

RATITUDE

A Garnet Health Foundation Newsletter



SPREAD THE JO

profound when it

spans generations...

**DONOR SPOTLIGHT** 

## SPREAD THE JOY FOUNDATION

In the case of the Spread The Joy Foundation, founder Shalini Samtani was inspired to give back during a particularly trying time for her family. Her young daughter was diagnosed with an extremely rare immune disorder. In and out of hospitals, including Garnet Health Children's Emergency Department (ED), Shalini's son asked, "How will Santa know where to find kids if they are in the hospital on Christmas Eve?"

In response, the family mobilized overnight to create holiday boxes full of activities. Within days, several boxes were delivered to their local hospital, return-addressed from the North Pole. The following month they created another themed box, and Shalini discovered that she found joy in the process.

"It became therapeutic to us as a family," said Shalini.

Established in 2017, the Spread The Joy Foundation has gifted approximately 10,000 Joy Boxes to Garnet Health Medical Center and 124 other medical centers. Shalini reflected on her time at Garnet Health Children's ED and their visit from the Child Life Specialist, saying, "It takes so little to make a child happy."

To learn more, visit spreadtheiov.org

"Thanks so much for always thinking of us.

The kids and the parents are really blown
away to receive such wonderful gifts."

Thanks again,
Patient Access team
Garnet Health Outpatient Services

On the cover: Shalini Samtani, the Chief Joy Spreader, is pictured here with her daughter, who inspired everything, and her mother, Monica Melwani, whose work as Operations Manager is crucial to their efforts.



#### **Chairman's Corner**

## Jay Anthony

Gratitude is always in season.

It just seems as spring arrives, with so many more family, friends, and neighbors receiving life-saving vaccinations, that there are so many more smiling faces. You feel it in your neighborhood, finally talking with neighbors over the last remnants of snow from a dark and uneasy winter.

Here at Garnet Health Medical Center, staff in the COVID-19 Vaccination Center have just completed their 30,000th vaccination and stories are abound with joy and gratitude. The Center has been a point of pride for our organization, running like a well-oiled machine with everyone playing an important role. Leone Semerano's kindness of heart to come out of retirement and away from personal grief to come to the aid of others is truly symbolic of the times.

Families and friends of our hospital are realizing every day that their health is important, and embracing the reality that an organization that takes its responsibility seriously is one that you must support.

You should know that our hospital is the most clean and aggressively sanitized facility around, and we are proud to spend our days and nights within these walls. Please do not worry about seeking care either in our emergency room or through any of our medical programs and services. We all feel incredibly safe from the pandemic, and so should you.

Finally, we hope that you are well and planning ahead for a joyous and healthy spring.

Jay Anthony

Chair, Garnet Health Foundation

**Board of Trustees** 



Susan and Jim Foley hosted a virtual Santa's Workshop to raise \$1,200 in support of the Garnet Health Pediatric Center. Susan and Jim presented the check to Pediatric Administrator Veronica Jackson and Child Life Specialist Michelle Ferguson.



Tommie Copper donated 900 pairs of socks to the Spagnoli Family Cancer Center for our patients to stay comfortable and feel at home during their visits. Darrigan DeMattos (right) accepted the donation from Sabrina Shortall, Marketing Coordinator for Tommie Copper's Westchester office.



Five years ago, Lindsey Gaudreau asked her parents for their help to buy toys for children in the hospital. Since then, every year at the holiday, Lindsey organizes toys to be delivered. Every year, we take a photo of her with her toys in front of the hospital's lobby tree. This year, her little brother helped her choose the toys.



Tim McCarey and McCarey Landscaping donated labor and materials including days of tilling the East Main Street side of the Garnet Health Medical Center to create a wildflower garden. They sprayed the wildflower mixture in March.

