

OCTOBER 2026

Garnet Health. Gems

Exceptional
Lives Here.



Making Strides,
Making a Difference



Pet-Therapy Program Celebrates Blessing of the Animals

A Blessing of the Animals ceremony was held on October 7th for our pet-therapy volunteers. This event serves as a meaningful way to honor and celebrate the special bond between our furry friends, patients and staff. In attendance were pet therapists, volunteers who stopped by with their dogs and guests from Hudson Valley Paws for the Cause.

The blessing symbolizes gratitude for the animals' contributions to the emotional and physical well-being of those they serve, and it also fosters a sense of community and connection among program participants, caregivers and the therapy animals themselves.

As in years past, we gathered to not only give thanks for and bless the animals we have in our lives, but also remember those who have crossed the rainbow bridge. This past year was especially difficult with the loss of Mishka, Katie and Krissy, three dogs who brought love and joy to everyone they met. We are grateful and blessed for the years of love and laughter we shared with these amazing dogs!



Stroke Education Day



Garnet Health Medical Center recently hosted a Stroke Education Day with Progressive Care Unit (PCU) nurses, featuring educational presentations on stroke care, stroke management and stroke syndromes.

The event was hosted by PCU nursing directors Kim Jablonski, Selin Tekin and Maria Battpaglia-Nieves. Presentations were delivered by Damin Singh, MD, PGY-4 neurology resident; Lizzie Parker, nursing professional development; Alexandria Mesropyan, lead neurosurgical APP; and Becky Orman, administrator of Neurosciences Services.

Thank you to everyone who helped organize and present at this educational event, supporting continued learning and excellence in stroke care.



Garnet Health Thanksgiving Day Meal

The Nutrition & Food Service Department would like to wish the Garnet Health family a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

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**.

November 26, 2026 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 Thanksgiving 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 Thanksgiving Meal

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Callicoon Campus

Complimentary Thanksgiving Meal

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

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

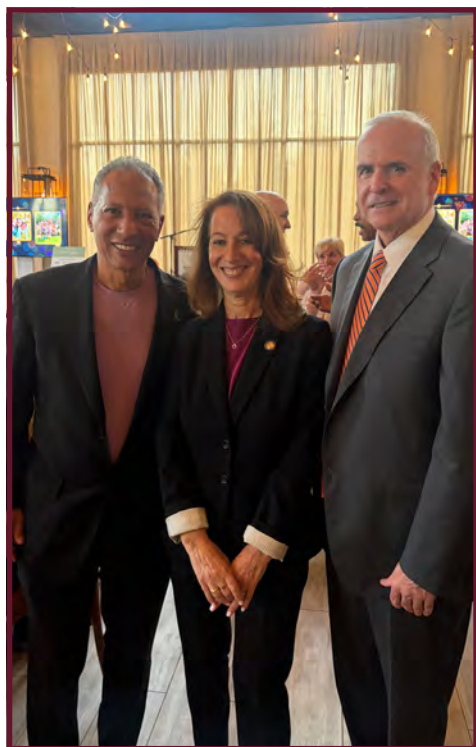
Out and About



Boys & Girls Club Annual Grown Here Event

Garnet Health representatives recently attended the Boys & Girls Club of Town of Wallkill, Inc.'s annual *Grown Here* event. This year's honorees were Karen Fisher and our very own Jay Anthony, Garnet Health board member.

The Boys & Girls Club serves youth from northern Orange and Sullivan counties. Garnet Health is proud to support this organization and its mission.



Pictured left to right: Jay Anthony; Assemblywoman Paula Kay; and Jerry Dunlavey, CEO of Garnet Health – Catskills and CEO of Garnet Health Doctors

Inspire Foundation's Shining Stars Celebration

Moira Mencher, Garnet Health's administrator of Planning & Community Relations and a member of Inspire's board of directors, recently attended Inspire's annual fundraising event.

Moira (left) is pictured with Maria Manrique of Focus Wealth Management. Garnet Health is a proud supporter of Inspire and its mission.



Garnet Health

Beyond Our Walls Presents

Thanksgiving Food Drive

During the season of gratitude, join Beyond Our Walls in its initiative of providing care outside of our hospitals.

This November, please consider helping families in need by donating Thanksgiving dinner baskets or ShopRite gift cards.

DUE BY:
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 17, 2026
10:00 AM

Please email your campus representative for drop-off locations.

For a list of required basket items and ShopRite gift card balance(s), please contact your campus representative.

If you or your department are interested in participating, or someone you know is in need, please contact:

Callicoon Campus

Eva Edwards

845-333-6807

eedwards1@garnethealth.org

Harris Campus

Jodi Goodman

845-333-8785

jgoodman@garnethealth.org

Middletown Campus

Catia Pereira-Gentile

845-333-1214

cgentile@garnethealth.org

Thank you for your generosity!

