

Valleywise Health

Magazine | May 2026

Gina Amoroso:
From Recovery
to Peer Support
Advocate at
Valleywise Health

FEATURING

**Valleywise Health
Expands Behavioral
Healthcare**

**A Rescue That
Changed Everything**



A Message from Steve Purves

Valleywise Health President & CEO

A bright new chapter began for Valleywise Health on Nov. 4, 2025, when Maricopa County voters approved Proposition 409. This was a historic moment that reflects ongoing community support for our healthcare system and for our mission.

I want to thank our many supporters, including the residents of Maricopa County, our employees and District Medical Group, for your invaluable support.

This vote of approval shows that the community understands and values the critical work our caregivers do every day. And as I often say, we don't do anything alone. A broad coalition of business, faith, police, fire and community organizations stepped up to help spread the word about Proposition 409 and its promise for a healthier future for our community.

The Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board supported us every step of the way. Their vision was vital in setting Proposition 409 into motion and in its eventual passage by Maricopa County voters. We are now ready to move forward with the expansion of our behavioral health services and observation beds, which improve emergency room capacity and trauma capacity.

Proposition 409 also provided funds to build an outpatient specialty and surgery clinic, upgrade community health centers and increase capacity to teach the next generation of doctors and mental health professionals.

On a personal note, I announced at the end of 2025 my plans to retire in October 2026. This decision comes with mixed emotions, as my time at Valleywise Health has been filled with important work, unforgettable experiences, incredible colleagues and a shared commitment to provide exceptional care without exception, every patient, every time.

As I prepare to embark on a new season, spending time with my wife, family and grandchildren, I do so with deep appreciation and gratitude for the support our community has shown for our mission and for our employees and medical staff who work so hard every day.

Valleywise Health's future is bright, and I am confident it will continue to grow stronger in the years ahead.

Valleywise Health Leadership

Steve Purves
President and CEO,
Valleywise Health

Claire Agnew
Chief Financial Officer

Michelle Barker
CEO of FQHC Clinics

Beth Beckman
Chief Nursing Officer

Ijana Harris
Chief Legal Officer

Lisa Hartsock
CEO, Valleywise
Health Foundation

Stephanie Hines
Chief Information
Officer

Deb Sunman
Chief Human Resources
Officer

Michael White, MD
Chief Clinical Officer

Warren Whitney
Chief Administrative
Officer

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District 3

Warren Whitney Named CAO

Valleywise Health is pleased to announce the promotion of Warren Whitney to the position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Whitney has served as Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for Valleywise Health since 2008. In this role, he has worked tirelessly in public advocacy and government relations, consistently advancing Valleywise Health's mission as a safety net system of care and public teaching hospital.

"Warren's promotion is a reflection of his outstanding achievements and the respect he has earned from his colleagues and peers," said Steve Purves, President and CEO. "His leadership and commitment to Valleywise Health will continue to be a driving force in our mission to provide exceptional care, without exception, every patient, every time."

Purves also thanked Lia Christiansen, who retired in March after serving five years as CAO during a historic period of growth. Lia played a pivotal role in the construction of the new Valleywise Health Medical Center and oversaw the move of over 200 patients in one day to the facility from the legacy "county" hospital on June 13, 2024. Her leadership helped bring to life a state-of-the-art hospital designed to deliver dignified, patient-centered care for the communities we proudly serve.

"Lia has guided Valleywise Health through a remarkable journey of transformation," Purves said. "Her tireless efforts and dedication to our mission have left a lasting impact on our patients, our teams and our future."

Dr. Michael White Re-elected to Chair Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance Board

Dr. Michael White, Chief Clinical Officer for Valleywise Health, has been re-elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance.

Dr. White has served on the Alliance Board since 2019 and as chair since 2023. In addition to his role at Valleywise Health, he serves as Executive Vice President for the health system and a board-certified practicing interventional cardiologist. He also serves as Associate Dean for Technology and Educational Innovation at the Creighton University School of Medicine.

"It is a great honor to serve the Alliance as board chair," Dr. White said. "The Alliance is at the forefront of educating and developing outstanding healthcare providers who contribute greatly to their professions and

communities, including many who choose to stay and practice in Arizona."

As chair, Dr. White serves as a liaison among Alliance partners, including Creighton University School of Medicine, Valleywise Health, Dignity Health, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, and District Medical Group. Together, these organizations work to advance graduate medical education and strengthen Arizona's health-care workforce.

The Alliance also marked several key milestones in 2025, reflecting continued growth and impact. Dr. White's re-election reflects a shared commitment to training future healthcare providers and expanding access to high-quality care across Arizona.

2025 Creighton Alliance Highlights

- Received a major grant from The Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation to support the expansion of the Creighton University School of Medicine Family Medicine Residency rural track in Arizona
- Celebrated the completion of training for 109 residents and fellows, with 51% remaining in Arizona
- Graduated Creighton's first four-year class of medical students in Phoenix, with 34% matching in Arizona for graduate medical education training
- Matriculated the first fellow in the newly created Maternal Fetal Medicine fellowship program
- Approved the formation of an Anesthesiology residency program, with recruitment set to begin for a July 2026 start
- Began development of an Orthopedic Surgery residency program, with plans to apply for accreditation in early 2026
- Supported clinical rotations for more than 1,500 unique health sciences students at Valleywise Health and St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center during the academic year

A Year of Milestones at the New Medical Center

In June 2024, Valleywise Health reached a defining moment in its 140-year history as the new Valleywise Health Medical Center opened its doors. In a single coordinated effort, staff safely transferred 200 patients from the former hospital to the new facility. The move represented years of planning and a shared commitment to creating a modern, patient-focused environment designed for the future. More than a year later, the hospital has become a busy hub of care, learning and community impact.

