

Summer 2025 Newsletter

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Volunteers in Medicine

COACHELLA VALLEY

A FREE Health Center / GRATIS Centro de Salud

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CVVIM!

A Season of Healing: Your Support Makes Miracles Possible

As summer arrives, I'm filled with gratitude for the warmth you've shown Volunteers in Medicine through your unwavering support. This season has already brought remarkable stories of transformation.

Just last month, Maria walked into our clinic carrying the weight of untreated diabetes that had plagued her for three years. As a working mother of two, she couldn't afford medical care despite working two jobs. Within weeks of beginning treatment, Maria's blood sugar levels stabilized, and she recently told our volunteer physician, "I finally have energy to play with my children again."



This is the power of your generosity in action.

Our dedicated volunteer team has provided over 2,400 patient visits so far this year – each representing a life touched and hope restored. Behind every statistic is a human story: the construction worker now pain-free, the elderly gentleman who avoided a heart attack through preventive care, and the young college student who received her first Pap smear to screen for cervical cancer.

These victories are only possible because donors like you believe quality healthcare should never be a privilege. Your contributions fund dignity, hope, and compassionate care regardless of ability to pay.

As we launch our Summer Campaign, we anticipate an increase in need as many individuals confront the possibility of losing their healthcare coverage. We're serving

essential workers who keep our community running but often lack health insurance – people who work in restaurants, clean offices, maintain landscapes, and care for our elderly.

Every dollar multiplies exponentially. *Our volunteer model means 85 cents of every donation goes directly to patient care.* Your \$50 provides support for a patient to receive 16 hours of group education on diabetes management. Your \$100 covers laboratory testing for a new patient. Your \$250 enables comprehensive care for a new patient.

Your support plants seeds of wellness that flourish in our neighbors' lives. Together, we're nurturing a healthier, stronger community for everyone.

Thank you for being the heart of our mission. With your partnership, excellent healthcare remains accessible to all.

Warmest Regards,

Doug J. Morin
Executive Director

Donate
Today

Volunteer Appreciation Night

On June 6th, we celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Night at the Power Baseball stadium in Palm Springs. It was a fun way to recognize our dedicated volunteers – we could not fulfill our mission without you! Special thanks to the Palm Springs Power for offering this great opportunity to show our volunteers how much we appreciate them. #vimcoachellavalley





VIM Celebrity Golf

The 2025 VIM Celebrity Classic held May 3–4 at the iconic Bermuda Dunes Country Club, brought a spectacular weekend of golf, entertainment, and community spirit — all in support of Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine (CVVIM), the region’s only no-cost health care provider.

This year’s event was sold out at 29 teams and featured a star-studded lineup of celebrities from the worlds of sports, television, film, and music. Their participation helped raise critical funds to support CVVIM’s mission of providing health care to low-income and uninsured residents of the Coachella Valley.





St. Andrew Presbyterian Church



Doug Morin, Pastor Julie, Mark,
Betsy and Suzanne

Pastor Julie Hodges of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Indio visited our clinic with Mission and Outreach Committee members. They presented Executive Director Doug Morin with 25 envelopes, each containing an uplifting message and \$25 in cash. The congregation donated these to support VIM patients with transportation. Many of our patients struggle to pay for gas or need a friend to drive them to VIM, labs, imaging appointments, or the pharmacy. These gifts are a blessing for staff to provide when needs arise. Thank you, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Pastor Hodges, and the Mission and Outreach Committee for this thoughtful gift.

Tax-Smart Use of an IRA

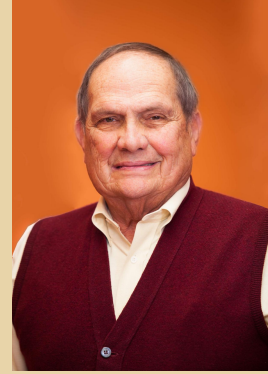
Written By Dr. Roy Pitkin, Volunteer Physician (Former), Board Member (Former), Advisory Committee Member, Legacy Society Member

Support Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine While Reducing Your Taxes

If you are at least 70½ years old and taking distributions (i.e., withdrawals) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), there's a tax-smart way to support Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine (CVVIM) while potentially reducing

your income tax liability. It's called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA to a qualified charitable organization, such as CVVIM. It can count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD) and reduce your taxable income—even if you do not itemize deductions on your tax return.