BEE AWARDS

Celebrates September Employees of the Month

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.



Jacqueline Palmer

Head Chef, Nutrition & Food Service, Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills

Chef Jax is always willing to lend a helping hand. On one occasion, a patient was craving pancakes, and despite it being 4:00 p.m., Chef Jax went out of her way to prepare them. The next day, the patient craved a Danish, and Chef Jax was happy to make that happen too.

Thank you for always going above and beyond for our patients!



Esma Djoni

Nursing Assistant on 5 South, Garnet Health Medical Center

Esma is being recognized for her compassion, dedication and exceptional bedside manner. She received outstanding praise from a patient for going above and beyond, supporting her fellow team members and providing attentive, compassionate care, even in challenging situations.

Congratulations, Esma, and thank you for making a meaningful difference in the lives of those you serve!

Good Catch and Great Save Awards

Shoutout to **Amanda Teichman**, MD, trauma medical director, and **Danielle Malone**, trauma PA at Garnet Health Medical Center, who were recently honored with a Great Save Award. While working late, they smelled smoke and immediately reported their concerns. Their attentiveness and swift action prompted an emergency response, preventing the situation from escalating.

Thank you both for going the extra mile to protect our patients, visitors, staff and facility!



We're proud to recognize **Christine Licari**, supervisor of Patient Access at Garnet Health Medical Center, who was recently honored with a Good Catch Award for contacting Infection Control and redirecting a family to the emergency department after she identified a possible exposure. Thanks to Christine's quick thinking, the patient received the timely care and support they needed.



Thank you, Christine, for your commitment to safety and for taking quick action!

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.

Welcome!



Gerard A. Baltazar, DO, FACOS, FACS, FCCM, OMT, recently joined Garnet Health Doctors as a Trauma Surgeon. Dr. Baltazar earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his general-surgery residency at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and his surgical critical-care fellowship at University Hospital in Newark, New Jersey. In his new role, Dr. Baltazar will provide inpatient trauma surgery coverage at Garnet Health Medical Center.

Dr. Baltazar can be reached at gbaltazar@garnethealth.org.

Zachary Blome, PA-C, joins Garnet Health Doctors' Trauma Program as a Physician Assistant. He earned his Master of Science in Physician-Assistant Studies from the Medical University of South Carolina and brings a strong foundation in patient care developed through advanced clinical training and hands-on healthcare experience. In his new role, Zachary will provide inpatient trauma coverage as a member of the trauma-surgery team at Garnet Health Medical Center.

Zachary can be reached at zblome@garnethealth.org.



Brianna Campbell, PA-C, recently joined Garnet Health Doctors as a Physician Assistant.

Brianna earned her Master of Science in physician-assistant studies from Marist University in May 2026 and holds a Bachelor of Science in biology from the State University of New York at Cortland. In her new role, Brianna will provide inpatient-care coverage in the ICU at Garnet Health Medical Center.

Brianna can be reached at bcampbell@garnethealth.org.

Hannah Doiron, PA-C, has joined Garnet Health Doctors as a Physician Assistant in urgent care. She has a strong background in patient care and emergency medical services, and earned her Master of Science in physician-assistant studies from Stony Brook University and her Bachelor of Science in biology. In her new role, Hannah will provide urgent-care services across Garnet Health Urgent Care locations.

Hannah can be reached at hdoiron@garnethealth.org.



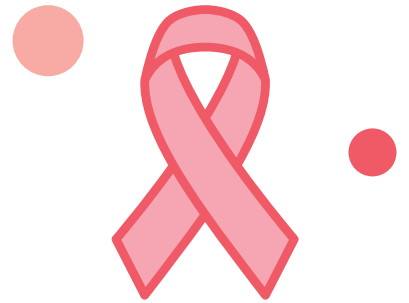
Allison Kouloumbinis, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, joins Garnet Health Urgent Care as a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner, bringing extensive experience in critical care, travel nursing and outpatient family medicine. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner) and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Mount Saint Mary College. In her new role, Allison will provide urgent care services across all Garnet Health Urgent Care locations.

Allison can be reached at akouloumbinis@garnethealth.org.



Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Garnet Health team members came together on Sunday, October 18, at Woodbury Commons Premium Outlets for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. Sporting all things pink, several staff members showed their support for breast cancer awareness. Thank you to all who participated and helped make a difference during Breast Cancer Awareness Month!



QUALITY CORNER:

Building a Culture of Safety: Where Just Culture Meets High Reliability

As we close out 2026, we reflect on our shared commitment to delivering safe, reliable and compassionate care. At Garnet Health, achieving zero preventable harm requires more than policies and procedures; it requires a culture built on trust, accountability and continuous learning.

