

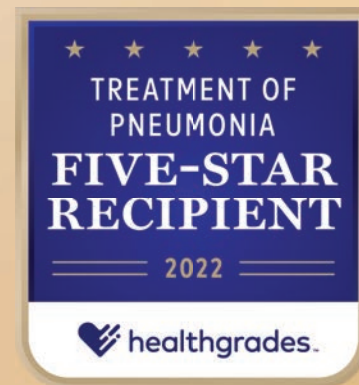


# **Kaweah Health Foundation Update**

**Fall 2021**

*General Sherman,  
Sequoia National Park*

# Kaweah Health 2022 Quality Health Care Awards



Healthgrades is a nationally recognized rating and ranking system for healthcare providers throughout the United States.

## Board President



It's hard to believe my three-year tenure as President of the Foundation Board of Directors has almost come to an end. Being president during the COVID-19 years has not been an easy task, but thanks to the Foundation staff, we've been able to accomplish so much during these trying times. Despite the many challenges, we completed the Hope in Motion campaign, and started on the Modernization Campaign, which is going so well. Thanks to many generous donations, we've already been able to purchase an Endoscopic Ultrasound system and more than 40 bassinets for the hospital's Mother/Baby unit. We should be able to complete this campaign by mid-2022. *I want to specifically recognize all of the employees of Kaweah Health (over 2,300) who donated to the Modernization Campaign and past campaigns. I am truly amazed by your generosity with the Foundation, your dedication to help the sick and create a healthy community.*

In the midst of all this, we also managed to complete a name change. We are now the Kaweah Health Foundation, serving Kaweah Health. These new names make it obvious what our goal is – to promote better health and healthcare for our community. I'm grateful for the role I was able to play in this work over the last three years, and can continue to help with as a board member. – *Tony Benevento, President, Foundation Board of Directors*

## Board President-Elect

It is with pleasure that I start my term as President of the Board of Kaweah Health Foundation on January 1, 2022. My background in the Central Valley has been a rich blend of a real estate career and active community service. I believe those who have achieved success should give back, not just once, but over and over again.

The Foundation touches my heart in many ways. Over the past four years, I have become more involved, not just with personal contributions, but with my time and energy. As we together face challenges, we will strive to bring the best from our Board, staff, and volunteers. With that as a backdrop, these are my goals for the term as President:



- Completion of the Modernization Campaign of \$1.9 million by June 30, 2022.
- Active promotion of Heritage Club, which will include a membership drive. The goal is to add 6-10 major donors to ensure a lasting legacy of healthcare in our community. Beginning in 2022, our Heritage Club Annual Dinner will move from September to April with an in-person event.
- Re-engage our Board committees after the long delay from COVID. We would like to add several new members who share a passion for the mission of Kaweah Health and the Foundation.
- Benchmark fundraising best practices of other district-organized hospitals to develop new ideas for Kaweah Health Foundation.

In summary, we have a lot of work to do. I look forward to working with everyone this year. If you are interested in participating in volunteering, please contact the Foundation Staff at (559) 624-2359 or [foundation@kaweahhealth.org](mailto:foundation@kaweahhealth.org).

– *Matthew D. Graham, President-Elect of the Board of Directors*

# THANKFUL TODAY

## & Planning for Tomorrow

Kaweah Health Foundation's 2021 Modernization Campaign is nearly 75% complete. We have highlighted some amazing advancements in health care, all made possible by the generosity of many special donors like you! To learn more about the Foundation's Modernization Campaign visit . . . [kaweahhealth.org/foundation](http://kaweahhealth.org/foundation)

### Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS) Machine

New innovative technology allows physicians to examine organs and other structures not seen in standard endoscopic procedures. This advancement is paramount in diagnosing cancers and other serious diseases in earlier stages. (purchased)

### Halo Bassinets (42 purchased)

Yearly over 4,500 babies are born at Kaweah Health's Mother Baby Unit. Nearly one-third of all moms deliver through Cesarean section birth. Recovery from any surgery can be painful and difficult. These new (swivel over the bed) bassinets meet the needs of all deliveries and keep the baby within arm's reach for easy positioning without the need to twist and stretch.

