



# THE PULSE

GOLDEN VALLEY HEALTH CENTERS NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY EDITION

SEPTEMBER 1972-2022





# GVHC'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

## TONY WEBER, CEO

The poet and activist Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” While this is certainly true, I would say that being happy is also important.

But I believe all of us connect with this idea that if we can prove useful in the service of others and bring compassion into our work, we will make a difference. This has been the heart of GVHC for 50 years. It’s why we’ve grown and flourished over time and why we continue to grow.

This month we are celebrating 50 years of Golden Valley Health Centers. So my message this month is dedicated to all the people who helped us find our footing, who pushed us forward, and served our communities with honor and compassion.

In September 1972, we began as a small Migrant Health Services program connected to Merced General Hospital. Founding CEO Mike Sullivan led the way with a budget of less than \$200,000, a small but mighty staff of six, and a part time MD. Services were provided at the hospital during evening hours.

Since that time, we have expanded greatly to meet community needs across Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties, now serving more than 140,000 patients each year through 45 clinical locations in the region. We were born out of a strong desire to increase access to healthcare in the lives of migrant workers and provide care for the Central Valley’s critical farmworker population and the underserved.

Although we started in Merced County, we quickly spread our wings and broadened our service territory. By 1977 GVHC services were offered in Stanislaus County and in the years that followed, clinic proposals were approved up and down the Valley. School based health centers at Robertson Road and Hanshaw Middle school opened in 1993 and 1994. We now have five school based health centers and are working on a sixth!

In 1998 we began a homeless healthcare program at the Modesto Inn to provide free medical services to Stanislaus County’s homeless population. Over the years we have grown our offering of specialty services to include optometry, podiatry, nephrology, behavioral health and more, to improve an array of health outcomes for residents.

Mike Sullivan retired after 40 years of service and I was named President and CEO in 2014. Since that time, we have explored new frontiers, launching a Foundation, opening clinics in San Joaquin County, introducing telehealth and remote health monitoring programs. I’ve worked to enhance salaries and benefits and took steps to plan for future sustainability through our Sequoia Health IPA program, and the addition of new senior service offering- Central Valley PACE. This program may be what I am most proud of.

The idea that everyone should have access to health care has been central to our work since 1972 and remains our guiding principle today. Through dedication, hard work and the power of partnership we proudly continue this work and look forward to the next 50 years. Thank you all for showing up every day with care and compassion for those we serve. I am deeply appreciative, and if you don’t hear it often, our patients are too.

Sincerely, *-Tony Weber*

The 50th Anniversary edition of the Pulse is dedicated to all the hard-working staff who have served Golden Valley Health Centers throughout the last 50 years. The Health Center would also like to acknowledge and thank our community partners and local elected officials. Without their contributions and advocacy, the Health Center would not be celebrating 50 years of community healthcare.

Throughout this special edition of the Pulse, you can read the important 50th Anniversary ceremonial documents Golden Valley Health Centers received from our elected officials. Each document represents the support of a different community and has a different meaning. Here are the types of ceremonial documents that the Health Center received:

- A Proclamation is a ceremonial document that commemorates a specific time.
- A Certificate of Recognition recognizes outstanding achievements.
- A Congressional Record is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress. US Congressman, Josh Harder, provided Golden Valley Health Centers with a certificate of his proceeding. He spoke before congress about National Health Center Week and the health center's 50th Anniversary.

Here is a list of cities and elected officials whose documents are featured throughout the Pulse. Please note that many of our local cities and counties will officially present Golden Valley Health Centers with a proclamation or a certificate of recognition later this year.

- US House of Representatives, Josh Harder
- CA State Senate, Susan Talamantes Eggman
- CA State Assembly, Adam Gray
- City of Modesto
- City of Merced
- City of Manteca
- City of Patterson
- City of Los Banos
- City of Riverbank
- City of Newman





United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

## *House of Representatives*

### **In Honor of National Health Center Week and Golden Valley Health Centers' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Hon. Josh Harder  
Of California**

**In the House of Representatives  
Wednesday, August 10, 2022**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Health Center Week. For decades, Community Health Centers have provided essential and affordable health care to those in need. By serving our most vulnerable, Community Health Centers have stepped up and played a significant role in the American health care system.

Health centers serve as the primary care facilities for 30 million Americans and are especially crucial for underserved communities. At a time where access to healthcare for rural Americans is painfully inadequate, health centers have worked to meet this need. One in every five residents of rural areas is served by Community Health Centers. During the pandemic, these facilities were once again essential to our national health, by ensuring the safety of millions.

Not only do health centers provide crucial medical care to their communities, as small business they also strengthen their local economies. Nationwide health centers employ more than 253,000 doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals. This impact can be felt through \$63.4 billion in economic activity generated across the country. In my district, an organization like Golden Valley Health Centers exemplifies the importance of health centers.

Now celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Golden Valley Health Centers has maintained its commitment to serving the underserved from the beginning. Having modestly started as a hospital-oriented migrant health program, Golden Valley Health Centers has grown and serves all corners of our community. Today, through its 45 sites, Golden Valley Health Centers sees over 143,000 patients each year, many of whom would struggle to find comparable care elsewhere. In a district as rural and diverse as mine, Golden Valley Health Centers has never stopped working to meet local demands. By developing cultural competency programs and opening new sites, Golden Valley Health Centers has continued to expand its impact.

August 10, 2022

Date

U.S. Congressman Josh Harder

# WHAT 50 YEARS MEANS TO ME



I am proud of our Mission, Vision and Values. It is an honor and a pleasure to be a part of GVHC's rich history of providing high quality healthcare services to our communities throughout the years. Happy 50th Anniversary!

**Dr. Eduardo Villarama, VP & Chief Medical Officer**



I am honored to work for an amazing organization like Golden Valley Health Centers, alongside such a dedicated and selfless team. Thank you all for being an essential part of this organization and providing high quality care to our patients. We value your hard work and dedication to the communities we serve. Here's to 50 more years to come.

**Melinda Marshall, VP & Chief Operations Officer**



Over 50 years, GVHC has cultivated an incredible network of medical providers, support staff and leadership, a caring and dedicated board of directors and invaluable partners in the community. We should all be very proud as we reflect on the past and look forward to the promise of what lies ahead. I'm thankful for the opportunity to continue building on the legacy that began by a small and determined group of individuals with an important mission!

