

# HealthLINK

WINTER 2025

YOUR CONNECTION TO HEALTH & WELLNESS

## HEARTS, MINDS, CONNECTIONS

VALLEY HEALTH'S STRONGER TOGETHER CAMPAIGN EXPANDS  
CRITICAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

### INSIDE:

Breakthroughs in  
treating arrhythmias /  
Identifying the  
vital health needs of  
our community /  
New mental health  
crisis care unit



 **ValleyHealth**  
*Healthier, together.*

# WELCOME

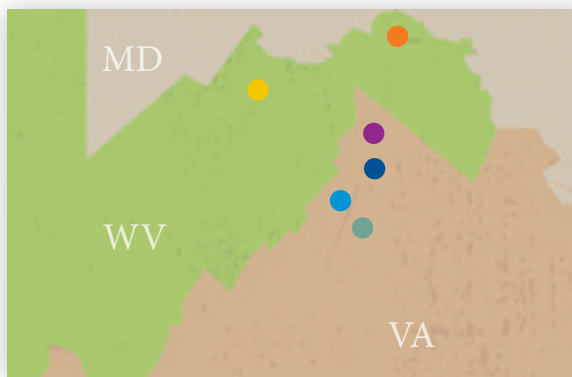
## STRONGER TOGETHER

In every issue of *HealthLINK*, we spotlight what makes Valley Health one of the best health care systems in the country, whether it is our advanced technology, compassionate caregivers or the expansion of our services in the region. But none of this would be possible without your support.

The partnerships we forge with community members and organizations help assure that our loved ones receive health care that is accessible, affordable and exceptional for all. In this issue, we highlight our Stronger Together campaign: *Hearts, Minds, Connections*. Through this campaign, we aim to raise money to improve and expand our cardiovascular, behavioral health and mobile unit services. With your support, we will be better able to help and serve our neighbors, friends and loved ones ... and you!

Also in this issue, you will find information about the services, providers and technology we offer at Valley Health hospitals and facilities. Learn about heart procedures that save lives and shorten recovery time, our new practices and providers, and the caregivers who go above and beyond in providing you the best patient experience.

*On the cover: cardiologist Daniel Alexander, DO; donor Gerald "J.J." Smith; Winchester Medical Center President Tonya Smith; and President and CEO Mark Nantz.*



Valley Health is a not-for-profit system of hospitals, services and providers. For more information about the many ways we serve the health and wellness needs of the community, visit [valleyhealthlink.com/community](http://valleyhealthlink.com/community).

### Valley Health System includes:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| ● Winchester Medical Center (Winchester, VA) | ● Page Memorial Hospital (Luray, VA)           | ● War Memorial Hospital (Berkeley Springs, WV) |
| ● Hampshire Memorial Hospital (Romney, WV)   | ● Shenandoah Memorial Hospital (Woodstock, VA) | ● Warren Memorial Hospital (Front Royal, VA)   |

### Additional locations and services:

- |  |   |                              |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| — Employer Health                                    | — Valley Health Home Health   West Virginia | — Valley Medical Transport   |
| — Outreach Lab Services                              | — Valley Health Medical Group               | — Valley Pharmacy            |
| — Rehabilitation Services (Inpatient and Outpatient) | — Valley Health   Spring Mills              | — Wellness & Fitness Centers |
| — Urgent Care and Urgent Care Express                | — Valley Health Surgery Center              | — Tri-State Surgical Center  |

For more information, visit [valleyhealthlink.com/locations](http://valleyhealthlink.com/locations).



### Valley Health System

Serving Our Community by Improving Health

### HealthLINK

The magazine of Valley Health System  
Serving the Northern Shenandoah Valley, the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and the surrounding areas

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- Heather Sigel, Vice President, Operations, War Memorial Hospital and Hampshire Memorial Hospital
- Tonya Smith, President, Winchester Medical Center

The information contained in *HealthLINK* is not a substitute for professional medical care or counsel. If you have medical concerns, consult a medical professional. A list of physicians, specialists and other care providers is found at [valleyhealthlink.com/physicians](http://valleyhealthlink.com/physicians).

*HealthLINK* magazine is published three times a year. Its purpose is to provide health and wellness information to the community and to connect area residents with healthcare experts within Valley Health System.

Contact questions@valleyhealthlink.com or 540-536-5325 to be added to our mailing list; view *HealthLINK* online at [valleyhealthlink.com/news](http://valleyhealthlink.com/news).

