



## 2024 Fall Updates from Health Care Foundation for Ventura County

*A Note from Amy Towner, CEO...*

Dear Amy,

As we approach the end of 2024, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support of Health Care Foundation for Ventura County (HCFVC) and its essential mission of strengthening Ventura County Health Care Agency's (VCHCA) ability to provide high-quality health care for all. With the year soon coming to a close, I am pleased to offer some end-of-year reminders and updates from HCFVC.



In late June, Dr. Theresa Cho was appointed Director of VCHCA, succeeding Barry Zimmerman. Her distinguished career and visionary leadership, make Dr. Cho uniquely qualified to drive the mission of VCHCA forward.

October is National Estate Planning Awareness Month, which is the perfect opportunity to estate plan by creating or updating your will and trust. HCFVC has

partnered with *Giving Docs* to offer you [will and trust resources](#) at no cost to you.

Additionally, I encourage you to read Jacquelyn's inspiring grateful patient story, explore the upcoming **WeGive CommUNITY** Giving Initiative, and learn how Ventura County employees can receive a charitable tax deduction by donating up to 40 unused vacation hours to HCFVC. Finally, we highlight HCFVC Co-Founder and Vice Chair Harold Edwards, noting his many years of dedicated service to HCFVC.

Looking ahead to the remainder of 2024, we invite you to consider making a [year-end donation](#). Your continued support of Health Care Foundation for Ventura County plays a crucial role in impacting the lives of tens of thousands in our community by providing quality, compassionate health care for all. Help us sustain our vital programs by making a contribution of any size today!

Thank you for inspiring and supporting HCFVC in shaping a healthier and more philanthropic Ventura County community!

In Philanthropic Spirit,

Amy



---

## Welcoming Dr. Theresa Cho as the New Director of VCHCA

Health Care Foundation for Ventura County is excited to work under the new Director of Ventura County Health Care Agency, Dr. Theresa Cho. Since 1999, Dr. Cho has been a committed physician within VCHCA's health and hospital system. Further, over the past four years, she has excelled as CEO of VCHCA's Ambulatory Care System. Her distinguished career and visionary leadership make her uniquely qualified to drive the mission of VCHCA forward.



"I am eager to unify the diverse efforts of our agency to ensure health care access for all, fostering a thriving and healthy community." Dr. Cho stated. Under her

leadership, HCFVC is enthusiastic about further enhancing VCHCA's ability to deliver high-quality, cost-effective, and compassionate healthcare to all residents of Ventura County.

---

## Access Your Complimentary Will & Trust Provided by HCFVC

October is National Estate Planning Awareness Month; a great opportunity to check this crucial task off your to-do list! HCFVC has partnered with *Giving Docs* to offer [will-writing resources](#) that are completely free to you, your friends, and your family, providing you peace of mind as you plan for your future. With many options

available, including bequests, charitable gift annuities, and 401(k) designations, this tool is safe, secure, and does not require any sensitive security information.

Additionally, when you include Health Care Foundation for Ventura County in your estate plan, your generosity will strengthen VCHCA's capacity to provide quality health care for all in our community.

HCFVC also offers up-to-date Planned Giving information and tools on [hcfvc.org](http://hcfvc.org)! Discover our free estate planning guide, obituary resources, and a variety of strategic giving options, including IRA charitable rollovers, donor-advised funds, gifts of stocks, and more. Making a planned gift to HCFVC can also help reduce your end-of-year tax burden. Utilize these resources to secure peace of mind for your family, enhance your financial health, and make a meaningful impact in Ventura County.



[Free Estate Planning Tools](#)

---

## *A Grateful Patient Story: Jacquelyn's Comfort and Care at Ventura County Medical Center*

An unexpected injury can arise at any given moment, often catching someone off guard and requiring immediate attention and care. This reality struck

Jacquelyn Gargano, Program Director for the Ventura Ronald McDonald Family Room, when she sustained a back injury. When Jacquelyn arrived at the hospital, several medical professionals rushed to her aid, offering support to help her through a panic attack before taking her to the Emergency Room. During Jacquelyn's time in the emergency room, medical professionals provided her with some of the most high-quality patient care she had ever experienced.



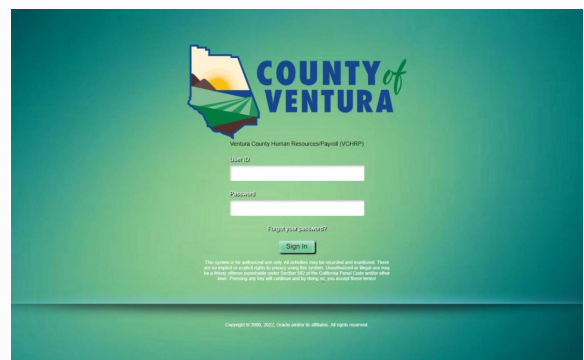
Additionally, Jacquelyn was touched to receive warm greetings from VCMC's housekeeping staff and security guards as they made their rounds through the hospital.

