



Winter Update



**Kaweah Health
Foundation**

Together

WE'RE STRONGER



The Kaweah Health Foundation's 2021 Modernization Campaign was completed in August 2022. The 18-month campaign provides life-saving technology and equipment needed to support Kaweah Health's vision to be your world-class healthcare choice for life. Thanks to generous contributors, like you, new equipment now in use totals over \$3.8 million.

Campaign Highlights . . .

TrueBeam The TrueBeam offers new advances in cancer care. This new technology delivers precise radiation dosages quickly resulting in better, less invasive outcomes for our patients with brain tumors and other serious conditions.

Endoscopic Ultrasound An advancement paramount in diagnosing pancreatic cancers and tumors.

More Highlights The Foundation also purchased 42 Halo Bassinets for the Family Birthing Center, 14 Ultrasound Bladder Scanners used throughout the Medical Center, 15 New Generation Ventilators, and more.



Care is
a verb.

It's time
to show our
support
for one
another.

In September 2022, the Foundation began a new Modernization Campaign 2.0 **“Caring for Our Caregivers.”** This campaign will end in July 2024 with an estimated cost of \$1.9 million.

Reasons to Support . . .

Working in a profession with both physical and emotional demands, Kaweah Health's clinical teams always step-up to go the extra mile! Many times they work extra hours or shifts to take care of our patients - your family and friends.

Our caregivers love caring for us, even during the most challenging times. Imagine working long hours then being asked to give a little more. For this reason, we want to recognize and help our compassionate medical teams who in return give so much back to us.

“Caring for Our Caregivers” focuses on creating and renewing areas used by our Kaweah Health family everyday.

Reflection Gardens Three monuments honoring those healed, those who heal, and those lost. These garden areas will give staff members a place of peace and reflection.

Renovating Break Rooms, Locker Rooms, and Lounges Updating these essential work and break areas will provide an environment for rest and renewal during a challenging day.



**Your Health is Our Priority! We hope you too will join us to say thank you,
by supporting “Our Caring for Our Caregivers” Campaign!**

Board President



My first year as Foundation Board President has been an exciting one. We finished the Modernization Campaign, which began in 2021, with \$1.7 million raised. With these funds we purchased a new endoscopic ultrasound for internal medicine providers, helping patients get diagnosed earlier and on the road to treatment. We've also bought new bassinets for the Mother/Baby unit, replacing noisy old ones with top-of-the-line ones that keep little ones within close reach of new moms. The campaign has also provided quieter ventilators for our acute care unit and bladder scanners for the main hospital. I'm thrilled just thinking about the lives we've impacted thanks to our many donors.

And now, we've kicked off Modernization 2.0 Caring for Our Caregivers. This two-year campaign will need \$1.9 million to create an ideal work environment for the nurses and medical staff who have worked so hard the past few years. Funds raised will provide remodeled and renewed breakrooms, locker rooms and staff lounges at our main hospital downtown, plus the Court Street Campus and Rural Clinics in Exeter, Lindsay and Woodlake. Our annual Golf Classic in August raised \$136,000 for the new campaign so we are off to a great start! For more information visit the Foundation website at <https://www.kaweahhealth.org/foundation/caring-for-our-caregivers-modernization-2-0/> or call the office at (559) 624-2359.

Finally, we moved our annual Heritage Club Dinner from fall to spring this year, and went back to in-person after two years of delivering meals to our members. The Visalia Country Club was a great location, with wonderful food and ambiance – we will be back next spring as well. Heritage Club members list the Foundation in their estate plan or pre-pay, to fund our endowment and pay for future generations' health care. We're halfway to our goal of \$25 million!

- Matthew D. Graham, President, Kaweah Health Foundation Board of Directors



Foundation Director Liz Wynn with Board President Matt Graham at the Heritage Club Dinner in April.

Halo Baby Bassinets a Hit with Moms, Babies & Nurses

One of the highlights of the Foundation's 2021 Modernization Campaign was the acquisition of 42 new baby bassinets for the hospital's Mother/Baby unit. These new beds were designed to make reaching for babies easier for new moms, especially tough on those who gave birth via caesarean.

