

Health Connect



ANTELOPE VALLEY
HOSPITAL

A facility of Antelope Valley Healthcare District

A community newsletter from Antelope Valley Hospital

Summer 2020



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Grant**

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CEO's Letter

As we reflect on the past few months, a lot has certainly changed in our daily lives and routines. However, Antelope Valley Hospital's (AV Hospital) commitment to the community has remained strong. As the coronavirus (COVID-19) spread through the Antelope Valley, we have been here to meet our community's needs every step of the way.

We are grateful for the community's response to the long hours, hard work and commitment of our doctors, nurses and hospital staff.

I'd like to personally thank every organization and community member who made a donation to support them. We have been overwhelmed by the on-going support from our entire community.

During these unprecedented times, our goal remains to be the provider of choice for all essential health care services. Your acts of kindness have inspired our staff and brought them much-needed encouragement as we continue to provide compassionate care and medical excellence to the Antelope Valley.

Again, thank you for your generosity and continued support.

Sincerely,

Edward Mirzabegian
Chief Executive Officer

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Nurses & Hospital Week

AVH was thrilled to be able to celebrate our nurses and hospital this year, despite the crisis that we have all been working through. While there were precautions to follow which restricted how much we were able to do, we loved being able to show support to our amazing staff now more than ever.



AV Hospital Receives Grant from Lockheed Martin

Lockheed Martin donated \$500,000 to AV Hospital to help with crisis relief due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This grant will allow AV Hospital to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) including N95 masks, disposable isolation gowns, Nitrile disposable gloves for employees and ventilators for our patients.

"We are very grateful for this generous contribution that will help AV Hospital acquire much-needed crisis relief equipment to protect the hospital's front-line workers and our patients," said CEO **Ed Mirzabegian**. "The generosity from Lockheed Martin is a testament to the community working together through this pandemic."

This funding is especially helpful since the AV Hospital Foundation had to cancel its annual fundraising golf tournament due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which typically brings in thousands of dollars for the hospital.

"As hospitals around the country scramble to secure PPE and ventilators, our Foundation worked tirelessly to secure grants for these supplies," said **Johnny Zamrzla**, Foundation Board Chair. "Lockheed Martin responded quickly with a very charitable amount, and we are so appreciative



From left to right: Theresa Lemus, Foundation manager; Edward Mirzabegian, CEO, AVH; Claudia Lopez Clark, community relations; Jeff Babione, Vice President Skunk Works®; Douglas Cain, Foundation board member; Johnny Zamrzla, Foundation board chairman; and Nana Deeb, Senior Vice President of Operations, AVH.

they recognized the need and were able to provide us with this grant."

Lockheed Martin Skunk Works® Vice President and General Manager **Jeff Babione** met with Mirzabegian to present the grant.

"At Lockheed Martin, we say your mission is ours. That applies to the men and women of the hospital's front lines - the men and women who are taking care of our Antelope Valley community, including our employees," Babione said. "Lockheed Martin is honored to provide this support during this unprecedented time."

After the check presentation, Babione awarded Mirzabegian with a custom-made Skunk Works® coin for his outstanding performance during the pandemic.

Awarding a challenge coin stems from a military tradition dating back to World War I.

The company also partnered with Lemon Leaf Café to bring 500 bags of treats to our employees.

We are grateful for all of the donations and support people and businesses have provided to AV Hospital to help keep our employees and patients safe during this pandemic.



New specialized equipment could be landing soon at AV Hospital

Several companies around the world are working to develop innovative solutions to help protect those working on the front lines in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and AV Hospital is proud to be working with some of these companies.

As part of the newly signed Space Act Agreement, doctors from AV Hospital have joined forces with personnel and volunteers from Virgin Galactic, The Spaceship Company (TSC), and NASA. The goal of the team is to develop alternative solutions to help patients suffering from COVID-19 and the healthcare workers who are treating them.

First, the team worked together to develop a prototype for an oxygen hood for patients with minor COVID-19 symptoms. The oxygen hood functions as a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine to force oxygen into a patient's low-functioning lungs. The goal is to provide pressure support and oxygen to patients while at the same time preventing contaminated exhalation from infection healthcare workers.