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N. Travis Clark

## CLARK SHINES BRIGHT WITH COMMUNITY STAR AWARD

N. Travis Clark, Valley Health vice president of operations at Page Memorial Hospital in Luray, Virginia, and Shenandoah Memorial Hospital in Woodstock, Virginia, has been honored with the prestigious Community Star award by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH). Clark is the sole health care executive in the commonwealth to receive this accolade this year.

The NOSORH Community Star Recognition Program, established in 2015 to coincide with National Rural Health Day (November 21), celebrates individuals and organizations making significant contributions to rural communities. Since its inception, over 300 health care leaders and organizations have been honored as Community Stars.

In an effort to address food insecurity challenges, Clark helped organize a number of community gardens on several Valley Health campuses in Page and Shenandoah counties that yielded over 7,000 pounds of produce last year. In addition, Clark was appointed to the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association's Rural Health Task Force with the aim of advancing rural health across the state. Recently, the task force submitted a report with recommendations to address such issues as behavioral and maternal health services, transportation, and workforce development.

"I am deeply honored to be a recipient of this award," says Clark. "It takes a team to advance rural health on a local, regional, state and national effort. No one knows that better than the dedicated men and women who come to work every day in our hospitals and provide the expert care that our communities deserve. I'm just thankful that I can be one of the voices that advocates for our families, friends and neighbors."

## HEALTHIER TOGETHER

### EMPATH UNIT OFFERS MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN A THERAPEUTIC SETTING

This fall, Valley Health opened the Valley Health Emergency, Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment, and Healing (EmPATH) unit. This new facility is the first of its kind in the Northern Shenandoah Valley, offering immediate mental health care in a therapeutic environment and setting a new standard for mental health crisis care.

Located at Winchester Medical Center, the EmPATH unit provides an alternative to the emergency room for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. As the first EmPATH unit in a hospital setting in Virginia that accepts direct patient walk-ins, it ensures timely and appropriate care in an environment designed to accommodate the needs of these patients.

"Meeting mental health needs is a top priority for Valley Health," says Mark Nantz, President and CEO of Valley Health. "The EmPATH unit represents a significant advancement in mental health care, offering a safe and supportive environment for those in crisis. It provides immediate assessment, treatment and healing, underscoring Valley Health's dedication to creating a comprehensive mental health crisis response system in the Northern Shenandoah Valley."



The Valley Health Emergency, Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment, and Healing (EmPATH) unit opened in October with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

## GROWING TO MEET OUR COMMUNITY'S NEEDS

Several construction projects are helping expand access to primary care services in and around Shenandoah County



### STRASBURG

Last November, Valley Health officials cut the ribbon on a new \$8.4 million, 14,000-plus-square-foot medical office building located at 33699 Old Valley Pike in Strasburg, Virginia.

Most of the new space is now home to Valley Health Primary Care | Strasburg, formerly known as Valley Health Shenandoah Memorial Hospital Family Medicine and previously located across the street from the new facility. The expanded area includes 15 exam rooms with a spacious treatment room and larger nurses' station. New patients are being seen by Katelyn Carpenter, MD; William Dressler, MD; Craig Phillips, MD; Elizabeth Holladay, PA; and Sarah Schlenz, PA.

The medical office building is also now home to Urgent Care Express. With over 2,200 square feet of space and four exam rooms, Urgent Care Express offers walk-in care for those in need of non-emergent care. An outpatient laboratory is also housed in the new facility, offering routine blood draws and other prescribed blood work.

*To learn more or to schedule an appointment:*

- **Primary Care:** Visit [valleyhealthlink.com/primarycarestrasburg](https://valleyhealthlink.com/primarycarestrasburg) or call **540-459-1410**.
- **Urgent Care Express:** Visit [vhurgentcare.com](https://vhurgentcare.com) or call **540-459-1310**.
- **Laboratory Services:** Visit [valleyhealthlink.com/lab](https://valleyhealthlink.com/lab) or call **540-459-1420**.

### WOODSTOCK

Construction continues on a \$5 million renovation project that will improve access to both pediatric and behavioral health services. Located in the former Outpatient Rehabilitation on the north side of Shenandoah Memorial Hospital, the project is expected to be completed by this spring.

More than 4,000 square feet of the new space will be home to Valley Health Shenandoah Memorial Hospital Pediatrics, which will see an increase from seven to 11 exam rooms and feature separate waiting areas for well and sick children. Anthony Neri, MD; Danielle Lutman, DNP; and Lauren Mies, CPNP, will continue to provide a wide array of services, including wellness checks, immunizations, school and sports physicals, growth and development and behavior disorder evaluations, lactation consults, and diagnosis and treatment of illnesses and injuries.