Just culture encourages employees to speak up, report concerns and learn from errors while promoting fairness and accountability. It recognizes that improving safety means understanding both individual behaviors and the systems in which we work.

High reliability builds upon this foundation by emphasizing situational awareness, teamwork and consistent use of evidence-based practices to prevent harm before it occurs.

Together, these principles strengthen our ability to identify risks, improve processes and deliver exceptional care.

As we look toward 2027, let us continue building a culture where every voice matters, every concern is valued and safety remains everyone's responsibility.



Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills Anniversary Luncheon

On October 9, Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills honored our team members who celebrated service anniversaries, from one year to an impressive 53 years! A special congratulations to Marlon Armstead

and Thomas Fink, who reached an incredible milestone of 53 years of dedicated service! They commemorated these milestones with a delicious buffet of foods prepared by our outstanding Nutrition & Food Service team.

A special thanks to Suzanne Lange-Ahmed, Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills chief nursing officer and vice president of Patient Care Services, and Jerry Dunlavey, Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills CEO, for their thoughtful planning and support.



◆ Garnet Health

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Leadership Care & Safety Rounds

Patient care and safety are our top priorities.

You told us that staying connected and having visible, accessible leadership matters. We heard you.

Through **Leadership Care & Safety Rounds**, hospital leaders are spending time where care happens, connecting with our teams, listening to your feedback, and learning firsthand about what's working well and where additional support may be needed.

Why are we rounding?

To stay connected with you and keep care and safety at the center of what we do.

These rounds give leaders an opportunity to:

- ◆ Hear directly from our teams
- ◆ Recognize what's working well
- ◆ Learn about challenges and concerns
- ◆ Identify opportunities to better support you and our patients

See us rounding? Stop and say hello!

Your voice matters. We want to hear from you.

OPERATIONAL ROUNDS HAS A NEW NAME!

DID YOU KNOW?

Garnet Health Doctors Provides Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment

Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT) is a hands-on treatment used by our specially trained osteopathic physicians (DOs) to help relieve pain, improve mobility and support the body's natural function.

OMT may be used as part of your care for:

- Back and neck pain
- Muscle pain or tightness
- Joint pain and stiffness
- Headaches
- Certain mobility concerns

Talk with your Garnet Health Doctors provider to learn whether OMT may be right for you.

To book an appointment, visit garnethealth.org/omt.



Are You a Patient of Any Garnet Health Service?

As ambassadors of our health system, we should share our Garnet Health experiences with the community. We have a lot to be proud of! If comfortable doing so, upon conclusion of your patient visit, please visit garnethealth.org/locations (or scan the QR code), select the location you visited and click on the "Review Us on Google" button!



From Pregnancy to Parenthood

This free educational event will provide expecting or new parents with:

- ◆ An opportunity to meet our new OB/GYN providers
- ◆ An Infant CPR educational presentation
- ◆ Proper car seat safety practices
- ◆ & more!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Garnet Health Medical Center - Catskills, Harris Campus Board Room
68 Harris Bushville Road
Harris, NY 12742

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

PLEASE NOTE:

The presentation will provide general educational information about the topics described. It is not exhaustive and does not constitute medical advice. The presentation does not take the place of medical directions or advice from your health care provider or address any given health condition or circumstance.

The statements, views, and opinions expressed in the presentation are solely those of the presenters. Any questions regarding your own circumstances or handling of the topics described should be directed to your own healthcare provider. In an emergency, 911 should be contacted immediately.

SCAN NOW!

Or visit: garnethealth.org/events and search for "parenthood"



Garnet Health

SAVE THE DATE



Wellness Wednesday | November 11

Open-Enrollment Benefit Fair

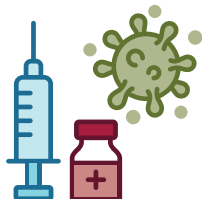
Garnet Health Medical Center

Conference Room 1

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Stop by Conference Room 1 to connect with this month's featured participants:

- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Hospice of Orange and Sullivan
- Principal
- AFLAC



Flu Vaccine Clinic

Occupational Health will be hosting a flu vaccine clinic from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on November 11 in the Conference Center.

Stop by to get your flu vaccine!

Bake Sale | November 16

Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills,

Harris Campus, Cafeteria

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

All funds raised will support the Nurses Excellence Fund at Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills.

Interested in participating? Please contact **Megan Evans** at mevans@garnethealth.org or (845) 333-8958.

New York Life Representative | November 19

Garnet Health Medical Center

Conference Center Lobby

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Recognizing Our November Care Champions

November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month and National Diabetes Month.

November 1

begins Medical-Surgical Nurses Week, Corporate Compliance and Ethics Week, National Patient Transport Week, Urology Nurses and Associates Week, and National Medical Staff Services Awareness Week.

