

Richmond University Medical Center Hosts Cancer Survivors Month Dedication Ceremony



Richmond University Medical Center Oncology doctors and medical staff at cancer survivorship event.

On Tuesday, June 7, oncologists, medical staff and senior leadership from Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) joined cancer survivors for a dedication ceremony at RUMC's Center for Cancer Care to celebrate June as National Cancer Survivors Month. Keynote speaker Aubrey Barr, founder of the Aubrey Foundation at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, inspired and uplifted the crowd with her survivor story and positive outlook on life. RUMC's Rehabilitation Department demonstrated various exercises and Holistic Wellness NYC educated the crowd with displays of their yoga, meditation, and reiki services.

"The purpose of National Cancer Survivors Month is to bring cancer survivors together to show that there is life after receiving a diagnosis of cancer," Dr. Daniel J. Messina, RUMC president and chief executive officer, said. "When you hear the words 'you have cancer' the impact goes beyond the patient; it hits the family just as hard. That's why it is important to also celebrate families of cancer survivors as part of National Cancer Survivors Month.

Nationally recognized as Cancer Survivors Month, June is an opportunity for all 16.9 million cancer survivors across the country to celebrate their

milestones and recognize those who have supported them along the way. This year's keynote speaker, Aubrey Barr, is the definition of the survivor mentality; the marathon runner and childhood cancer survivor has raised nearly \$100M for Memorial Sloan-Kettering running with Fred's Team since the team's inception in 1995. The group is named for Fred Lebow, a co-founder of the New York City Marathon who was treated for brain cancer at Memorial Sloan Kettering in the early 1990s and passed away in 1994. Fred's Team has grown from a few dozen runners to 700+ runners annually.

Aubrey's mantra is to stay positive, be patient, and take action. "Survivors have a lot of joy to find in every day. A survivor by definition is a person being alive after an event when others have died. We all know that pain and that tide is turning. Survivorship is really a frame of mind that promotes self-empowerment and a person's ability to overcome a traumatic event. A survivor mindset is mental stability under pressure, handling situations with strength, and making good tactical decisions like choosing RUMC," said Barr. The services of Richmond University Medical Center allow you to stay local without compromising your care.

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From the President & CEO, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE



Summer is here and along with the much anticipated warm weather, expansion projects throughout Richmond University Medical Center are coming to fruition. This month, we will open our new 14-bed, state-of-the-art Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) with advanced features that include telemedicine technology, electronic glass replacing cubicle curtains, full bathrooms, surge capable double headwalls, built-in Hoyer lifts, big screen televisions, and pull-out family and visitor sofas.

The MICU typically has some of the highest acuity patients in the hospital who are often admitted for conditions that require close monitoring. When our new MICU was designed, a key point was to improve each patient's access to full family support. When our medical team is dealing with a patient's condition, they're not just dealing with a patient, but with their entire family. With that in mind, the new MICU was designed with a family zone that will enable families to participate in the care of their loved ones. Studies show this approach improves the outcome for critically ill patients.

During the COVID-19 surge, many patients requiring meticulous monitoring and care were admitted to our MICU. We are increasing the size of the unit from 10 beds to 14 beds, with larger, private rooms featuring evidence-based design.

Our new MICU designed by our clinical team, will provide the institution and the community with the latest in critical care technology and safety in a modern, aesthetically pleasing environment. Infection control is a priority and will be optimized by replacing cubicle curtains with electronic glass and the unit will be equipped with sub nursing stations that maximize patient monitoring. In addition there will be three negative pressure rooms that meet airborne infection isolation room standards.

Our mighty hospital and our leading edge services will continue to expand and thrive. Heartfelt gratitude goes out to each of you who have helped make all of these advancements possible. Thank you for your continued hard work, dedication and support during the roller coaster ride of health care. And last but not least enjoy the summer. My best to each of you and your families for a safe and relaxing July and August!

Remember the Power of One - You Make A Difference!