That progress shows up in every corner of the building. The medical imaging team expanded capacity, improved quality and earned six new American College of Radiology accreditations while integrating advanced technology, including dual-energy CT scanners and MRI-guided breast biopsies. Rehabilitation services supported recovery for thousands of patients through therapies focused on restoring strength, mobility and independence.

All of this work happens inside a thoughtfully designed, 673,000-square-foot hospital with private patient rooms, a state-of-the-art emergency department and an entire floor dedicated to the nationally recognized Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center. The design reflects what patients and families need most: comfort, privacy and an environment that supports healing.

Still, the true strength of the new hospital comes from the people who bring it to life every day. Providers, nurses, technicians and support staff turned an empty building into a fully functioning medical center within hours of opening. Their teamwork, supported by District Medical Group, the Valleywise Health Foundation and the Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors, continues to define the hospital's first year.



BY THE NUMBERS FROM YEAR ONE IN THE NEW HOSPITAL

2.1 million pharmacy orders processed

6.6 million clinical lab tests

250 volunteers helped on move day

7,584 surgeries

2,771 babies delivered

72,840 emergency department visits

14,673 acute care admissions

128,322 imaging patients served

MEDICAL IMAGING GROWTH

ED imaging up **5%** year over year

Inpatient imaging up **8.49%**

NEW IMAGING ACCREDITATIONS (ACR)

3 in CT

2 in MRI

1 in Nuclear Medicine

OUTPATIENT DISCHARGE PHARMACY

102,586 prescriptions filled

13,013 consultations

2,901 immunizations administered

Gina Amoroso:

*From Recovery
to Peer Support
Advocate at
Valleywise Health*

From addiction, homelessness and mental health struggles to a stable home, strong relationships and meaningful work, Gina Amoroso's journey is one of resilience and recovery. Once living on the streets after battling addiction and psychosis, Amoroso found support and treatment in part through Valleywise Health. The decision to hire her and invest in her development gave her the foundation to heal, rise and thrive.

I want a safe place for us to share together. I know what you are going through.

"Recovery has been good to me, but it's been work," she reflects. "Now I have a roof over my head, healthy relationships, a great job and a family. I feel really blessed right now."

Today, she channels her lived experience into helping others as a peer support specialist at Valleywise

Health's Behavioral Health First Episode Center – Avondale. Her role isn't clinical, it's personal. She offers empathy, understanding and hope to young people and families navigating early psychosis or mental health crises. Recognizing that recovery affects entire communities, she helps clients build individualized recovery plans that combine professional care with real-world insight.

Her approach to those she helps is simple: "I want a safe place for us to share together. I know what you are going through."

Her office walls are lined with artwork created by First Episode Center members – portraits, landscapes and inspirational messages that reflect struggle, growth and hope. Through art, shared stories and her own journey, she helps build a bridge for others seeking stability, recovery and a new beginning.

Her message is clear, yet powerful: recovery is possible with help, support and belief.



[Learn More](#)



The First Swing: *A Farewell to the "County" Hospital*

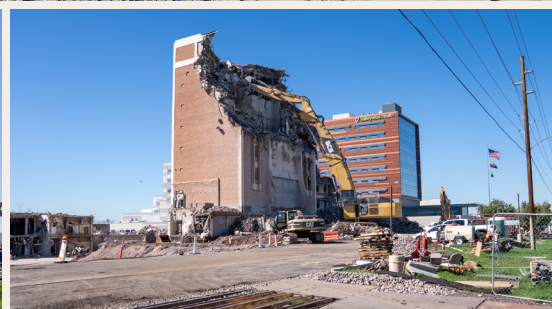
For more than 50 years, the hospital affectionately known as "County" stood as a cornerstone of care for Maricopa County. Generations of patients, families and caregivers walked its halls, and its legacy remains woven into the history of Valleywise Health.

This spring, Valleywise Health held a special blessing ceremony to honor that legacy ahead of the building's planned demolition. Employees, Board members, longtime partners and community leaders gathered to reflect on the decades of healing that took place inside the hospital and the countless lives shaped by its caregivers.

President and CEO Steve Purves, Board Chair Virginia Korte and Chaplain Jeffrey Strom shared memories and offered words of gratitude before placing their handprints on a lime-green wrecking ball covered in signatures from Valleywise Health team members. In a symbolic first strike, construction partner Kitchell gently swung the ball into the empty structure, marking an emotional farewell to the historic hospital and the start of a new chapter.

Just steps away, the new Valleywise Health Medical Center stands ready to carry forward the mission that "County" embodied for half a century: exceptional care without exception.





Pardon Our Dust!

Throughout 2025, the Valleywise Health campus continued to transform as major demolition and construction projects move forward. Crews have removed several buildings, including the former Central Energy Plant and administrative spaces, along with the phased demolition of the legacy Medical Center.