**Amy Collier Carroll, VP & Chief Communications Officer**



GVHC provides vital health care services as well as career opportunities for more than 1000 individuals in the communities we serve. During the seven years that I have been with GVHC, there have been many changes - new clinics, expanded services, increased community outreach, and hundreds of new jobs. Although the HR Team does not directly provide patient care, we do support those who take care of our patients. I am honored to be part of a dynamic team that is continuing to evolve to meet the ever-changing health care needs of our patient population and excited for the future of our organization.

**Jennifer Henson, VP & Chief Human Resources Officer**

# WHAT 50 YEARS MEANS TO ME



As I reflect back on Golden Valley Health Centers' 50 years, the organization remains committed to providing quality care to our patients, including the underserved. There has been so much accomplished and GVHC has come a long way in the past 50 years. GVHC started as a small site within a hospital and now has grown to over 45 sites all over the valley. This was only possible with hard work and dedication of the entire GVHC team, who made it what it is today. I am proud and grateful to be part of a great team at this amazing organization. Thank you for all that you do every single day!

**Gurjeet Sandhu, VP & Chief Financial Officer**



GVHC is a wonderful organization that has provided 50 years of compassion and service to Central Valley Communities. I feel privileged to be a part of its long history. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to contribute to the next 50 years of delivering cutting edge models of health care such as PACE.

**Jason West, VP of Senior Services**



I am truly honored to work for Golden Valley Health Centers where we get to live out our mission and values every day by improving the health outcomes of our communities. I am energized to be surrounded by an organization full of hard working and mission oriented people striving toward the same goals and vision.

**Wunna Mine, VP & Chief Information Officer**



When I think about Golden Valley Health Centers' 50th Anniversary, I immediately think of our humble beginnings with a small migrant health center and only one part-time provider! Now, we span over three counties and have over 42 locations, not including our administrative sites. Golden Valley Health Centers has touched millions of patients over the past 50 years, but none of this would have happened if that first step had not been taken. With the right vision and mission, anything is possible! We hold true to those same guiding principles today and it shows in every clinic we operate. I am proud to be part of this team and it's a true honor to serve this community.

**Tracy Blair, VP & General Counsel**

S T A T E O F C A L I F O R N I A



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

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*Golden Valley  
Health Centers*

IN RECOGNITION OF

*The Celebration of your 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and your commitment to providing access to health care in the Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties. We thank you for your dedication and service to these communities.*

PRESENTED THIS 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2022

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CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR  
SUSAN TALAMANTES EGGMAN  
FIFTH DISTRICT



**STOCK SHELVES** — Mike Sullivan, director, left, and Dr. Douglas Eck, new fulltime physician at the Merced Family Health Center, N Street and Childs Avenue, stock shelves with free health information. The center's grand opening will be Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. highlighted by a performance of the San Juan Bautista-based "Teatro Campesino." The center opens on Monday at 9 a.m. (Sun-Star Photo)

MERCED SUN STAR DEC. 9, 1974

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The other three were in farm labor camps.

The nurse-run clinics became popular, offering treatment for children's minor medical problems and referral to doctors for more serious cases; nutritional advice and screening to catch children's diseases.

The Medical Society decided to drop the program when HEW changed regulations, instead of turning it over to a board of consumers and hiring a doctor. The Merced Family Health Center was expected to continue running the Modesto and Empire clinics for three to six months.

any a receptionist to patients to a Modesto hospital private doctors. Dis of nutrition program continues there. The clinic has a doctor two week.

The Merced Family Center serves mainly farmworker families.

The health center clinic in Patterson needed than the clinic, according to HEW.

Health center Michael Sullivan said nurse services eliminated because his could not assume the of nurses providing services.



Dr. Douglas Eck examines a patient at Merced Family Health Center.

JANUARY 14, 1977

# The 70's

## ing Slated

He said the costs of providing his primary and ambulatory services are increasing and the ability of many of his patients to pay for the services is decreasing because of inflation.

Soon he will restructure the clinic to require more cash from patients at the time of visit.

"We've either got to do this or go out of business," he told the Sun-Star Tuesday.

Any persons wishing more information on the hearings can contact the center, 723-4061.

Sunday, April 8, 1973



Dr. Burnett Cole listens as Mrs. Virginia Pacheco of Livingston describes her illness to nurse Mrs. Juanita Ortiz.



**LAB CHECK** — Jerry Lewis, laboratory technician at the Merced Family Health Center, checks a urinalysis slide for signs of bladder infection. New laboratory facilities are included in the center's new \$190,000 building at Childs and N streets. (Sun-Star Photo)



**HEALTH CARE** — Dr. Douglas Eck listens to the heartbeat of two-month-old Gabriel Rodriguez, held in the arms of his mother, Mrs. Eleanor Rodriguez of Livingston at the Merced Family Health Clinic. Dr. Eck reports many patients are coming to the clinic because primary health care is needed.



**CHECKING SUPPLIES** — Mrs. Sarah Gomez Erlach, RN, Ph. N., left, consultant with the state health department, checks supplies which will be needed when the farm workers' clinic opens at Merced General Hospital Monday evening. Ms. Cheryl Adams, RN, BSN, center in-service education supervisor at General, will work with the program temporarily, and Mrs. Ramona Martinez, LYN, will work in the clinic. The clinic will open at 5 p.m. each day and will open five days a week. (Sun-Star Photo)

## Expanded Farm Workers Health Program Starts

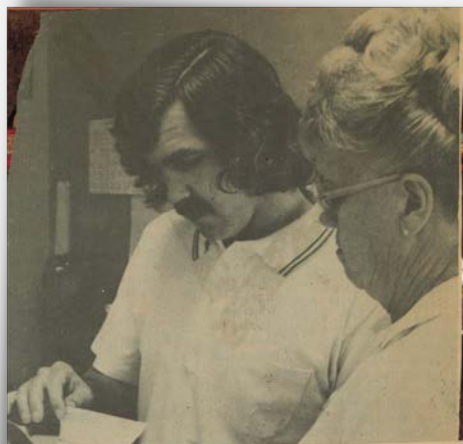
The expanded Farm Workers' Health Program will begin operation at Merced General Hospital Monday at 5 p.m. with the opening of its clinic. Formerly operated by the Merced County Public Health Department, the clinic will offer



# The 70's

On September 11, 1972, Michael O. Sullivan, 27, assumed duties as coordinator of Merced County's Migrant Health Services project at Merced General Hospital. The program opened doors to its first patients at Merced General Hospital, offering health services to farm workers in Merced County. The clinic had a total staff of six, one part-time doctor, and saw 1,500 patients.

