

# Adventist Health Tulare

2019 Community Health Plan Annual Update



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## Adventist Health Overview

Adventist Health Tulare is an affiliate of Adventist Health, a faith-based, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii.



### **OUR MISSION:**

Living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope.

### **OUR VISION:**

Adventist Health will be a recognized leader in mission focus, quality care and fiscal strength.

Adventist Health entities include:

- 21 hospitals with more than 3,200 beds
- More than 280 clinics (hospital-based, rural health and physician clinics)
- 13 home care agencies and seven hospice agencies
- Four joint-venture retirement centers
- Compassionate and talented team of 35,000 associates, medical staff physicians, allied health professionals and volunteers

We owe much of our heritage and organizational success to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which has long been a promoter of prevention and whole person care. Inspired by our belief in the loving and healing power of Jesus Christ, we aim to bring physical, mental and spiritual health and healing to our neighbors of all faiths. Every individual, regardless of his/her personal beliefs, is welcome in our facilities. We are also eager to partner with members of other faiths to enhance the health of the communities we serve.

Our commitment to quality health care stems from our heritage, which dates back to 1866 when the first Seventh-day Adventist health care facility opened in Battle Creek, Michigan. There, dedicated pioneers promoted the “radical” concepts of proper nutrition, exercise and sanitation. Early on, the facility was devoted to prevention as well as healing. They called it a sanitarium, a place where patients—and their families—could learn to be well.

More than a century later, the health care system sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church circles the globe with more than 170 hospitals and more than 500 clinics, nursing homes and dispensaries worldwide. And the same vision to treat the whole person—mind, body and spirit—continues to provide the foundation for our progressive approach to health care.

## Letter from the President



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

For more than 100 years, Adventist Health has provided faith-based, whole-person care to the more than 75 communities we serve in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Our mission of “Living God’s love by inspiring health, wholeness and hope” informs every plan we make and every action we take, which is why it was so important that we bring Tulare and its surrounding communities into the network of care provided by Adventist Health in the Central Valley.

The Community Health Plan is one way we put our mission into action. Each year, we review and update our Community Health Needs Assessment to ensure that our services at Adventist Health in Hanford, Selma, Reedley and more than 20 other rural communities across the San Joaquin Valley, meet the needs of our communities.

This year, we are excited to begin that journey with Tulare. Because the people we serve are diverse and live within differing geographic areas, we depend on our communities and community partners to help us identify the most pressing health needs. By using existing resources and developing educational outreach that focuses on those needs, we can improve health outcomes for everyone.

Together, we can stop the root causes of preventable conditions, such as diabetes and obesity, and build healthier communities. We can also build relationships that support our communities in times of need.

We hope you’ll join us in creating a community that we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Kofl". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrea Kofl,

President, Adventist Health – Central Valley Network

## Hospital Identifying Information



### **Adventist Health Tulare**

*869 N. Cherry St.*

*Tulare, CA 93274 (559) 688-0821*

Number of Beds: 112

Contact: Andrea Kofl, President

Existing health care facilities that can respond to the health needs of the community:

24-hour Emergency Department

### **Adventist Health Tulare - Laboratory**

*869 N. Cherry St.*

*Tulare, CA 93274 (559) 685-3855*

### **Adventist Health Tulare – Imaging**

*869 N. Cherry St.*

*Tulare, CA 93274 (559) 366-1132*

### **Adventist Health Physicians Network – Tulare**

*951 E. Merritt Ave.*

*Tulare, CA 93274 (559) 605-2150*

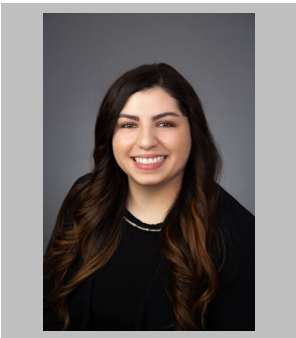
Adventist Health Physicians Network- Visalia

## Community Health Development Team



Rebecca Russell, MPH, RD

Community Wellness Director



Samantha Gomez, MPH

Community Integration Manager

### CHNA/CHP contact:

Samantha Gomez, MPH

Community Integration Manager

869 North Cherry Street, Tulare, CA 93274

[GomezSM01@ah.org](mailto:GomezSM01@ah.org)

To request a copy, provide comments or view electronic copies of current and previous community health needs assessments:

<https://www.adventisthealth.org/about-us/community-benefit/>

## Invitation to a Healthier Community

### Fulfilling the Adventist Health Mission

In late 2018, Adventist Health partnered with the Tulare Healthcare District to reopen the closed hospital facility under the leadership of Adventist Health. Now known as Adventist Health Tulare, the acute care hospital provides vital healthcare services to residents of Tulare County, a small rural community located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, in Central California.

Adventist Health hospitals, as not-for-profit healthcare facilities, are required by state and federal community benefit reporting guidelines to complete a Community Health Needs Assessment every three years. District Hospitals are exempt from such requirements

As a new member of the Adventist Health family, Adventist Health Tulare, completed and adopted a CHNA in December 2019, which informed the development of an Implementation Strategy. The Implementation Strategy will guide future community benefit activities to focus on identified community needs.

