

NOVEMBER 2025

# Garnet Health. Gems

Exceptional  
Lives Here.



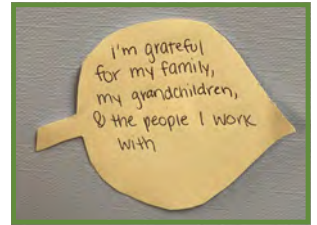
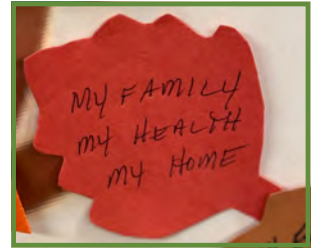
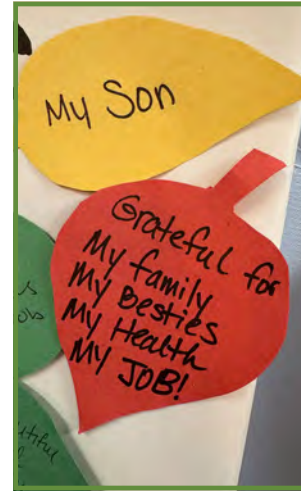
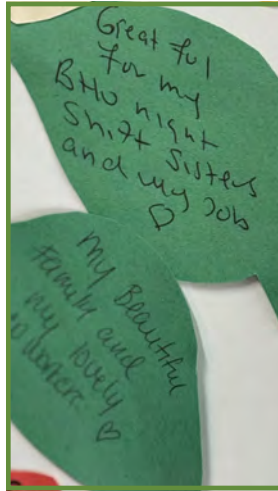
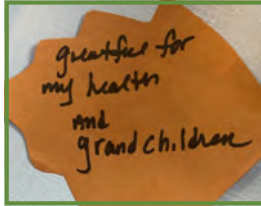
## A Season of Gratitude





## Gratitude Tree

A big thank you to Jennifer Malinchak, Jane Dever, Evelyn Gennodie, and Joe Macerine for bringing this year's Gratitude Tree to life. It's a beautiful way to display what our Garnet Health team is grateful for this holiday season.



## Garnet Health Honors Our Veterans

Garnet Health held ceremonies on November 7 at the Harris Campus and on November 11 at the Middletown Campus, to honor those who served in the armed forces. We are free because of the brave individuals who served our country. Thank you to all who fought and continue to fight to protect our home.

A special thank you to veterans who are members of our hospital family.



## Garnet Health Hosts State Officials and Community Partners

Garnet Health was honored to host state elected officials and community partners, including Brian Maher, James Skoufis, Chris Eachus, Jonathan Jacobson and Paula Kay, for a thoughtful discussion on healthcare priorities and partnerships that strengthen the communities we serve.





### Christmas Day Meal

The **Nutrition & Food Service** department would like to wish the **Garnet Health** family a very happy and healthy holiday season.

A **complimentary meal** will be available with **proper ID** for **Garnet Health** employees, physicians, volunteers, and uniformed personnel (EMT, firefighter, and police officers).

**Visitor's meals:** \$12.95 price fixed per person or a la carte pricing.

Additional cafeteria menu items are available at regular prices at the **Middletown Campus only**.

#### December 25, 2025 Hours of Operation

##### Middletown Campus

Complimentary Breakfast for Overnight Staff  
5:00 am - 6:30 am

Hot Breakfast Available for Purchase  
7:00 am - 11:00 am

Complimentary Christmas Meal  
11:00 am - 9:00 pm

##### Harris Campus

Complimentary Breakfast for Overnight Staff  
5:00 am - 6:30 am

Hot Breakfast Available for Purchase  
8:00 am - 11:00 am

Complimentary Christmas Meal  
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

##### Callicoon Campus

Complimentary Christmas Meal  
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

**Coffee shops at all locations will be closed for the holiday.**





**Beyond the Walls:**

# **Community Thanksgiving Food Drive Feeds Many in Need**

As part of our commitment to maintaining a continuum of care outside the hospital, the Beyond Our Walls initiative celebrated the season of giving by providing 112 families in Orange and Sullivan counties with Thanksgiving dinner baskets or ShopRite gift cards to purchase all the ingredients for a Thanksgiving Day meal.