In 1973, Golden Valley Health Centers recieved the news that the federal government would no longer provide categorical funding for farm worker health programs by 1975. The program would need to be independent and apply for grants. In order to do so, the organization sought to expand from serving only farm workers and the rural poor to serving all low-income families. On July 31, 1973, Merced Family Health Centers officially became an independent nonprofit organization.



DISCUSSING PATIENT — Mike Sullivan, director of the Merced Family Health Center, talks with registered nurse Lorene Jueneman about a patient's treatment. The clinic is open only in the evenings but Sullivan hopes to expand its hours once it moves to southwest Merced this fall. The clinic has treated about 8,500 persons in the last year, he estimates. (Sun-Star Photo)

In 1974, Merced Family Health Center officially opened its new health center between Childs Avenue and N Street in Merced.

In 1975, Dr. Douglas Eck was hired on as the first full-time physician for Merced Family Health Center.



CHECKING SUPPLIES — Mrs. Sarah Gomez Erlach, RN, Ph. N., left, consultant with the state health department, checks supplies which will be needed when the farm workers' clinic opens at Merced General Hospital Monday evening. Ms. Cheryl Adams, RN, BSN, center in-service education supervisor at General, will work with the program temporarily, and Mrs. Ramona Martinez, LVN, will work in the clinic. The clinic will open at 5 p.m. each day and will open five days a week.

(Sun-Star Photo)

## Expanded Farm Workers Health Program Starts

The expanded Farm Workers' Health Program will begin operation at Merced General Hospital Monday at 5 p.m. with the opening of its clinic.

Formerly operated by the Merced County Public Health Department, the clinic will offer expanded services to the seasonal farm worker and the rural poor.

On four days of the week, the clinic will offer complete medical and diagnostic care, opening at 5 p.m. each day. On Tuesday of each week, the clinic will offer dental services, according to Mike Sullivan, program coordinator.

Hopefully, Sullivan said, the clinic will eventually offer services to meet not only the health needs of the farm worker, both migrant and resident, but the cultural needs as well.

The clinic is on the 13th Street side of Merced General and is financed through a grant from the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

# The 70's

In 1976, Merced Family Health Center began providing services in Los Banos and expanded its Merced facility.

In 1977, Merced Family Health Center took over the Rural Health Program in Stanislaus County and began providing services in Patterson. The organization changed its name to Merced-Stanislaus Health Center to reflect the regional services offered across two counties.

In 1978, Merced-Stanislaus Health Center moved their West Stanislaus County Health Center in Patterson from Walnut Acres to 44. N. Third Street.



In 1979, Merced-Stanislaus Health Centers penned an agreement to coordinate and cooperate with Merced Public Health Department to determine who would handle different patient needs, services, and regions of the county.

Thursday, January 19, 1978 **The West Side INDEX**

**Free rides offered**

## Family health center opened in Patterson

THE STAFF AT West-Side Family Health Center pose with the center's new station wagon. The center will now be able to offer free rides to Newman and Crows Landing area residents who need transportation to the health clinic. Staff members in the picture are Dr. Burnett Cole, Gloria Molina, receptionist, Nenette Shirley, RN, Dahlia Paculla, accounting clerk, Rosalie Simental, community aide, and Bea Guzman, nurse's aide.

Medical services offered include: pre-natal care, family planning, health exams, and routine check-ups.

It is a community directed health center, non-profit, affiliated with health centers in Merced and Los Banos. It is also affiliated with the California Rural Health Federation and is funded by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The facility is temporarily located at the Migrant Housing Camp, 501 Mayette, in Patterson.

All patients are charged for the center's services based on insurance, income and size of family.

Rides to the center can be obtained by calling 892-9441 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.



C A L I F O R N I A      L E G I S L A T U R E

# Assembly

## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

### Golden Valley Health Centers

***WHEREAS,** During the year 2022, Golden Valley Health Centers is celebrating 50 years of providing quality health care to the underserved residents of Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus counties regardless of language, financial or cultural barriers, and it is appropriate at this time to highlight its many achievements and underscore the positive impact it has made in the local community; and*

***WHEREAS,** Founded in humble beginnings as a hospital-operated migrant health program with one firm mission—to serve the underserved—Golden Valley Health Centers split off from Merced County in 1972 and formed Merced Family Health Centers a nonprofit corporation that was now eligible to receive federal funding for migrant health, constructing a small medical and dental clinic in 1974 with its first full-time medical doctor and dentist; and*

***WHEREAS,** From there, the clinic blossomed, opening 11 satellite clinics and branching out to include services for those in Stanislaus County in 1995, it changed its name to Golden Valley Health Centers to accurately reflect all those it served; and*

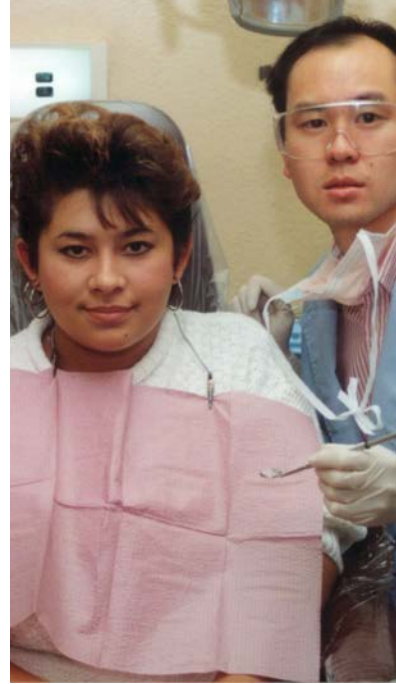
***WHEREAS,** Now serving 45 locations, Golden Valley Health Centers is a Federally Qualified Health Center providing medical, dental, behavioral health, and specialty services to more than 143,000 patients annually in Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus counties; therefore*



***BE IT RESOLVED BY ASSEMBLY MEMBER ADAM C. GRAY,** That he takes great pleasure in congratulating Golden Valley Health Centers for its 50 years of service to the underserved residents of the Central Valley, commends its exemplary record of services to and concern for the medical health of the people of the area, and extends best wishes for its continued success on this day: the Twentieth of January, Two-Thousand and Twenty Two.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Adam C. Gray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Adam" and last name "Gray" clearly distinguishable.