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer

Patient Satisfaction: A Note of Thanks

Dear Dan,

I wanted to take a minute to tell you about my interaction with Priority One.

I had a fall on Sunday, June 12. I assumed it was nothing. By Tuesday morning I knew it was "something" (turned out to be a fractured pelvis) so we decided to go to the ER at RUMC. My husband got in touch with Alli who contacted Bill. Bill coordinated with Chris at Priority One to arrange a pick up for Wednesday morning.

By way of background, our house is on the side of Grymes Hill, one level below Howard Avenue. There are three levels of stairs to get to the front door from the street. Halfway up a very steep driveway, there is a series of concrete "platforms" that go up the hill on the side of the house into the backyard. From that point there is access to the sunroom that leads to the living room.

When the team from Priority arrived with a chair, they saw what excruciating pain I was in when I attempted to move in bed, so the chair was not an option. They headed down the three levels to the street and brought up a cage-like metal carrier that I could lie in for transport. That proved problematic because of the pain when

I moved at all to get into it. They went down again and bought up a back board. They were able to put me on that without my experiencing any pain.

The guys carried me out of the bedroom, through the house, and out to the backyard. We went down the platform steps to the steep driveway, and then down to street level.

I am going into this degree of detail to explain what a challenging situation this was. They get a 10 out of 10 on that score.

My team members were Kevin Richardson, Alejandro Espinosa, William Garcia, Afnan Lohdi, and Eugene Samolyanko.

Major kudos to team captain Chris Magnus who executed this whole process flawlessly from start to finish. In addition, he was immediately available via cell if we needed anything.

In a couple of words, Dan, these guys are simply the best!

I will send you an additional email about the wonderful people who took such good care of me at RUMC.

Sincerely, Pat

South Shore Rotary Club applauds 'Service-Above-Self' and honors Dr. Francesco Rotatori, along with four others, for their volunteer work.



Left to right: Steven M. Klein, Dr. Mitchell Weinberg, Rose Bolella, Dr. Francesco Rotatori, and Evelyn Kormanik.

Community leaders and friends gathered at the Historic Old Bermuda Inn for the South Shore Rotary Club's annual President's Business Award Ceremony and Luncheon to recognize the accomplishments of those whose work improves the lives of Staten Islanders.

"We are pleased to honor outstanding leaders who share our passion to improve our community through their work," said Joseph E. Torres, president, South Shore Rotary. "They share the mission of local, regional, national and Rotarians worldwide who offer service above self — with the sole purpose of improving lives."

The South Shore Rotary Club feted Rose Bolella, a social worker at the South Beach Psychiatric Center, a former Miss Manhattan; Steven M. Klein, president and CEO, Northfield Bank, Evelyn Kormanik, founder, Giving Circle; Dr. Francesco Rotatori, chief of cardiology, Richmond University Medical Center, and Dr. Mitchell D. Weinberg, department of cardiology, Staten Island University Hospital.

The South Shore Rotary Club committee charged with planning and implementing the afternoon program was headed by incoming president/attorney Christopher J. Arrigali, and included Nina Bocca, April Cass, Mona Ghanem, Rosemarie Dressler, Lynne Persing, and Joseph Torres.

"The South Shore Rotary Club prides itself on its motto of Service Above Self," said Arrigali, event chair. "Our Business Award Ceremony and Luncheon allows our club to recognize outstanding men and women who demonstrate these values and who have had an especially positive impact on our community."

The Staten Island Chapter of New York State Women, Inc., held its annual Women of Distinction Luncheon on Sunday, June 12, at the Staaten. Our own Nancy Taranto was one of this year's honorees.