AV Hospital tested five CPAP hood prototypes, and the team has finalized an optimal CPAP hood design.



Aerospace Valley Positive Pressure Breathing Hood

The team is taking the design doctors approved and making minor adjustments before seeking approval from the Federal Drug Administration (FDA).

The team is also working on designing a negative pressure canopy to protect healthcare workers while performing procedures on patients positive for COVID-19. The canopy will enclose the COVID-19 patients yet still allow healthcare workers safe access to treat the patients. The negative pressure canopy will protect medical staff by containing and removing infected air through a filtration system, so the air does not contaminate the room.

We are grateful to the dedication and resiliency of this team, and we look forward to seeing these innovations in our hospital and around the world soon.



Alternative Care Options at AV Hospital

AV Hospital is pleased to share that patients with non-urgent needs who do not want to go into the hospital can have their needs met with car side care.

Patients can drive up to a designated parking space near the emergency room. Staff will come to the car to evaluate, register and diagnose the patient. If an X-ray or further testing is needed, the patient can choose to wait in the car instead of in the waiting room for the appointment.

In addition to car side care, we are offering Telehealth follow up visits to anyone discharged from the emergency department, rather than requiring them to return to the hospital.

We have noticed fewer people coming to the emergency department, and it can be detrimental

to some patients' health if they wait too long to seek medical attention. AV Hospital has the capacity to treat patients for all ailments, and we have set up separate areas for treating those with COVID-19. We encourage everyone to seek emergency medical treatment for symptoms such as chest pain, difficulty breathing, trouble lifting your arms and weakness, and injuries including broken bones.



From left to right: Gabriela Servin (N.T.), Narce Solis (L.V.N.), Joshua Ireland (P.A.), Betty Ryckebosch (R.N.), Michelle Schaefer (R.N.), Mary Walker (R.N.), Thomas Lee (M.D.), Nicholas Shoemaker (R.N.)

HOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

A huge **thank you** to the community for all of your donations and support during this COVID pandemic!



AV Hospital would like to thank:

From left to right: Edible Arrangements, Bubbakoo's Burritos, McGovern Family & Friends, Arise Kingdom Ministries International, Chick-Fil-A, Custom Cakes by Sandy Martinez, Yum Yum Donuts & the Dominguez Family, Weinerschnitzel, KFC, Virgin Galactic, Toyota and so many more!

DONATIONS

Health Connect

HealthConnect is published by the Antelope Valley Hospital marketing department as a service to the community. For inquiries email marketing@avhospital.org.

Antelope Valley Hospital Contact Numbers

Main Number
661-949-5000

Blood Donor Center
661-949-5622

Foundation
661-949-5810

OB Clinic
661-726-6180

Volunteers
661-949-5105

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Information in this publication is intended to educate readers about subjects pertinent to their health. Information should not be considered medical advice or treatment nor should it be used as a substitute for a physician consultation.



AV Hospital is in need of blood donations

We'd like to thank those in our community who have donated blood over the past few months. There is still an urgent need for blood donations at AV Hospital and we encourage those who can donate to do so. Donations are down as people shelter-in-place during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, but giving blood is essential and you are allowed to leave home to do so.

"As the only Level 2 Trauma Center in the region, we must maintain an adequate blood supply for our patients," said CEO Ed Mirzabegian. "We urge those who are healthy and able to please donate at this time."

The AV Hospital Blood Donor Center is complying with guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), such as spacing chairs six feet apart, moderating the number of donors in the Center at one time, adhering to thorough cleaning practices and encouraging people to make appointments ahead of time instead of walking in to donate.

Giving blood is safe, easy and takes less than an hour. A person must be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds or more (16 years old with written parent/guardian consent and weigh 120 pounds or more), be in good health (no colds, flu, infections or unstable health conditions) and not have given blood in the last eight weeks. First time donors must present a picture ID (driver's license or state ID card).

If you're interested in donating, please make an appointment ahead of time to help us control the number of donors in the center and to maintain social distancing. You can schedule a time by calling **661-949-5622**. The AV Hospital Blood Center is located on the 3rd floor of the Antelope Valley Outpatient Imaging Center, **44105 15th Street West, Suite 305**.



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Thanks you!