**Many thanks to all the departments and individuals who donated to this wonderful effort.**



**Thank you  
to members of the Beyond  
Our Walls committee:**

Catia Pereira-Gentile

Desiree Laguna-Vega

Jodi Goodman

Christopher Costello

Theresa Costello

Alexander Buchanan

Jasmine McKinney

Suzanne Neenan

Megan Besaw

Magalie Jean-Francois

Angelica Baeza

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**Special thanks  
to those who helped pull  
the food drive together:**

Garnet Health Couriers

Daylin Salas

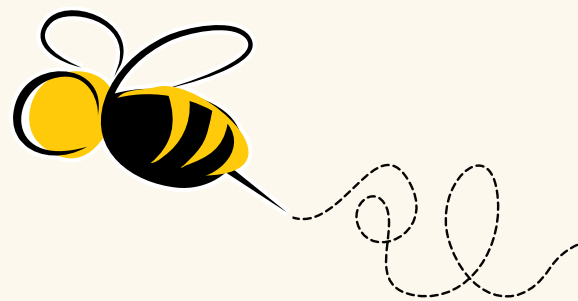
Father Kevin

Security Department



## Celebrates October Employees of the Month

# BEE AWARDS



### Colleen Fredenburg

*Supervisor of Clinical Support, Specimen Processing, Garnet Health Medical Center - Catskills*

Colleen is being recognized for her dedication and willingness to step in whenever someone needs help. On one occasion, she noticed a patient in need of extra support and took the initiative to connect them with the appropriate resources, ensuring their ongoing care needs were met. In another instance, Colleen helped calm a young patient who was anxious during their visit, leaving such a positive impression that the patient now only wants to return to Garnet Health.

**Congratulations, Colleen, and thank you for exemplifying Garnet Health's values through your kindness and commitment to others.**



### Jackie Slanovec, RN, CCRN

*Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit, Garnet Health Medical Center*

Jackie went above and beyond for a family facing the loss of a loved one. She became a source of comfort and connection, bringing reassurance and compassion during every visit. When Jackie arrived for her shift, the family lit up with relief and gratitude, reflecting the impact she had on their experience. Jackie provided more than just clinical care, she offered comfort and peace during the family's darkest hours.

**Congratulations, Jackie, and thank you for your unwavering kindness and outstanding patient-centered care.**

The Employee of the Month program is also known as the Being Exceptional Every day (BEE) Award—and Being Exceptional Every day takes dedication, loyalty and commitment. To nominate an employee, physician, volunteer or team/department, visit the intranet page, scroll down and click on the BEE Award icon.

## GOOD CATCH AND GREAT SAVE AWARDS



Pictured left to right: Jerry Dunlavy, Garnet Health Medical Center - Catskills CEO; Morgan Kopf, RN; Michelle Orrego, Clinical Director; Suzanne Lange-Ahmed, Garnet Health Medical Center - Catskills Chief Nursing Officer.

Recently, Morgan Kopf, a primary nurse, was honored with a Good Catch Award for demonstrating exceptional dedication when she noticed a discrepancy with a patient's medications. Morgan immediately contacted the discharging provider and escalated her concerns. Through her persistence, Morgan ensured the patient understood their medications and next steps after discharge.

**Congratulations, Morgan, on this Good Catch!**

Michael Parrinello, an Occupational Therapist, was recently honored with a Good Catch Award for showing attention to detail while identifying a concerning MRI result. He immediately contacted the Nurse Practitioner to ensure awareness of these results. Michael's quick action led to a timely follow-up and further evaluation.