Reflecting on her positive patient experience at VCMC Jacquelyn said, "VCMC and the Ventura Ronald McDonald Family Room have become my second home. I am so blessed to be surrounded by nurturers and people with genuine care in their hearts." Jacquelyn's story serves as a reminder of the profound impact that VCMC medical professionals and staff play in providing comfort to patients during vulnerable and unfamiliar times. Their compassionate care enhances the patient's experience and cultivates a sense of community within VCMC and the broader Ventura County health and hospital system. Health Care Foundation for Ventura County deeply appreciates Jacquelyn's positive outcome at VCMC and her generosity in sharing her uplifting story with us.

Share Your Gateful Patient  
Story

## *Ventura County Employees: Check Your Vacation Hours Before 2024 Ends!*

As a Ventura County employee, your vacation hours accrue up to a maximum limit. To avoid losing any accrued hours, review your current balance in the [VCHRP](#) portal and ensure your vacation hours are below the maximum limit. If you have excess hours, you can donate up to 40 unused vacation hours to support HCFVC by clicking "Donate My Hours" or by emailing [ac.payroll@ventura.org](mailto:ac.payroll@ventura.org) with your



employee ID and the number of hours you wish to contribute.

Donating your unused vacation hours not only supports your local health care system but also provides you with a charitable tax deduction, potentially helping you offset a portion of your taxes. Your end-of-year contribution can make a significant difference in our community while providing you with a financial benefit. Don't let this valuable opportunity pass you by!

[Donate My Hours](#)

---

## WeGive CommUNITY is Launching Soon!

**WeGive CommUNITY** is a Giving Initiative for Ventura County employees, local businesses, and community members to unite in making Ventura County the healthiest it can be!

**WeGive Community** will support HCFVC in our mission to enhance and strengthen VCHCAs' ability to provide high quality health care for all. Since our inception in 2014, HCFVC has proudly contributed over \$12 million dollars to Ventura County Health Care Agency.



As we approach the end of 2024, we invite everyone in Ventura County and beyond to join us in fostering a spirit of local philanthropy through **WeGive Community**. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the health and wellness of our community. Stay tuned for details on how you can make a meaningful impact on local health care by making a heartfelt donation to **WeGive Community**!

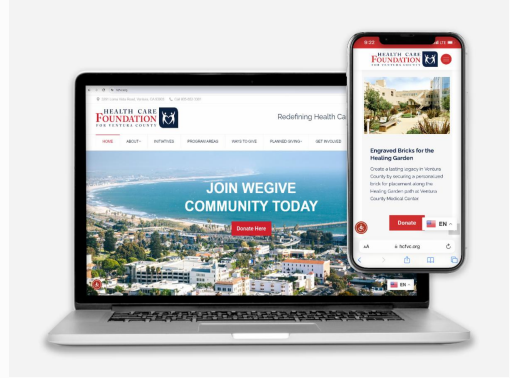
[Donate to WeGive Community Today](#)

---

## Visit the New HCFVC.ORG!

We're excited to announce our redesigned website is now live! With a fresh look and updated information, it's easier than ever to

explore our programs, initiatives, ways to give, and more. Visit [hcfvc.org](https://hcfvc.org) to experience this revamped look and learn all about the ways you can support and engage with our mission!



Visit [HCFVC.ORG](https://HCFVC.ORG)

## *HCFVC Board Member Highlight:* Co-Founder and Vice Chair Harold Edwards

HCFVC Co-Founder and Vice Chair Harold Edwards is the President and CEO of Limoneira, a 131-year-old international agribusiness based in Santa Paula, California. As a fifth-generation member of a farming family with a long history in the company, Harold continues to uphold its legacy. Founded in 1893, the Limoneira Company pioneered the California citrus industry and is now one of the largest producers and suppliers of lemons and avocados in the United States and globally. Limoneira, under Harold's leadership, is also a dedicated steward of its local community and is actively managing the development of 2,000 new homes in Santa Paula as well as a collective effort to build a new hospital and outpatient medical clinic in Santa Paula.



With an M.B.A. from The Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University, Harold is a seasoned financial expert with extensive international experience. He has held senior management roles with global multinational companies across the US, Latin America, Europe, and Asia.

Harold is one of four co-founding board members of Health Care Foundation for Ventura County. He is the son of the late Dr. Samuel Edwards, who served as Chief Medical Officer for Ventura County Medical Center and Santa Paula Hospital. Dr. Edwards played a major role in the reopening of what was then known as Santa Paula Memorial Hospital, which closed under private management in 2003. The facility reopened as an arm of Ventura County Health Care Agency in 2006. Harold now upholds his father's dedication to outstanding health care through his active role with HCFVC.

As a co-founding member of HCFVC, Harold has been instrumental in advancing the mission to enhance the Ventura County Health Care Agency's ability to provide high-quality, cost-effective, and compassionate care, particularly in Santa Paula. His contributions over the past decade have been pivotal to HCFVC's continued development and success. HCFVC extends its heartfelt gratitude to Harold Edwards for his invaluable and longstanding contributions to HCFVC and its mission.

---

## Your Year-End Support Creates a Lasting Impact!

[Donate Here](#)

---

## Invest Local & Get Social!



Contact Us  
[amy.towner@ventura.org](mailto:amy.towner@ventura.org)