Outpatient Behavioral Health Services will relocate into a 3,000-square-foot area that features larger, more welcoming therapist and group therapy rooms as well as additional provider offices. Late last year, Lakuma Mogili, MD, joined the clinical team, which includes Kathryn Lechner, PNP; Alexandra Macalle, PNP; and Annabelle Sizemore, NP. The new facility will also allow the hospital to reestablish its Mental Health Intensive Outpatient Program (MHIOP), which was paused shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic, and expand its age eligibility to include patients 18 and older.

*To learn more or to schedule an appointment:*

- **Pediatrics:** Visit [valleyhealthlink.com/smhped](https://valleyhealthlink.com/smhped) or call **540-459-1325**.
- **Behavioral Health:** Visit [valleyhealthlink.com/behavioralshen](https://valleyhealthlink.com/behavioralshen) or call **540-459-1262**.



## GETTING TO KNOW LONGTIME PHYSICIAN JAMES DALE, DO, PAGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

A graduate of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. James Dale came to Luray in 1983 through the National Public Health Program, which had a two-year service commitment. Dr. Dale established a medical practice with the help of his wife, Denise, who served as the practice manager. “It was going really well,” Dr. Dale recalls, “so we decided not to leave.” He went on to become the Page County Medical Examiner, as well as a member of the Valley Health Board of Trustees. He also is a beloved neighbor, known to area residents as a dedicated basketball coach in his off hours.

In 2015, Dr. Dale’s practice joined Valley Health, where he continues serving much of the same community he has grown to know so well. Denise joined Valley Health, too, as director of rural health clinic regulations. There have been challenges along the way—such as managing care at Page Memorial Hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic—but, in the end, Dr. Dale says the experience has been deeply rewarding.

“I think you become a better doctor if you work in a rural health setting,” he says. “You get to know people very well, and you are doing something that is really making a difference.”



James Dale, DO



## TAKING STEPS TO A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

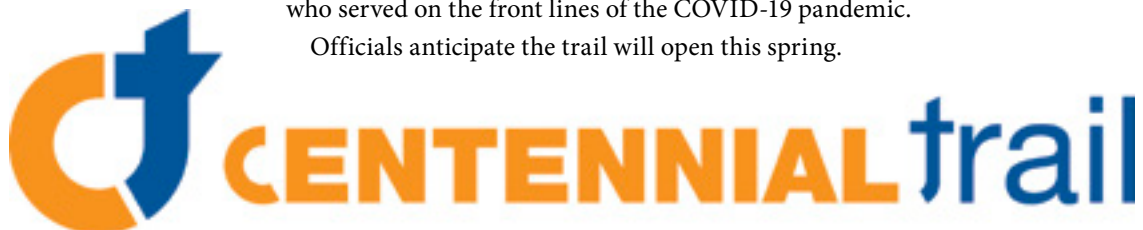
With generous support from the community and in partnership with the Page Memorial Hospital Foundation, a new outdoor walking option will soon be available on the campus of the Luray hospital, located near the intersection of Memorial and Montvue drives.

The Centennial Trail, named to commemorate the hospital’s upcoming 100th anniversary in 2028, will offer caregivers, patients, family members and the community a safe and simple way to incorporate more exercise into their day while reaping the many benefits nature has to offer.

The approximately 1,000-foot asphalt loop, which will be handicap accessible, will incorporate seating and picnic tables, a water feature, shade sail, and lots of green space.

In addition to the peaceful respite, the trail will serve as a tribute to our health care heroes who served on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Officials anticipate the trail will open this spring.



# CARE YOU CAN COUNT ON

WHEN YOU NEED A LITTLE MORE HELP GETTING BACK ON YOUR FEET

It isn't uncommon for a patient who has experienced a major medical event or serious illness, such as a heart attack, joint replacement or pneumonia, to need additional nursing and rehabilitative care after their initial inpatient hospital stay. Fortunately for those living in and around Page and Shenandoah counties, Valley Health has a strong network of Transitional Care services that provide comprehensive short-term care in a safe and secure setting.

