

# GIVING MATTERS

SUMMER 2023

Queen of the Valley  
Foundation  
with  Providence



## HEALING TOUCH

Geni Bennetts, M.D., is grateful to  
the angels at the acute rehab unit





# TO OUR LOYAL SUPPORTERS,

The generosity of this community has significantly enhanced the level and scope of services at Queen of the Valley Medical Center, since its inception more than 65 years ago. Philanthropy has touched nearly every department in the hospital. Together we have provided our community with access to the latest advanced technology as well as innovative diagnostic and treatment approaches.

We're pleased to share the tremendous impact your support makes. We created *Giving Matters*, our new biannual magazine, to keep our donor community updated with the ways philanthropy is advancing health care at the Queen.

In this first issue, you'll read the incredible story of Queen of the Valley community board chair Dr. Geni Bennetts' recovery from major back surgery. She attributes her restored health to the outstanding care she received at our rehab center. You'll also read about how, thanks to donor support, our Gasser Emergency Center renovations are underway and will expand our lifesaving services.

We recognize that philanthropy at its best is directly modeled after the work of our founding sisters, who went out and recruited like-minded individuals to assist in realizing their mission. It's a privilege to partner with you as we carry on the sisters' legacy. With your help, we continue their great work that built the Queen into a top-quality hospital serving the Napa Valley region.

Because of you, our community hospital is on par with well-known university hospitals, providing the best care possible close to home.

We thank you for your steadfast collaboration and support.

Sincerely,

**Erin Simms**  
Chair, Foundation Board of Directors

**Rachael Poer**  
President/CEO



2023 QUEEN OF THE VALLEY FOUNDATION, WITH PROVIDENCE

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## HEALING TOUCH

Geni Bennetts, M.D., is grateful to the angels at the acute rehab unit

Queen of the Valley Medical Center community board chair and physician Dr. Bennetts, thought she was in good hands when she had a major back surgery at a big-name medical center. Her surgery went well, but during her post-op recovery at the hospital, her overall health went downhill alarmingly fast.

"After my surgery, I was getting sicker and sicker," she remembers. "No matter what I said,

it didn't seem like anyone was paying attention. My wife, Pat, couldn't get any answers either. She was being ignored by the staff and getting incredibly fearful as she watched me getting steadily worse."

Pat sprang into action. She worked with a community physician to transfer Dr. Bennetts to the highly regarded acute rehab unit at Queen of the Valley Medical Center.

"The most touching thing happened when I came through that door the first night," she shares. "I realized it was a different atmosphere. It was a caring atmosphere. Even the way they were touching me was different. I felt like there were angels taking care of me, and for the first night in many, I slept."

### Rehab supports recovery

Upon evaluation, the team discovered Dr. Bennetts had pneumonia, a serious infection and some other issues. They immediately began treating her acute medical problems while also introducing rehab activities.

According to Acute Rehab Unit Medical Director Alex Miner, D.O., having a hospital-based rehab unit is a significant boon to patients. "Being attached to the hospital allows us to take more complex patients and get them started on rehab earlier, even as we address their medical needs. Our patients see experts in internal medicine as well as physical medicine."

He adds that the benefits of medical care coinciding with rehab on a patient's recovery are exponential. "Early rehab increases the body's tolerance for upright activity. The contraction of muscles helps pull fluid from the rest of the body and boosts overall health

and recovery," he says. "It also improves the patient's state of mind and the ability to adapt to life at home more quickly and successfully."

Patients themselves and their family members play an active role in recovery. "We identify the people in patients' lives who are there to support them, and make them part of the team," says Dr. Miner. "We encourage the emotional empowerment of patients and help them understand and embrace their role in their own care."

### A new understanding and determination

Back home and on the mend, Dr. Bennetts deeply appreciates the care and caring she received at the Queen. "At the board meetings, people talk about the ministry," she says. "I didn't know the depth of what that meant until I spent two weeks as a patient at the rehab unit. They really look at you and listen. I attribute my well-being and my life to the care I had there."

As the chair of the community board, Dr. Bennetts is acutely aware of the importance of philanthropy in ensuring the community has access to the best care. "The rehab center is a very special place that offers patients a healing touch along with top-notch medical care," she says. "I want it to be the best it can be."

“

They really look at you and listen. I attribute my well-being and my life to the care I had there.

— Geni Bennetts, M.D.

