

Photo by Gina Smith - Enterprise

Above, Ken Heaton, D.D.S. provides dental services to patient, Sandra Hydreas at the Golden Valley Health Center in Los Banos. Heaton celebrates his third year with the Golden Valley Health Center in Los Banos as the organization celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Golden Valley Health Center celebrate its 25th anniversary

by Gina Smith
Enterprise Reporter

Golden Valley Health Center of Los Banos will be celebrating its organization's 25th anniversary with a health fair Sept. 19 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will be free medical and dental screening, music, face painting, hot dogs and drinks. The health fair will take place at the GVHC parking lot.

Golden Valley Health Centers are a group of non-profit government subsidized centers which originally opened in Merced at the General Hospital in 1972 serving only 16 patients. Within the same year the clinic was serving 2,000 patients.

Now the organization has 14 clinics located throughout Los Banos, Merced, Dos Palos, Gustine, Planada, Le Grand, Newman, Modesto, Turlock, Patterson and Westley. The clinics offer dental and medical care including family practice, obstetrics-gynecology and internal medicine. The clinics treat approximately a total of 50,000 patients a year.

According to the dental department manager of the Los Banos facility, Michelle Cutler, the clinic's physicians and assistants also visit the Head Start Programs annually and sometimes twice a year to do dental screening. The Los Banos clinic screens more than 250 pre-schoolers. When asked, the GVHC also visits the local elementary schools. "Our community is fortunate to have a quality care facility that offers medical and dental care to anyone regardless of socio-economic circumstances," said Cutler. Cutler has been employed with GVHC for 17 years.

In 1976, the organization received a rural health initiative grant which allowed for the opening of a clinic in Los Banos. It was originally named Nueva Esperanza (New Hope.) In 1977 the clinics expanded to Stanislaus County and in 1985 a new facility was opened in Planada. There are now four GVHC clinics in Modesto. For 25 years GVHC has been improving the health status of many members of the community as stated in its statement of goals and values.

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Winton Times
Atwater Times
Merced County Times

Golden Valley Health Centers celebrated mission of service

From humble beginning in 1972 to one of the nations largest community health center providers, Golden Valley Health Centers celebrated its mission of service to underserved populations and communities last Saturday at Modesto's Red Lion Hotel. More than 350 employees, guests, sponsors and elected officials attended.

Olga Pardon, a certified medical assistant, was honored as the 1996 Employee of the Year. Pardon remarked that, "Golden Valley was very, very small back then. We only had three exam rooms in the beginning." Pardon was nominated by her fellow employees for her advocacy, always reminding patients to tell the doctor everything.

Board member Flora Martinez of Planada was given a special award for her 25 years of service to the community. Martinez was

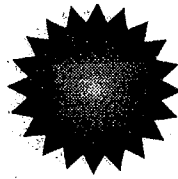
of Golden Valley by Chief Executive Officer Michael Sullivan.

Senator Dick Monteith provided certificates of appreciation to the Board of Directors, and in his remarks praised Golden Valley for the vital health care of inestimable value that has been provided for the people of the Central Valley which reflects the talents and commitments of its administrators, doctors and dentists.

Modesto Mayor Dick Lang said Modesto is proud to have four Golden Valley facilities, and as a teacher, he is particularly proud of Golden Valley's association with the Modesto City School district by sponsorship of two school-based clinics.

Barbara Sullivan, Merced's Mayor pro-Tempore, said she was proud of Golden Valley's commitment of quality service to the

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Clinic Spotlight

Golden Valley Health Celebrates Its Silver

A lot can change in 25 years, and Golden Valley Health Centers (GVHC)—founded in 1972 and steeped in the spirit of that time—has undergone its share of change. Formerly known as the Merced Family Health Centers, the agency changed to its current name two years ago. From its one original single site have sprung 12 more, spread out across Merced and Stanislaus counties.

Today, the health center system serves 49,000 patients each year. Over the years, GVHC has collected many hoorays—such as its recent designation as the 1996 Merced Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year—and a few harrumphs, such as those generated in the early 1980s when the local school district tried to commandeer the agency's land for a new elementary school. And CEO Mike Sullivan is working to ensure that the system he has led since its founding 25 years ago continues to change and meet both current and future challenges.



GVHC/Dos Palos Staff from left to right. Minnie Arroyo, Delia Zamudio, Marie Guintini, Yanel Suarez Mary Clements, Joseph Chavarria and Dr. Rodriguez

Health Center Will Celebrate 25 Years

Golden Valley Health Center of Dos Palos will be celebrating its 25th anniversary with a health fair on Wednesday September 24, 1997, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. There will be free medical screening, face painting, music, cookies, popcorn, drinks, giveaways and much more. Head Start and Wic Office will join us in

the special event.

The Health Center first opened its doors on January 5, 1987 to serve the health needs of Dos Palos residents. GVHC is a non-profit, community governed agency with other health centers in Los Banos, Merced, Gustine, LeGrand, Modesto, Patterson, Planada and Turlock. Its mission is to pro-

vide quality health care at reasonable cost, especially to people in need.

Golden Valley Health Center would like to thank all of its loyal and dedicated patients who made this success possible, we are proud to celebrate our 25th anniversary with you and invite you to this very special event.