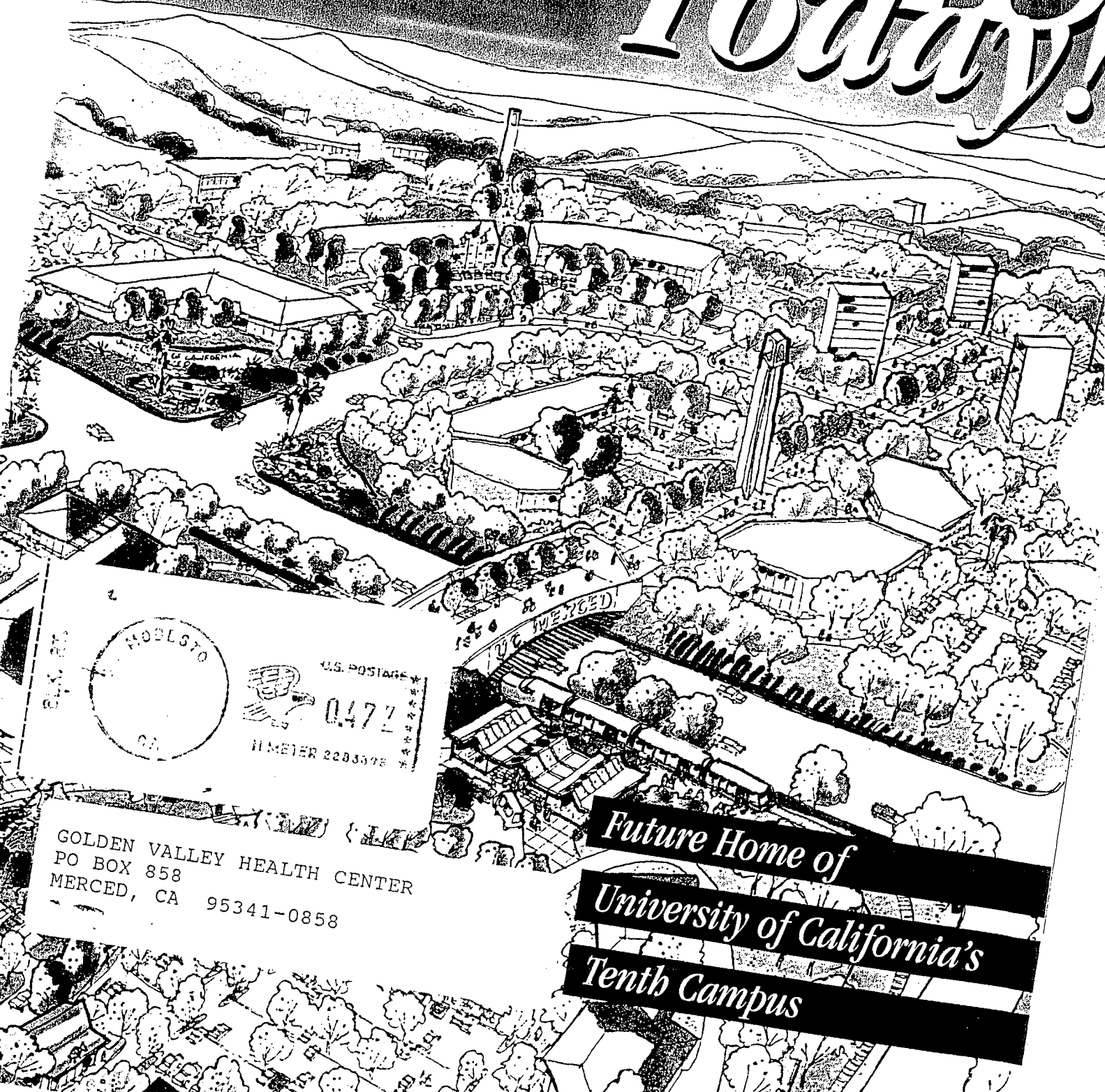




MERCED *Today!*



GOLDEN VALLEY HEALTH CENTER
PO BOX 858
MERCED, CA 95341-0858

*Future Home of
University of California's
Tenth Campus*

TO YOUR HEALTH

by Sheryl L. Leichtig



In Merced, a doctor is never far away. Perhaps no more than a few blocks down the street a physician is ready to help with your unique health care needs. Some of the doctors even make house calls.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Choosing a physician is a very personal and important decision, so it's good to know many choices are available. Within Merced's city limits, more than 130 medical doctors provide services in at least 50 specialties, and that's not counting the scores of dentists, optometrists, psychologists, chiropractors and practitioners in other fields of medicine. In total, the various branches of the health care industry employ about 2,000 Mercedians.

The first step is finding a primary care doctor you trust and like. This a high priority, but it is no time for snap decisions. After all, this is a relationship you should have for many years and it takes time to find the perfect fit. Do some consultations of your own before selecting any

member of your health care team. Check with your former providers to suggest colleagues in the Merced area, ask your neighbors and co-workers for recommendations, call a physicians' referral service or a local hospital. Most importantly, don't hesitate to ask questions and visit several doctors' offices before making your final choices. This is your health we're talking about.

And when it comes to your health, and that of your family, Merced provides comprehensive coverage.

Merced's two hospitals, Merced Community Medical Center (MCMC) and Mercy Hospital, take care of the community with a full range of services and educational programs that extend beyond their main campuses. In the neighboring city of Atwater, Bloss Hospital's offerings include an emergency room and a surgical department, plus laboratory and X-ray services, while Anberry Rehabilitation Hospital focuses on physical, occupational and recreational therapy and features a new cardiac and pulmonary program.

Recently opened in Merced, Golden Valley Health Centers' large, contemporary facility is a unique option for family-centered care - both medical and dental. A community-responsive and interactive approach to health care is the philosophy behind this non-profit corporation. Medical staff members give treatment with a heavy dose of preventive medicine and education so that patients can learn to make healthy choices for themselves. Golden Valley also encourages patient involvement at all levels, including on its Board of Directors.