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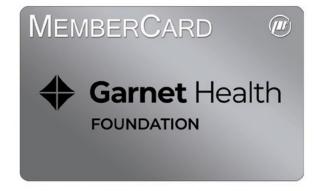
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# Garnet Health President & CEO Scott Batulis Announces Retirement at Year-End

After 15+ years of service at the Hudson Valley's premier health system, Scott Batulis has announced plans to retire as President and CEO of Garnet Health, effective Jan. 1, 2022. Garnet Health's Board of Directors will begin a formal search and selection process soon, with the expectation of appointing a new President and CEO of Garnet Health later this year. Mr. Batulis will remain in his current position for the remainder of his contract to the end of 2021 to ensure his replacement's smooth transition. Afterward, he plans to serve Garnet Health as a consultant for six months, and then become an active volunteer.

"Serving as President and CEO has been a challenging and rewarding journey, and the highlight of my 38-year career in healthcare administration," said Mr. Batulis. Prior to joining Garnet Health in 2006, Mr. Batulis spent nearly 20 years with HealthEast Care System, a network of integrated care services including hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation, and specialty care facilities headquartered in St. Paul, Minn. Within this network, he held the positions of Vice President of HealthEast Care System, Chief Executive Officer of St. Joseph's Hospital, and Chief Executive Officer of Bethesda Rehabilitation Hospital.

Thanks to Mr. Batulis's leadership, this organization has celebrated remarkable achievements, including the building of the first new hospital in New York in 25 years, the merger with Catskill Regional Medical Center, our role in bringing Touro College to Middletown, the creation of Graduate Medical Education programs, the Level II Trauma program, the growth of Garnet Health Doctors, the development of Urgent Care, and the numerous quality awards such as America's 250 Best Hospitals, Magnet Nursing designation, and all of our Healthgrades Clinical Excellence Awards.

"It truly has been my honor to serve Garnet Health, especially during the pandemic," Mr. Batulis said. "I could not have imagined how difficult it would be, nor how far we would have to go 'above and beyond' to meet this challenge. Our employees' dedication and commitment to our patients and our community during the pandemic has been amazing."

Mr. Batulis continued: "I am grateful to have served as President and CEO of Garnet Health. In retirement, I will enjoy spending more time with my wife, children, and grandchildren, and pursue my interests in art, music, and golf."

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The Temple Sinai Middletown congregants listed below raised funds to sponsor lunch for COVID-19 caregivers in February. Ben's Kosher Deli from Long Island delivered boxes of sandwiches and soup to 29 caregivers. As you can see in the photo, the staff was overjoyed by the continued community support. Thank you to Miranda Rosenblum, Judi Berman, Sheila Orenstein, Dr. William Cieplinski, Eileen Sinkowitz, Susy and Jonathan Newmark, and hospital volunteer Marian Zaritsky.



Girl Scout Troop #714 purchased Charlie Brown stuffed animals prior to COVID-19 with the intention of donating to Garnet Health, but then COVID-19 happened. Troop Leader Jennifer and three scouts delivered the adorable stuffed animals in March.



Kathy Griffin, a member of the community, donated handmade baby blankets to the mother-baby unit. Kathy delivered the blankets to Administrator Veronica Jackson and Nurse Leader Lisa Konopka.



PopCorners Chief Financial Officer Brad Euker and PopCorners Archie Atkinson presented product to Administrator, Patient Experience and Foundation Board member Ann Yacone DiAgostino, Donor Relations Manager Darrigan DeMattos, and Foundation President Bill Dauster, CFRE.



The Garnet Health Medical Center Emergency Department created a "Pay it Forward" fundraiser to collect funds to send to a Los Angeles hospital in the midst of COVID-19. Deb Snyder, Interim Chief Nursing Officer, was inspired by an article she read. Martin Luther King, Ir. Medical Center is situated in a devastated socioeconomic area overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients.

"We will never forget our worst days and how generous the community was to us. I thought sending meals to MLK, Jr.'s ED team during their worst time was our way to pay it forward and give back," Deb said.