Among of the first to get to use these was Cheryl Anderson of Visalia, who gave birth to twins December 30, 2021. Cheryl, whose fraternal boys are Alexander and Benjamin, described the new baby beds as "amazing."



Cheryl Anderson rests with babies Alexander and Benjamin close by in the new Halo Bassinets used at Kaweah Health's main hospital. Photos courtesy of Cheryl

Due to COVID protocols in place at that time, Cheryl was allowed only one visitor, her husband, during her stay in the hospital after the birth (via caesarean). That made the new beds all the more useful, and Cheryl kept one at her side and one at her feet.

"If my husband had to leave, the babies were right there," she said, especially important as she had had surgery and couldn't stretch to reach very far. "I would just pull down the side of the bed, and do what I needed to do.

"It was easy to sit in bed and not have to get up and move." She also noted the beds being clear plastic meant she could see through them to check on the babies, plus they have room for diapers and wipes. "And if you did want to walk around with them, the handles are easy to hold, even with an I.V. in. They are very mobile and just glide."

Cheryl is also mom to a 4-year-old daughter that she also gave birth to at Kaweah Health, so she was familiar with the previous bassinets. "It was basically a tub," she said.



Melissa Filiponi, the Mother/Baby Nurse Manager, agrees that the old bassinets were pretty basic. “The old ones were difficult to keep clean, and hair would get caught in the wheels,” she said with a laugh. After 10-plus years, the old bassinets definitely needed replacing. The carts themselves held up, but the inserts needed to be replaced often, and constantly doing so was costly. Plus they were steel and cold-looking.

Melissa and her staff had talked to a number of vendors and there wasn’t much new available. But they eventually talked to a GE rep who told them about the new Halo Bassinets, and the Kaweah staff was sold.

“Patients love them, our staff loves them,” Melissa said. “They’re quiet, they move easily. It’s great to have the current technology!”

One of the other great features of the new beds is that they keep baby at eye level, where with the old ones the baby was above and mom below. Plus the way the beds swing over to mom so she can hold or feed her baby makes those movements so much easier.

The new bassinets should last for at least 10 years, Melissa said, and she and her staff are so grateful to the Foundation and the community for providing them. “I can’t even begin to tell you all the benefits of them, what they offer mom and baby,” she said, noting that some of those benefits include skin-to-skin contact between mom and baby, easier breastfeeding, and having baby within mom’s reach.

Cheryl Anderson agrees, and said the whole Mother/Baby team was also great, especially with COVID being a concern at the time she gave birth. “The nurses were so great, they were always there to help,” she said.



Every year 4,500 babies are delivered at the Kaweah Health Medical Center.

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 today, call 624.2359!

New Board Members for 2023

Leslie Hayes



Leslie Hayes is Director of Business Development at Shannon Ranch Quail Park, a community designed for *Brilliant Senior Living*. Leslie comes with a host of credentials including 25 years as owner and lead designer of LOM Productions Weddings and Events, a full-service event planning company. Her company has earned multiple awards for her unique and colorful designs and styles.

For several years Leslie lived and worked in between Visalia and Napa Valley. She recently decided to return to the Central Valley and become involved in the community, particularly wanting to be involved in health care. "If I'm going to be on any board in a community, I am going to be very selective," Kaweah Health Foundation was a perfect fit, and she will join the board in January.

Leslie has over two decades of community service and nine years as the Producer of Heart Spectacular Celebration, an annual gala, where she procured considerable funds for the Cardiac Services Program at Kaweah Health. She also served several terms on the Sequoia Symphony board and the Tulare County Symphony League board.

She has extensive training in business management, problem solving and community relations. Leslie's passion for her community resulted in raising money for many non-profit organizations in Tulare County including the Boys and Girls Club, CASA, The Creative Center, and the Visalia Rescue Mission.