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# COMMUNITY RALLIES AROUND THE QUEEN

Thanks to donor support, the Gasser Emergency Center renovations are well underway

The Queen of the Valley's Gasser Emergency Center provides lifesaving care for more than 30,000 patients annually. As a Level III trauma center, we treat everything from cuts and bruises to strokes, heart attacks and most traumas.

When it came time to modernize our emergency department, the community rallied to our aid. The successful culmination of three separate fundraising campaigns raised the combined \$13 million necessary to upgrade, expand and renovate the Gasser Emergency Center.

## Pardon our dust

The donor-funded improvement projects are well underway and will result in a fully renewed emergency department by early 2024. When completed, the new space will allow us to better manage growing patient volumes and levels of care, as well as the special needs of our aging population. Some highlights of the improvements include:

**Main emergency department renovation** —The ER makeover includes gutting and renovating the rooms, nurses' stations, and all public and private spaces. Aside from a complete facelift and modernization, the changes will substantially impact the workflow.

"Thanks to tremendous donor support, we're modernizing our workspace," says Nicholas Lopez, M.D., emergency physician and

emergency department medical director. "The new construction is opening up the space to improve traffic flows and sightlines throughout the unit."

The update will also make the space more accessible to seniors. "We're proud to have earned the Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation," says Dr. Lopez. "Our updates include accommodations such as easier access to equipment and lower beds to assist older adults."

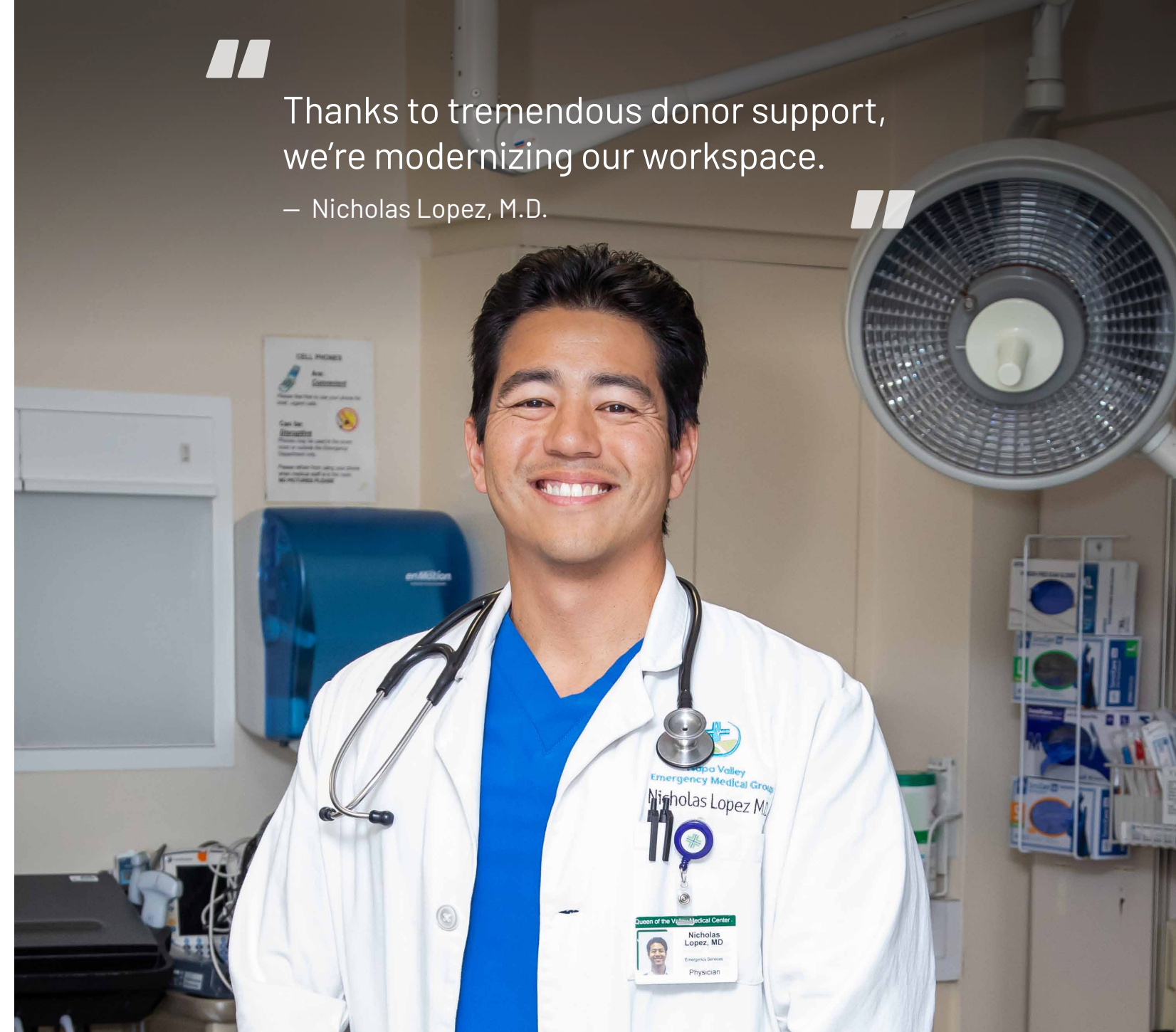
**The Napa Valley Vintners Fast Track Unit** — Sometimes, patients with minor and non-life-threatening emergencies must wait while we focus resources on more critically ill patients. Our new seven-bed micro unit will be staffed by dedicated physicians and caregivers who will treat and release less critical patients. We'll also use the space for patients awaiting placement in senior assisted living centers, as well as vulnerable patients transitioning to mental health services.