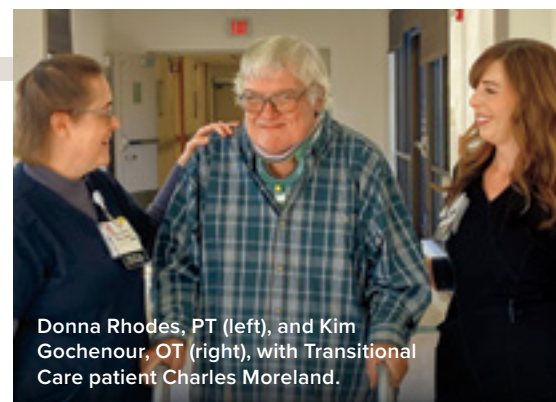
"We see a wide range of patients, and not everyone requires the same level of care or services," explains Jenna Shuler, RN, PMH clinical manager. "But the one thing they all have in common is that they and their families are very thankful to have the extra support and monitoring they need to get back on the path to better health."

Working in concert, nurses, therapists and case managers take a multidisciplinary approach to ensure that patient goals are met. Services can include intravenous (IV) medication management, specialized wound care, and building strength and stamina to maximize recovery and functional independence so that patients can better perform everyday activities such as dressing, bathing, eating, and transferring in

and out of a bed or chair.

"Our primary goal is always to return patients to the highest level of independence possible so they can be as successful as possible and thrive, whether they are returning home or transferring to another facility," explains Kim Gochenour, an occupational therapist who is the team lead for inpatient Rehabilitation Services at Shenandoah Memorial Hospital.

As federally designated Critical Access Hospitals, both programs have 10 Transitional Care beds, which, as Shuler explains, allows for a lower patient-to-care-provider ratio than other non-hospital-based facilities. "It isn't uncommon for patients dealing with chronic conditions that result in frequent hospitalizations to return to us, and as a result, the care we provide here becomes very



Donna Rhodes, PT (left), and Kim Gochenour, OT (right), with Transitional Care patient Charles Moreland.

personal," she says.

"We put a lot of energy and heart into providing care," Gochenour adds. "We become very familiar with and attached to our patients as well as their families, whom we consider to be important members of the care team. It's extremely gratifying to know we are making a positive impact on their lives. Their successes truly become our successes."

To learn more about Transitional Care services offered throughout Valley Health, visit [valleyhealthlink.com/transitionalcare](https://valleyhealthlink.com/transitionalcare) or call Page Memorial Hospital at 540-743-8059 or Shenandoah Memorial Hospital at 540-459-1187 or 540-459-1189.

From left: members of the Transitional Care team Laura Morey, PT; Tiffany Gladwell, CNA; and Clinical Manager Jenna Shuler.



## IDENTIFYING OUR COMMUNITY'S HEALTH NEEDS

VALLEY HEALTH'S COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROVIDES AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT PRIORITIES

Health issues affecting individuals and communities across our country are frequent stories in the news and in our social media feeds. However, it is important for Valley Health to understand the specific health needs that are most critical here in the Northern Shenandoah Valley and surrounding region.

Valley Health conducts Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) for each of our six hospitals to identify the health needs of the residents we serve. As part of the CHNA, Valley Health partners with the Virginia Department of Health, area nonprofit organizations, local government officials and other key community stakeholders to learn where gaps in services exist and to identify priorities for action.

The last CHNA was completed in 2022 and found consistent health priorities across our region: chronic disease and health behaviors; mental health and substance abuse; access to primary, preventive and clinical care; and social and economic factors that impact health. The Stronger Together capital campaign and Valley Health's grants to local nonprofit organizations are examples of Valley Health's response to the results of the 2022 CHNA.

Completed every three years, the 2025 CHNA began with the launch of a community health survey in November 2024. The survey included questions about health issues and behaviors, along with community-wide concerns such as economic stability, housing availability and transportation. The survey results will be supplemented with stakeholder interviews, community response sessions, and comparison with state and national data.

Once the health needs assessments are completed in July 2025, each Valley Health hospital will develop strategies addressing the identified needs. These strategies will be implemented over the next three years.

For more information about Valley Health's Community Health Needs Assessments, visit [valleyhealthlink.com/CHNA](https://valleyhealthlink.com/CHNA).



## VALLEY HEALTH GRANTS ADDRESS PRIORITY NEEDS

Ongoing support of area nonprofit organizations is guided by the results of the CHNA

Each year, Valley Health provides over \$1 million to area nonprofit organizations that address the critical health needs identified in the CHNA, including \$200,000 in Community Partnership Grants. Grant recipients are selected through a competitive application process that evaluates how their proposed projects align with Valley Health strategies and address needs identified in the CHNA.