At the same time, multi-phase site work is underway to improve parking, lighting and accessibility while preparing space for future helipad areas. All work is being carefully coordinated to minimize disruptions for patients, visitors and staff as daily operations continue.

Progress is also happening beyond the main campus. Across the Valley, refreshed community health centers in Chandler and Guadalupe are coming together, bringing brighter, more modern spaces designed to better serve the needs of each community.

Each photo captures a moment in this ongoing transformation as Valleywise Health builds for the future, creating spaces that support exceptional care today and for generations to come.



Take a look at our demolition video

Valleywise Health Expands Behavioral Health Care



Valleywise Health made historic advances in behavioral health in 2025.

In November, Maricopa County voters approved Proposition 409, which will more than double the number of behavioral health beds on the main campus. The \$898 million bond package includes funds for a new 200-bed facility to replace the psychiatric annex that opened in 1978.

Also last year, Valleywise Health opened the last empty unit at its Maryvale behavioral health hospital.

“With these successes, 94 percent of the 412 licensed beds at our three behavioral health centers are in use,” said Martha Steiner, Vice President of Behavioral Health Nursing.

“Thanks to our hiring efforts and the hard work of many staff members, we are pleased to have enough caregivers in place to provide more inpatient mental health services to our community.”

Valleywise Health is the largest provider of court-ordered inpatient behavioral health care in Arizona, with three hospitals in Mesa, Maryvale and Central Phoenix. Labor shortages exacerbated by the pandemic led to the closure of three wings of the Maryvale hospital. In response, Valleywise Health launched an aggressive recruiting campaign with sign-on bonuses for psychiatric nurses, technicians and other staff members.

The Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors, recognizing the increased demand for behavioral and community health services, on April 24, 2025, unanimously adopted a resolution authorizing application to the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to order a special bond election.

Voters joined a broad coalition of community, faith and business leaders, law enforcement, firefighters, nurses and elected officials to ensure Valleywise Health can continue meeting the health needs of Maricopa County. The bond also provides funds to expand observation beds, which improve emergency room and trauma capacity, build an outpatient specialty and surgery clinic, upgrade community health centers and increase capacity to teach the next generation of doctors and mental health professionals. This community support is strengthened by generous Valleywise Health Foundation donors, whose philanthropy helps expand and enhance our behavioral health facilities, equipment and programs to meet the growing need.

“Valleywise Health is thrilled to more than double the number of behavioral health beds on our main campus so we can serve additional individuals with court-ordered mental health evaluations,” said Virginia Korte, Chair of the Special Health Care District Board of Directors.

“We are deeply grateful to the voters of Maricopa County for recognizing the need to expand and modernize our public healthcare system. The election showed that – even in a difficult election year – voters understand what a valuable asset Valleywise Health is to our community,” Korte said.

“We know Maricopa County voters understand the urgent need to invest in our safety-net hospital in order to meet these growing demands,” said Dr. Michael White, Valleywise Health Chief Clinical Officer. “We are excited to begin the next phase of providing Maricopa County residents with world-class facilities at their public teaching hospital.”

Passage of Proposition 409 begins a planning process that will lead to critical upgrades to the hospital system over the next 10 years.



Valleywise Health Earns Top Marks in National Patient Experience Rankings

Valleywise Health earned exceptional results in a national patient experience survey used by hospitals across the country. The organization ranked in the 95th percentile among safety-net hospitals for overall hospital rating, with 84% of patients giving a score of 9 or 10. Valleywise Health also placed in the top 8% of all hospitals nationwide, reflecting strong confidence from the communities we serve.

These results underscore the meaningful impact of Valleywise Health's continued focus on service excellence and the patient experience. Along with the benefits of the new state-of-the-art medical center, this progress has been driven by system-wide efforts to strengthen patient connection, improve communication and support compassionate, patient-centered care.

Valleywise Health also placed in the top 8% of all hospitals nationwide, reflecting strong confidence from the communities we serve.



Valleywise Health Awards

VALLEYWISE HEALTH 2025 NURSE LEADER OF THE YEAR

John Fahrnbruch, Behavioral Health Nurse Manager, BH Nursing Admin

VALLEYWISE HEALTH 2025 NIGHTINGALE NURSE OF THE YEAR

Reina Chacon, Clinical Nurse, FQHC Clinic – Avondale

2025 RN SUPPORT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Erica Jorgenson, Child Life Coordinator, Women Children Support – Roosevelt

2025 ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Vicki Staples, Director OP Behavioral Health Programs, BH Administration

2025 CLINICAL ANCILLARY SERVICES EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Erika Hickman, Manager Cardiopulmonary Vascular Service, Therapy & Respiratory Admin

2025 SUPPORT SERVICES EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Brooke Murray, Manager HIM ROI & Chart Completion Health Info Manager – Operations

2025 ADVANCED PRACTICE CLINICIAN (APC) OR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL (AHP) OF THE YEAR

LouAnne Jones, F.N.P., Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center

2025 PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR

Claire Mikhaila Sollars, MD, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

