



IMPACTReport



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Greetings Supporters,

It's an exciting time for the VMC Foundation! We are currently wrapping up our \$5 million challenge campaign in support of the new VMC hospital building currently under construction. As you may recall, this fundraising charge was led by local philanthropists and longtime VMC champions, John and Susan Sobrato. John and Susan understand the critical importance of an upgraded and earthquake-safe medical center for the entire region.

The Sobratos' unprecedented matching fund challenge to the community exemplifies their commitment to medical care in Santa Clara County. The John A. and Susan Sobrato Pavilion is scheduled to open in 2016 and will include 168 single-patient rooms, the hospital's intensive care unit, and a beautiful home for VMC's acclaimed Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain Injury Center.

So as we head into the last months of 2014, and launch our new \$25 million effort to establish a Women & Children's Center at VMC, I want to tell you how grateful we are for YOUR support. Your gifts and the gifts of others in our community help us provide world-class care right here in Silicon Valley.

With my deepest gratitude and very best wishes,

Chris Wilder, Executive Director

Grateful Patient is Inspired to Give Back to the New VMC

In 2011 – after 35 years of practicing corporate law – Daniel Niehans retired to spend more time on his hobbies, including running marathons.

Less than seven months later, Dan's wife, Tish, found him on the floor of their Menlo Park home. His carotid artery had spontaneously dissected – its inner wall had peeled away, blocking blood flow to a section of his brain.

"When Dan transferred to VMC's Acute Neuro-Rehab unit, he was unable to sit up and was paralyzed on his left side," recalls Tish.

After nine weeks with the VMC rehab team, Dan returned home, able to walk with a cane. "I feel very fortunate that one of the nation's top neuro-rehab programs was so close to home," says Dan.

When the Niehans learned that funds were needed to furnish the new Acute Neuro-Rehab facility – and that the Sobrato family was matching all donations – they decided the time was right to give back.

"**'A leader in rebuilding lives'** is the program's motto," quotes Tish, "and we're grateful that they made it possible to rebuild ours."

In 2012, and following his stay in the VMC Neuro-Rehab Department, Dan Niehans (pictured above) enjoys a trip to Ephesus, Turkey.



We ♥ VMC Employees!

VMC employees *dug deep* to support world-class medical care by donating more than \$200,000 to this year's Give a Booster Shot fundraiser. The campaign gives hospital staff an opportunity to lend their financial support to the services and programs that benefit the patients in their care.

Long-time employee donor, Jerry Wright, shows his VMC Spirit.



Local Philanthropists Pledge \$1 Million to New Women & Children's Center at VMC

John and Ann Rademakers came to the Bay Area a long time ago from their native Holland, intent on building a life for their family. They settled in San Jose, raised their children, and built a thriving business.

As they began to plan for their retirement, making a philanthropic impact on the place that brought them so much good fortune became a priority. Finding the right cause was important.

Ralph Dickman, Senior VP at City National Bank and an officer on the VMC Foundation's Board of Directors, introduced them to Valley Medical Center.

"They were compelled by our plans to create a Women & Children's Center at VMC, and immediately wanted to visit," said Ralph. "This idea was very new, so we just had concepts to share."

The couple toured VMC's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), and met nurse and physician leaders. They learned what it would take to upgrade the facilities to create a Women & Children's Center.

And then – *right on the spot* – they pledged \$1 million.

"It was an incredible gesture of support," said Chris Wilder, VMC Foundation Executive Director. "To make this kind of gift on the front end of a \$25 million campaign is remarkable. They believe in this project."

The Rademakers' gift – combined with \$4.75 million in pledges from FIRST 5 Santa Clara County, SAP, and the Sharks Foundation – will be used for upgrades to the PICU, including better family areas, and therapy and outdoor play spaces for patients. These improvements will be part of a broader project to transform the entire building into a Women & Children's Center – the first of its kind in San Jose.

"What John and Ann care about," said Wilder, "is making a difference to the children of this community. And that's exactly what they have done."



Our Vision

San Jose is the largest city in the U.S. without a free-standing children's hospital. Using existing facilities, VMC seeks to consolidate and expand services into a single facility to serve as a **Women & Children's Center**. This exciting transformation will include:

- Conversion of an existing 300,000 square foot inpatient facility to an acute and intensive care center
- Art installations for a welcoming, healing and magical environment
- New family and guest gathering areas
- Pediatric therapy playground upgrades
- Private mother and baby suites

One of the inspirations for the Women & Children's Center project is the beautiful Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago (pictured above).

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