Examples of organizations awarded Community Partnership Grants in 2024 include Horizon Goodwill Industries, Inc. (Winchester, VA), Winchester Area Temporary Transitional Shelter, Mountaineer Community Health Center, Inc. (Paw Paw, WV) and Bread of Life Food Pantry (Woodstock, VA).

Organizations receiving 2025 Community Partnership Grants will be announced in April.

For more information about Valley Health's commitment to our community, visit [valleyhealthlink.com/community](https://valleyhealthlink.com/community).



# STRONGER

# TOGETHER

➔ WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF DONORS LIKE GERALD “J.J.” SMITH, VALLEY HEALTH IS LEADING A TRANSFORMATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BETTER SERVE OUR COMMUNITY’S HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Gerald “J.J.” Smith, 63, has lived most of his life in Winchester, and so have generations of his family. “My three children were born at Winchester Medical Center,” he says. “My grandparents and mother received care for heart disease and cancer there, too.”

Now, Smith is giving back to the community with a generous philanthropic gift to Valley Health’s Stronger Together fundraising campaign, which will help expand access to essential health services in the region. “I believe in the mission of Valley Health,” he says. “I think we have a great health system, with great people. It’s pretty impressive to have this in our community.”

Stronger Together aims to raise \$20 million by December 2026 to fund new space to enhance state-of-the-art cardiovascular technologies, expand mental health care for teens and adults, and equip mobile health vans to bring lifesaving screenings, vaccines and health care access directly to area residents.

As part of the campaign and thanks to Smith’s donation, Valley Health’s Heart & Vascular Center will be expanded and has been named the Clyde A. Smith Heart & Vascular Center in honor of Smith’s grandfather, founder of the family rendering business that grew to become Valley Proteins of Winchester. (The company was sold in 2022.) Access to advanced heart care close to home is important, says Smith, who is also a member of the Valley Health Board of Trustees. “My grandfather

had his first heart attack at age 39 and died from heart disease in his early 50s. I have no doubt he would have lived into his 70s with the kinds of treatments we have today.”

Contributions of any size to Stronger Together will improve care for patients and their families, friends and neighbors. “Not everyone can make a large gift,” Smith says. “But when many people make smaller gifts, the impact is the same. Health care improves for all of us.”

*stronger*  
TOGETHER

HEARTS • MINDS • CONNECTIONS



## HEARTS, MINDS, CONNECTIONS

As a not-for-profit health care system, Valley Health invests back into the community to address unmet health needs. But those resources alone cannot eliminate all gaps in care.

Stronger Together focuses on “Hearts, Minds, Connections”—top needs identified in Valley Health’s recent





Donor Gerald "J.J." Smith stands in front of the Heart & Vascular Center named in honor of his grandfather.

health needs assessment as well as in outreach by the health system's hospital foundations. Valley Health gathered information from over 2,000 people who live and work in the region, including community residents, members of faith-based organizations, health care providers, elected officials, health professionals and leadership from each of Valley Health's six hospitals.

Here's what to know about the exciting projects funded by Stronger Together that will improve the future of health care for those in the Northern Shenandoah Valley and surrounding regions.

#### ADVANCING CARE FOR HEART AND VASCULAR HEALTH

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for American men and women. Some cardiovascular conditions impact the region at rates higher than the national average. Atrial fibrillation (AFib) and other heart arrhythmias, for example, affect one in 18 Americans, but are even more prevalent in the Valley Health community as the area attracts a growing number of retirees.

The Stronger Together campaign will make possible the building of an additional procedure room at the Clyde A. Smith Heart & Vascular

Center to expand access to lifesaving and life-improving care. Existing procedure rooms will be updated to increase treatment options for AFib and other heart concerns. Treating AFib is important; the condition increases stroke risk fivefold. "Technology is rapidly changing," says Julie Miksit, RN, vice president of operations and service lines at Valley Health. "Our donors' gifts will help us improve access and provide new technology, helping us care for our patients in the Shenandoah Valley."

Valley Health already has a national reputation for excellence. In 2023, Winchester Medical Center was named a top 50 cardiovascular hospital by *Fortune* magazine and the information technology company PINC AI. Increased investment in the Clyde A. Smith Heart & Vascular Center will continue to attract prominent providers in the field.

"We are poised to be a heart and vascular center that makes a long-term impact on the cardiovascular health of the entire Shenandoah Valley," says cardiologist Daniel Alexander, DO, of Winchester Cardiology and Vascular

# STRONGER TOGETHER

Medicine. “With a program of this caliber, we are able to provide long-reaching care to both our northern and southern communities. Our goal is to treat complex cardiovascular conditions including valvular, coronary and electrical disorders; teach the new generation of cardiovascular specialists; and decrease the burden of cardiovascular disease in our region. We want a healthy population that is able to do the great things that folks in the Valley have always done.”