PHOENIX BUSINESS JOURNAL

2025 HEALTHCARE HEROES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Frank LoVecchio, Emergency Medicine

NON-PHYSICIAN

Shasa Jackson, Senior Manager of Outpatient Specialty Behavioral Health Services

PBJ 40 UNDER 40

Ijana Harris, Senior Vice President & Chief Legal Officer

PBJ MOST ADMIRED LEADERS

Dr. Kevin Foster, Director, Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center

AZPHA PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS

2025 PETE WERTHEIM PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

Jeanne Nizigiyimana, Manager, Center for Refugee and Global Health

BECKER'S HEALTHCARE

110 WOMEN HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SYSTEM CFOS TO KNOW

Claire Agnew, Senior VP of Financial Services & CFO

132 PATIENT SAFETY EXPERTS TO KNOW

Crystal Garcia, VP Specialty Services Quality and Safety

207 COMMUNITY HOSPITAL PRESIDENTS AND CEOS TO KNOW

Steve Purves, President & CEO

100 GREAT COMMUNITY HOSPITALS Valleywise Health Medical Center

190 HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SYSTEM CFOS TO KNOW

Claire Agnew, Senior VP of Financial Services & CFO

135 HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SYSTEM CIOs TO KNOW | 2026

Stephanie Hines, Senior VP & CIO

60 HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SYSTEMS WITH GREAT PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS Valleywise Health

75 HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SYSTEM CHIEF PHARMACY OFFICERS TO KNOW

Dr. Misty Vo, Director Pharmacy

GREAT LEADERS IN HEALTHCARE

Steve Purves, President & CEO

29 HIGHLY EFFECTIVE CEO-CFO DUOS

Steve Purves, President & CEO

Claire Agnew, Senior VP of Financial Services & CFO

64 SIMULATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO KNOW

The Simulation Center at Valleywise Health

AZ BIG MEDIA

WHO'S WHO IN ARIZONA HEALTHCARE

Steve Purves, President & CEO

100 BEST DOCTORS

Dr. Gretchen Alexander, Chief, Psychiatry Consultation Service

Dr. Kevin Foster, Director, Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center

Dr. Michael White, Chief Clinical Officer

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT (RED) AWARDS

Healthcare Project of the Year

EPIC

EHR Cum Laude Honor Roll



Valleywise Health Receives Prestigious Gage Award

Valleywise Health has received national recognition as the 2025 Gage Award winner for population health from America's Essential Hospitals. The award honors Valleywise Health's work to expand access to care and reduce barriers for refugees living in Maricopa County.

"We are truly humbled and honored to receive this recognition," said Steve Purves, President and CEO. "It truly is a national model for providing culturally and linguistically appropriate comprehensive health services to refugee families."

Arizona has welcomed more than 110,000 refugees since 1981 and ranks among the top five states for refugee resettlement. Nearly 80% of those individuals put down roots in Maricopa County. To support their transition, the Valleywise Health Center for Refugee and Global Health helps families navigate the U.S. health care system with services that include interpretation, insurance support, housing guidance and day-to-day survival information.

In 2024 alone, the center cared for 17,000 refugee patients from 71 countries, reflecting the diversity and resilience of the community it serves.

"Our members reach outside their walls to meet patients where they are and provide superior person-centered care," said Bruce Siegel, MD, MPH, President and CEO of America's Essential Hospitals. "These awards spotlight innovative solutions that reflect their commitment to their mission."

The Gage Awards, named for association founder Larry Gage, highlight successful hospital programs that improve patient care and address community needs. The population health award recognizes initiatives that respond to social determinants of health, including food insecurity, homelessness, language barriers and other socioeconomic challenges.

Valleywise Health's recognition shines a spotlight on the Center for Refugee and Global Health and the vital role it plays in helping families build healthier futures in Arizona.



Connecting Communities to Better Health

At Valleywise Health, community relations is rooted in building meaningful partnerships that improve health outcomes across Maricopa County. By engaging directly with residents, organizations, nonprofits and local agencies, we provide education, resources and support that empower individuals and families to take charge of their well-being.

Through health fairs, workshops and collaborations with schools, faith-based groups and neighborhood organizations, we raise awareness about preventive care, routine screenings and treatment options available throughout the Valleywise Health system.

Our commitment extends beyond clinical care. In partnership with Maricopa County Public Health, we work closely with a wide network of community organizations to strengthen communication, coordinate resources and respond to the needs of vulnerable populations. This collaboration strengthens relationships across the county, promotes health equity and helps inform our community health needs assessment so every program reflects current data and what residents say they need most.

Valleywise Health also leads initiatives that make an impactful difference for families across the county. These efforts include free vaccine clinics, Medicaid enrollment assistance, a Diabetes Education Empowerment Program (DEEP®) and Farm Express Mobile Markets, which brings fresh produce to families facing food insecurity and is made possible through a grant from the Arizona Women's Board. Through our Family Resource Centers, we have also developed a strong partnership with the Phoenix Zoo, providing generous book donations, live show-and-tell workshops and opportunities for families to experience the zoo together.

Together, these programs reduce barriers to care, address social determinants of health and build trust. They strengthen Valleywise Health's role as a reliable and community-centered healthcare partner for the residents we proudly serve.

