



THE REPORT

Fall 1992

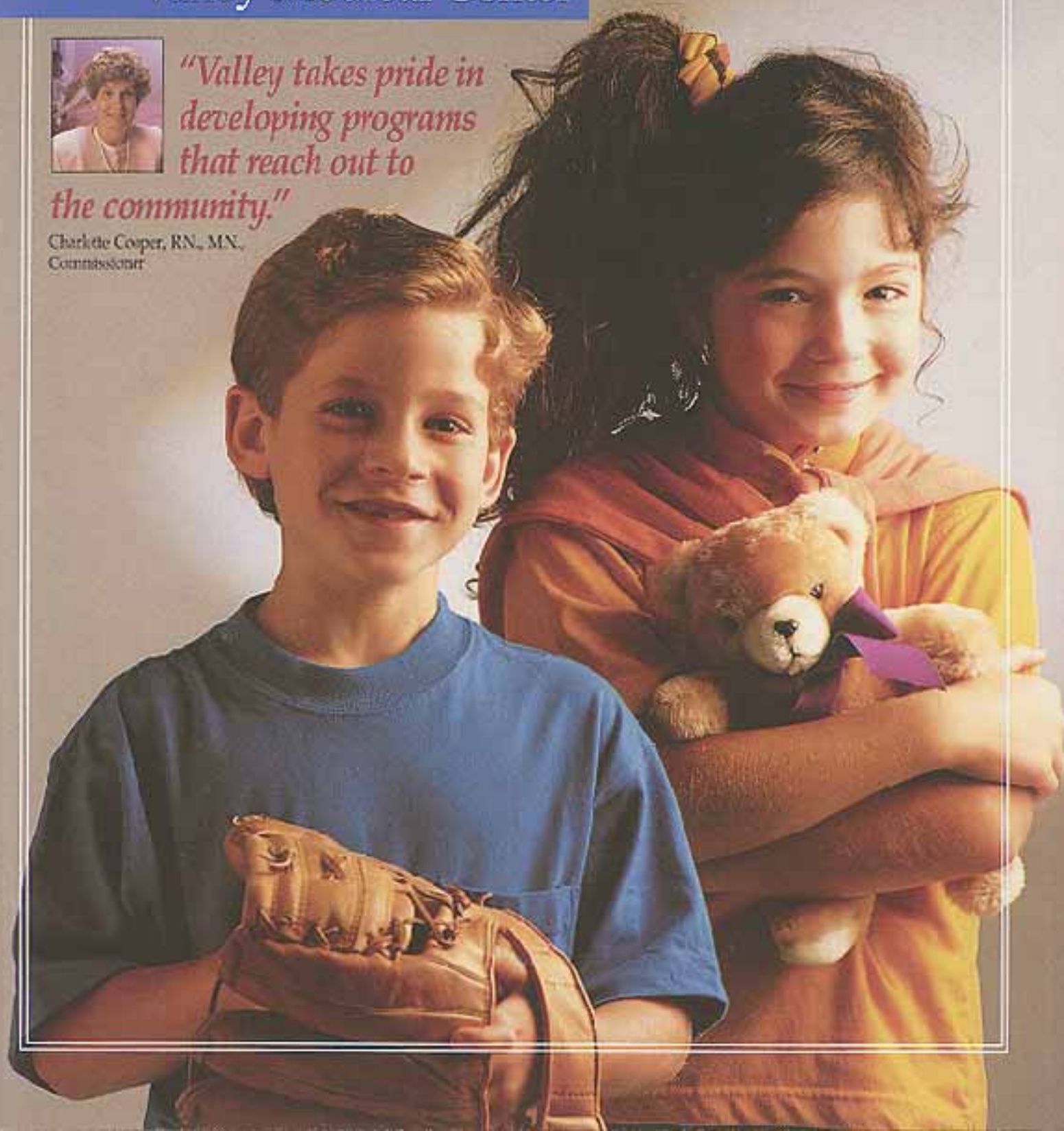


Valley Medical Center



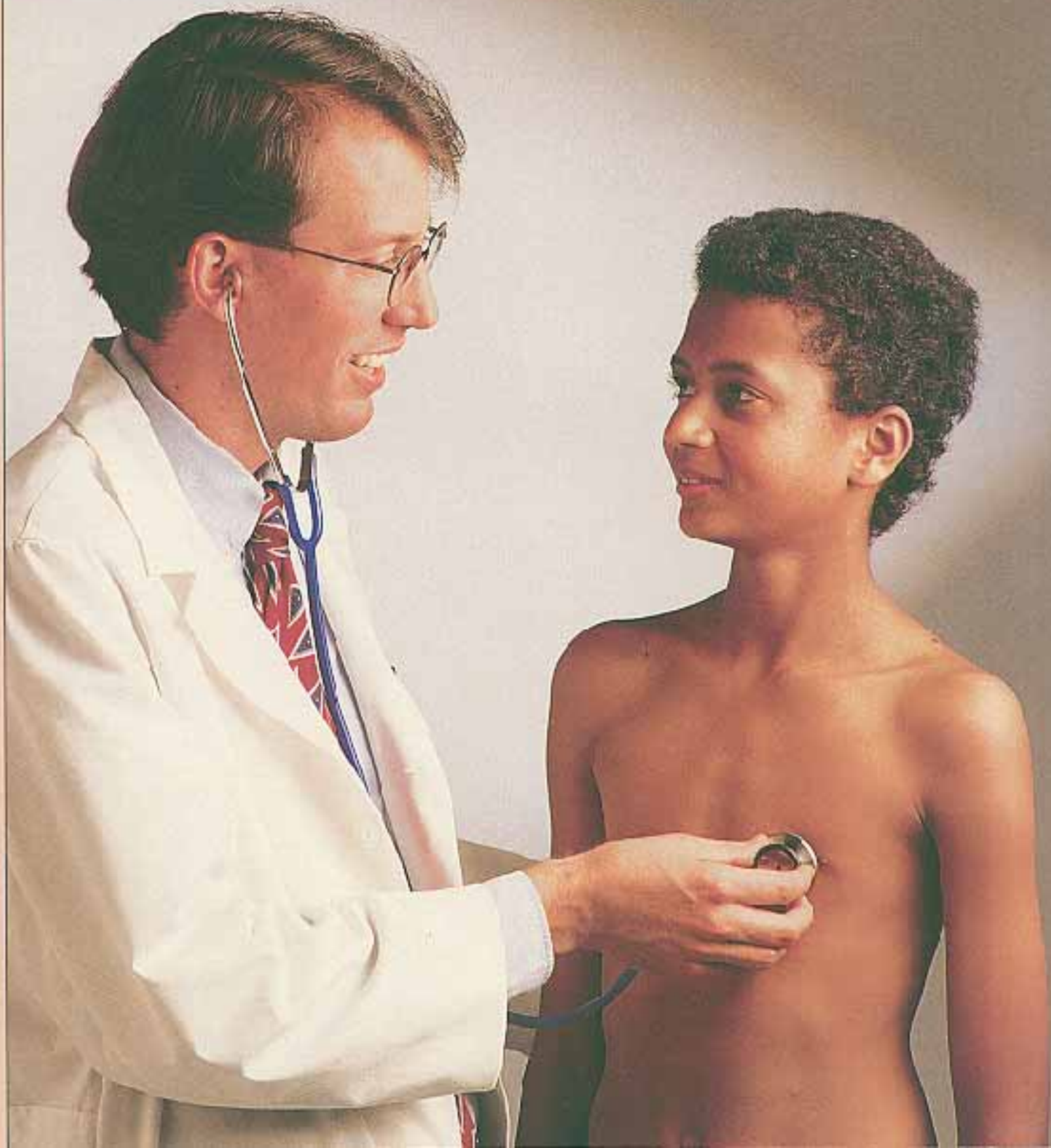
"Valley takes pride in developing programs that reach out to the community."

Charlette Cooper, RN, MN,
Commissioner





"Valley offers free and low-cost health care to our neighbors." — Carole Andersen, Commissioner





Reaching Out To Our Community...

Low-Cost Health Care Alternatives

Valley Family Care is the outpatient clinic operated through Valley's Family Practice Residency program. The clinic provides medical care to more than 1,400 patients per month, regardless of a person's ability to pay. Over 300 low-income women deliver babies through Valley Family Care each year – that's about half of all deliveries by low-income women in South King County.

The Free and Partial Payment Program is available for patients who are unable to pay for the health care services they need. Patients are referred to Valley by Community Health Clinics.

Outpatient services such as laboratory, X-ray and physical therapy are provided by the hospital. The clinics handle the paperwork necessary to qualify patients for the program and Valley, along with members of the medical staff, adjust their fees based on the patient's ability to pay.

Emergency Crisis Counseling

Crisis intervention services for patients and families are provided 24 hours a day by the Emergency Room Intervention Team (ERIT) social workers and counselors in the Emergency Department. Some services are offered at no charge to ER patients and families, and may include consultation, counseling and social services.



Many Valley employees are active in community outreach programs.

Easy-to-Access Resources

Valley Medical Center provides a full range of free and low-cost health education classes and support groups year-round (see pages 10-11 for a complete listing). Special community forums and seminars are held on timely health care topics throughout the year, as well. Health care information is easily accessed by the community through the Speakers Bureau, the Health Center kiosk at Southcenter Mall, community fairs and a free physician referral service. ♦

Hospitals must respond to the needs of their communities if they want to thrive... not just survive.

Although this has been the philosophy at Valley Medical Center for almost a decade, today it rings truer than ever. In a troubled health care environment, there are many external pressures forcing hospitals to change the way they operate, from government regulations to demands by third party payers.

At Valley, we have placed an emphasis on illness prevention through the development of community outreach programs. We are aware that many problems can't be solved by medi-

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cal intervention alone. That's why we have joined forces with public agencies such as Seattle-King County Public Health Department and Community Health Centers of King County to help solve the community's social service and health education needs, as well.

This issue of *The Report* is dedicated to the many community outreach programs sponsored by Valley Medical Center.

We believe a healthy community is one in which the hospital has nurtured a lifetime relationship with its members. By making health care and education more available while keeping a tight reign on costs, we hope not just to survive as a hospital but thrive as a community medical center in this turbulent decade. ♦

Rich Rodman, Administrator