## A MENTAL HEALTH CENTER AND LIFE-CHANGING CARE NETWORK

Mental health emerged as the highest-priority health need across all of Valley Health’s service areas. Adults and young people alike need help with depression, anxiety, stress, substance use disorders, relationship issues and other concerns. Valley Health is already expanding services in these areas, and Stronger Together will add new dimensions and new accessibility, so that care is convenient and closer to home.

“Everyone in this community is impacted by behavioral health,” says Karen Dorr, DNP, senior director of Behavioral Health Services at Valley Health. “When you make a gift to Stronger Together, you’re helping everyone—adults, kids, schools, law enforcement. It’s huge. It ripples out into the community.”

The campaign will fund construction of Valley Health’s mental health center. This freestanding facility on the Winchester Medical Center campus will be a place to heal, thrive and restore relationships for individuals and others in their life. It will house new youth programs that protect and support mental health and provide treatment for substance use disorders, including intensive outpatient programs that provide young people with ongoing support as they transition back home after inpatient care. The center will also expand adult mental

“Everyone in this community is impacted by behavioral health. When you make a gift to Stronger Together, you’re helping everyone—adults, kids, schools, law enforcement. It’s huge. It ripples out into the community.” —KAREN DORR, DNP, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AT VALLEY HEALTH

health services, including treatment of substance use disorders, which will decrease the need for social services interventions and reduce fatal overdoses. Stronger Together will establish a digital health center that puts contact with Valley Health mental health providers at the fingertips of community medical practices so people can receive prompt mental health care.

“We hope to move into more areas of care,” says psychiatrist Louis Nardelli, DO, of Valley Behavioral Health. “People with anxiety, depression, stress or who feel overwhelmed will have access to providers who can help. I hope the center can extend beyond that and help with preventive mental health care through screening and psychological education. We are also going to develop a geriatric program for older adults, including memory care. And if a person is diagnosed with a medical condition that they have difficulty coping with, the center will be a resource for them, too. The vision is that it will be a center for hope, a center for resilience.”

## MOBILE HEALTH CARE THAT COMES TO YOU

If you’re busy with work and family, lack transportation, or live far from health services, getting regular medical care can be a major challenge. Too often, people delay or skip health screenings, vaccines and other vital services as a result—and that can lead to the discovery of medical conditions in more advanced stages and the need for more intensive treatment and emergency department visits.

One solution to this challenge is health care that travels to your community, church, school or place of work.

Currently, less than 50% of eligible women in the community get their annual screening mammogram. Stronger Together will fund mobile health vans that bring preventive services, including mammograms, out to the communities. “We know that mammograms save lives. But a significant number of women are not getting their mammogram every year,” says Christopher Nieman, MD, of Winchester Radiologists. “If we catch even one incidence of breast cancer with mobile mammography when it is early and treatable with a good outcome, that is one life saved.”

Many people in the region live 30 to 40 minutes away from their primary care provider and over an hour away from a specialist. Mobile health units will have telehealth





From left: Valley Health CEO and President Mark Nantz; Senior Vice President, Acute Care, and Winchester Medical Center President Tonya Smith; donor Gerald “J.J.” Smith; and Valley Health Foundations Executive Director Jenny Grooms next to a portrait of Clyde Smith.

capability and a nurse or other practitioner trained in telehealth onboard, so patients can see their primary care practitioner or specialist via telehealth without making a long drive or missing too much time away from work or home.

Onboard the van, a practitioner trained to facilitate a telehealth appointment will provide the necessary medical care, such as drawing blood for testing, conducting a physical or neurological exam or positioning equipment so the doctor on-screen can see inside a patient’s ear or hear their heartbeat. “By bringing care to patients, we help them be healthier in the long run,” says Jeffrey Feit, MD, chief population health officer and chief medical information officer for Valley Health.

## HOW TO GIVE

Healthier lives and healthier communities are easier to achieve when a community works together. To date, Stronger Together is off to a successful start, raising \$16.7 million from foundational donors like Smith. The mental health center and mobile mammography van have also received transformational gifts whose stories will be shared soon. The \$3 million to be raised in the next two years will achieve the campaign goal and ensure that these crucial services become reality.