**Barbara Winiarski Stroke and Diagnostic Center** —The new Barbara Winiarski Stroke and Diagnostic Center, made possible by a generous gift from the Winiarski Family Foundation, will include a GE HealthCare Revolution Apex CT machine, the only one of its kind in our region. This advanced technology will improve diagnostic capabilities, and the new location, adjacent to the emergency department, will enable physicians to improve response times.



Thanks to tremendous donor support, we're modernizing our workspace.

— Nicholas Lopez, M.D.



## Together we're caring for one another

We can all be proud of our collaboration on behalf of this community. The newly renovated emergency department will serve our families, neighbors and friends for years to come. "In this community, we care for one another," says Terry Wooton, chief executive, Queen of the Valley Medical Center.

"Our physicians and caregivers live and work here. We're all invested in making sure the hospital has what it needs to best serve our patients. They are the reason we do this work. Thank you for your partnership and your philanthropic stewardship of the Queen."

# NEW INCOME FOR YOU WITH A GIFT TO US

Looking for a new source of income?

In December 2022, you may recall that Congress gave the American public a last-minute holiday gift when they passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023. Included within this enormous piece of legislation was the SECURE 2.0 Act, which contains numerous and much-anticipated retirement provisions. It also creates a new opportunity for those looking to use retirement assets to support Queen of the Valley Medical Center.

What does this new law mean for you? If you are an IRA owner age 70½ or older, SECURE 2.0 provides you with a new way to give using your retirement assets. Beginning in 2023, you can choose to make a one-time distribution of up to \$50,000 from your IRA to create a new

charitable gift annuity (CGA) or charitable remainder trust (CRT). The CRT can be either a charitable remainder unitrust or a charitable remainder annuity trust. This unique version of a qualified charitable deduction (QCD) also counts toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) if one is due.

Beyond the tax benefits, this QCD option lets you create a new lifetime income stream. If you are married, both you and your spouse may contribute \$50,000 each from your own IRAs into a single CRT or a joint-life CGA. However, the law does not allow payments (from the CGA or CRT) to anyone other than the IRA owner or the owner’s spouse – not even their children.

This new QCD option is a great way to:



**Minimize taxes** – the distribution counts toward your RMD without increasing your taxable income



**Create a reliable income stream** for you and/or your spouse (income payments are taxed as ordinary income)



**Take advantage of the new, higher CGA rates** (as of 1/23)



**Help you transform the lives of those we serve**

The current CGA payout rates are higher than they have been in years:

Age	71	75	80	85	90
Rate	6.0%	6.6%	7.6%	8.7%	9.7%

Sample one-life gift annuity rates, effective January 1, 2023

Questions? Please reach out.

We would be happy to provide additional information, including a personal, confidential illustration showing how a charitable gift annuity might work for you. Contact Damon Tinnon, director of planned giving, by phone at 707-320-3153 or by email at [Damon.Tinnon@providence.org](mailto:Damon.Tinnon@providence.org).

Consult your advisors when planning an estate gift.

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## SAVE THE DATE

## SEPTEMBER 23

• Queen of the Valley Foundation, with Providence

## Generous Heart Gala

The Queen of Hearts at the CIA at Copia