualty Drill

May 19, 2026

Read more in the May issue [here](#).



Swim Safety for Children - ABC Los Angeles, NBC Los Angeles, KNX Radio & La Nueva Voz featuring Kevin Goldman, MD, Emergency Medicine
Special Thanks to Jorge Strembert, RN, Emergency Department

May 20-24, 2026

[ABC7](#)

[KNX](#)

[NBC](#)





P O M O N A V A L L E Y H O S P I T A L M E D I C A L C E N T E R

Need to talk about a situation that is bothering you?

You've cared for
our patients, now let
us care for you!

**The PVHMC C.A.R.E.S. Peer Support Team
was developed to address the emotional support
needs of Associates and providers at PVHMC.**

**The following are examples when Peer
Support might be needed (or beneficial):**

- Those experiencing loss or events that may impact their mental health, professional practice or job performance
- Workplace Violence incidents
- Unexpected injury or death to a patient, fellow Associate or visitor
- Feelings of hopelessness
- Loss or struggling with positive coping skills

**You can request or recommend
support for a fellow Associate
at any time by:**

- Notifying your direct supervisor/manager
- Submitting an event report through the electronic event reporting platform

PVHMC
Compassion
Accountability
Resolution
Embracing
Safety



Compassion | Accountability | Resolution
Embracing Safety

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MEDICAL CENTER

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In-house roasted specialty coffee, matcha,
tea, and refreshers.



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Monday - Friday

From 7am - 2pm

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FARMERS MARKET



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to 2 p.m.

In front of the Robert & Beverly Lewis
Outpatient Pavilion

SEE YOU THERE!

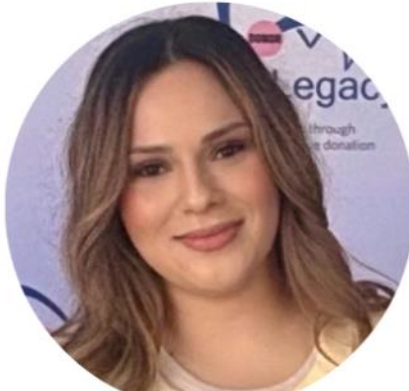


"I am the Patient Experience" Winners!

These nurses were recognized by patients for providing outstanding care and customer service! THANK YOU for going above and beyond in living our Values!
**Customer Satisfaction. Honor and Respect. Accountability. New Ideas.
 Growing Continuously. Excellence.**



**Lorna Legion, BSN, RN,
 CMSRN ,OCN - MedSurg4**



**Priscilla Iraheta,
 RN - MedSurg5**



**Jonathan Mace, RN
 Tele 6**



**Nadia Wozencroft, RN
 3-Central**

DO YOU WANT TO BE THE NEXT WINNER?

During Executive and Nursing Leadership rounding, Associates who are recognized by their patients for providing outstanding care and customer satisfaction will receive an "I am the Patient Experience" card. This card works in two ways: you can take this card to the cafeteria to redeem a free fountain drink and be entered into a raffle! Or, once a month a card is drawn to recognize an Associate who proudly demonstrates our Values! You can be next!



June 2026 Healthcare Professionals Recognition

- Healthcare Recruiter Recognition, Day, 2
- Nursing Assistant Week, 11-17
- Healthcare Risk Management Week, 16-20



Jokes of the Month



By Michelle Walsh-Fernandez, Director of Security

Happy Birthday!

Jennifer Bell- OHS/Work Comp Manager
 (6/23) from OHS Staff
 Jasmine Felix, RCP- Respiratory Dept
 (6/25) from Mom, Eleanor Rocha, RN /OHS
 Michelle Reed – QM – 6/20

How do you call a fish?

You drop it a line.

Why was six afraid of seven?

Because 7-8-9.

What do fish wash their fins with?

Tide.

The deadline for the July Newsletter is Monday, June 22.
 Please include your Manager/Supervisor in the email to approve your submission. Send all submissions to amber.brenneisen@pvhmc.org.