BY THE NUMBERS

113 Community Events

20,130 Approximate Total Attendees



*A Rescue
That Changed
Everything*





In May 2025, a Goodyear police officer spotted a car engulfed in flames on Interstate 10 near 91st Avenue. Inside, a female driver was honking her horn for help.

Officer Dakota Berry broke the driver's side glass and pulled the woman to safety. She was taken to the Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center – Valleywise Health.

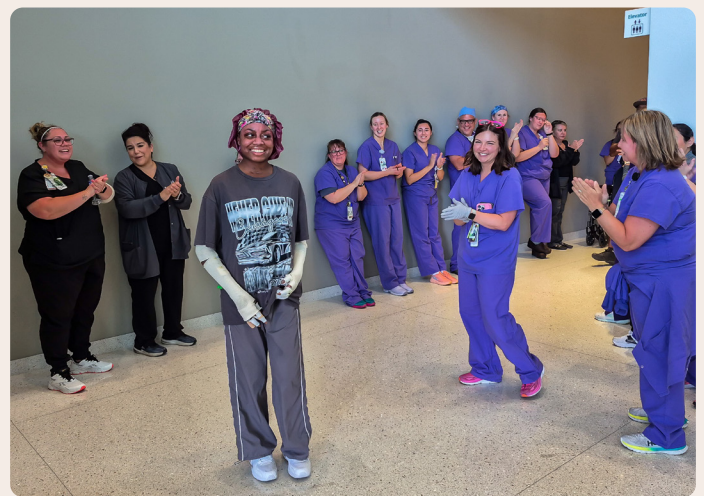
Later, the officer learned the driver was Asharie Montgomery, daughter of Goodyear Fire Captain Simeon Cheatham.

"What he did was nothing short of a miracle," Simeon said. "The fact that he happened to be traveling back to Goodyear at that exact moment gives me chills. He wasn't supposed to be there, but he was, and because of that, he was the one who broke those windows and pulled my daughter out, saving her life."

Today, Asharie, 19, is preparing to resume her studies at Arizona State University. She is back to roller and ice skating and dreams of becoming a physical therapist.

"She is doing amazing," Cheatham said. "I told her she is by far the strongest person I know."

When Asharie was discharged after spending two months in the hospital, she was cheered by burn center staff and Goodyear and Tolleson firefighters, including those who responded to the blaze. She has since returned to the Burn Center at Valleywise for physical therapy.



[Learn More](#)



Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Sixty years ago, the Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center began reshaping the way Valleywise Health cares for burn patients. What started in 1965 as a five-bed unit in the original Maricopa County General Hospital has grown into one of the busiest and most advanced burn centers in the United States. Today, the center has 50 beds and a national reputation for clinical excellence, innovation and compassionate care.

In November, burn team members joined Valleywise Health leadership and District Board representatives to celebrate the center's 60th anniversary. The event honored decades of work that have saved thousands of lives and changed the standard of burn care in Arizona and beyond.

The Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center is the first and only facility in the state to bring together expert surgeons, nurses and medical professionals from diverse specialties into a single dedicated unit. This approach recognizes that severe burns are among the most painful and life-changing injuries a person can experience and that coordinated, multidisciplinary care gives patients the best chance at recovery.

"The heart of our mission has always been outstanding patient care," said Dr. Kevin Foster, Director of the Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center. "The patient comes first, and a close second is care of the families because a burn injury is not just an injury to a person, it's an injury to a family and sometimes even to a community. So patient care is really the heart and soul of what we do."

The center's reach and capabilities have grown dramatically over its six decades. In June 2024, the burn center nearly tripled in size when it moved to the entire fourth floor of the new Valleywise Health Medical Center. The expanded space includes dedicated adult and pediatric units, advanced treatment rooms and areas designed to support the emotional and physical healing of patients and families.

Valleywise Health Foundation has played a key role in the center's recent growth, helping raise support and awareness through community partnerships. In January 2022, the Foundation announced a major grant from the Diane & Bruce Halle Foundation, leading to the naming of the Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center and strengthening the center's ability to serve patients for years to come.





Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center Mobilizes to Treat Hawaii Fireworks Explosion Victims

A massive fireworks explosion in Hawaii on New Year's Eve led to an unprecedented activation of the Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center in 2025.

Six patients were flown to Arizona aboard military aircraft and met at Sky Harbor Airport by members of the Phoenix Fire Department, who transported them to the burn center. Hawaii's only burn center did not have the capacity to care for all of the victims, prompting the interstate response.

"We're one of the few places in the United States that can take six critically injured people like this," said Dr. Kevin Foster, Director of the Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center. "The level of their injuries was profound. They had all suffered extensive burns, and all of them were very sick."

On New Year's Day, a Sunday, a multidisciplinary team of burn surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and other burn care professionals began operating on the survivors. The surgeries marked the start of a long and complex recovery process that would extend for several months. In addition to severe burns, the patients also sustained shrapnel injuries caused by flying projectiles.

Throughout their hospitalization, the patients received an outpouring of support from their home state. Gifts, cards and messages of encouragement arrived from Hawaii, along with extensive media attention. Dr. Foster provided frequent updates to the public through press briefings.

For survivors of severe burn injuries, recovery goes far beyond surgical care. It includes intensive physical and psychological therapy to help patients regain independence and rebuild their lives.