### Ultrasound Bladder Scanners (10 purchased)

New bladder scanning technology reduces the use of restrictive catheters and improves patient comfort. This equipment is now available throughout the medical center.

### New Generation Ventilators (15 purchased)

This new generation of ventilators are lightweight with an extended battery life, giving our patients more freedom of movement. In addition, these ventilators are quieter allowing for a more peaceful rest and sleep environment.



**Thanks to you,**  
the Kaweah Health Foundation continues to provide life-saving technology and equipment needed to support Kaweah Health's **VISION** to be your world-class healthcare choice for life.



### Supporting Kaweah Health Medical Teams

(22 grants awarded)

Our Kaweah Health medical teams are encouraged to request funding for items they feel are vital to achieving superior clinical outcomes. This year, the Foundation awarded 22 grants for state-of-the-art equipment, technology, and education, including new learning tools for our Graduate Medical Education (Residency) Program simulation lab.

**Your Health is Our Priority! Please Give Today.**

Your gift will help us continue to provide cutting edge technology and equipment to benefit our patients who may be your family, friends, or neighbors!  
Your gift also supports all the work of the Kaweah Health Foundation.

Donate Online: [kaweahhealth.org/foundation](http://kaweahhealth.org/foundation)

**Thank You!**

# Board of Directors

## Executive Committee

Tony Benevento, *President*  
Matthew Graham, *President Elect*  
Sarah Ashoori, *Vice President*  
Kathleen Remillard, *Secretary*  
Rebecca Agredano, *Treasurer*  
Jim Hurlbutt, *Imm. Past President*

Carol Cairns  
Ben Cripps  
Richard Feder  
Dr. Sidney Frank  
Dayna Gilkey  
Joan Hall  
Fran Hipkind  
Jason Jeter, D.D.S.  
Dr. Dean Levitan  
Karen Lovik-Barron  
Dr. Lynn Havard Mirviss  
Carol Nickel

Basil Perch  
Eddie Perez  
Brian Perry  
Dr. Margarita Prado-Borrego  
Dee Sebert  
Alicia Sundstrom  
Ann Tonini  
Jason Vasquez  
Jan Villard  
Deborah Volosin  
Marty Zeeb

## Directors

Gary Amon  
Doug Berg  
Larry Bibbens

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## New Board Member

Dayna Bell Gilkey is the newest Kaweah Health Foundation board member. Originally from Visalia, this Redwood and Fresno State graduate now lives in Corcoran.

Married for 32 years to Ralph, a farmer, she has two children, a son (Hans) and a daughter (Paige) and a new grandson, Jameson, who Paige gave birth to in September 2021 at Kaweah Health Medical Center. But a big part of her joining the Kaweah Health Foundation board is due to her son's experiences with the hospital.

In late December 2019, Hans, then 25, was badly injured in an accident in Tulare, where he lives. He suffered a traumatic brain injury and spent about a month in Kaweah Health Medical Center's ICU. While he's still not fully recovered, he's doing well enough to get married in January, to his fiancée, Kaylyn, a nurse who had to leave her job at Kaweah Health to help him recover. "It's been a journey," Dayna says. "I'm thankful, as there are those who don't get to have stories to tell."

Dayna credits Dr. Charles Liu, a Neurosurgeon at Kaweah Health, for her son's recovery as well as for her decision to join the Foundation board. "Dr. Liu said I should apply (for the board), and when he says do it, you do it." Thanks to fantastic Kaweah Health doctors and nurses, Dayna is happy to give back by helping advocate for the hospital.

"I don't think it's well known everywhere all the services Kaweah Health offers," Dana says. People don't realize Kaweah Health also offers services such as occupational therapy, and too often those thinking about surgery or cardiac care believe they need to go to Stanford or UCLA. "They aren't aware what's at Kaweah," she said. But there are great choices, closer to home, and she'd like to help spread the word.