Deb contacted the owner of Primo, a local Los Angeles restaurant, to prepare the meals. A total of 86 meals were delivered on Jan. 23. The owner of the restaurant will be sharing the proceeds with his own kitchen employees.





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The Feely family has supported Garnet Health Pediatric Center for five years. Annually, the Francis J. Feely Charitable Fund raises money to purchase toys for the hospital inpatient unit. The fund honors their beloved family member, Francis, who was living in Orange County and commuting to Manhattan when he was killed on 9/11.



Minisink Valley High School's Future Business Leaders of America collected donations of supplies for our nursing units. Deb Snyder, Interim Chief Nursing Officer, visited each unit to hand out needed chapstick, hand cream, coffee, and snacks. Deb is pictured here with grateful nurses from the Clinical Decision Area.



For 10 consecutive years, the Central Orange County Italian American Association has supported Garnet Health Medical Center. Its support includes an annual holiday toy donation for children cared for at the hospital. These gifts are distributed to outpatient services, including sameday surgery, urgent care, laboratory and diagnostic imaging, as well as the inpatient unit.



Local Mary Kay representative and former hospital RN, Ayobami Olusa, donated 100 Mary Kay kits to Garnet Health Medical Center healthcare workers. She raised money from loyal customers and friends to cover the cost of each kit.

"My heart goes out to all of you. I can only imagine a fraction of what you are going through, the daily state of mind when you have to leave your home and head to work," she said. "I appreciate all of you for your steadfastness, your passion for what you do, for your service, and just for being you. There is light at the end of the tunnel. I am very grateful."



An elementary class in Monroe-Woodbury Central School District created Valentines for the staff in the Emergency Department. The cards covered the walls in the staff break room and were enjoyed by all who circled through.

#### THE 21ST CENTURY CLUB DONORS (cont.)

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#### **Volunteer Vaccinators:**

## Garnet Health's Role in the COVID-19 Vaccination Cycle

Since January, Garnet Health has been a distribution center for Orange County residents to receive their COVID-19 vaccines. Garnet Health has successfully administered over 16,000 vaccination doses, following New York State eligibility guidelines.

Volunteers are integral to the success of the Center. They assist in providing the correct paperwork to fill out and instructing individuals to the next series within the distribution center.

Once registered, volunteers guide patients to the vaccinators to receive their dose.

Our vaccinators are current employees - nurse leaders, registered nurses, technicians, pharmacists, and physicians - who volunteer their time to provide this opportunity for the community. Thank you to everyone who has committed their time in the Vaccination Center for your efforts to make our community safe and well.

As of April 14, 2021, over 30,000 vaccines have been administered at Garnet Health.



#### **COVID-19 VACCINE CENTER VOLUNTEERS**

**Judith Arginsky** Susan Berger Chris Bernath Phyllis Brown Teresa Brown John Contarino Maria Dallin Lynn Darrigo Sonia Del Pilar Stacey Finkelstein Terry Fioto Kapil Foster Cathy Frahme loe Fraioli Donna Gady Linda Gallagher

Sophia Giler Elsie Glennon Brenda Goldstein Paul Gossman Wendy Grossman Steve Grossman Stella Jackson Ioan Kaiser Manpreet Kaur Gagandeep Kaur Joan Kelly Thomas Kelly Barbara Korycki loe LaBuda **Bev Lennon** Barbara Lewis

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Lydia Robelen
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Linda Selg
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Patricia Soder
Posie Tveit
Bob Vogt
Carl Wolfe
Tara York
Marian Zaritsky



VACCINATOR SPOTLIGHT Leone Semerano

"They are all gift givers... It is an operation that only works because every spoke in the wheel moves in unison."

Leone Semerano

Leone Semerano had largely spent the cold, winter months to herself, abiding by social distancing and, at best, yelling "Hello, how are you?" across the street to her neighbors.

A retired RN after 41 years at Garnet Health, Leone had had enough. She had lost the love of her life, her husband John, to COVID-19 in April of last year after 44 years of marriage. Luckily, she had her two daughters, Nicole and Michelle, to provide the needed love and comfort. When Leone heard the Vaccination Center at Garnet Health Medical Center had activated, she called and offered her help.