"They have to learn how to get out of bed, how to walk again, use their hands, feed themselves and take care of themselves. It's a complete relearning of how to be a person again," Dr. Foster said. "For people who have burns like this, it's often the worst thing that will ever happen to them. People do survive, they get through it and many go on to do truly amazing things as they recover."

While one patient did not survive his injuries, five of the fireworks explosion survivors were discharged and returned home to Hawaii.



UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopters Land at Valleywise Health for Medevac Training

Valleywise Health Medical Center welcomed two U.S. Army Medevac UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. The helicopters, currently stationed at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., near Sierra Vista, Ariz., are supporting the southern border mission and landed at our ground-level helipad as part of a training exercise.

This visit was an essential step in evaluating our facility for potential medevac patient transfers. As a Level I Trauma Center, Valleywise Health plays a critical role in providing lifesaving care, and this exercise allowed Army pilots and flight crews to familiarize themselves with our landing procedures, emergency pathways, and trauma and burn treatment areas.

In addition to their landing and takeoff drills, the crews toured our Trauma Center and Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center, gaining a deeper understanding of how we operate in emergency situations. This collaboration strengthens our ability to provide expert care in high-stakes situations and reinforces our commitment to serving those in need. We are honored to support this mission and look forward to further

opportunities for partnership and training. Thank you to everyone who supported this effort and helped showcase the exceptional care we provide. Your dedication ensures that we are always ready to serve those in need.





Helping Children Cope Through Care

Valleywise Health's Child Life Team, based at the Roosevelt campus, plays an important role in supporting the emotional, developmental and psychological needs of children and their families during difficult moments in care.

Child Life Specialists partner with families to help children understand and cope with injury, illness and treatment. Their support also extends to situations when a child's hospitalization involves an adult in their life, such as when children visit a parent or family member receiving care and need help processing what has happened.

The team works across multiple departments, including burn, pediatrics and the emergency department. Using age-appropriate techniques such as preparation, play, distraction, education and bereavement support, Child Life Specialists help reduce fear, build understanding and support healthy coping for young patients and their families.





Bishop Dolan Visits Valleywise Health's Maryvale Behavioral Health Hospital

As part of his ongoing mission to support individuals and families affected by serious mental illness, Bishop John Dolan of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix visited Valleywise Health's Maryvale Behavioral Health Hospital.

A survivor of multiple family losses to suicide, Bishop Dolan founded the Diocese's Mental Health Ministry in 2022 to bring comfort, connection and hope to those in need. During his visit, he toured the Maryvale facility and learned more about Valleywise Health's role in providing inpatient behavioral health care for the community.

Bishop Dolan was joined by ministry leaders Mary Permoda, Director of the Diocese's Mental Health Ministry; Brian Cannon, Advocacy Program Manager for Mental Health; and Maria Romo Chavira, Chancellor. The visit reflected a shared commitment to strengthening mental health support across local parishes and the wider community.





Dr. David Wisinger Steps Down After 20 Years as Medicine Chair

After an extraordinary 20-year tenure as Chairman of Medicine, Dr. David Wisinger announced plans to step down from the role in 2026. He will transition into a part-time inpatient teaching and advisory position, continuing to support physician education and patient care.

Over the past two decades, Dr. Wisinger's leadership helped transform Valleywise Health from a loose network of primary care facilities (FQHCs) across Maricopa County into the region's leading public teaching hospital and safety-net health system.

In 2026, Dr. Wisinger will also mark 40 years of service at Valleywise Health, including three terms as Acting Chief Medical Officer.

"It has been a privilege to be part of the clinical transformation of our healthcare system," Dr. Wisinger said. "I feel I've been able to shed light on the challenges experienced by our underserved patients and help learners see within themselves the medical expertise, compassion and love they can provide to these patients. It's been a tremendously meaningful journey for me."

After graduating from medical school in Florida, Dr. Wisinger began his career as an intern at what was then Maricopa Medical Center, often referred to as the "County" hospital.

"When I joined Valleywise (Maricopa) in 1986, there was a lot of on-the-job training by residents, who were taking care of patients independently and relying on each other to do whatever was needed," he said.

"The 'in the trenches' induced camaraderie of the residents and the severe needs of these patients provided a remarkable learning opportunity, but we needed better instruction. That is part of what inspired me to stay here to become a faculty member and teacher so we could give subsequent residents better instruction and a better environment to learn and give back to a community that needs support."

Dr. Wisinger also serves as Professor of Medicine and holds the Dr. James P. Laumond Endowed Chair in Medicine at Creighton University School of Medicine. Over his career, he has taught hundreds of medical students and internal medicine residents as a residency program director, chair and professor.

For Dr. Wisinger, teaching has always been about preparing physicians to be humanists – caregivers who understand and address patients' medical, psychological and social needs.

"If, as a physician, you don't recognize that our patient population requires a different approach, you miss the opportunity to truly connect," he said. "That disconnect is a disservice to everyone involved."

District Medical Group Tackles Shortage of Latino Medical Professionals

District Medical Group (DMG) is addressing a nationwide shortage of Latino and economically disadvantaged health professionals by providing scholarships through a long-standing partnership with the Creighton University School of Medicine – Phoenix.

Every year, DMG supports four full-time medical students with \$40,000 annual scholarships. Recipients are Arizona residents and first-generation college students who are committed to serving the state’s Hispanic population.