**Thanks, Michael, for your attentiveness and quick communication!**

**Good Catch** occurs when someone's corrective action and/or timely intervention prevents an incident or medical error.

**Great Save** happens when someone's immediate action keeps a patient safe during an event.

The Patient Safety Subcommittee judges the nominees. For more information about the Good Catch Award, email Vice President, Quality/Patient Safety Officer Mary Ellen Crittenden at [mcrittenden@garnethealth.org](mailto:mcrittenden@garnethealth.org).



## Garnet Health Celebrates National Physical Therapy Month

Physical Therapists at Garnet Health Medical Center celebrated National Physical Therapy Month in October, recognizing the vital role they play in improving mobility, function and overall health.

Thank you for all that you do and for providing our patients with the highest quality of care!



## Garnet Health Doctors On-Air With Catskills Talk Radio

The Catskills Talks radio show recently welcomed Dr. Vanessa Hortian from Garnet Health Doctors. The segment offered the opportunity to introduce Dr. Hortian to the community and highlight the expert surgical care our team provides every day.

To schedule an appointment with an expert surgeon at Garnet Health Doctors, call **(845) 333-7575**.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Vanessa Hortian, Colon & Rectal Surgeon, Garnet Health Doctors; Jenn Clarke, Host, Catskills Talk Radio; Jerry Dunlavey, CEO, Garnet Health Medical Center - Catskills & Garnet Health Doctors.

## Town Hall Sessions with Our CEO

Thank you to all the employees who attended the many Town Hall sessions hosted by our President & CEO, Jonathan Schiller, where information about the organization was shared and questions were answered.

If you have a question about Garnet Health, send it to [townhall@garnethealth.org](mailto:townhall@garnethealth.org).



Pictured are Jonathan Schiller (third from left) and staff members in attendance at the Town Hall session held at Garnet Health Doctors and Urgent Care in Monticello.

## Save the Date Book Signing with Local Author Kiki Ollie

Garnet Health Medical Center will host a book signing event with local author Kiki Ollie for her new children's book, *Oh, How You Sparkle! A Love Story for Every Child*, on Wednesday, December 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Garnet Health Medical Center Gift Shop located at 707 E Main St, Middletown, NY.

The event is free and open to the public. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. To learn more about Kiki Ollie, visit her website [KikiOllie.com](http://KikiOllie.com).



## Book Signing with Stephanie Lock

Recently, Garnet Health Medical Center hosted a book-signing event with local author Stephanie Lock for her new children's book, *If Goldfish Were Bluebirds: A Story About Self-Acceptance*. The event was a great success, drawing wonderful engagement from attendees.

To learn more about Stephanie Lock, visit [stephanielock.com](http://stephanielock.com).

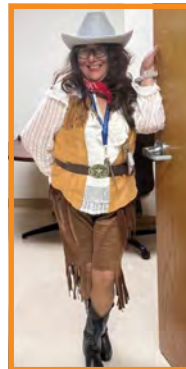




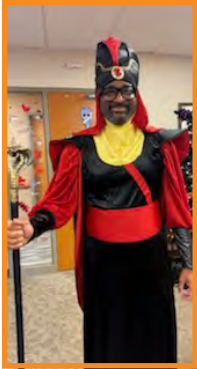


**HALLOWEEN SPIRIT  
at Garnet Health!**

Huge thanks to all who took part in this year's Halloween fun! Your creativity, spirit and overall participation were so awesome, it's scary.









## Garnet Health Doctors Welcomes New Physicians

Garnet Health Doctors Behavioral Health practice welcomes Psychiatrist **Hafsa Mahmood, MD**. Board-certified in psychiatry, Dr. Mahmood specializes in mood and anxiety disorders, psychopharmacology, and integrative approaches to behavioral health. She is fluent in English, Urdu and Punjabi, and provides compassionate, patient-centered care.