"It was so wonderful to be back at the hospital," said Leone. "It was 'old home week' for me. So many of my former coworkers came to see me, and the newer folks welcomed me with open arms."

A longtime member of the Foundation's 21st Century Club, Leone derived her greatest joy from the patients she vaccinated. Many asked for "selfies" with her and thanked her profusely. Her days in the Vaccination Center are filled with continuous compliments. She had found her way to deal with her own personal grieving by helping others.

"The people I vaccinate see it as a very special gift and are so thankful," said Leone. "I now often wish them a Merry Christmas and Happy Birthday!"

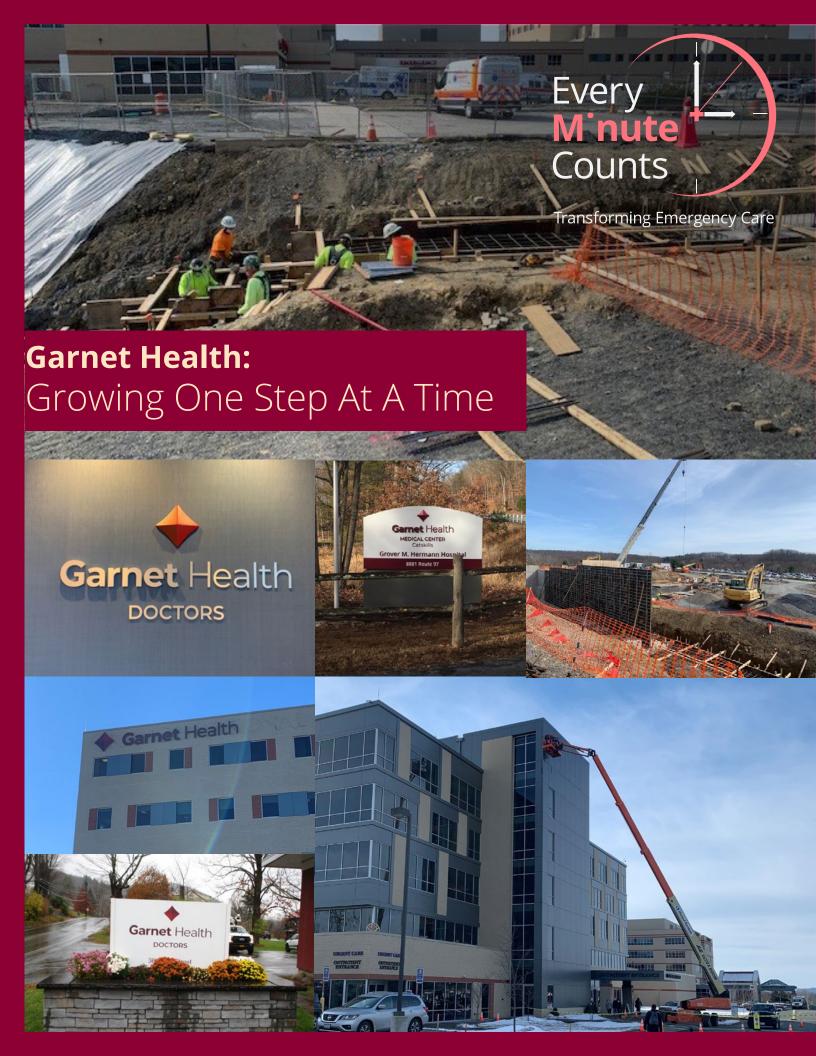
Leone said she is most proud of the incredible, well-tuned, and efficient operations of the Center, where as many as 600+ patients are vaccinated per day. There is something quite moving that is the result of the hospital's support for this Center, combined with the joy on staff faces while they provide this life-saving service. Her favorite moments so far have been her chance to vaccinate a 97-year-old; Leone was also there the day that a 103-year-old was vaccinated in his car by Chris Costello, RN, Director, Employee Health.

