**THE NEED TO JUMP HIGHER FOR KIDS**

In a region with high birth rates and where children make up 30% of the population, the need for pediatric care is growing faster here than elsewhere in California. The Valley faces greater pediatric challenges with childhood asthma, obesity and premature birth rates being among the highest in California, and rivaling rates in some third-world countries.

Community Medical Centers has a long history of filling gaps in children’s healthcare needs with burn care, Level 1 trauma services and clinics for children with Med-Cal. Last year, there were 71,000 pediatric visits to Community’s clinics and hospitals, 16% of all care, and more than 10,000 healthcare needs with burn care, Level 1 trauma services and clinics for children with Med-Cal. Last year, there were 71,000 pediatric visits to Community’s clinics and hospitals, 16% of all care, and more than 10,000 healthcare needs.

**PEDiATRIC DEMAND GROWS IN OUR REGION**

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**INCREASED ACCESS TO SUBSPECIALIST ELEVATES OUTCOMES**

Dr. John Minas, a UCSF pediatric pulmonologist, encourages Dominic Boldewyn to take a deep breath at the Community Regional Children’s Health Center.

Access to pediatric subspecialists reduces hospital stays, complications, and healthcare costs, and improves the quality of life for children with complex and chronic health conditions. But California lags behind the nation in the number of pediatric subspecialists, and the central San Joaquin Valley lags far behind the rest of California, according to a study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

**Statewide, children have three times the access to subspecialists as they do in the Valley.**

A 10-year agreement with UCSF Medical Center to expand women’s and children’s services here in the Valley has strengthened the need for more care. Community Regional Medical Center, a partner UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital, will receive a new clinic which does newborn screening and serves as the Valley cystic fibrosis program between Sacramento and Los Angeles. UCSF Fresno recruited pediatric pulmonologists, endocrinologists and gastroenterologists, plus an adult pulmonary and critical care specialist in cystic fibrosis for the new clinic which does newborn screening and treats patients from birth throughout their life.

**EXPECTATIONS ARE RAISED FOR ALL STAGES OF LIFE**

Valley cystic fibrosis patients who aged out of the care of pediatric specialists at the local children's hospital used to have to drive 3-4 hours to find medical care. Now that care has been brought close to home. Community Regional Medical Center has opened the only accredited adult and pediatric cystic fibrosis program between Sacramento and Los Angeles.

**MEDiAN LiFE SPAN FOR CYSTiC FiBROSiS PATiENTS:**

- **1955** 5 years
- **2016** 41 years

The UCSF Fresno Cystic Fibrosis Program at Community takes a team approach to care with the subspecialists, respiratory therapists, nutritionists and social workers all seeing patients together to ensure they can have full lives with the rare genetic disorder that thickens all the secretions in the body. Life expectancy has risen from 25 to 41 in the past decade; more than half those in the U.S. diagnosed with cystic fibrosis now are adults.

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A HOSPITAL NETWORK AND ITS COMMUNITY ARE CONNECTED? FIND OUT AT cmc.news/july2016**

**One Network. One Community.**

Clovis Community Medical Center | Community Behavioral Health Center | Community Regional Medical Center | Fresno Heart & Surgical Hospital