*Assembly Member Adam Gray – 21<sup>st</sup> Assembly District*



# The 80's

In 1980 The new Los Banos site, Family Health Nueva Esperanza, opened a 5,000-square-foot facility with a staff of fifteen.

In 1981 West Modesto opened a new facility on J Street.

In 1982 Merced Family Health Centers celebrated its 10-year anniversary with a health fair, open house, and entertainment.

In 1983 The Health Center received new funding to provide services to the uninsured and unemployed residents.



PARTY — Patients at the Patterson family health clinic had a Halloween party Thursday. Above are pictured some of the devils, ghosts and who's this? Pat Villa (fourth from right).

# The 80's

In 1985 the Childs location changes its name to Childs Avenue Clinic; Merced Family Health Centers, Inc. took over management of two clinics (Patterson and Modesto).

In 1986 the Planada site moved to a new 3,000-square-foot clinic which had previously been housed in a trailer in 1981; The Childs Avenue Clinic opened an express care wing.

In 1987 the Dos Palos and West Modesto sites opened.

## CHILDS AVENUE CLINIC

**"Complete Medical Services ... Always Nearby"**

- Medical, Dental, Pharmacy, Laboratory and X-ray services
- Private Insurance, Champus, Medicare and Medi-Cal accepted.

For your convenience, we will process all your insurance forms.

### OPEN HOUSE

Celebrating the

- NEWLY Renovated clinic area
- NEW Building housing the Billing Department, WIC and Health Education Classrooms
- NEW Clinic Name

Thursday, November 21st, 1985  
3 pm - 6 pm

Refreshments    Prizes    Clinic Tours

727 West Childs Ave., Merced  
(corner of "N" ST.)  
383-7441

Formerly Merced Family Health Center

## Dos Palos Star

VOL. 91 NO. 5    WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1987    DOS PALOS, CALIFORNIA 93620    25c PER COPY

### Rusty Areias to be guest of honor

## Health Center grand opening this Friday

**Dos Palos Health Center**, located at the corner of Blount and General Avenues has scheduled a grand opening ceremony this Friday starting at 3:30 p.m.

Assemblyman Rusty Areias will be guest of honor for the event which includes a tour of the facility, ribbon-cutting ceremony and refreshments.

Dos Palos Health Center is operated by Merced Family Health Centers, Inc., a community-owned, non-profit corporation. Its mission is to provide low-cost, quality primary health care services, especially to people in need.

The small mobile home clinic is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

"It will be a real advantage to the lower income people because we charge according to what they make," said Mary Guerrero, nurse at the Center.

Guerrero said the clinic will provide management of acute and chronic illness, well child, adolescent and adult care, minor office surgery, immunizations, family planning and gynecological services, pregnancy testing, prenatal care and education, health education, free blood pressure screening and employment and school physicians.

"We prefer patients make appointments," she said, "but we allow time for walk-ins."

The Center is staffed by Dr. Paul Smith of Dos Palos, Jeff Armstrong, physician assistant from Merced, Guerrero and Irene Romero of Dos Palos who is the receptionist.

Dr. Smith has been a practicing doctor in Dos Palos for the past 26 years. He will continue with his private practice on Mondays and Tuesdays, Guerrero said, as well as man the Center on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Guerrero said the Center officially opened in Dos Palos Jan. 5. She said it is the sixth health center

DR. PAUL SMITH gives patient Sue Roberts a check up in the new Dos Palos Health Center while nurse Mary Guerrero looks on. The Center will have an open house ceremony this Friday at 3:30 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend. (Star photo)



In 1988 the Center received funding for an AIDS education program in Merced which targeted child-bearing women and high-risk youth. It also served homeless residents of West Modesto.

In 1989 the Center received funding for a prenatal program in Los Banos, to assist low-income families that would otherwise not receive the proper medical care during pregnancy.

FACES & PLACES    MERCED SUN-STAR    Friday, September 15, 1989    A-7

## A clinic for the people

When 2 1/2-year-old Devricka Areias came down with a chest cold, her parents brought her to the Planada Family Health Center where she is examined by Physician's Assistant Jerry Lewis.

Sun-Star photos by Roger J. Wyant

# *Proclamation*

## HONORING GOLDEN VALLEY HEALTH CENTERS ON THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Golden Valley Health Centers began serving the Central Valley in the City of Merced in 1972;  
and

Golden Valley Health Centers team of doctors, dentists, behavior health counselors and other medical professionals and their teams are committed to providing quality health care services regardless of language, financial or cultural barriers; and

Golden Valley Health Centers is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides medical, dental, behavior health and specialties to over 150,000 patients in Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties at their 45 locations; and

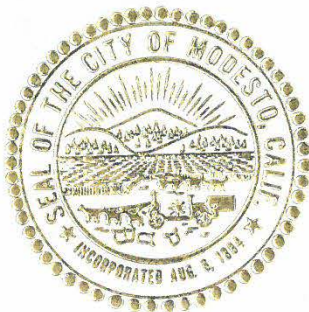
Golden Valley Health Centers has been certified as an Advocacy Center of Excellence by the National Association of Health Centers (NACHC) which is a community health center that creates a culture of advocacy to ensure that policymakers at all levels of government commit to investing in affordable, equitable, and innovative care that health centers provide; and

Golden Valley Health Centers is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sue Zwahlen, Mayor of the City of Modesto, do hereby present this proclamation to Golden Valley Health Centers in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and encourage all residents to join me in this worthy observance.