Also joining the Behavioral Health team is **Kassandra Garnere, Psy.D.**, Clinical Psychology. Dr. Garnere provides psychological assessment and therapy with clinical expertise in health psychology, psycho-oncology and evidence-based therapies, such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT).

Both Dr. Mahmood and Dr. Garnere are accepting new patients at 75 Crystal Run Road, Suite 135, Middletown, NY.

**Stephanie Rosarion, MD**, joined Garnet Health Doctors Primary Care and Family Medicine practice, and is accepting new patients

at 707 East Main Street, Middletown, NY. Fluent in English and Spanish, Dr. Rosarion focuses on preventive medicine, chronic-disease management and patient education.

**Joseph Cupoli, PA-C**, Physician Assistant, joined the Orthopedics practice and is accepting new patients at Garnet Health Doctors' Middletown, Harris and Goshen locations. He brings advanced training in orthopedic surgery and trauma, as well as experience as an EMT and medical technician.

**Vanessa Hortian, DO, MS, LAC, CHSE**, joined Garnet Health Doctors as a Colon & Rectal Surgeon, and is now accepting patients at our Middletown and Harris campuses. Dr. Hortian is fellowship-trained in Colon and Rectal Surgery, and provides compassionate, evidence-based care for a wide range of colon, rectal and anal disorders.

For more information on Garnet Health Doctors' services or to make an appointment, visit [garnethealth.org/doctors](https://garnethealth.org/doctors).



Joseph Cupoli



Kassandra Garnere



Vanessa Hortian



Hafsa Mahmood



Stephanie Rosarion

### Newlyweds Donate Flowers to Patients

Garnet Health Foundation received a donation of roses and other fresh flowers from newlyweds Mr. and Mrs. Heifetz, who chose to share the arrangements from their wedding on October 11. With the help of Jennifer Malinchak, Jackie Perez, Jane Dever and Pamela Yosh, the flowers were shared with patients throughout the hospital to help brighten their day.

If you'd like to donate to Garnet Health Foundation, please call (845) 333-2333 or visit [garnethealth.org/foundation](https://garnethealth.org/foundation).



### GARNET HEALTH DOCTORS AND PRIMARY CARE: CALICOON

Garnet Health Doctors in Callicoon is now accepting new patients, providing high-quality care to keep you on top of your health. Our expert providers, **Kaitlin Slater, FNP-C**, and **Christina Wood, FNP**, deliver compassionate care to all patients, from routine checkups to ongoing wellness needs.



Kaitlin Slater



Christina Wood

Location: 8881 State Route 97, Callicoon, NY 12723

Book your appointment now by calling (845) 333-6860 or by signing up for MyChart at [www.garnethealth.org/mychart](https://www.garnethealth.org/mychart).



## Quality Corner

# Quality & Infection Control Week 2025: Partnering for Safer Care

This year's Quality and Infection Control Week was a vibrant reminder of the power of collaboration and education in keeping our patients safe. Staff from all departments came together to celebrate, learn and reinforce our commitment to quality improvement and patient safety.

### Key Takeaways from the Week

- **Quality Trivia Challenge:** Staff tested their knowledge of safety and infection-control practices.
- **Interactive Stations:** Hands-on demonstrations covered hand hygiene, infection- prevention techniques and patient-safety essentials.
- **Engagement Activities:** Games and prizes encouraged participation while reinforcing key safety messages.
- **Quality & IC Rounding:** Members of the quality and infection-control teams visited different departments, highlighting the importance of frontline engagement in continuous improvement.

The enthusiasm, creativity and shared commitment we witnessed show that quality improvement is not just a task, it's a culture we build together, making our hospital a safer place for patients, families and staff.