November 8

starts National Radiologic Technology Week, Perioperative Nurses Week and National Nurse Practitioner (NP) Week.

November 15

is National Philanthropy Day.

Food Farmacy



We Need Your Help!

Across the system, our Food Farmacy has provided food to inpatients and outpatients who have been screened as food insecure.

Garnet Health's Food Farmacy Program is an official member of the Hudson Valley Regional Food Bank and has received over 5,000+ pounds of food to support the growing demand.

However, the Food Bank cannot always provide personal care items, bottled water, toiletries, etc.



Please consider the donation of:

- Cases of 16oz bottled water
- Feminine hygiene products
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Soap
- Toilet paper

Donation Contacts:

Garnet Health Medical Center
Maureen Roche | 845-333-0213
mroche1@garnethealth.org

Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills
Jodi Goodman | 845-333-8785
jgoodman@garnethealth.org

For more information, please contact: **Delilah Socci** at dsocci@garnethealth.org

August Perfect Attendance Winner!



At Garnet Health, we deeply appreciate our team members who show up every day to keep our organization running smoothly and to support one another. That's why we're proud to offer a great

Perfect Attendance Incentive Program!

Congratulations to our **August 2026 Perfect Attendance winner**, Douglas Taylor, Radiation Oncology Therapist, Garnet Health Medical Center. Douglas was awarded \$1,604 for achieving perfect attendance in August's monthly incentive program!

Maintain perfect attendance throughout 2026 for a chance to win a growing **POT OF GOLD!**
As of August, the annual pot of gold is up to

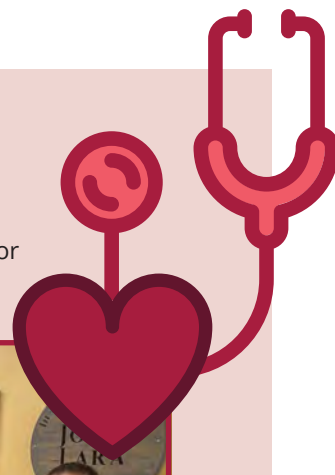


Garnet Health's Perfect Attendance Incentive Program provides all full- and part-time employees the opportunity to earn extra cash for perfect attendance. Each month, \$1 per employee who had perfect attendance the month prior will be added to an incentive pot. By random drawing, 50% of the monthly pot will be awarded to one employee who had perfect attendance. The remaining 50% will be contributed to the annual prize pot, which will be divided equally among three employees, one from Garnet Health Medical Center, one from Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills and one from Garnet Health Doctors, through a random drawing from employees who maintained perfect attendance throughout 2026.

Celebrating Emergency Nurses Week

In honor of Emergency Nurses Week (October 11-17), we recognized our emergency nurses for their compassion and commitment to providing exceptional care to our patients every day.

**THANK YOU
FOR ALL YOU DO!**



November 2026 Recognition Days

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.

November 1-2

Día de los Muertos

A Mexican holiday honoring the souls of the dead, rooted in the belief that their spirits return to visit their living family members.

November 2

All Souls' Day

A day of prayer and remembrance for all the deceased Christians, especially souls in purgatory.

November 11

Veterans Day

A tribute to military veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

November 19

International Men's Day

Highlights positive male role models and issues that face men globally.

November 20

Transgender Day of Remembrance

A day that honors, commemorates and memorializes those who face discrimination and stigma across the nation.

November 25

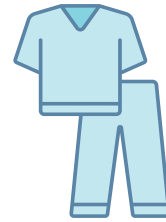
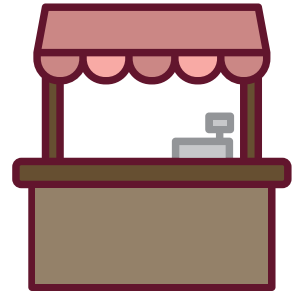
International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

The first of 16 days of remembrance and activism, culminating in International Human Rights Day, designated by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1999.

November 26

Thanksgiving Day

A day of celebrating our blessings and those we love.



Garnet Health Medical Center November Auxiliary Vendor Sales



Want to shop and do some good at the same time? Throughout November, 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.

November Vendor Dates

11/2 Scentsy Candles

11/3 Northern Medical and Atabey Botanicals

11/4 J's Divine Jewelzz

11/5 Ott'rageous Cookie Co.

11/6 Farmhouse Sourdough Breads

11/9 A Stylish Bling

11/10 Arlene's Hair Accessories

11/11 Bitachon

11/12 Tupperware

11/13 Silver Dollar Boutique

11/16 Wieber's Warehouse

11/17 Your Nutz

11/18 John's JewelryBox

11/19 Scrubs Nyack

11/20 Scrubs Nyack

Gems Newsletter

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

garnethealth.org