Dated this 1st day of March, 2022

*Sue Zwahlen*  
SUE ZWAHLEN, Mayor

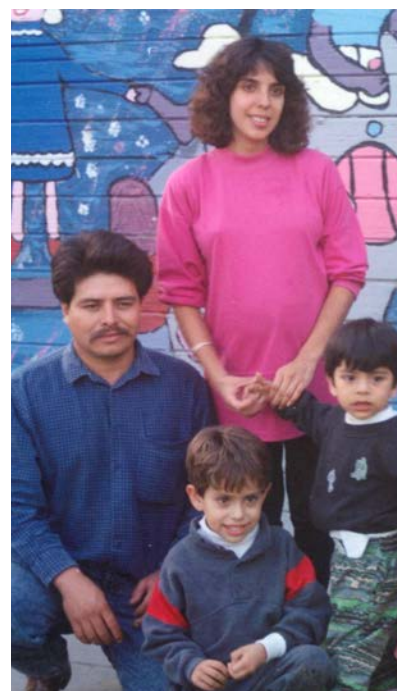




Oct 1990  
Admin.



The  
**90's**



# The 90's

In 1990 Merced Family Health Centers (Merced, West Modesto, Patterson, Los Banos, Dos Palos, and Planada) received the highest ranking possible for community health centers from across the country.

In 1991 Merced Family Health Centers completed the construction of two new facilities: a Women's Health Center and a Women's, Infants and Children Services Center in Merced.

In 1992 a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the newly expanded and renovated clinic in West Modesto; with increased services to dental care, pharmacy services, and six more clinic exam rooms (5,000 square feet added); Merced Family Health Centers received the national 1992 Commitment to Excellence Award from AmbuQual Assessment and Quality Management.

In 1993 a groundbreaking ceremony was held for Merced Family Health Center's newest clinic in Patterson located on Highway 33 and C Street. A grand opening ceremony was held for the new Healthy Start Family Resource Center at Robertson Road Elementary School. The total number of sites in operation: nine.

In 1994 a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a new building on the Childs Avenue Campus of Merced Family Health Centers. The new building held three separate suites that each housed a clinic (now known as Merced Suites A, B, and C). Merced Family Health Centers opened a primary health clinic in a section of the Newman West Side Community Hospital. Grand opening of new Patterson Family Health Center.



# The 90's

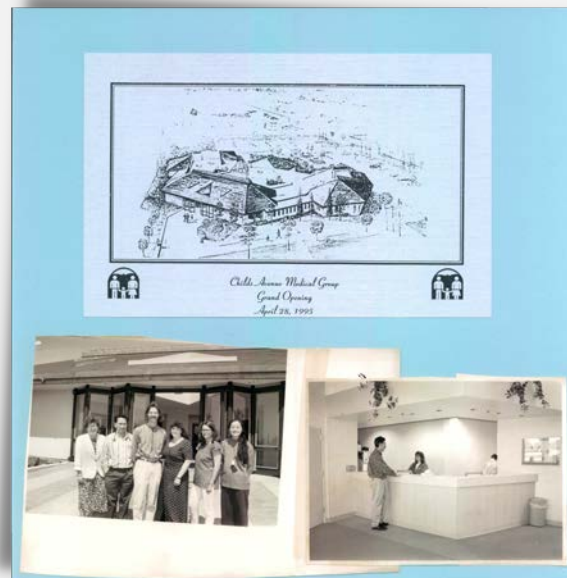
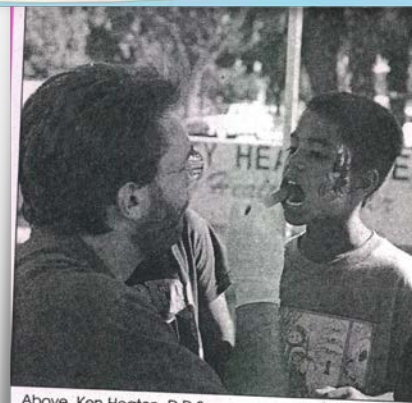
In 1995 the corporate name of the community health centers operating as Merced Family Health Centers, Inc. was changed to Golden Valley Health Centers, effective September 1st. The name change allowed for expansion into surrounding counties and easier name identification in a managed care environment. A new Golden Valley Health Centers clinic was opened in Turlock at 777 East Hawkeye Avenue and housed in a new medical building. The clinic had six exam rooms, a mini-laboratory, and supplied medicine at a discount through its pharmacy in Modesto.

In 1996 Golden Valley Health Centers was selected as Business of the Year by the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce.

In 1997 Golden Valley Health Centers celebrates its 25th anniversary with a health fair.

In 1998 Golden Valley Health Centers' Homeless Health Care Program opened a new clinic operating out of the Modesto Inn. The organization continued to offer services at the Modesto Salvation Army Office two days a week.

In 1999 Golden Valley Health Centers achieved accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care organizations.



Above, Ken Heaton, D.D.S. examines the teeth of Sergio Rodriguez, 9, who just had his face painted by clowns, "Opsie and Poopsie" AKA Marlene and Rodney Siemiller who also were present at the free health fair. Several residents had their teeth, blood pressure and glucose checked by Golden Valley Health Center in Los Banos.

Golden Valley Health Center celebrated its 25th anniversary with health fair

14 Thursday, March 18, 1999

## Golden Valley Health Centers awarded accreditation from Joint Commission

Golden Valley Health Centers has achieved accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Formed in 1951, the Joint Commission is dedicated to improving the quality of the nation's health care through voluntary accreditation. Golden Valley Health Centers was accredited after a team of Joint Com-

mission surveyors conducted an on-site survey in December and found that Golden Valley Health Centers had demonstrated compliance with the Joint Commission's accreditation as another step toward excellence. "Our staff is very supportive of the process. I think it gives them a feeling of prestige to work in an accredited organization," says Sullivan. "They

also appreciate the educational aspect of the survey and the opportunity to interact with the Joint Commission team."

JCAHO focused on 12 functions during their survey: patient rights; and organization ethics; assessment of patients; care of patients; education of patients and family; continuity of care; improving organization perfor-

mance; leadership; management of the environment of care; management of human resources; management of information; surveillance, prevention and control of infection.

Golden Valley Health Centers began seeing patients in 1972 offering health services to farmworkers in Merced County. They are a private

non-profit corporation and have 11 Community Health Centers in Merced and Stanislaus Counties. Their mission statement is to improve the health status of their patients by providing quality, managed, primary health care services to people in the communities they serve regardless of language, financial or cultural barriers.