“The Latino community is the largest ethnic group in Arizona and the United States, yet we continue to experience a significant shortage of health professionals with the necessary cultural and linguistic skills to provide quality care,” said Dr. Kote Chundu, DMG President and CEO.

Scholarship recipients are selected from applicants to Creighton University School of Medicine – Phoenix. Creighton and DMG are founding partners of the Creighton University Arizona Health Education Alliance, which also includes Valleywise Health and St. Joseph’s Hospital.

“We’re proud to be able to provide local students the opportunity to make their medical school dreams come true,” Dr. Chundu said. “Our goal is that they’ll come back and join the Valleywise healthcare system, our medical group or at least stay in Arizona to support our population. It’s a big commitment on our part.”

DMG providers have long shared a mission-based commitment to Valleywise Health and underserved communities since the non-profit, multi-specialty academic group practice first formed in 1993. Today, DMG physicians and advanced practitioners care for patients with the most complex chronic health conditions, particularly those from vulnerable populations.

Many DMG physicians also serve as Creighton University School of Medicine faculty members, training the next generation of physicians through hands-on clinical education. Their work shapes future clinicians and supports the long-term goal of retaining well-trained, culturally responsive physicians across Arizona.

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Foundation Letter to the Community - *CEO Lisa Hartsock*

For over 30 years, Valleywise Health Foundation has had the privilege of standing alongside Valleywise Health, helping provide the resources that strengthen care, expand programs and bring comfort to patients and families when they need it most. We are proud to raise funds and community support for critical programs, equipment and training across our health system.

This past year marked an important milestone in the evolution of our work together. While the Foundation remains a separate 501(c)(3) organization governed by a volunteer board of directors, we combined our operations for enhanced collaboration with Valleywise Health. Through this partnership, we strengthened our infrastructure and furthered the impact of our donors, supporting patients, caregivers and the programs that change lives.

In 2025, we also saw extraordinary momentum from donors and community partners in support of Proposition 409. The Foundation proudly supported this effort because we understand that modern, well-equipped facilities are more than infrastructure; they are where healing happens, hope is restored and future healthcare professionals are trained. The success of Proposition 409 will shape care in Maricopa County for generations.

Finally, we are proud to celebrate the Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center’s national recognition through "Courage Rising." Now streaming on Apple TV, Prime Video and Google Play, the documentary highlights the resilience of survivors and the exceptional care provided by our teams. It has inspired audiences nationwide and shown what is possible when care is supported by a strong and committed community. I invite you to watch the film and share it with others so more people can learn about the powerful impact of care, courage and community.

A Stronger Partnership for a Stronger Community

As you explore this issue, you will see the many ways philanthropy helps advance Valleywise Health’s mission. Thank you for believing in our work and standing with us as we build a stronger future together.

With sincere gratitude,
Lisa Hartsock, MPH, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer
Valleywise Health Foundation

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Improving Patient Safety Together

When seconds matter most, having the right tools in the right place can save a life. At Valleywise Health, that lifesaving equipment is organized in code carts, specialized emergency carts stocked with critical medications, airway tools and supplies used during cardiac arrests and other urgent medical events. Because care teams rely on these carts in high-pressure moments, how they are organized and maintained is essential to patient safety.

Over the past year, teams across Valleywise Health took a close look at the entire code cart process, transforming what began as a routine policy update into an ambitious, system-wide redesign. Traditional full-cart exchanges were replaced with a more efficient drawer-swap model, reducing delays and ensuring faster restocking after emergencies.

Led by the Patient Safety program, providers, nurses and respiratory therapists worked alongside teams from pharmacy, infection control, supply chain services and other departments to improve every step of the process. Together, they standardized supplies, streamlined organization, removed redundancies and introduced clearer labels and checklists. The redesign also created a more consistent, system-wide approach to emergency response and ensured essential airway tools are immediately accessible when they are needed most.

The result is a simpler, safer and more reliable system that supports care teams during critical moments. By improving how emergency equipment is prepared and maintained, Valleywise Health is helping make sure every response is faster, more efficient and focused on what matters most – the patient.





A Little Spark of Orange:

Pilot Program Brings Productivity Tools and Fun to Employees

Visitors to Valleywise Health clinics may notice a cheerful orange frog making surprise appearances. The frog is the symbol of a new pilot program inspired by the internationally recognized Orange Frog positive psychology training, based on Sean Achor's Happiness Advantage research, which has been taught at Harvard and used in more than 50 countries.

Valleywise Health is committed to ensuring employees have the tools they need to feel supported, engaged and productive at work. Strong employee engagement contributes to better retention, reduced absenteeism, improved patient satisfaction and high-quality care. Our team members are our most important resource and the front line of care for the patients we serve.

The pilot program introduces simple, science-based habits designed to build optimism, resilience and connection among caregivers. Spark, the bright orange frog, has quickly become the program's joyful ambassador.