Leslie is a mother of three wonderful children, all of whom have been involved in the Visalia Community and have earned some spectacular achievements.

Leslie Ritchie



Leslie Ritchie is a Visalia native who married her childhood friend, Casey, and has three boys, Caden, Landen and Tristen, ages 11-16, plus an English bulldog, Gronk! Between that and her career as a real estate agent with Wendy Little Properties, you'd think her calendar is full. But she makes time to volunteer, including joining the Foundation board in January.

"I also believe it is our duty to give back to our community when able and I am at that point in my life where I feel I can help make a positive impact," Leslie explains. "Great healthcare is a critically important part of any community and takes a great deal of resources."

Her family's foundation, The Sence Foundation, has long been a supporter of Kaweah Health, so joining the Foundation board was a great way to give back. She hopes to "bring new philanthropic ideas to the table that have not previously been explored as well as bring in new donors who can make a generous impact."

When she's not working or giving back, Leslie enjoys her athletic "boy-Mom" activities, such as practicing baseball in the backyard, skiing and snowboarding, playing tennis and golf, and her favorite: Spending family time at their home in Tahoe. There, she and her boys can do what they love best: "fishin'."

Foundation Staff Members

The Foundation staff has expanded! I'm so excited to have assembled such a strong team committed to supporting Kaweah Health, its staff and its patients. The rest of our team is:

- Diane Hayes, Grants Coordinator
- Carla Hernandez, Donor Outreach Coordinator
- Teresa Menezes, Foundation Coordinator

We look forward to serving our community in 2023, including events like our annual Heritage Club Dinner, Kaweah Health Golf Classic and more!

- Liz Wynn, Foundation Director



I joined Kaweah Health Foundation in August 2022, however I am not new to Kaweah Health. I previously worked in the Finance Department as an Accounts Payable clerk from 2001 to 2010. In my short time working with Foundation, it became very clear to me that I am part of a special group. The generosity of our employee donors is uplifting. It is encouraging to experience so many kind and generous people who really care about serving our community. I feel very privileged to assist with coordinating special events that provide the opportunity to raise funds and spread awareness that makes a difference for the general public and my friends & family.

- Manuela Abrego, Administrative Assistant

I became a part of the Kaweah Health Foundation in August 2022, as the Grants Analyst. It makes me feel very good knowing that I am contributing to the cause that provides the tireless fundraising efforts and campaigning, to support Kaweah Health's mission of providing world-class health care to the community, and the caring for our caregivers. I am excited to be a vital part of the grant management process by assisting with contract adherence for the reporting of deliverables to ensure successful funding of all of the important hospital district projects being funded. I am so grateful!

- Jennifer Powers, Grants Analyst





The Kaweah Health Foundation's Lost Girls Breast Cancer Fund first began in 2005 with the help of the **Lost Girls Motorcycle Club**. The Club started and holds annually a very successful motorcycle ride fundraiser to support the fund. Since then, other organizations have also recognized the importance of this cause. In 2015, **Ruiz Foods** began holding an Annual Pink Out Day donating for every employee who wears pink to work. Furthermore, beginning in 2017, **Momentum Broadcasting/KJUG Country** began contributing funds from their annual Girls and Guitars concert. Other organizations have also stepped up to help including the Visalia Firefighters Association, Visalia Police Department, Dinuba Police Department, Tulare County Sheriff's Department, The Human Bean, and others.



Lost Girls Motorcycle Club

Thanks to the visionary efforts of the Lost Girls Motorcycle Club, today the fund continues to assist many uninsured or under insured Kaweah Health patients with diagnostic mammograms, breast biopsies, compression garments, head coverings, and other patient care needs. Donations have also allowed the Foundation to help purchase equipment and technologies resulting in better diagnostics and less invasive breast biopsy procedures.



Kaweah Health employees promoting breast cancer awareness and self screening.

Ruiz Foods Annual Pink Out Day!



GIRLS & GUITARS



Compliments of Momentum Broadcasting KJUG Country