In the absence of a formal CHNA prior to December of 2019, Adventist Health Tulare leadership relied on its leadership's knowledge of the community and needs of the patients being served to guide community benefit activities.

## 2019 Community Benefit Update

In late 2018 when Adventist Health reopened the closed district hospital, it brought back vital healthcare services to a small rural community, enabling community members to receive quality healthcare close to home.

Working together with our community is key to achieving the necessary health improvements to create the communities that allow each member to have safe and healthy places to live, learn, work, play, and pray.

Below you will find an inventory of interventions supporting the health of our communities.

### Intervention Name: Physician Recruitment

Description: Adventist Health Tulare focused efforts on bringing additional primary care services to meet growing community need. Although there were no new physicians added during 2019, this priority will be a major focus in 2020 as we expand services and programs within the community.

### Intervention Name: Homeless Discharge Program

Description: The homeless discharge planning process, as required by SB 1152, ensures that all homeless patients who come to the hospital for care are provided with and connected to any and all needed resources. This includes providing meals, clothing, and connections with local case management programs and shelters.

- Number of Community Members Served: 71

### **Intervention Name: Community Partnership Development**

Adventist Health Tulare realizes that in order to make a meaningful impact on our communities, we must work with community partner agencies who are connected with the people who live in Tulare County and who do the work every day to make an impact. Only by supporting these organizations and partnering with them on joint projects will be all be successful together. However, before we can start building a healthier future for Tulare, we must first develop working relationships with these community partners. As such, much effort in 2019 went to development of community connections. The following list of partners highlights some of the organizations that we reached out to, those who reached out to us and those we worked with in committee meetings and through partnership requests in 2019.

#### **Partners**

- **American Cancer Society**
- **City of Tulare**
- **Kaweah Delta Hospital Foundation**
- **Kings Tulare Homeless Alliance**
- **Life Hope Centers**
- **NAMI of Tulare County**
- **Salt & Light**
- **Salvation Army**
- **Threads of Love Inc.**
- **Tulare Chamber of Commerce**
- **Tulare County Association of Governments (Transportation Steering Committee)**
- **Tulare County Economic Development Corporation**
- **Tulare Community Church (Reformed)**
- **Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency- Access to Care Subcommittees**
- **Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency- MAPP Steering Committee**
- **Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency- TAME (Diabetes) Subcommittee**
- **Tulare Hospital Foundation**
- **Tulare Lighthouse Rescue Mission**
- **Tulare Parks & Recreation**
- **Tulare Rotary Foundation**
- **United Farmworker Women's Conference**
- **United Way of Tulare County**



## Connecting Strategy and Community Health

As hospitals move toward population health management, community health interventions are a key element in achieving the overall goals of reducing the overall cost of health care, improving the health of the population, and improving access to affordable health services for the community both in outpatient and community settings. The key factor in improving quality and efficiency of the care hospitals provide is to include the larger community they serve as a part of their overall strategy.

Health systems must now step outside of the traditional roles of hospitals to begin to address the social, economic, and environmental conditions that contribute to poor health in the communities we serve. Bold leadership is required from our administrators, healthcare providers, and governing boards to meet the pressing health challenges we face as a nation. These challenges include a paradigm shift in how hospitals and health systems are positioning themselves and their strategies for success in a new payment environment. This will impact everyone in a community and will require shared responsibility among all stakeholders.

Population health is not just the overall health of a population but also includes the distribution of health. Overall health could be quite high if the majority of the population is relatively healthy—even though a minority of the population is much less healthy. Ideally such differences would be eliminated or at least substantially reduced.

Community health can serve as a strategic platform to improve the health outcomes of a defined group of people, concentrating on three correlated stages:

- 1) The distribution of specific health statuses and outcomes within a population;
- 2) Factors that cause the present outcomes distribution; and
- 3) Interventions that may modify the factors to improve health outcomes.

Improving population health requires effective initiatives to:

- 1) Increase the prevalence of evidence-based preventive health services and preventive health behaviors,
- 2) Improve care quality and patient safety and
- 3) Advance care coordination across the health care continuum.

Our mission as a health system is to share God's love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing and we believe the best way to re-imagine our future business model with a major emphasis of community health is by working together with our community.



OUR MISSION:  
To share God's love by  
providing physical, mental  
and spiritual healing

## Community Benefit

Our community benefit work is rooted deep within our mission, with a recent recommitment of deep community engagement within each of our ministries.

We have also incorporated our community benefit work to be an extension of our care continuum. Our strategic investments in our community are focused on a more planned, proactive approach to community health. The basic issue of good stewardship is making optimal use of limited charitable funds. Defaulting to charity care in our emergency rooms for the most vulnerable is not consistent with our mission. An upstream and more proactive and strategic allocation of resources enables us to help low-income populations avoid preventable pain and suffering; in turn allowing the reallocation of funds to serve an increasing number of people experiencing health disparities.