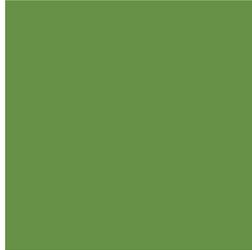


# IMPACTReport

the VMC foundation  
Helping Silicon Valley Care

f t y vmcfoundation.org

SPRING  
2015



## Welcome Supporters!



I'm always inspired to hear how VMC caregivers made a difference to a patient or their family.

We recently received a wonderful letter from Alex Kami, who wanted to commend VMC caregivers for the care his 93-year-old father received. Alex wrote,

**“I am thoroughly grateful for the fantastic care that the VMC team provided to my dad. The quality of the care was the highest we’ve ever experienced. The team showed compassion, and took the time to make sure my dad was in the best shape possible before his discharge.”**

It's stories like this that make me so proud to lead the VMC Foundation.

I hope stories like Alex's remind you why your support of VMC is so valuable. **YOU help us make a difference! And we thank you.**

Chris Wilder, Executive Director

## The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation Helps Patients Connect with Loved Ones

Chris Bergevin and his family were enjoying their annual trip to Capitola when, after a game of beach volleyball, Chris and his friends dove into the surf. Unaware that the tides had shifted, Chris struck a sand bar, damaging his spinal cord and neck. EMTs on the scene airlifted Chris to VMC's Spinal Cord Trauma Center.

When stable, this husband, father and professional engineer, began the long road to recovery. Working with the VMC rehabilitation team, Chris readied himself to face his future living with quadriplegia. Chris' therapists used all of the tools at their disposal to help Chris achieve as much independence as possible. These tools included computers made available to patients through VMC's innovative Technology Access Program (TAP).

The VMC Foundation established TAP in 2006 with community donations. The goal was to help rehabilitation patients, like Chris, connect to the outside world, develop vocational skills and increase self-confidence.

A generous grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation – dedicated to funding spinal cord injury research and programs – allowed the VMC Foundation to acquire iPad tablets. Chris told us that his iPad opened up a world of communication and the information he craved. The device allowed him to connect to the hospital's internet, where he could learn more about his condition, the medications he was taking and to shop for the medical equipment he would need once he went home. He also told us that it allowed him to keep up with his San Francisco Giants!

To learn more about the TAP program, please contact Debbie Burdsall, VMC Foundation Development Officer, at (408) 885-5299.

*“When you're injured and in the hospital, it's really important to get connected to friends, family, and the outside world. This iPad made these things possible for me! I'm very grateful.”*

Chris Bergevin with wife, Lani, and their children, Caitlyn and Cole



## VMC Achieves 50% Reduction in Sepsis Mortality Through Effective Staff Education

VMC nurse and Quality Improvement Coordinator, Kathy Madlem, takes preventing sepsis very seriously. Sepsis, a potentially life-threatening complication of an infection, can occur when chemicals trigger inflammatory responses throughout the body. When undiagnosed, especially in vulnerable patients like older adults, sepsis can lead to multiple organ failure and even death.

According to the Institute for Health Care Improvement (IHI) there are approximately 750,000 new sepsis cases each year in the U.S., with 210,000 fatalities.

Working with the VMC Foundation, Kathy is leading a hospital-wide effort to prevent sepsis. Gifts, from donors like you, have funded a series of sepsis seminars for VMC staff, featuring top experts in the field. Kathy told us,



“Not only did the VMC Foundation help me establish a fund for the sepsis training seminars, but the Foundation has been instrumental in helping to significantly reduce the cost for VMC staff by helping to sponsor the training.”

Kathy’s efforts have paid off. Since the program’s inception VMC has seen a 50% decrease in mortality through improved screening and staff education. The VMC Foundation congratulates superstar VMC employee Kathy Madlem for her important role in combating sepsis at Valley Medical Center.

## Donations at Work

**\$67,000**

Pulmonary/GI system for the Pediatrics Department

**\$31,000**

Flat screen televisions for the Pediatrics Department

**\$22,000**

Transportation, food and housing assistance for VMC’s homeless patients

**\$17,200**

iPads and adaptive devices for rehab patients

**\$9,500**

Patient education units for NICU families

**\$4,000**

New Parent Handbooks

**\$3,500**

Breastfeeding pumps, nursing covers and supplies



**IRA Greene PACE Clinic**  
(Partners in AIDS Care & Education)

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ira Greene PACE Clinic at VMC, which provides medical care and support to prevent or delay the progression of HIV/AIDS. More than 3,000 patients have received care since the clinic opened in 1995. Thank you to the generous donors who together have provided nearly \$300,000 in financial support to help sustain and grow the program.

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