The Times

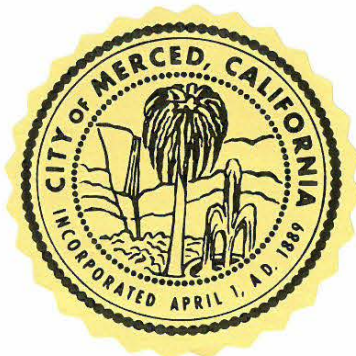


# *Proclamation*

- WHEREAS,** Golden Valley Health Centers began serving the Central Valley in the City of Merced in 1972; and
- WHEREAS,** Golden Valley Health Centers team of doctors, dentists, behavior health counselors and other medical professionals and their teams are committed to providing quality health care services regardless of language, financial or cultural barriers; and
- WHEREAS,** Golden Valley Health Centers is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides medical, dental, behavior health and specialties to over 150,000 patients in Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties at their 45 locations; and
- WHEREAS,** Golden Valley Health Centers has been certified as an Advocacy Center of Excellence by the National Association of Health Centers (NACHC) which is a community health center that creates a culture of advocacy to ensure that policymakers at all levels of government commit to investing in affordable, equitable, and innovative care that health centers provide; and
- WHEREAS,** Golden Valley Health Centers is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW SERRATTO, Mayor** of the City of Merced, on behalf of the City Council hereby present this proclamation to Golden Valley Health Centers in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and encourage all residents to join me in this worthy observance.

Signed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2022.



Matthew Serratto, Mayor of Merced



THE  
00's



# THE 00's

**2000** Golden Valley Health Centers held an event to kick off the start of a new Cultural Competency Program designed to teach staff and doctors how to take better care of people from different cultural backgrounds. The program was funded by The California Endowment.

**2001** Golden Valley Health Centers' Homeless Health Care Program's permanent home, the Corner of Hope clinic, was officially opened on 6th and L Street in Central Modesto. A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new John O'Banion Merced Community Learning Center in Merced. The community center featured a library branch, daycare, police services, and a medical clinic run by Golden Valley Health Centers. A new Golden Valley Women's Health Center opened on the north side of Merced and the Center opened a sixth dental clinic in Planada.

**2002** Golden Valley Health Centers celebrated its 30th Anniversary! The Center received a federal grant for \$433,333 which enabled the company to hire three new physicians and strengthen its community outreach program. Golden Valley Health Centers had 14 locations and served 50,000 patients. Golden Valley Health Centers earned re-accreditation from the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) with a score of 94 out of a possible 100!

**2003** Golden Valley Health Centers held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony upon the completion of the new 3,800 square-foot Los Banos dental offices.

**2004** Golden Valley Health Centers re-opened a clinic in Le Grand. The community had been without access to a dentist or clinic for three years.



**2009** A Golden Valley Health Centers mobile outreach clinic, or MOMobile, was designated to be at Riverbank High School and the elementary school (one day at each school). A group of teen activists had previously approached the Health Center about providing medical services to the students in Riverbank. The Health Center opened a new clinic in Turlock on West Main street during National Health Centers Week.



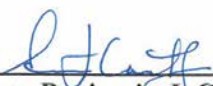
# *Certificate of Recognition*

*Presented to*

## **Golden Valley Health Center**

The Manteca City Council hereby recognizes and congratulates Golden Valley Health Center for 50 years of dedicated service. We wish to express our sincere appreciation for your hard work and invaluable contributions to our community.

Date: August 10, 2022

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Benjamin J. Cantu

Mayor Cantu • Vice Mayor Halford • Councilmember Breitenbucher • Councilmember Nuño • Councilmember Singh



# The 10's



# The 10's

**2010** Golden Valley Health Centers opens its Call Center, with ten staff members. Patients could call the 1-866-682-4842 number to make or cancel appointments. Golden Valley Health Centers held a groundbreaking ceremony on Childs Avenue for its Senior Health and Wellness Center.

**2011** Golden Valley Health Centers broke ground for its expansion of the Patterson health center. On Cinco de Mayo, Golden Valley Health Centers held a grand opening ceremony for its newest clinic in Riverbank, which was the first high school-based health center in the area. A grand opening ceremony is held for the newest women's clinic in Modesto, next to its clinic on Florida Avenue. CEO Mike Sullivan announced his retirement after almost 40 years of service.

**2012** An open house and ribbon cutting were held for the newly expanded Patterson health center. A grand opening ceremony was held for the newest addition to GVHC, the Senior Health and Wellness Center. More than 500 students from local schools and the public were invited to participate in the 5th Annual Earth Day event. The implementation of Next Gen Electronic Medical Records was completed.

**2013** Rapid Dramatic Performance Improvement (RDPI) effort implemented for continuous improvement in patient care.

**2014** Tony Weber joined Golden Valley Health Centers as the President and Chief Executive Officer.



# The 10's

**2015** Golden Valley Health Centers completed the building of a replacement facility for the Hanshaw dental site which was lost to fire in 2014.

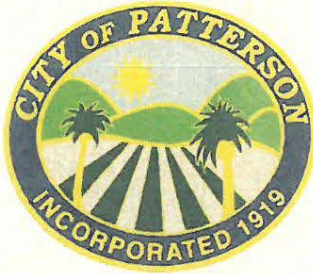
**2016** Golden Valley Health Centers unveiled the new logo. The Hanshaw location reopens.

**2017** The Nursing Scholarship was dedicated and renamed in memory of Flora R. Martinez.

**2018** The Health Center launched a text messaging service and broke ground on a new two-story facility, Northview.

**2019** Northview Merced and Ceres East Whitmore opened.





# Golden Valley Health Centers

*Celebrating 50 Years*

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** It has been said that *one's health is one's greatest possession*. Golden Valley Health Centers has built their business, spanning half a century around this very belief; and

**WHEREAS:** The ideology that everyone should have access to health care has been central to Golden Valley's work over the past five decades and remains their guiding principle today; and

**WHEREAS:** In 1962 when President John F. Kennedy signed the Migrant Health Act, federal funds were authorized to open community migrant health centers that would provide care for this critical farmworker population. It was later mandated that these centers make their services accessible to all who need them. Golden Valley Health Centers has always made that their priority, and never denied services to a patient in need; and