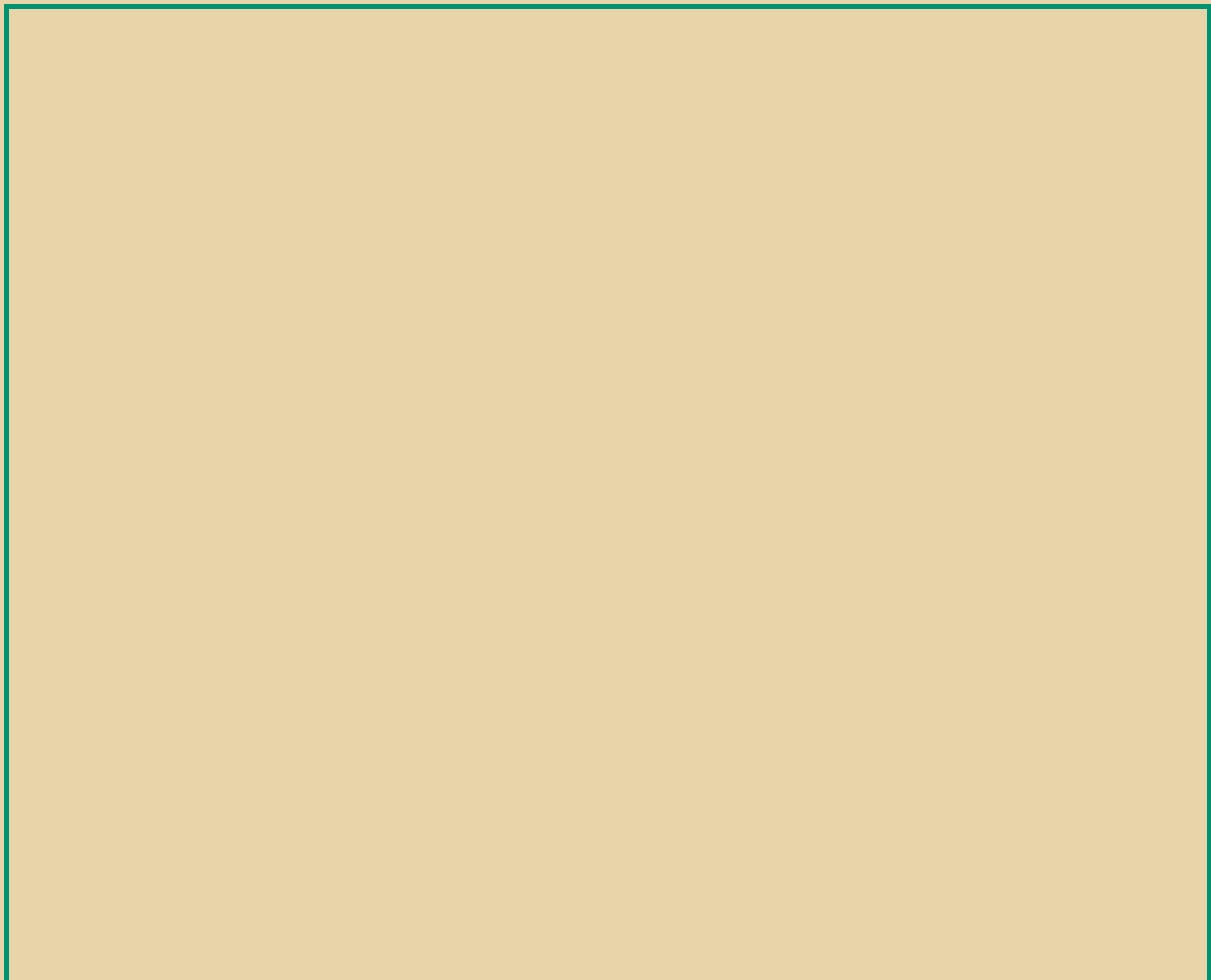
Because the distribution goes directly to a charity, it is not included in your taxable income. This can result in multiple benefits:

- It may help you avoid being pushed into a higher income tax bracket.
- It can lower the amount of your Social Security benefits subject to tax.
- It may reduce your Medicare premiums.

