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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Valley Health Partners with Lily's Place to Care for the  
Tiniest Victims of the Local Drug Epidemic**

**HUNTINGTON, W.Va.** – The tiniest victims of the local drug epidemic received their first doses of drugs even before they took their first breaths, causing many of them to experience withdrawal shortly after birth. To help these newborns combat their withdrawal, Valley Health providers recently partnered with Lily's Place.

Valley Health and other providers in the community offer medical care for newborns at Lily's Place on a rotating schedule. Most of the newborns they see were affected by opiates - found in drugs used to treat pain - before they were born. As a result, many of them developed neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) in the first days or weeks of their life.

To treat NAS, these newborns receive medical attention from providers as well as 24/7 care from Lily's Place staff and volunteers. Lily's Place provides each newborn with his/her own room that is set up like a home nursery. These rooms are designed to help treat NAS so they have minimal distractions, such as low lighting.

"I'm involved with Lily's Place because I want to do my part as we work as a community to manage the addiction problems that we are facing in this area," Dr. Mathew Weimer, physician at Valley Health, explained. "These patients are especially vulnerable, both medically and socially, and I see an opportunity to impact their lives as well as those of their family members."

Lily's Place offers not only critically important medical care, but also connects patients and families with a variety of other services related to addiction. Lily's Place is working with other agencies in the area including HER Place, which provides peer support and educational programs for women suffering from drug and alcohol addiction.

For more information about Lily's Place, visit [www.lilysplace.org](http://www.lilysplace.org). A complete list of Valley Health locations and services can be found at [www.valleyhealth.org](http://www.valleyhealth.org).

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*Valley Health Systems, Inc. is a network of almost thirty non-profit health centers that has been a Tri-State leader in the delivery of primary healthcare since 1975. Operating in southern West Virginia and southeastern Ohio, Valley Health provides services to nearly 70,000 patients each year.*