

& Onward Upward

Your Progress Report from Community Memorial Healthcare



A Message from Mick Zdeblick President & CEO

Dear friends, colleagues, and fellow community members,

I'd like to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. We

are starting the year by preparing to respond to changes in national healthcare policy. We anticipate significant financial strain on our hospital system due to the "Big Beautiful Bill." Government reimbursement for medical care is expected to be cut by 15–20%. In addition, some members of our community may see their insurance coverage limited or even terminated. As a result, the demand for care in our area will likely rise, just as our resources are stretched thin. While this is challenging, we are doing all we can to manage the impact.

High-quality care remains our primary purpose as we navigate the changes in healthcare policy. As a local and independent nonprofit, we don't answer to corporate interests, government entities, or shareholders. That frees us to invest in the health of our communities in West Ventura County, whether it's through new programs and services, infrastructure updates, advanced technologies, or talented new physicians. Our investments are bolstered by generous philanthropy, thanks to Community Memorial Foundation and Ojai Valley Hospital Foundation.

In closing, I'd like to express my sincere gratitude for our outstanding partnership with Conejo Health. They play a vital role in our Substance Use Navigation Program, the development of Harm Reduction Kits, and the provision of 24/7 support for patients navigating challenges with substance use. Conejo Health's continued engagement with Community Memorial clinical teams and Health Centers has been instrumental in strengthening and expanding services that promote health, dignity, and recovery within our community.

In good health,

Mick Zdeblick

Mick Zdeblick
President & CEO
Community Memorial Healthcare



1,000 Robotic Surgeries — and Counting!

Congratulations to urologist Seyed Khoddami, MD, for reaching an impressive milestone: 1,000 robotic-assisted surgeries at Community Memorial! This achievement is a testament to Dr. Khoddami's dedication and exceptional skill at performing advanced, minimally invasive robotic procedures. Robotic surgery offers patients benefits like less pain, smaller scars, reduced blood loss, shorter hospital stays, and faster recovery.

Dr. Khoddami and his team are pictured here next to the da Vinci Xi® System.



Meet Our New Physicians

A warm welcome to these talented new members of our medical team:

- Kay Anand, MD, Oncology
- Isabella Chen, MD, Oncology
- Preeti Chopra, MD, Allergy/Immunology
- Sheila Ghannadi, MD, Pediatrics
- Karlos Oregel, MD, Oncology
- Nicholas Peterson, MD, Pain Medicine
- Cassandra Thomas, MD, Oncology

An Infusion of Hope

Our Cancer Center offers services and support in one convenient location on the campus of our hospital in Ventura. The expanded and upgraded **Infusion Center** has 14 bays and a broad range of capabilities.

See inside for more about our exceptional cancer care.



OPENED
DECEMBER
2025!

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Community Memorial Pharmacy

Quick & Convenient

Ventura's Only Retail Specialty Pharmacy

Community Memorial Pharmacy is an accredited, open-door retail and specialty pharmacy located on the Loma Vista side of our Ventura hospital campus. We are the only specialty medication pharmacy in Ventura County that offers in-person, open-door consultation. We provide more expertise, shorter wait times, and immediate access to a wider variety of medications than other local pharmacies.

In addition, we offer:

- Free same-day delivery (see details at right)
- Medication oversight and consultation, including injection training
- Monthly patient check-ins and refills
- Continuity of care with our hospitals and health centers
- Assistance in transferring prescriptions from other pharmacies



ACCREDITED
Specialty Pharmacy Accreditation



Community Memorial Pharmacy is accredited by URAC and ACHC for high-quality care for complex specialty medication.



FREE Same-Day Delivery*

- Free same-day delivery for all specialty medications
- Free same-day delivery for all general medications for Community Memorial Health Center patients
- \$7 delivery fee for general medications for non-Community Memorial patients

**To most cities in the county — must receive prescriptions by noon for same-day delivery*

Community Memorial Pharmacy

2790 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, CA 93003 | 805-948-5175

Business Hours

Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 6:00 pm

Saturday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Closed Sundays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day

Community Memorial Cancer Center

& Science Support

A cancer diagnosis brings enough uncertainty without having to worry about where to go for the high-quality care you deserve. Fortunately, Community Memorial Healthcare offers leading-edge cancer care and support, from diagnosis to survivorship, close to home.