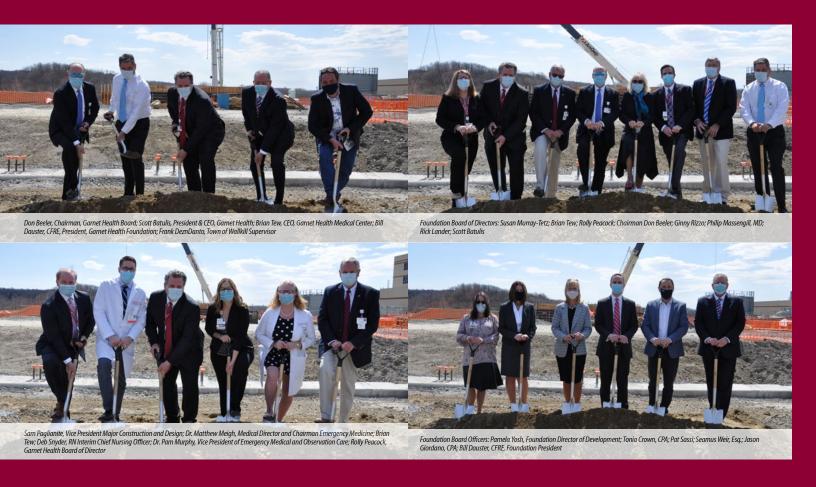
"They are all gift givers," Leone said.

"And it's everyone who is involved –
from nurses to the volunteers. It is an
operation that only works because every
spoke in the wheel moves in unison."

"Everyone will remember where they were when a global event occurred, whether it was the space shuttle, assassination of JFK or John Lennon, or 9/11, and COVID-19 is no different," said Leone. "We all feel so unsettled without all of our customary gatherings of family and friends, coupled with so many people you know being sick."

Leone continued: "I may be an old hippy, but I really believe that coming together to take care of others is the only way out of this terrible pandemic."





#### **GROUNDBREAKING FOR GROWTH: EVERY MINUTE COUNTS LAUNCH**

April 7's groundbreaking ceremony marked the beginning of work to construct a 620-space parking garage following months of initial groundwork and relocation of the helipad. The garage is a requirement for any expansion of the hospital, an important domino effect ushering the next phase, which will include expansion of the emergency room and trauma center.

"This groundbreaking stands for far more than the literal breaking of ground," said Brian Tew, Garnet Health Medical Center CEO. "It stands for a brick-and-mortar milestone for our hospital, and is the result of us outgrowing this beautiful facility. It stands for our Board of Directors' groundbreaking wisdom in choosing to invest in a future that last year taught us, can be difficult to predict. And it stands for the groundbreaking generosity of donors, and the support of our physicians, community leaders, administration, and staff."

Garnet Health Board Chairman Don Beeler said that the garage is an important endeavor empowering us to expand our wide range of services by creating new parking spaces for employees as the number of patients and visitors of the hospital, as well as the number of Garnet Health doctors, continues to grow.

The event took place adjacent to the construction site for the new garage. A small crowd of socially-distanced Board members, executives, clinicians, and public officials gathered under warm spring skies to celebrate this next hospital expansion phase. Town of Wallkill Supervisor Frank DenDanto said the expansion and success of the hospital has been personal for him, as he is the son of a nurse from Horton Medical Center. He said the expansion process never lost a beat, even during COVID-19, which is a testament to Wallkill's commitment to the hospital's growth.

Foundation President Bill Dauster said a fundraising campaign called "Every Minute Counts" has been developed, and is a salute to the importance of getting quality care in a timely way for all patients, especially for our heart and trauma patients. The campaign has been accepting gifts and providing naming opportunities to donors at all levels, one of which has been a seven-figure gift.