“Our Foundations connect resources to mission, much like we did when making the freestanding Cancer Center possible in our community,” says Jenny Grooms, executive director of Valley Health Foundations. “Every dollar to Stronger Together is a contribution to your community. It’s a courageous ask—and I am humbled and grateful for those that raised their hand and said they want to be part of the solution to our community’s greatest needs.”

“By working together, we can touch the lives of everyone in our community,” adds Mark Nantz, President and CEO of Valley Health. “From youth struggling with mental health, to adults dealing with heart disease, to a woman who cannot miss work to get a mammogram. No gift is too small, and every donation is essential in helping Valley Health continue to address crucial health needs in our community.”

*To support the campaign or learn more, please visit  
[valleyhealthlink.com/stronger](http://valleyhealthlink.com/stronger).*

# GETTING A CLEAR PICTURE OF YOUR HEALTH

➔ MEDICAL IMAGING HAS COME A LONG WAY IN HELPING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS DIAGNOSE, MONITOR AND TREAT A VARIETY OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THE EARLY DETECTION OF DISEASES, DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE TREATMENT PLANS, AND MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE PLANS. IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT FOR THE MORE THAN 35 MEDICAL IMAGING TECHNOLOGISTS AND ASSOCIATES WHO WORK AT PAGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND SHENANDOAH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, WE FIRMLY BELIEVE IT'S WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE THAT COUNTS.

1895

THE YEAR THAT GERMAN PHYSICIST  
WILHELM CONRAD RÖNTGEN CAPTURED  
THE FIRST-EVER X-RAY PICTURE USING  
HIS WIFE'S HAND. TODAY, NEARLY 150  
MILLION X-RAY PROCEDURES ARE  
PERFORMED IN THE U.S. EACH YEAR!

59,781

THE NUMBER OF MEDICAL IMAGING PROCEDURES  
PERFORMED AT BOTH PMH AND SMH IN 2023.

(23,180)

PATIENTS TURNED  
TO PMH AND SMH FOR  
THEIR MEDICAL  
IMAGING NEEDS IN 2023.

THERE ARE **NINE MEDICAL IMAGING MODALITIES** AVAILABLE AT **PAGE AND SHENANDOAH**. THESE ARE: BONE DENSITY, ECHOCARDIOGRAM, CT (COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY) SCAN, FLUOROSCOPY, MAMMOGRAPHY (INCLUDING 3D), MRI, NUCLEAR MEDICINE, ULTRASOUND AND X-RAY.

1,000+

THE NUMBER OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF PROCEDURES THAT CAN  
BE PERFORMED ACROSS ALL MEDICAL IMAGING MODALITIES.

AN MRI MAGNET IS 140,000  
TIMES STRONGER THAN THE  
EARTH'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL.



# NEW PROVIDERS

## MEETING YOUR NEEDS

Valley Health is pleased to welcome the following providers to help you on your wellness journey

### VALLEY HEALTH PAGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MULTISPECIALTY CLINIC 540-743-2282

#### Family Medicine



• Cheyanne Dolan, MPAS, PA-C, Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, James Madison University



• Mae Stefanie Lee Finley, PA, Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, Frostburg State University



• Niklas Mikelson, FNP-C, Master of Science, Family Nurse Practitioner, James Madison University

### VALLEY HEALTH PAGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FAMILY MEDICINE | SHENANDOAH 540-652-9100

#### Family Medicine



• Stephanie Rowe, PA-C, Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, James Madison University

### VALLEY HEALTH PAGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FAMILY & INTERNAL MEDICINE 540-743-2887

#### Family Medicine



• Jeffery Bowers, MD, Doctor of Medicine, Thomas Jefferson University, board certified in family medicine



• Niklas Mikelson, FNP-C, Master of Science, Family Nurse Practitioner, James Madison University

### VALLEY HEALTH PRIMARY CARE | STRASBURG 540-459-1410

#### Family Medicine



• Katelyn Carpenter, MD, Doctor of Medicine, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, board certified in family medicine



• Craig Phillips, MD, Doctor of Medicine, East Tennessee State University, board certified in family medicine

### VALLEY HEALTH SHENANDOAH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MULTISPECIALTY CLINIC 540-459-1383

#### Internal Medicine



• Yazeed Sweedan, MD, Doctor of Medicine, Jordan University of Science and Technology, board certified in internal medicine

#### Obstetrics & Gynecology



• Lindsey Ingram, NP, Master of Science in Women's Health, Nurse Practitioner, Georgetown University

#### Orthopedics



• William Lennen, MD, Doctor of Medicine, Georgetown University, board certified in orthopedic surgery