Our collaborative teams are experts in the treatment of most types of cancer and deliver high-quality, patient-centered care. We have a wide variety of specialists you might need, from medical and radiation oncologists, to radiologists, surgeons, and pathologists. As part of our expanded cancer program, we have added talented new teams in both medical and hematology oncology.

Our Cancer Center houses an expanded, state-of-the-art Infusion Center (remodeled Fall 2025) and leading-edge radiation therapy. If treatment requires surgery, our surgeons excel at open, laparoscopic, and robot-assisted procedures.



Knowledge & Expertise

Medical Oncology

Our medical oncologists work with patients to develop personalized treatment plans that fit each patient's preferences and general health. Our program offers the latest advancements in chemotherapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, and hormonal therapy. The care team takes a systemic approach to treatment grounded in seamless coordination between surgeons, radiation oncologists, and our Cancer Resource Center.

Hematology Oncology

Hematology Oncology focuses on cancers of the blood, bone marrow, and lymphatic system, such as leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma. This newly expanded program provides care for both malignant and benign blood conditions. Our experts utilize the most sophisticated treatment technologies and can coordinate stem cell transplants when available.

Gynecologic Oncology

Gynecologic Oncology refers to the diagnosis and treatment of cancers of the ovaries, uterus, vagina, cervix, and vulva. Our surgeons routinely perform complex, minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic surgeries of the female reproductive tract, including reconstructive and fertility-sparing procedures. As an early adopter of the da Vinci robotic platform for precise state-of-the-art surgeries, Community Memorial is a regional leader in advanced robotic technologies and procedures.

Cancer Resource Center

On the first floor of our Cancer Center building, our Cancer Resource Center provides a wealth of services, including Nurse Navigators to guide you through your cancer journey and Licensed Clinical Social Workers to help with financial assistance, home care, and more. The Center has a resource library and a wig and hat bank and hosts free classes and support groups.

[Learn more at mycmh.org/cancer](https://mycmh.org/cancer)



A Lifesaving Partnership

On August 11, 2025, Oxnard automobile service consultant and father of three, Nieves Sorano, was working out at the gym with his wife when he suddenly had trouble catching his breath. His arms felt heavy, and he was experiencing brain fog. Fearing a possible stroke or heart attack, the couple left for KAISER PERMANENTE (KP) Urgent Care.

The KP team immediately recognized that Nieves was experiencing a cardiac event. He was rushed by ambulance to Community Memorial Hospital – Ventura. Thanks to a critical partnership between KP and Community Memorial, our facilities regularly treat individuals with KP insurance, especially for emergency, surgical, and labor and delivery care.



Rapid Response & Critical Care

Nieves arrived at the Emergency Room in distress and was immediately seen by the on-call heart specialist, Robert Sogomonian, MD, an interventional cardiologist with Cardiology Associates Medical Group. The Community Memorial cardiology team was ready and waiting. Within 30 minutes, they had rushed Nieves to the Cath Lab and prepped him for treatment. Nieves recalls, “Every team member was in place, active, and performed with total professionalism.”

On to the Cath Lab

Nieves had suffered a frequently fatal cardiac event known as a widowmaker heart attack — specifically a STEMI, in which a coronary artery becomes completely blocked. His medical team’s rapid response — roughly an hour from onset to treatment — was critical to his survival.

At the Cath Lab, dye was injected into Nieves’ coronary arteries to identify the blockage. Using real-time imaging, Dr. Sogomonian guided a catheter through a tiny incision in the patient’s wrist. “It’s like a railroad,” Dr. Sogomonian explains. “We pass wires through the catheter to deliver balloons, stents, and equipment to the heart. Imaging shows the blood flow as we work.”

Using a Penumbra thrombectomy device, Dr. Sogomonian removed the clot, preventing it from moving downstream and blocking another vessel. He then placed a stent to reopen the artery.

A Caring Team & a Happy Outcome

Dr. Sogomonian credits the nursing staff for the successful outcome. “The nurses and techs keep patients calm and are my second eyes during the procedure. It’s a complete team process — a delicate situation where no one thing can go wrong.”

Impressed by the care he received during his hospital stay, Nieves was especially touched when two Cath Lab team members visited him in recovery, giving him the chance to thank them personally.

“I can’t speak more highly of every individual who helped. From the nursing team to the janitor who cleaned up my room, everyone was caring, social, and loving.”