"Today it is with great pride that we announce that to date we have raised \$3 million towards our \$7 million goal, truly a testament to both the critical nature of the project and the wide belief our business and residential communities will support it," said Mr. Dauster. "We typically call this time the 'Quiet Phase' of a campaign, but today that phase ends; we now invite everyone to participate."

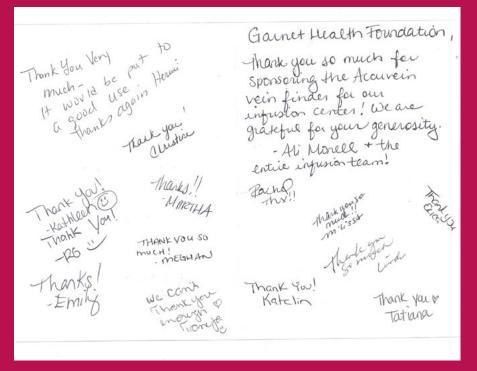
For more information about the Every Minute Counts campaign, call the Foundation Office at 845-333-2333 or visit www.garnethealth.org/everyminutecounts.

## Foundation-Funded Programs

The following list represents the programs and services funded by the Garnet Health Foundation since Jan. 2020. We are grateful to the donors who support the 21st Century Club and our donor-designated programs:

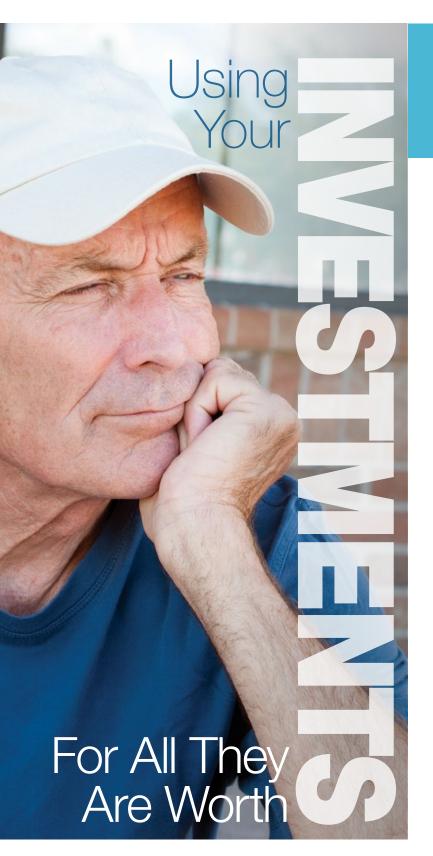
| AMOUNT       | PROJECT FUNDED   |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|--|
| \$500,000.00 | Every Minute Counts campaign funds were raised and transferred to the hospital for construction.   |  |  |
| \$250,000.00 | COVID-19 donations were raised and transferred to the hospital to off-set the organizational purchase of personal protective gear for staff.   |  |  |
| \$28,075.26  | Donor gifts, in memory of ED Tech John Lara, were distributed to his three children.   |  |  |
| \$21,883.96  | Inpatient pediatric crib was purchased for the safety of our pediatric patients.   |  |  |
| \$18,472.72  | Renovation of the Emergency Department break room was funded.  |  |  |
| \$18,312.31  | Donor gifts, in memory of Livette Plan, RN were sent to her family.  |  |  |
| \$8,118.40   | The Patient Experience Fund purchased clothing for patients who may not have access to a change of clothing due to COVID-19 or trauma.         |  |  |
| \$7,152.00   | The Thomas V. Guarino Family Academic Medicine Fund funded a research project exploring the use of virtual reality in chronic pain management. |  |  |
| \$6,950.00   | Construction of patient room doors with windows were replaced to insure safe COVID-19 interactions.  |  |  |
| \$3,077.76   | Educational journals were purchased for newly diagnosed diabetes patients.   |  |  |
| \$2,500.00   | Look Good, Feel Better a self-care program no longer sponsored by the American Cancer Society, was funded by the Foundation.                   |  |  |
| \$2,500.00   | The Foundation sponsored the application fees for submission for The Nursing Beacon Award for Excellence in Medical Intensive Care Unit.       |  |  |
| \$2,267.95   | Donor gifts, in memory of Marva Rodney, were sent to her grandson.   |  |  |
| \$2,265.59   | Supplies to improve the pastoral care program were funded.   |  |  |
| \$2,000.00   | Ronald Sherman, MD Memorial Scholarship funded two awards to Middletown High School students pursuing a career in nursing.                     |  |  |
| \$1,499.00   | The Foundation sponsored the purchase of an AED for the Town of Wallkill Little League.  |  |  |
| \$1,426.29   | Educational journals were purchased for newly diagnosed colorectal cancer patients.  |  |  |
| \$1,250.00   | Educational journals were purchased for newly diagnosed oral, head, and neck cancer patients.  |  |  |
| \$764.00     | Educational journals were purchased for newly diagnosed lung cancer patients.  |  |  |
| \$750.00     | The Foundation funded the registration fees for a nurse researcher to present at a virtual International Conference.                           |  |  |
| \$728.96     | Educational journals were purchased for newly diagnosed breast cancer patients.  |  |  |
| \$652.05     | The Patient Experience Fund sponsored three months of at-home oxygen for a patient, not covered by insurance.                                  |  |  |
| \$569.00     | Therapeutic memorial kits for parents and families were purchased after the tragic loss of an infant.  |  |  |
| \$520.00     | The Patient Experience Fund sponsored at-home pulmonary rehab for patients unable to receive in hospital care due to COVID-19.                 |  |  |
| \$500.00     | The Foundation sponsored the application fees for submission for The Nursing Beacon Award for Excellence for 4 North Medical Surgical Unit.    |  |  |