Catskills



Middletown

## A Heartfelt Thank You to Case Management

Angel Santana, Lead Switchboard Operator, was recently invited to Garnet Health's Case Management team's staff meeting. Angel read an email he had sent to the Case Management staff during Case Management Week, thanking them for going above and beyond for his family. Case Managers play a vital role in helping patients get the right care by coordinating appointments, services and follow-ups to ensure nothing falls through the cracks. Their hard work makes a difference in patients' lives every day.



*Pictured: Angel Santana, Lead Switchboard Operator*

# December Recognition Days 2025

Garnet Health is committed to being an inclusive organization that supports growth and innovation by providing an environment where employees, patients and visitors feel they belong.

We also recognize that having diverse backgrounds among our staff and providers contributes to better patient care.

Please join us in acknowledging the following national and/or worldwide recognitions.

### December 3

#### International Day of Persons with Disabilities

A day dedicated to ensuring that all people in the world have equal opportunities to work and play, and for health and success, no matter what their disability.

### December 6

#### National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Honors, commemorates and memorializes those who face discrimination and stigma.

### December 10

#### Human Rights Day

Marks the 1948 adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It has inspired countries and people alike to reaffirm their unwavering dedication to a vision of a common humanity rooted in shared values.

### December 14-22

#### Hanukkah

Also called the Festival of Lights, the eight-day celebration commemorates the rededication of the Second Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

### December 16-24

#### Las Posadas

A religious festival traditionally held in Mexico and parts of Latin America, Las Posadas is an important part of Christmas festivities. Before each gathering on the nine nights of celebration, all the guests form a procession to mark Mary and Joseph's search for an inn on the night of Jesus's birth.

### December 24-25

#### Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Families and friends come together and remind each other of the many things they have to be thankful for.

### December 26

#### Kwanzaa

An African American and pan-African holiday that celebrates family and community over seven days, which represent reflection on seven principles: Faith, Unity, Self-Determination, Creativity, Purpose, Cooperative Economics and Responsibility.



## Grant Funds Custom Trike Donation

Garnet Health Foundation and Legislator Brian Maher, along with staff from the Larkin Task Force, recently presented a custom-made tricycle to a child in our community. The Foundation applied for an 'Encourage Kids' Foundation grant on behalf of the Larkin Task Force to help fund the bike, which is designed to support children with limited mobility or balance, giving them a safe way to enjoy riding.



*Pictured left to right: Kristin Mulligan, Larkin Taskforce; Celina Rofer, Beautiful People Representative; Stephanie Kostenblatt, Executive Director at Beautiful People Adaptive Sports; Brian Maher, Assemblyman; Jonathan Schiller, President and CEO of Garnet Health; Meghan Hurlburt, Assemblyman Maher's Chief of Staff; Stacey Blustein, Foundation Board Member; Pam Yosh, Foundation President*

## Surgical Technicians Volunteer on Mission Trip to Nicaragua

Surgical Technicians Dawn Cholewka, CST, and Edna Helms, CST, recently traveled to Nicaragua for their first medical-mission trip. Using their own vacation time and personal funds, they joined a team providing eye surgeries to those in need. They are working 12 hours a day and are projected to complete 500 eye surgeries in one week. Their hard work and compassion reflect their passion for helping others.



*Pictured left to right: Surgical Technicians Dawn Cholewka, CST, and Edna Helms, CST*

## Credit and Collections Team Supports 'Ride 2 Survive' Sullivan County

The Catskills Credit and Collections Team donated a themed basket titled "Picnic for Two" to the Ride 2 Survive Sullivan County Gala held on November 1, 2025.

In addition, the team presented a donation totaling \$325, raised through a year-long, loose-change collection that ran from October 2024 through October 2025. The money was generously contributed by Garnet Health employees and community members visiting the office.