– Nieves Sorano

Minimally Invasive & Maximally Effective: Structural Heart Disease Treatments

Structural heart disease refers to defects in the heart's valves, wall, or chambers. Some of these defects are present at birth while others develop over time. Open-heart surgery used to be the only option to treat these problems or replace damaged heart valves. While open heart surgery can’t always be avoided, whenever possible, our experts use minimally invasive, catheter-based interventions to treat these conditions:

- Aortic stenosis
- Valvular heart disease
- AFib-related stroke risk
- Mitral regurgitation
- Patent foramen ovale and atrial septal defect

Our structural heart team consists of experts in interventional cardiology, cardiac surgery, electrophysiology, and advanced cardiac imaging. They collaborate on procedures such as:

- Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR)
- Transcatheter mitral valve repair (MitraClip™)
- Left atrial appendage closure with the WATCHMAN FLX™
- Implantation of interventional devices to treat heart failure
- Closure of atrial septal defect (AFD)
- Closure of patent foramen ovale (PFO)
- Evoque, the first FDA-approved transcatheter tricuspid valve replacement system (minimally invasive)
- Tri-clip transcatheter Edge-to-Edge Repair (TEER), a minimally invasive repair of the tricuspid valve

Learn more at mycmh.org/heart



Giving & Growing

Foundation News

Community Memorial Foundation

Thanks to our community, giving keeps growing at Community Memorial.

Community Memorial Foundation proudly supports Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura, helping ensure exceptional care for every patient, every day. At our recent speakeasy Benefactors' Ball — the most successful to date — our supporters demonstrated extraordinary generosity, raising funds to benefit the hospital's greatest needs. The evening also celebrated three remarkable honorees: W. Michael Hogan, MD; Debby Carlson, MD; and Lydia Hopps, whose leadership and dedication have left a lasting impact on our hospital and community.

Our current fundraising focus is upgrading the hospital's MRI machine, so that clearer images can lead to quicker answers and better outcomes for all.

Interested in supporting Community Memorial Foundation and its vital work? Visit mycmh.org/giving



CEO Mick Zdeblick with 2025's Honorees



Ojai Valley Hospital Foundation

Ojai Valley Hospital Foundation Guild held their annual Endless Summer – Lakeside event this past September drawing more than 275 attendees in support of Community Memorial Hospital – Ojai and its Continuing Care Center. The goal of the event was the purchase of 15 new Stryker ProCuity LEX patient beds for our Ojai hospital. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we exceeded our goal and raised more than \$225,000!

Next up for the Ojai Valley Hospital Foundation is the 2026 Nightingale Ball at the Farmhouse at the Ojai Valley Inn on Saturday, January 17.

For ticket and sponsorship info, visit mycmh.org/ngb



Giving Vaccine Education Our Best Shot

Our Community Memorial Healthcare practitioners get a lot of questions about vaccine safety and efficacy. To address recent confusion and controversy about immunizations, we held a community education event on October 21, 2025 — Protecting Our Kids, Families & Community: Facts & Fiction about Vaccines.

This informative community meeting featured expert voices from Community Memorial Healthcare, Ventura County Public Health, and the Ventura County Office of Education. A full recording of the event and free printable vaccine schedules are available online in English and Spanish.

To watch the recording, hear vaccine resources, and to learn more, visit mycmh.org/vaccines



Listen & Learn

Check out podcasts from our esteemed experts

Wise & Well is Community Memorial Healthcare's official podcast. Our physicians and healthcare experts cover a range of relevant topics. Below are just a few examples:



Learn about our Cardiac Rehab program from Cardiac Rehabilitation Nurse **Kelli O'Harrow, RN, CCRP**.



Have you had your flu shot yet? Now's the time! Hear Community Memorial Chief of Staff **Alison Shuman, MD**, explain the importance of vaccines.



Earning Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation is good for our hospital, and our community. Our Director of Emergency Services, **Bret McClure, RN**, explains why.



Get an update on our growing cancer program and facilities and our new infusion center from **Karlos Oregel, MD**, board certified in Hematology and Oncology, and **Tracie Funk, Director of Ambulatory Services and Cancer Center**.

Wise & Well podcasts are released every month and cover everything from incredible new technologies in our health system to new healthcare initiatives in Ventura County.

Visit mycmh.org/podcast