### VALLEY HEALTH SHENANDOAH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH 540-459-1262

#### Psychiatry



• Lakuma Mogili, MD, Doctor of Medicine, Gulbarga University/Mahadevappa Rampure Medical College, board certified in psychiatry and neurology



• Annabelle Sizemore, NP, Master of Science in Nursing, James Madison University

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# SPOTLIGHT



## A NEW OPTION FOR TREATING ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

**Pulsed field ablation reduces risks and brings success to patients with arrhythmias**

Electrophysiologists at Winchester Medical Center are among the first in the region to offer a new treatment option to patients with atrial fibrillation (AFib), a heart condition that results in an abnormal heart rhythm and carries the risk of stroke, heart failure and blood clots.

Symptoms of AFib include heart palpitations, shortness of breath, extreme fatigue and chest pain. The condition results in about 158,000 deaths each year in

the U.S. and causes about one in seven strokes, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Risk factors include obesity, smoking, high blood pressure, advancing age, heart failure and diabetes.

Depending on the individual patient's needs, treatment for AFib may involve lifestyle changes, medications or a procedure called an ablation. The electrophysiologists at Winchester Medical Center (WMC) perform minimally invasive ablations using catheters inserted through vessels in the leg. Ablation techniques have traditionally used heat or cold energy to disable the heart cells that are the source of the electrical abnormality, thereby restoring a regular heartbeat.





Members of the Winchester Medical Center electrophysiology team, including Todd Teigeler, MD (center); Emmanuel Ekanem, MD (front row, second from right); and Daniel Alexander, DO (far right).

Valley Health is one of the first in the region to implement pulsed field ablation for arrhythmia management.

Pulsed field ablation, or PFA, is a recent FDA-approved technology that uses ultrarapid electrical pulses, rather than thermal energy, to better target myocardial tissue. During PFA, electrical pulses lasting a nanosecond to a microsecond disable cardiac cells, resulting in a safer procedure and more protection for surrounding tissue.

“Having done AFib ablation for the past 15 years, I have seen evolutionary changes that have improved the efficacy, safety and durability of the procedure,” says Daniel Alexander, DO, chairman of the Winchester

Medical Center Electrophysiology Clinical Council. “Pulsed field ablation is the newest energy-delivery device, improving on the safety profile for AFib ablation that will help us treat this condition for a greater number of patients, safely and effectively.”

The electrophysiology team at WMC has used PFA to treat patients with AFib, resulting in shorter procedure times and less time under anesthesia. Most importantly, the precision of this new nonthermal ablation technology allows electrophysiologists to use tightly controlled pulsed electrical fields to target the exact cardiac cells they wish to treat, with reduced risk of injury to surrounding cardiac tissue.

Valley Health electrophysiologist Todd Teigeler, MD, participated in PFA clinical trials and received additional training on the new technology before Valley Health’s first case in June 2024. Since then, Valley Health electrophysiologists have successfully performed multiple cases a week.

“We have been watching the evolution of the science and clinical performance of PFA for years leading up to the first application at Winchester Medical Center,” Teigeler says. “There was remarkable coordination between the doctors, the leadership at Valley Health and industry partners to make this leading-edge technology available to our community as soon as the superior safety profile was validated and received FDA approval. The dedicated team of Valley Health nurses and techs completed specific training on this modality, so that by the time of the first pulsed field ablation case, everyone knew what to do.”

Emmanuel Ekanem, MD, a cardiac electrophysiologist with Winchester Cardiology and Vascular Medicine | Valley Health, played an important role in establishing the safety profile for the new technology, serving as the lead investigator in clinical research of PFA in patients with AFib. Dr. Ekanem is the lead author of a 2024 paper published in the prestigious journal *Nature Medicine* that studies the safety of pulsed field ablation in more than 17,000 patients with atrial fibrillation across Europe.

The advent of pulsed field ablation, he says, is a testament to medical innovation spanning preclinical studies, randomized controlled trials and one of the most comprehensive multinational registries demonstrating its safety in real-world practice.

“The prevalence of atrial fibrillation continues to increase with significant impact on the quality of life and clinical outcomes of our patients,” Dr. Ekanem says. “This represents a major advancement in the treatment of atrial fibrillation. We are excited for the opportunity to use this leading-edge technology to continue to deliver world-class care to our patients in the region.”

For more information, visit [valleyhealthlink.com/winchester-cardiology](https://valleyhealthlink.com/winchester-cardiology).



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