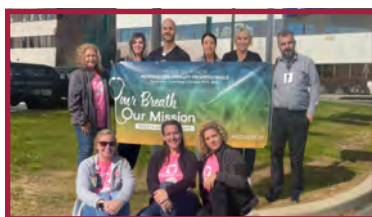
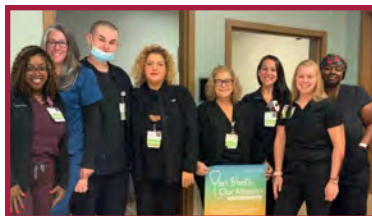
*Pictured left to right: Stefanie Kellam, Romena Owens, Credit and Collections Customer Service Representatives; and Glorianne Ellison, Ride 2 Survive Sullivan County President.*



## Garnet Health Celebrates Respiratory Care Week

Respiratory Therapists at Garnet Health Medical Center - Catskills celebrated Respiratory Care Week from October 19-25, recognizing the vital role they play in patient care. These therapists bring lifesaving support every day, from managing ventilators to helping premature infants take their first breaths.

Thank you for all that you do to support our patients and community!



## Symplr Workforce Mobile App Shift Trade Can Help You Achieve Perfect Attendance!

Are you part of our clinical staff? If so, have you heard about the Symplr app? This tool makes shift trading simple, helping you avoid unscheduled absences and stay eligible for the monthly Perfect Attendance Award. Scan the QR code to get started today!



**DOWNLOAD FROM THE APP STORE**

## Upcoming Things to Know

**Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Representative**  
Garnet Health Medical Center Conference Center Lobby  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | December 1



# Ribbon Cutting of the Oncology Garden

Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills cut the ribbon to the re-established Oncology Garden! This garden stands as a living tribute, a reflection of compassion, warmth and dignity. These are the very qualities we wish to honor in Oncology Nurse, Minnie Washington.

Through this space, we continue to celebrate Minnie's legacy and the enduring spirit of care that defines our Oncology team. It will serve not only as a tribute to our former colleague, but also as a place of comfort and reflection, a quiet corner where patients and families can sit, relax or simply pause as they wait for a ride home.



*Pictured left to right: Suzanne Lange, Garnet Health Medical Center - Catskills Chief Nursing Officer and VP of Patient Care Services; Jerry Dunlavey, Garnet Health Medical Center - Catskills CEO; Garnet Health Foundation, Catskills Board Members Sue Horton, Dan Berkowicz, Bob Ernst and Larry Richardson; and Megan Evans, Manager of Philanthropy.*



*Pictured left to right: Garnet Health Foundation, Catskills Board Members Bob Ernst and Sue Horton; Jerry Dunlavey, Garnet Health Medical Center - Catskills CEO; Mary O'Shea, Oncology Nurse; Suzanne Lange, Garnet Health Medical Center - Catskills Chief Nursing Officer and VP of Patient Care Services; and Toni Duncan, Clinical Director of Obstetrics & Nursing Process Management.*



*Pictured left to right: Mary O'Shea, Oncology Nurse, and Susie Simon, who donated the bench in memory of her wife, Sophia "Eve" Simon.*



*Pictured left to right: Daughter of former nurse Earnestine Bridges, Minnie's family; Mary O'Shea, Oncology Nurse; additional member of Minnie's family.*

## Walden Savings Makes Banking Easier at Garnet Health Medical Center

Garnet Health Medical Center hosted a ribbon-cutting for the new full-service ATM, installed by Walden Savings Bank. Located in the hospital's cafeteria, the ATM provides easy access to cash for patients, visitors and staff. The installation supports Walden Savings Bank's ongoing commitment to expanding banking accessibility in the Hudson Valley, particularly in high-traffic community locations where convenience is essential.

"Garnet Health Medical Center is pleased to be among the many locations throughout the Hudson Valley where Walden Savings Bank has made banking easier, especially for our staff, patients and visitors," stated James Grigg, Chief Financial Officer, Garnet Health.

Thank you, Walden Savings Bank!



## OUT AND ABOUT

### GARNET HEALTH ATTENDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION EVENT

Garnet Health leaders recently attended the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan event, proudly representing our organization and our ongoing dedication to community partnership.



