

Parnagians donate \$1.5M to Valley Children's

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The Parnagian family, owners of Fowler Packing Company, donated \$1.5 million to Valley Children's to help support its Children's Fund and Child Life programs. Valley Children's Healthcare has announced a \$1.5 million gift from the Parnagian family, owners of Fowler Packing Company.

The donation will help establish the "Sam and Gladys Parnagian Child Life Endowment," and add specialists to Valley Children's Child Life program.

The program helps patients and families understand medical diagnoses, procedures and treatments through education and play. Child Life specialists and doctors also help siblings and relatives cope with their loved one's illness and injuries.

Currently, the hospital has nine specialists and assistants who provide help to nearly 30,000 patient contacts a year.

"We are so grateful for the Parnagians' donation," said Joy Barton, Child Life specialist. "This endowment will allow us to grow our department. We hope to one day reach every patient and family at Valley Children's, and we couldn't grow our program without the help of generous community members like the Parnagian family."

The Parnagian's gift will also help the Children's Fund, which supports areas of greatest need at Valley Children's. To honor the gift, Valley Children's will name the playground at its future Fowler specialty care center "The Parnagian Family Playground."

"We are truly blessed to be able to support the vital mission of Valley Children's Healthcare and look forward to watching their continued efforts to expand access to healthcare for kids in our hometown of Fowler and other

communities throughout Central California,” said Dennis Parnagian, president of Fowler Packing Company.

Founded in 1950 by Sam Parnagian, Fowler Packing Company is now under the management of Sam and Gladys’ sons and other family members. The company has grown to be one of the largest shippers of fresh produce, handling more than five million boxes of table grapes and 30 million boxes of citrus a year.

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