Dayna retired from full-time work at Fresno's Channel 26 after she became a mom, but she has worked as a substitute teacher and a Central Valley Christian swim coach, following in the footsteps of her dad, Frank Bell, Redwood High School's long-time swim and water polo coach for whom the Redwood pool is named. Bell is also a big Kaweah Health fan, having survived four heart attacks thanks to the care he received there.

In her spare time, Dayna enjoys anything outdoors, from camping to Fresno State football games to travel.



# Heritage CLUB

One Gift.  
Lasting Legacy.



## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Join the Heritage Club by giving, or making a promise to give, to the Kaweah Health Foundation. This is a generous way to leave a lasting legacy. Your planned gift will increase the Foundation's Endowment Fund to meet the health care needs of future generations.

### HERITAGE CLUB MEMBERSHIP

You can become a member by making a planned gift (of \$5,000 per person or more), through your will, trust, investment account, or make an immediate contribution.

*Members are invited yearly to a complimentary celebration.*

### RECOGNITION

Once we receive your gift, your name(s) will be added to our beautiful new Heritage Club Donor Tree located in the Acequia Main Lobby. With the promise of a future endowment, your name(s) will appear on the plaque located just adjacent to the donor tree.

### OUR PROMISE TO YOU

We promise to strive to provide world-class health care today and for future generations!

*Join the club today, call 624.2359!*



# Foundation Director

Fall has finally arrived! This time of year always reminds me to take a moment before the hustle and bustle of the holidays and reflect on the past year.

Over the past 20+ months our donors, board members and staff have been steadfast in supporting the important work of the Foundation, despite all that has been going on in our world. We are close to completing our current Modernization Campaign, and providing every piece of equipment and project support that our health care staff suggested would improve patient care. We have launched a new Heritage Club donor project to ensure funding for health care technology and equipment for the future.

Through these initiatives and many other grants and projects, our Foundation staff has worked diligently beside me to carry out our important work. It is because of their passion and hard work we are able to carry out our mission to support health care for our community. In this issue, I have asked each of our small but mighty team of five to write a little bit about what inspires them every day at work.

For me, it is the look on the faces of our staff when we are able to deliver state-of-the-art equipment that improves our ability to treat patients. I see the passion of our medical team as they light up when we are able to offer the very best for our community. We are driven to provide world-class healthcare to everyone, regardless of ability to pay and thanks to our generous community, we are reaching this goal.

Enjoy the holiday season ahead and please keep the Foundation in your thoughts and prayers.

*- Liz Wynn, Foundation Director*



*The New Heritage Club tree, located in the hospital's Acequia Wing Lobby.*



# Recognize an Extraordinary Nurse!

The **DAISY AWARD** honors the superhuman work nurses do every day for patients and their families. Please complete a nomination form below or at [kaweahhealth.org/daisy](http://kaweahhealth.org/daisy)

## SUBMIT A NOMINATION

Everyone - including patients and visitors - is invited to nominate a nurse who goes beyond the call of duty.



**If you have received exceptional care from a doctor or any member of our caring staff please nominate them for a Guardian Angel award.**

If you also want a way to give back, please consider a donation (optional) to the Kaweah Health Foundation, in honor of the doctor, nurse, or medical staff member that cared for you or your family member. Go to, [kaweahhealth.org/angel](http://kaweahhealth.org/angel) for more information.

**LEARN MORE**

[KAWEAHHEALTH.ORG/FOUNDATION](http://KAWEAHHEALTH.ORG/FOUNDATION)

216 SOUTH JOHNSON STREET, VISALIA, CA 93291  
(559) 624-2359 | FAX (559) 635-4054





# Meet the Foundation Staff

When I joined the Kaweah Health Foundation team in mid-2019, one of my first responsibilities was the Foundation's Golf Classic. Unfortunately, my first full year of involvement began during the COVID pandemic. With a lot of thoughtful preparation, the committee moved forward with the 2020 tournament. We had 102 golfers and netted nearly \$100,000. In comparison, this year, 158 golfers joined us and net proceeds totaled over \$130,000. It was a fairly cool summer day, the air was clear, and the significant uptick in COVID cases had not occurred yet. Many returning and new sponsors (97 total) joined us! My involvement with the tournament is definitely a highlight! Many committee members have been involved for years. All were quick to welcome me as part of the team! — *Teresa Menezes, Foundation Coordinator*