### Office of the Aging Event

Community Health Manager Delilah Socci and Community Health RN Leslie Miccio recently tabled at the Office of the Aging Caregiver's Symposium event to promote wellness in the community.



*Pictured left to right: Delilah Socci, Community Health Manager, and Leslie Miccio, Community Health RN*

### Community Leaders Present at BOCES

Delilah Socci, Community Health Manager, along with other community members, presented at the BOCES event, "Support the Whole Child: Collaboration and Care in Schools," on November 4. The event highlighted the importance of creating a healthy and supportive environment for students.



*Pictured left to right: Delilah Socci, Community Health Manager, and Dr. Bisundev Mahato, who presented insights on The Adolescent Brain in the Age of Social Media.*



## Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Center Go Pink

This past October, Garnet Health's Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Centers in Harris and Middletown turned pink to show support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month! If you or a loved one is dealing with nonhealing wounds related to breast cancer or cancer treatment, our team is here to help.

Learn more at [garnethealth.org/woundhealing](http://garnethealth.org/woundhealing).



Catskills



Middletown



*Pictured, left to right: Natasha Smalls, Diagnostic Imaging Coordinator, Catskills; Delilah Socci, Community Health Manager; and Donna DeStefano, Diagnostic Imaging Director, Catskills.*



*Pictured, left to right: Aimee Monastero, Patient Navigator; Delilah Socci, Community Health Manager; Resident Dr. Alcindor Godly; Amy Russell-Parlman, Director, Diagnostic Imaging and Breast Center; and in the back, Debbie Jennings, Breast Center Coordinator.*

## Free Mammogram Screenings

Recently, Garnet Health hosted free mammogram screenings in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. These screenings provided crucial access to care for individuals in our community who were underinsured or uninsured, helping support early detection and better health outcomes.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these important events possible.

## Garnet Health Medical Center December Auxiliary Vendor Sales

Want to shop and do some good at the same time? Throughout December, we're welcoming vendors to showcase their merchandise. A percentage of vendor sales will support the Garnet Health Medical Center Auxiliary, a group of community volunteers dedicated to enhancing patient programs and services at the hospital. All vendors will be located in the lobby of the ground-floor level unless otherwise noted.

### December Vendor Dates

<b>12/4</b> Arlene's Hair Accessories	<b>12/17</b> D & D Jewelry
<b>12/5</b> Med Shoes	<b>12/18</b> Teddies's Jewelry
<b>12/8</b> Joint 2 Jewelers	<b>12/19</b> Krafty Kandles
<b>12/9</b> Bitachon	<b>12/22</b> John's Jewelry Box
<b>12/10</b> Eleanor Jewelers	<b>12/23</b> J's Divine Jewelzz
<b>12/11</b> Sew E-Z Creations	<b>12/24</b> Personally Yours
<b>12/12</b> Magnolia Label Designs	<b>12/26</b> Carol's Handmade Designs
<b>12/15</b> Silver Dollar Boutique	<b>12/30</b> Northern Medical
<b>12/16</b> Your Nutz	<b>12/31</b> Northern Medical

## Pictures and Postcards Needed

Volunteer Services is collecting old magazines, calendars, postcards and books for upcoming patient art projects on 2 East. Donations will be accepted through December 17. If you have extra materials you no longer need, please drop them off at Garnet Health Medical Center, 707 East Main Street, Middletown, NY, at Volunteer Services, Ground Floor of the Main Hospital. For pick-up, please call **Maureen Roche** at x0213 or **April Alvarado** at x0218.

Donations will be accepted through December 17.

Old magazines, calendars, postcards and books

## Gems Newsletter

Produced by Garnet Health Marketing & Corporate Communications.  
For more information, email [dmontes@garnethealth.org](mailto:dmontes@garnethealth.org) or call (845) 333-2391.

[garnethealth.org](http://garnethealth.org)