| AMOUNT   | PROJECT FUNDED   |  |
|----------|--|--|
| \$485.84 | Donor gifts in honor of Soraya Urban-Bell, RN who lost her son to COVID-19 as she battled her own disease, were presented to the family. |  |
| \$386.46 | The Foundation purchased Art Cart supplies for orthopedic rehab patients.  |  |
| \$352.23 | Refreshments were stocked for the Intensive Care Patient Comfort Cart.   |  |
| \$335.52 | The Complementary Medicine Fund funded the purchase of aromatherapy supplies and bulbs for salt lamps for inpatients.                    |  |
| \$240.00 | A donor funded an educational dinner for nurses and physicians.  |  |
| \$226.00 | A donor sponsored dinner for a nursing educational lecture on COVID-19 procedures and tests.   |  |
| \$209.49 | The Patient Experience Fund hosted a family's hotel stay during a traumatic incident.  |  |
| \$187.00 | The Patient Experience Fund covered the cost of a patient's transportation home after their hospital discharge.                          |  |
| \$150.00 | Educational journals were purchased for newly diagnosed Type-1 diabetes patients.  |  |
| \$114.99 | The Patient Experience Fund sponsored a walker for a patient, not covered by insurance.  |  |
| \$107.89 | The Foundation sponsored registration for a system to sign up for on-call hours for No One Dies Alone, an employee volunteer group.      |  |
| \$77.00  | The Patient Experience Fund covered the cost of hot cooked meals for a patient's guardian during their hospital stay.                    |  |
| \$53.79  | The Patient Experience Fund sponsored bus travel for a patient's return trip home to Boston, Mass.                                       |  |
| \$42.00  | The Patient Experience Fund sponsored a walker for a patient, not covered by insurance.  |  |
| \$24.88  | The Patient Experience Fund paid for diabetes medication for a discharging patient.  |  |
| \$22.51  | The Patient Experience Fund paid for an Uber ride for a discharging patient to go home.  |  |
| \$20.00  | The Patient Experience Fund paid for a gift card for family members to get a hot meal.   |  |



"I want to thank you and the Foundation for supporting the seminar, 'Interactive Trauma: Beyond the Moment of Impact.' We had 21 RNs attend. This class was designed for the RNs to make decisions regarding the care of a trauma patient. Based on our responses, we determined the outcome for our patient. It makes you realize how the decisions made by the trauma team impact the patient throughout their hospital stay. I believe that this realization will improve the care of our trauma patients throughout their hospital stay.

