

Summer 2026 Newsletter

NEED HELP

ABOUT US

WAYS TO GIVE



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CVVIM!

Beyond Charity: Why Free Primary Care Matters - Now More Than Ever

By: Doug J. Morin, Executive Director

When people hear “free medical care,” they think of charity – compassionate, generous, but optional. In the Coachella Valley, that idea couldn’t be more wrong. Free primary care isn’t charity. It’s essential infrastructure – the difference between prevention and crisis.

Charity care happens after something has already gone wrong. A patient ends up in the emergency room, receives treatment, and the bill is written off if they can’t pay. It’s necessary – but it’s reactive. It doesn’t prevent the illness, or the next emergency that may be even worse.

Free primary care changes that story. It reaches people earlier – before manageable conditions become life-threatening. And the need here is real. **More than 23,000 working-age adults in our community have no health insurance**, leaving thousands without access to basic, routine care, according to the Health Assessment and Research for Communities, 2025 Coachella Valley Community Health Survey, released February 26, 2026. For them, cost isn’t just a barrier – it’s a wall. So they wait. They delay. They hope.

Too often, hope isn’t enough.

Meanwhile, our region faces a shortage of primary care providers, and too many residents rely on emergency rooms for care that should happen in a clinic as shared in Desert Healthcare District and Foundation’s 2023 Market Analysis. It’s the most expensive, least effective way to stay healthy – and it strains our entire system. Free primary care breaks that cycle. It offers consistent care – checkups, medications, chronic disease management – so problems are caught early. And the



impact is undeniable: expanding access to care has been linked to a 44% reduction in emergency room visits according to Gareau et al., JAMA Network Open, July 11, 2023.

This is the difference that matters: charity care pays for illness after it happens. Free primary care prevents it from escalating in the first place.

As we launch our summer campaign – our most critical time of year – we invite you to envision your role clearly. Your support is not just generosity. It is prevention. It is access. It is stability for thousands of our neighbors.

It means a stroke prevented.

A diagnosis caught early.

A life kept on track.

That is not charity. That is impact. And it starts with you.

[Donate Today](#)

EVENTS

A Classic Day of Giving

What an incredible day at the 2026 VIM Celebrity Classic! Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, golfers, volunteers, donors, and community partners, this year's tournament was a tremendous success, raising over \$100,000 to support the free medical care and related services Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine provides to low-income, uninsured adults throughout the Coachella Valley.

From friendly competition on the course to outstanding auction items and countless acts of generosity, the day was filled with fun, fellowship, and a shared commitment to improving the health of our community. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this event such a memorable success. Together, you're helping ensure that quality healthcare remains accessible to those who need it most.







— ★ Presents ★ —

SAVE THE DATE



THE
VIMMY
AWARDS

— PRESENTED BY —
DESERT CARE NETWORK

— ★ ★ —
NOVEMBER 5, 2026 • 6:00 PM
THE SHOW AT AGUA CALIENTE

— Entertainment by —
MAGIC ROCKS

www.magicrocks.com

**Summer Campaign: Because Healthcare Doesn't
Take a Vacation**

Summer in the Coachella Valley can be unforgiving. As temperatures rise, so does the need for accessible healthcare. For thousands of uninsured and low-income residents, an illness or injury doesn't wait for cooler days, and neither does Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine.

Last year, our dedicated volunteer providers and staff delivered more than 4,400 patient encounters, providing primary medical care, behavioral health services, health education, case management, and outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness – all at no cost to our patients.

Every day, we see firsthand how timely medical care changes lives. But providing that care requires medications, laboratory services, medical supplies, and compassionate professionals who are committed to serving our community.

Your support of our Summer Campaign helps ensure that no one has to choose between their health and their finances. Every gift makes a difference and helps keep our doors open for those who need us most.

This summer, you can be the reason someone receives care, hope and a healthier future.

To make a donation, click the button below. Thank you for helping us provide healthcare with dignity, compassion and hope.

[Donate to our Summer Campaign](#)

Patients Here Say "*Thank You*"

By: Stewart B. Fleishman, MD, Past Chair

Volunteers serve at CVVIM in many capacities: in the front office, in the patient areas, at outreach events and at fundraisers.

Many of the people who give their time to CVVIM and the larger community come with different life experiences. Some are hoping for a career in health care, others are applying for advanced degrees – wanting to experience health care to see if it is a good fit. We also have the pleasure of training many members of future health care teams: physicians, advanced practice nurses, new graduates of nursing school, physician assistants, social workers, medical assistants, nutritionists and administrative personnel.

Some simply want to give back to the communities who care for them. Nowhere else can they experience the care of the uninsured and under-insured patients and their families.

At the end of a morning shift, one of our volunteers remarked that working at CVVIM is different in a unique way. "Patients here say *thank you*," said the volunteer, who went on to say that in other clinical settings, patients are quick to complain. "You ask



me to do too many tests. I have too many pills. I can't afford the insurance premiums, deductibles or co-pays."

Working or being treated at CVVIM is a special experience. Something extraordinary happens when payments and billing are not the beginning or end of our visits. Our patients know that, and show their appreciation all the time with hearty thank yous, a big smile or even a blessing. People who provide care in other settings notice the difference, but don't necessarily bring that to our attention in such a plainly stated way.

Our supporters are often not privy of these special encounters, that can only happen due to the generosity of our donors in contributions, time or both.

For that effort, CVVIM says, "**Thank you**" to you.

Honor. Remember. Celebrate

Your engraved brick in the CVVIM Founders Plaza is a lasting tribute that helps provide free healthcare for uninsured members of our community.

