



NEWS

ANTELOPE VALLEY'S
HEALTHCARE
NEWS RESOURCE

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ANTELOPE VALLEY HOSPITAL RECEIVES \$15,000 GRANT FROM RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

(LANCASTER, CA – May 14, 2008) — The Antelope Valley Hospital (AVH) Women and Infants Pavilion was recently awarded a \$15,000 grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California (RMHCSC). This grant is allocated to fund a portion of the cost of purchasing donor breast milk and reinstating the hospital's donor milk program for premature newborns in the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

“It is so important for babies, especially the tiny babies in the NICU, to drink real breast milk. Breast milk is rich in nutrients, disease-fighting proteins and enzymes which are not found in cow's milk and cannot be synthesized in formula,” said Bonnie Daniel, Vice President of AVH Women and Infants Pavilion Operations. “This is such an important program, but a very expensive one since we need to buy the pasteurized breast milk from donors. We are fortunate at this generosity from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California so that now we can reinstate this important program.”



**Murugesha Thangavel, MD,
Neonatologist with NICU baby**

“Grants like this one are what help our hospital offer and maintain these types of special programs,” said Edward Mirzabegian, AVH Chief Executive Officer. “Our

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hospital is non-tax supported and does not receive a lot of financial assistance, so it has become very difficult over the years to financially maintain some of these extra programs. By seeking funding from other charitable sources, it allows us to maintain specialized services for our patients and the community. We are very thankful for the support we have received from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California.”

“The Antelope Valley Hospital Women and Infants Pavilion has created a wonderful donor milk program that helps save premature babies’ lives,” said Caroline Bernal, RMHCSC representative and local McDonald’s owner/operator. “We are so pleased that Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California has been able to contribute to this program and ensure that it continues to grow.”

For more information on breast milk donation and becoming a breast milk donor, visit www.nationalmilkbank.org.

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Southern California

For 30 years, the programs of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Southern California (RMHCSC) have been committed to improving the health and well-being of local children through a variety of wellness and educational programs. In communities across the Southland, RMHCSC is making a positive difference for children and families in need. Throughout nine Southern California counties, RMHCSC currently operates four Ronald McDonald Houses® in Loma Linda, Los Angeles, Orange and Pasadena, Camp Ronald McDonald For Good Times®, a Community Grants Board and four scholarship programs for exemplary high school students. For more information, visit www.rmhcsc.org

About Antelope Valley Hospital

Celebrating more than 50 years of caring for the community, Antelope Valley Hospital, a facility of Antelope Valley Healthcare District, is a non-profit, 420-bed hospital that was founded in 1955. The hospital is dedicated to providing quality care and services to everyone in the Antelope Valley. AV Hospital is located at 1600 West Avenue J in Lancaster, California. For further information, please visit www.avhospital.org or call (661) 949-5000.

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