**WHEREAS:** In 1972, Golden Valley Health Centers began as a small Migrant Health Services program affiliated with Merced General Hospital. Since then, Golden Valley Health Centers has expanded greatly to meet community needs across Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties, now serving roughly 175,000 patients each year through 45 clinical locations in the region; and

**WHEREAS:** Golden Valley Health Centers' (GVHC) focus has not wavered since 1972. Maintaining its mission and strong desire to increase access to healthcare in the lives of migrant workers, who toil to sustain our largely agricultural economy; and

**WHEREAS:** Golden Valley Health Centers is a locally owned and operated non-profit organization that serves as a critical economic engine, helping to power the local economy by generating millions of dollars in combined efforts in some of the region's most impacted deprived communities; and

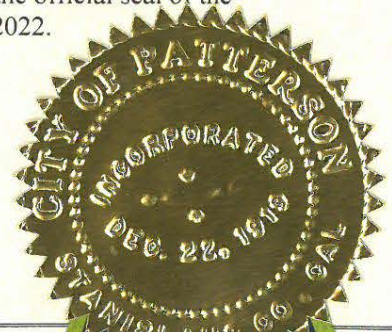
**WHEREAS:** Golden Valley Health Centers is a fully accredited FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) offering quality medical, dental, behavioral health, vision, and other specialties at our health centers. With services that include urgent care and school-based health centers throughout the Central Valley; and

**WHEREAS:** Golden Valley Health Centers continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to health care access, including geography, language, income, and insurance status, and in doing so, improves health care outcomes and reduces health care system costs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Dennis McCord as Mayor of the City of Patterson, do hereby officially congratulate Golden Valley Health Centers for always putting the needs of the community first. I encourage all citizens of Patterson to visit Golden Valley Health Centers where every patient's "Health is their Priority."

**IN WITNESS, HEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Patterson to be affixed this 5th day of April 2022.

Dennis McCord  
Mayor





**GOLDEN VALLEY**  
HEALTH CENTERS



# THE 2020'S



# THE 20's

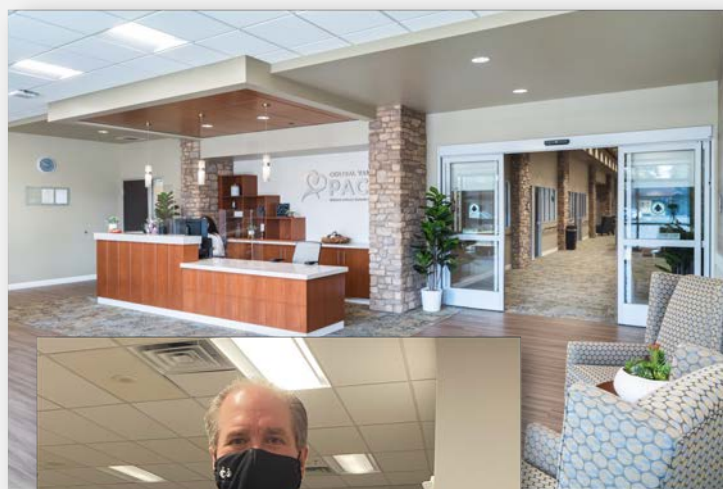
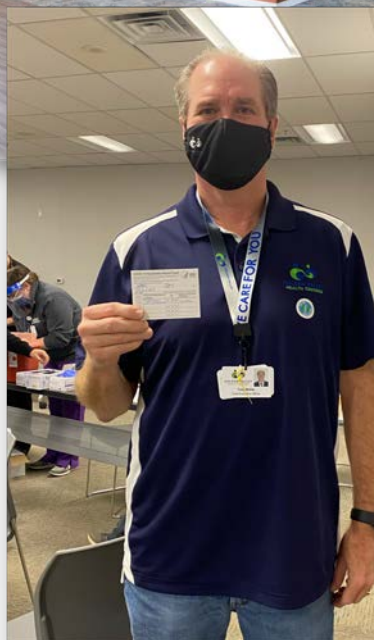
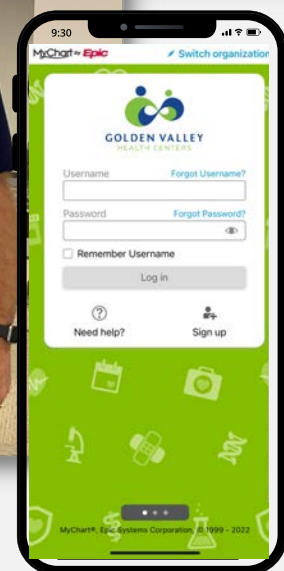


## 2020

- Golden Valley Health Centers opened the Northview Center. The health center was a 26,267-square-foot medical office building with 37 exam rooms and 12 full-time providers.
- Golden Valley Health Centers opened its first drive-thru COVID-19 testing clinic in Merced. The concept was one of the first in the nation.
- Central Valley PACE opened and began accepting new patients from Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties.
- Golden Valley Health Centers began administering a 15-minute rapid COVID-19 test.
- Golden Valley Health Centers began providing Telehealth services during the COVID-19 lockdown.

## 2021

- Golden Valley Health Centers began administering COVID-19 vaccines to staff and the most vulnerable.
- Golden Valley Health Centers introduced Epic, an electronic health records system, to improve the quality of service by providing an efficient way of accessing patient records.
- Golden Valley Health Centers officially opened McHenry Suites in Modesto to provide Pediatrics and Optometry services.
- Golden Valley Health Centers welcomed Turlock Pediatric Medical Group and fully integrated its facilities, staff, and services.
- Golden Valley Health Centers Introduced four new specialty services, Adult & Pediatric Cardiology, Nephrology, Allergy Services.



# THE 20's

## 2022

- 2022 marked 50 years for Golden Valley Health Centers!
- Golden Valley Health Centers kicked off a year-long 50th-anniversary celebration by hosting an open house at our Northview Health Center in Merced.
- Golden Valley Health Centers opened the renovated Women's Health Center in Modesto.
- Golden Valley Health Centers opens the new Coolidge Health Center in Modesto.
- Golden Valley Health Centers launched an innovative telehealth program called TytoCare.
- Golden Valley Health Centers officially changed the name of all Prompt Care locations to Urgent Care.
- Golden Valley Health Centers Foundation hosted our Making a Difference Gala to celebrate Golden Valley Health Centers's 50th anniversary and raise funds to support Golden Valley Health Centers's mission.