Every brick makes a difference.

Reserve your brick today.

Join the many friends of CVVIM who have already become part of our story by purchasing a commemorative brick. Together, we're creating more than a walkway. We're building hope, health, and a healthier future for our neighbors.



CVVIM FOUNDERS PLAZA

*Honoring our Past.
Building our Future.*

A lasting tribute to the visionaries, supporters, and community members who make our mission of free compassionate healthcare possible.

YOUR ENGRAVED BRICK becomes a permanent part of our legacy and helps change lives in our community.

COMPASSION COMMUNITY CARE

CVVIM Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine
A HEALTHCARE HOME

THE SMITH FAMILY FOREVER GRATEFUL

THE BROWN FAMILY SUPPORTING CVVIM SINCE 2015

IN MEMORY OF A LIFE WELL LIVED

IN MEMORY OF JOHN D. WILSON LOVE LIVES ON

HEALTH. HOPE. HEALING.

GIVING BACK GIVING HOPE

CARING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

IN HONOR OF OUR PARENTS THE GARCIA FAMILY

THE WILSON FAMILY PROUD SUPPORTERS OF CVVIM

TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY

LOVE OUR COMMUNITY

DEDICATED TO OUR VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU!

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY
Purchase an engraved brick for yourself, your family, or someone you wish to honor.

HONOR. REMEMBER. CELEBRATE.
Commemorate a loved one, recognize a business, or celebrate a special milestone.

EVERY BRICK MAKES A DIFFERENCE
Your support helps provide free healthcare for uninsured and underserved adults in the Coachella Valley.

Learn more or reserve your personalized brick today! | Visit cvm.org/brick-program-vim

Learn more or reserve your personalized brick

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

In this newsletter, CVVIM is spotlighting board member **David Gandolfo**, who is a successful entrepreneur and real estate developer based in the Palm Springs area – best known for his leadership in the self-storage industry.

As Founder and CEO of Great American Storage, David has developed, owned and managed numerous self-storage and specialty storage facilities throughout California, Hawaii, Florida and North Carolina. A graduate of Indiana University with a degree in Marketing, he began his career with major corporations before relocating to Palm Springs in 2001 to pursue commercial real estate development.



David also serves as our Event Committee chair, where he helps lead fundraising efforts for CVVIM.

≡ 2025 ≡

COMMUNITY
IMPACT
REPORT

is available online!

**Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine**
2025 Community Impact Report

Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine (CVVIM) provides free healthcare services to qualifying patients from its clinics in Palm Springs and Indio. Thanks to the support of its volunteers, who donate their time to those who are uninsured or who do not have the financial means to access care.

This overview summarizes CVVIM's 2025 highlights and the positive impact the nonprofit had on the community.

A Snapshot of Who We Serve

At Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine, patients represent a diverse cross-section of the local community. While many are actively employed, a significant portion are struggling with unemployment or transitional life circumstances – indicating the critical role of accessible, no-cost healthcare.

Key Insights

- Majority Employed (59%)**
Most patients are working full-time – including seasonal positions and self-employed – who lack access to employer-sponsored health care.
- Nearly One-Third Unemployed (31%)**
A substantial segment is actively seeking employment, underscoring the importance of a healthcare safety net during periods of instability.
- Small but Vulnerable Populations (10%)**
Individuals who are retired, disabled, or students represent a smaller slice but often require consistent and ongoing care.

Why This Matters

Access to healthcare remains a challenge – even for those with jobs. Many of CVVIM's patients are part of the working uninsured, balancing employment with limited financial resources and no health coverage. CVVIM bridges this gap by providing comprehensive, no-cost medical services, ensuring that employment does not mean foregoing access to care.

Service Counts

Service Category	# of Services	% of Total
Primary Care Visits	2,422	54.9%
Care Management	317	7.1%
Behavioral Health Services	317	7.0%
Dental Services	307	6.8%
Health Education Services	271	6.0%
Health Education	86	1.9%
Food Support	75	1.7%
Nurse Referrals (Transit Clinic)	27	0.6%
Total Services	4,419	100%



READ IT ONLINE AT

www.cvvim.org/about



[Click here to read our 2025 Impact Statement](#)

MEET OUR STAFF

Alejandra Calderon, Certified Medical Assistant

I have called the Coachella Valley home since I was one year old, spending most of my life in the East Valley. My passion for healthcare led me to become a medical assistant, and I have spent more than 10 years working alongside podiatrists, primary care physicians, and nurse practitioners – gaining experience in a variety of clinical settings.

I am currently pursuing my degree in Psychology and hope to begin a Physician Assistant program in the near future. My goal is to continue serving patients by combining my clinical experience with a deeper understanding of mental health and compassionate, patient-centered care.



My journey with Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine began in 2013 as a volunteer, and I was thrilled to return to the organization in 2022. Today, I serve as the Indio Front Desk & Volunteer Coordinator, where I recruit, onboard, and support our inspiring volunteers, coordinate volunteer appreciation and community events, and help connect compassionate individuals with meaningful opportunities to serve. It is incredibly rewarding to help build a strong volunteer community that expands access to quality healthcare for uninsured members of our community.

Outside of work and school, I enjoy spending time with my partner of over 10 years and our energetic, brown-eyed three-year-old, who keeps us smiling and on our toes every day.

AWARDS & GRANTS



With Deepest Gratitude to the following for:

- **Coeta and Donald Barker Foundation** to support direct patient care needs.



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