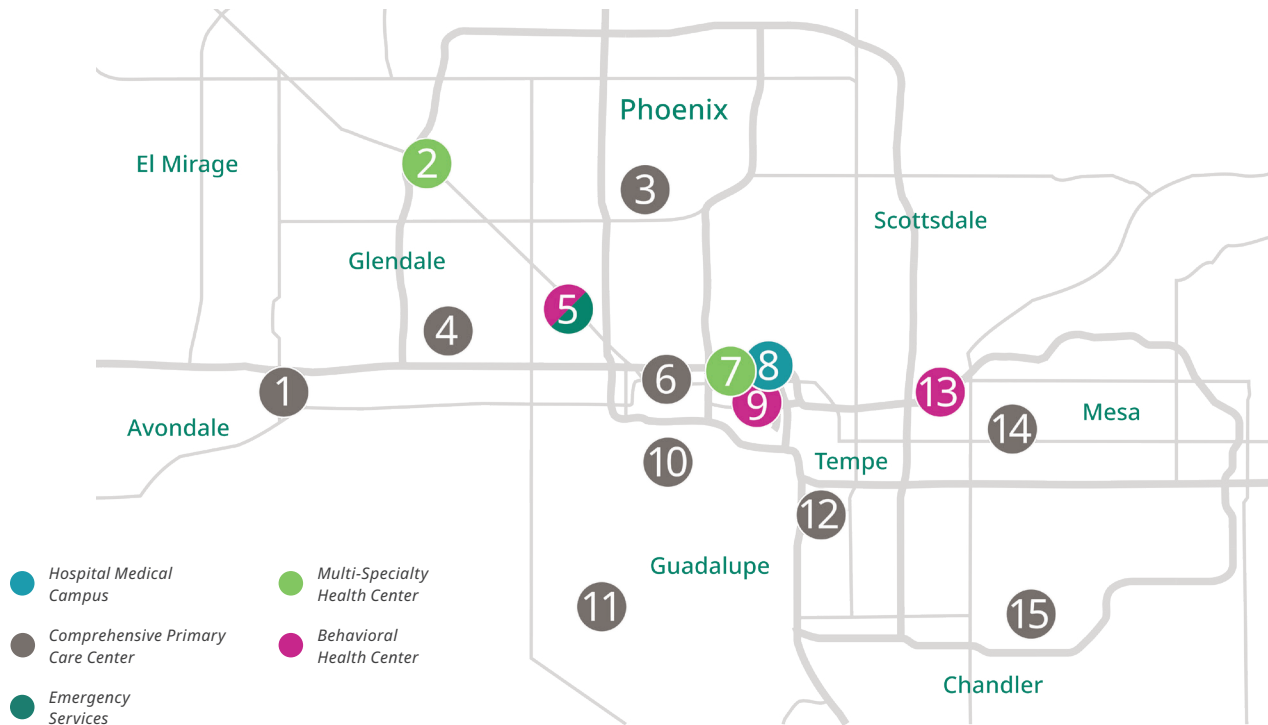
Spark has appeared in several places and even joined Valleywise Health leaders as they surprised the Dental Team at the Valleywise Comprehensive Health Center – Phoenix with a celebratory breakfast af-

ter the team achieved a major improvement in patient satisfaction scores. This brought laughter, appreciation and a reminder that small moments of recognition can make a meaningful difference. At other clinics, brief dance breaks, gratitude shout-outs and spontaneous smiles are beginning to ripple through teams – exactly the kind of positive culture the pilot aims to encourage.

Valleywise Health will continue “stocking the pond” with newly trained Orange Frog program graduates, each bringing a little more energy, joy and connection to the communities they serve.



Locations



1. Valleywise Community Health Center — Avondale

950 E Van Buren St
Avondale, AZ 85323
623-344-6800

2. Valleywise Comprehensive Health Center — Peoria

8088 W Whitney Ave
Peoria, AZ 85345
602-655-2000

3. Valleywise Community Health Center — North Phoenix

2025 W Northern Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85021
602-655-6300

4. Valleywise Community Health Center — West Maryvale

7808 W Thomas Rd
Phoenix, AZ 85033
602-655-6900

5. Valleywise Behavioral Health Center & Emergency Room — Maryvale

5102 W Campbell Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85031
602-655-1000

6. Valleywise Community Health Center — McDowell

1101 N Central Ave
Suite #204
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602-344-6550

7. Valleywise Comprehensive Health Center — Phoenix

2525 E Roosevelt St
Phoenix, AZ 85008
602-344-1015

8. Valleywise Health Medical Center

2601 E Roosevelt St
Phoenix, AZ 85008
602-344-5011

9. Valleywise Behavioral Health Center — Phoenix

2619 E Pierce St
Phoenix, AZ 85008

10. Valleywise Community Health Center — South Central

33 W Tamarisk St
Phoenix, AZ 85041
602-344-6600

11. Valleywise Community Health Center — South Phoenix/Laveen

5650 S 35th Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85041
602-655-6400

12. Valleywise Community Health Center — Guadalupe

5825 Calle Guadalupe
Guadalupe, AZ 85283
480-344-6000

13. Valleywise Behavioral Health Center — Mesa

570 W Brown Rd
Mesa, AZ 85201
480-344-2000

14. Valleywise Community Health Center — Mesa

950 E Main St
Mesa, AZ 85203
602-655-6200

15. Valleywise Community Health Center — Chandler

811 S Hamilton St
Chandler, AZ 85225
480-344-6100

 **Valleywise Health**

You're More to us.