City of  
**Los Banos**  
At the Crossroads of California

**PROCLAMATION  
RECOGNIZING THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF GOLDEN VALLEY HEALTH CENTERS**

**WHEREAS,** Golden Valley Health Centers began serving the Central Valley in the City of Merced in 1972; and

**WHEREAS,** Golden Valley Health Centers' team of doctors, dentists, behavioral health counselors, other medical professionals and their teams are committed to providing quality health care services regardless of language, financial or cultural barriers; and

**WHEREAS,** Golden Valley Health Centers is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides medical, dental, behavioral health and specialties to over 150,000 patients in Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties through their 45 locations; and

**WHEREAS,** Golden Valley Health Centers has been certified as an Advocacy Center of Excellence by the National Association of Health Centers (NACHC) which is a community health center that creates a culture of advocacy to ensure that policymakers at all levels of government commit to investing in affordable, equitable and innovative care that health centers provide; and

**WHEREAS,** Golden Valley Health Centers is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022.

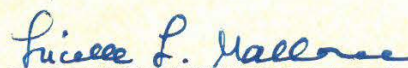
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Mayor and City Council Members of the City of Los Banos do hereby congratulate Golden Valley Health Centers on its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and recognize the dedication and commitment it has to the health and well-being of residents in our community and surrounding areas.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of Los Banos, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of June 2022.

APPROVED:

  
Manuel Thomas Faria III, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Lucille L. Mallonee, City Clerk



# *Making a Difference Gala*

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



GVHC recognized Alicia Dicochea with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions as a founding member and 45 years of service on the Board of Directors for Golden Valley Health Centers. We celebrated a woman who saw a need in her community and fought to be part of the solution. A woman, who despite great adversity, chose to exemplify the love of the human spirit to support and serve others. The impact of her contributions spans generations. But the impact of her love, her selfless sacrifice, and her enduring fight for justice spans farther than we will ever know.





*Making a Difference*  
**Gala**  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



**CITY OF RIVERBANK**  
**HONORING**  
**GOLDEN VALLEY HEALTH CENTERS ON**  
**THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**Whereas,** for 50 years, Golden Valley Health Centers has built a business spanning a half a century around the belief that one's health is one's greatest possession.

**Whereas,** in 1972, Golden Valley Health Centers began as a small Migrant Health Services program affiliated with Merced General Hospital. Since that time, they have expanded greatly to meet community needs across Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties, now serving roughly 175,000 patients each year through 45 clinical locations in the region.

**Whereas,** Golden Valley Health Centers can be proud of their 50-year longevity and while that sounds like a long time, in a rapidly changing world, Golden Valley Health Centers' focus has not wavered since 1972.

**Whereas,** Golden Valley Health Centers was born out of a strong desire to increase access to healthcare in the lives of migrant workers, who toil to sustain our largely agricultural economy.

**Whereas,** Golden Valley Health Centers has never denied services to a patient in need and continues to improve the health of patients by providing quality, primary health care services to people in the communities they serve regardless of language, financial or cultural barriers.

**Whereas,** Golden Valley Health Centers is a fully accredited FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) offering quality medical, dental, behavioral health, vision and other specialties including urgent care and school-based health centers throughout the Central Valley.

**Whereas,** the City Council of the City of Riverbank recognizes the incredible work and dedication that Golden Valley Health Centers has shown for the health and well-being of migrant workers throughout the Central Valley over the last 50 years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** on the celebration of the organization's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I, Cal Campbell, Vice Mayor of Riverbank, California, through this proclamation do hereby honor the work of Golden Valley Health Centers.

**Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Cal Campbell**  
**Vice Mayor**

# *Proclamation*

## *Of The City Of Newman*

WHEREAS, Golden Valley Health Centers began serving the Central Valley in the City of Merced in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Golden Valley Health Centers team of doctors, dentists, behavior health counselors and other medical professionals and their teams are committed to providing quality health care services regardless of language, financial or cultural barriers; and

WHEREAS, Golden Valley Health Centers is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides medical, dental, behavior health and specialties to over 150,000 patients in Merced, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties at their 45 locations; and

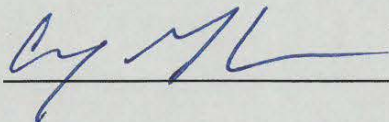
WHEREAS, Golden Valley Health Centers provides a variety of vital services to local residents at their Newman Health Center located at 637 Merced Street; and

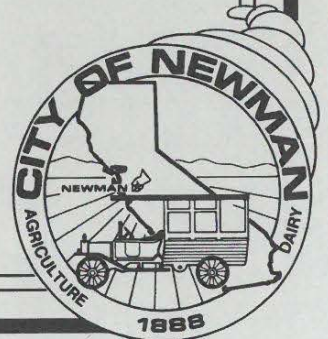
WHEREAS, Golden Valley Health Centers has been certified as an Advocacy Center of Excellence by the National Association of Health Centers (NACHC) which is a community health center that creates a culture of advocacy to ensure that policymakers at all levels of government commit to investing in affordable, equitable, and innovative care that health centers provide; and

WHEREAS, Golden Valley Health Centers is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE, I Casey Graham, Mayor, on behalf of the Newman City Council, present this proclamation congratulating Golden Valley Health Centers on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Signed the 28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022

  
\_\_\_\_\_



**1972**

Hospital-oriented  
migrant health  
program opens



**1974**

Merced Family Health Centers,  
constructed a small medical  
and dental clinic



**2014**

Tony Weber  
becomes CEO



**2020**

GVHC launches  
CV PACE program



**1973**

Nonprofit  
Corporation formed



**1995**

Golden Valley  
Health Centers  
was born



**2016**

Golden Valley  
Health Centers  
launches new logo



**2022**

Golden Valley  
Health Centers  
celebrates 50 years

The first 50 years have been an adventure, and Golden Valley Health Centers have impacted multiple lives over a half-century of service. The Center could not have made it 50 years and become this strong of an organization without a dedicated and hard-working staff.

Thank you

Our story doesn't end here...  
Cheers to the next 50!



*Leretta Pruitt, G St. Admin Office*

*Proudly wearing her 50th Anniversary Pin*



*50th Anniversary Limited Edition Mousepad*