I feel privileged to work with our community and employee donors. Coordinating the Employee Giving program, for more than 2,300 employees, is an honor. As is working with the community on the snack and treat donations they make for our healthcare heroes, including the Visalia Breakfast Rotary club donation of 190 Vintage Press lunches to our Rural Clinics. There is such joy in being a part of the process! I also plan and coordinate the Heritage Club Dinner. We had hoped to move back to an in-person event in 2021, but when COVID-19 surged again we switched to guests picking up meals at the Vintage Press, or delivering them to their homes. We still had a festive event even if we only saw each other for a few minutes.

— *Carla Hernandez, Donor Outreach Coordinator*

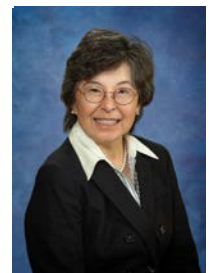
I am so lucky that I get to wear multiple hats at the Foundation. I not only write grants for important hospital projects, but I write articles for both staff and public audiences, take photographs, and connect with community through social media and events. I even started creating and editing videos this year, a first for me. I don't have a medical background, so learning about endoscopy, diabetes, telehealth, psychiatry, and more has been fascinating and rewarding. Then translating what I've learned for grantors and the public is a challenge I enjoy— especially when it leads to funding for worthy programs.

— *Diane Aden Hayes, Grants Coordinator*



I love having the opportunity to see how grateful and generous our community is. Although I have seen an abundance of generosity previously, nothing prepared me for the outpouring of love and kindness we witnessed during the pandemic. Almost daily, we had people dropping off PPE, snacks, and homemade masks, which they took the time to make because they knew there was a need. We also had community members work with local restaurants to provide meals and snacks to our Kaweah family, from breakfast burritos to personal pizzas to pallets of fresh fruit. I have never been more proud to be part of such an amazing foundation team, district, and community. — *Jenna Pierce, Administrative Assistant*

I joined the Foundation in 2020 after working in the Office of Research since June 2019. My primary responsibility is to secure funding for the research enterprise at Kaweah Health. The Foundation has secured numerous grants to increase access to care for patients with substance use disorders and behavioral health concerns, implement harm reduction strategies to prevent opioid overdoses, and substance use prevention education. I'm also interested in ensuring our medical staff understand how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) affect young people and even adults. Working in the Foundation office has provided me the chance to be part of a team, and secure interagency collaboration. — *Patty Havard, Research Specialist*





**STREET  
MEDICINE**  
CARE WITHOUT BOUNDARIES  
A PROGRAM OF KAWEAH HEALTH

**A Kaweah Health  
& Kaweah Health Foundation Program**

**Traveling the roads less traveled  
to meet the health care needs of  
underserved populations in Tulare County.**

Learn more.  
[KawahHealth.org/foundation/street-medicine](https://KawahHealth.org/foundation/street-medicine)

# 33RD ANNUAL KAWEAH HEALTH GOLF CLASSIC



The Kaweah Health Foundation's 33rd Annual Golf Classic was held last August. The tournament raised over \$130,000. We are very thankful for an amazing Golf Classic Committee, sponsors, players, and day volunteers who all contributed their resources and talents making the tournament another record-breaking success!

Tournament proceeds benefited the Foundation's Modernization Campaign (visit [kaweahhealth.org/foundation](http://kaweahhealth.org/foundation)).



## SPECIAL THANKS

### Golf Classic Committee

Andre Goddard, Chair  
Gary Amon  
Daniel Baker  
Steve Bajari  
Ben Cripps  
Judy Fussel  
Woody Hogan  
Kimberly Jensen

Venita Jourdan  
David Olson  
Kathleen Remillard  
Jason Vasquez  
Deborah Volosin  
Nick Volosin  
Aaron Williamson



**Kaweah Health**<sup>™</sup>  
**Foundation**