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NACHCLINK

Golden Valley Health Center in Merced, CA was honored this year as the **1996 Business of the Year** by the Greater Merced County Chamber of Commerce. The health center had its beginning in 1965 when the Merced County Health Department received a federal grant to serve migrant farmworkers. In 1972, the operation was transferred from the county to what was called the County General Hospital. Merced County hired Mike Sullivan (who

still serves as Chief Executive Officer of the center) hoping that it would eventually be privatized. In 1973, it became the private non-profit Merced Family Health center, funded mostly by federal grants. Twenty-three years later, the center now treats 42,000 patients in 160,000 visits each year at 13 locations in Merced and Stanislaus Counties. The 13 centers (some of which are school-based) are staffed by 22 physicians, 14 nurse practitioners, physician assistants and nurse

A Primary
Care Information
Resource for
NACHC Members

midwives, and eight dentists as well as a number of medical assistants. Golden Valley's Chief Executive Officer, Mike Sullivan, says that his board and staff were "obviously very proud to be honored by our business community." We want Mike to know that the Health Center community also is very proud as Golden Valley represents the best. Congratulations! **LINC**

A Healthy Tradition

A comfortable personal relationship between you and your doctor is the key to quality health care. At Golden Valley Health Centers our medical team is carefully selected to insure they share our emphasis on the art of medicine...not just its technology.

Now Accepting New Patients

We accept and bill most major insurance plans including Medi-Cal and Medicare. Se Habla Español.

Welcoming Our New Medical Staff



John Francis, MD
Family Practice

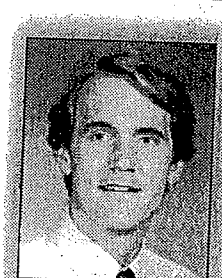


Michelle Perea, NP
Nurse Practitioner

Joining Our Existing Team



William Stallone, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology



Chris Grover, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology



**GOLDEN VALLEY
HEALTH CENTERS**

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