I am proud to be part of an organization that supports the education of our nurses, and through that, improves patient care."



## Maximize Satisfaction

from your assets

## Using your investments for all they are worth

You have worked hard all your life to save and grow your investments. If you are like most people, you are looking for ways to minimize taxes and maximize not just your monetary gain but the overall satisfaction you receive from your assets.

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Here are some ideas that can help you make the most of your investments through charitable planning.

| Option                        | Benefit                                    |
|-------------------------------|--|
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| Charitable remainder unitrust | Payments and income tax deduction          |
| Beneficiary<br>designation    | Estate tax savings                         |
| Life estate                   | Income tax<br>deduction and<br>use of home |

#### **Learn more**

To learn more about the many ways to make your investments work for you and help our cause, please contact us.



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## Foundation Nationally Recognized at Nasdaq Opening Bell





Bill Dauster, President of Garnet Health Foundation, participated in an online interview with Nasdaq and Blackbaud Healthcare Solutions about how Garnet Health Medical Center handled the COVID-19 pandemic, and how fundraising was a vital part of how the Garnet Health Foundation was able to rise above the trials and tribulations of the pandemic.

"This is less about our organization, and more about the donors who supported us during the worst of times earlier this year." - Bill Dauster

Watch the whole interview here: https://blkb.co/39vtrW1

#### **EMPLOYEE CORNER**

#### Evelyn Gennodie, Manager of Healing Environments

As Garnet Health Medical Center's Manager of Healing Environments, Evelyn Gennodie, a trained interior designer, believes that a healing environment is meant to soothe and comfort. She notes that the colors at Garnet Health are earthy. Evelyn's office, which she is rarely in, clocking 5-7 miles a day, is across from the Vaccination Center. Just recently, we added an electric piano for the community members to enjoy while they wait the required 15 minutes after dosing. Evelyn was struck by the impact the music had on those waiting. "People were singing along, song after song," she said.

Join us in welcoming Evelyn to the Garnet Health Medical Center family.

### Evelyn's Home – Design Tips:

Never underestimate the benefits of natural lighting. Studies have shown it increases productivity, improves sleep habits, and wards off depression. Let as much natural light into your space as possible!

Warm earth tones can be very calming, these are the best colors in bedrooms and living rooms. Grays have become very popular in the last few years; try to use a warm gray or complement your gray tones with other warm colors.

## Memorial Tribute Gifts

This list represents memorial/honorary tribute gifts from Jan. 1, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2020. Thank you to these donors who have chosen to honor a family member or friend, mark a special occasion, or remember a loved one with a tribute gift. Their gifts will be used to meet the hospital's most pressing needs, or in some cases, have been directed to the specialty or program of the donor's choice.

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In Honor of our Healthcare Workers రా

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"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. As by the one, health is preserved, strengthened, and invigorated; by the other, virtue (which is the health of the mind) is kept alive, cherished, and confirmed."

Joseph Addison

#### **READING IS HEALTH:**

Staff Current Reading Picks

To all avid readers: Here is a list of all of the books currently on Foundation staff night tables.

**Pam Yosh** is the staff's most voracious reader: Pam is known to knock a book off in a weekend. Right now Pam is reading "Shuggie Bain," the award-winning story by Douglas Stuart about neglect and redemption set in moody Glasgow, Scotland.

**History buff Bill Dauster** is currently reading Russell Shorto's tome, "Revolution Song," the story of six individuals whose stories are woven together during the era of the Revolutionary War. Bill enjoys that there are lots of great Hudson Valley references.

**Darrigan DeMattos** is an active reader and grad student who is frustrated that she cannot pick her own reading right now. Instead, her studies dictate that she read "Evaluation: A Systematic Approach" for her Program Planning class.





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