For eligible donors, a QCD is a simple and effective way to make a meaningful impact while enjoying tax advantages.

It's a win-win: You support a vital cause and potentially reduce your tax burden. We encourage you to consult your financial advisor or tax professional to determine whether a QCD is right for you. For more information about supporting CVVIM in this way, please contact us directly.

SAVE THE DATE





THE 2025 VIMY AWARDS

PRESENTED BY DESERT CARE NETWORK

NOVEMBER 6, 2025 at 5 PM

HONORING



ERNESTO C. ROSALES

ENTERTAINMENT



FEMMES OF ROCK



AGUA CALIENTE
RESORT | CASINO | SPA
RANCHO MIRAGE



FOR SPONSORSHIP & TICKET INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT MARY.MARTIN-COOR@CVVIM.ORG OR CALL (760) 625-0737.
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CVVIM.ORG

save THE DATE

We are pleased to announce that the **Volunteers in Medicine VIMY Awards** will be held Thursday, November 6th, 2025, at The Show at Agua Caliente Resort Casino Spa in Rancho Mirage. This special evening includes an elevated dining experience along with a limited live auction of exclusive opportunities and a showstopping performance by the **Femmes of Rock**.

The VIMY Awards recognize an individual or organization that has made significant contributions to healthcare in the Coachella Valley. This year we will be honoring **Ernesto C. Rosales** for the tremendous impact he has made by giving of his time, talent, and support to the valley's nonprofit and healthcare organizations. For more information go to cvvim.org or call (760)

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Meet the Board



Luz Gonzales

Luz joined California Bank of Commerce in 2016 and currently holds the position of VP, Relationship Manager. Luz has had a career of over 20 years in the banking industry, starting as a teller and working her way up to her current position. Luz enjoys working with people and helping them navigate through their banking needs.

Luz also serves on the boards of the Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce, Cathedral City Senior Center, Rotary Club of Rancho Mirage and Valley Crime Stoppers. Luz is passionate about giving back to the community and has a deep appreciation for the Coachella Valley.

In her free time, Luz enjoys spending time with her family.

Meet the Board



Les Zendle, MD, FACP

Dr. Zendle is a graduate of Occidental College (A.B., 1974) and the University of Arizona College of Medicine (M.D., 1977). He practiced Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine at Kaiser Permanente from 1980-2010, during which he serviced as Associate Medical Director for Clinical Services for the Kaiser's Southern California Region (1993-2003) – in charge of clinical analysis, quality improvement, research, graduate medical education and care coordination. He attended the Advanced Management Program (AMP) at Harvard Business School in 1996.

Dr. Zendle has been a volunteer physician at Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine since 2011. He served as a board member from 2011-2016, as well as medical director for several years. He served two 4-year terms as an elected Director of the Desert Healthcare District (2016-2024).

He lives in Palm Springs with his spouse Jerry Hanson and two rescue dogs — Sam and Ella.

[Click here to Meet the Rest of our Team](#)

AWARDS & GRANTS



Our organization earned a 2025 Gold Rating from the National Association of Free & Charitable Clinics (NAFC) Quality Standards Program, which recognizes the policies and procedures we have in place to provide quality care for



**Thank you to our Community
& Funding Partners**

- Walmart #2826 - \$1,300
- Walmart #6609 - \$500
- Champions Volunteer Foundation - \$7,500
- California Association of

our patients.

Free & Charitable Clinics -
\$70,000

- Special Thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert (\$797) for their Share the Plate donation
- Walmart #5096 for \$1000
- RAP Foundation for \$40,000 to support our behavioral health program.



Contact Us
760-342-4414



Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine | 82-915 Avenue 48 | Indio, CA 92201 US

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