Left to right: Nancy Taranto RN, Vice President, Regulatory, Lung Nurse Navigator Nancy Sayegh-Rooney, RN ONN-CG, CTTS



Comments Report | Quarter To Date

Survey Section	Comment Question	Comment	Received Date	Unit	Specialty
Meals	Meals	The food was fine. They made a mistake with my preferences but connected it when informed.	23-Jun-22	Slb 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Room	Room	I had good experience, I am satisfied for everything.	23-Jun-22	ICU	Intensive Care Unit
Labor and Delivery	Labor and Delivery	Amazing staff.	23-Jun-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	Good experience overall.	23-Jun-22	Slb 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	Good.	21-Jun-22	Slb 4	Medical Telemetry
Personal Issues	Personal Issues	Good.	21-Jun-22	Slb 4	Medical Telemetry
Nurses	Nurses	5th floor was terrific.	8-Jun-22	Slb 5	Medical
Meals	Meals	Always served on time.	7-Jun-22	Slb 4	Medical Telemetry
Postpartum	Post-Partum	Nurse *Westgate in L&D was excellent! She was kind and attentive and available my entire labor which was a sharp contrast to my first experience with my other son. She was the BEST! I had a wonderful delivery experience. Thank YOU!	7-Jun-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Room	Room	They are all very nice hard working.	7-Jun-22	Slb 4	Medical Telemetry
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	While I was in excruciating pain the staff was excellent in helping me to relieve pain.	6-Jun-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Personal Issues	Personal Issues	You have a great staff.	6-Jun-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Nurses	Nurses	Nurse *Michelle was 'fantastic' & physical therapist *Tony was 'FANTASTIC'. Nurse *Eva was great.	6-Jun-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Labor and Delivery	Labor and Delivery	Very attentive always kept me informed.	1-Jun-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Doctors	Doctors	I had 2 blood transfusions & doctors did a great job of explaining everything to me.	1-Jun-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	Kept me informed at all times very attentive and caring.	1-Jun-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Postpartum	Post-Partum	Very attentive and caring.	1-Jun-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Meals	Meals	Food was good and service was wonderful.	1-Jun-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Labor and Delivery	Labor and Delivery	All of the nurses from triage to surgical were kind & informative.	1-Jun-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Postpartum	Post-Partum	All of my nurses from recovery to maternity were wonderful especially: Nurse *Marke, *Eve, & *Elizabeth.	1-Jun-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Nurses	Nurses	The nurses were very attentive, thoughtful and had a very positive energy.	31-May-22	Slb 5	Medical
Doctors	Doctors	The doctors visited often and the students, especially *Esther would take time to sit and answer concerns and questions.	31-May-22	Slb 5	Medical
Labor and Delivery	Labor and Delivery	*Dr. Tubman, the resident assisting her, anesthesiologist & nursing staff were SO KIND to me and made my second C-section delivery a calm & healing experience.	31-May-22	Slb 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Meals	Meals	The staff delivering food was so kind, especially on Monday before we were discharged.	31-May-22	Slb 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Postpartum	Post-Partum	The nursing staff was wonderful with the exception of the one we had on my first day of recovery. The rest were extremely sweet and helpful.	31-May-22	Slb 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Doctors	Doctors	The doctor *In Tubman is incredible. She saved my life and MY BABY!!!	20-May-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Meals	Meals	Always asked what I want, the food was hot, fresh delicious.	20-May-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Labor and Delivery	Labor and Delivery	Everything was enough.	20-May-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Postpartum	Post-Partum	Everyone was great! *TONI ANN specifically took excellent care of me.	20-May-22	Slb 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	Thank you for a great experience!	20-May-22	Slb 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Doctors	Doctors	I couldn't have asked for better doctors.	20-May-22	Slb 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Meals	Meals	The kitchen staff was great! They gave me multiple options for each meal. Everything was delicious!	20-May-22	Slb 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Meals	Meals	Delicious and fulfilling and lost of choose and great ones to pick from which picking the menu was very delightful and enjoyable to pick with no problems.	20-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Doctors	Doctors	Good very good, I have no complaints.	20-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Personal Issues	Personal Issues	Also well done... I have nothing bad to say, it's all good and I really enjoyed my stay and I never got disrespected or ignored and was treated well and was shown lots of caring.	20-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	I always recommend this hospital. I never had a problem and was always well taken of and never have I seen no different in actions.	20-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Postpartum	Post-Partum	The nurses have always been polite and communicate with me through an interpreter.	20-May-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Personal Issues	Personal Issues	Pleasant, polite, caring.	20-May-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Room	Room	Always cleaned very well, quietly and quickly.	20-May-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Meals	Meals	Good.	20-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Nurses	Nurses	Good.	20-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Labor and Delivery	Labor and Delivery	My L&D nurses were awesome and very friendly. All of my nurses were very knowledgeable in their specialty of L&D.	20-May-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Room	Room	Very respectful, cleaned room every day and was asked if they could clean and I thought that was a nice a very respectful land thankful.	20-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Labor and Delivery	Labor and Delivery	The nursing staff was great! They took great care of me and checked on me every few minutes. They were very transparent about everything.	20-May-22	Slb 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	Pleasant, polite, caring.	20-May-22	Slbi 1	Obstetrics
Doctors	Doctors	Good.	20-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	Was very good experience.	18-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical

Comments Report | Quarter To Date

Survey Section	Comment Question	Comment	Received Date	Unit	Specialty
Nurses	Nurses	Very nice (RN *Mary Kate sweet and polite.) 1. Good.	18-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Doctors	Doctors	*Dr. Cohen excellent physician.	17-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Nurses	Nurses	Nurses were very nice & helpful.	17-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Labor and Delivery	Labor and Delivery	All the nurses during my labor were wonderful, all very caring and knowledgeable.	13-May-22	Sibi 1	Obstetrics
Comments	Uncategorized Comments	EMS people who came to take me to hospital were very nice people & I felt very happy about it thank you.	13-May-22	Sib 4	Medical Telemetry
Meals	Meals	Was good.	9-May-22	Sib 4	Medical Telemetry
Doctors	Doctors	#3. Everything was very good.	9-May-22	Sib 4	Medical Telemetry
Personal Issues	Personal Issues	Good.	9-May-22	Sib 4	Medical Telemetry
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	Very good.	9-May-22	Sib 4	Medical Telemetry
Room	Room	Very good.	9-May-22	Sib 4	Medical Telemetry
Nurses	Nurses	The nurses were patient, polite & knowledgeably. They helped me in my post-op time working with me to control my pain. They were so supportive & outstanding!	6-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Doctors	Doctors	All exceptional - My surgeon, PA's.	6-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Personal Issues	Personal Issues	No need to leave SI to get outstanding care and expertise.	6-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Doctors	Doctors	Loved our doctor and delivering doctor - he was very kind and thorough.	6-May-22	Sib 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	All the nurses and NA's were amazing. They really treated us like family and made us feel comfortable.	6-May-22	Sib 5	Medical
Room	Room	Staff announced themselves that they were coming in my room and always ASKED IF I needed anything - Wonderful!	6-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Meals	Meals	#2. Outstanding.	6-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	Outstanding care at every level.	6-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Nurses	Nurses	The nurses were kind and empathetic. They always communicated with me & family.	6-May-22	Sib 5	Medical
Meals	Meals	It was great being able to choose what I wanted. Some food tasted better than other options.	6-May-22	Sib 5	Medical
Postpartum	Post-Partum	Nurses were very good and helpful.	6-May-22	Sib 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Labor and Delivery	Labor and Delivery	Labor & Delivery unit was excellent! All nurses & doctors was great.	4-May-22	Sibi 1	Obstetrics
Nurses	Nurses	Nurses were very friendly & caring.	4-May-22	Seton3-1	Medical/Surgical
Labor and Delivery	Labor and Delivery	Nurses were exceptional and made me feel very at ease during labor and post labor.	4-May-22	Sib 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Room	Room	Great experience.	4-May-22	Sib 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Doctors	Doctors	*Dr. Pavlides, the residents and pediatrician were excellent.	3-May-22	Sib 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Postpartum	Post-Partum	Every nurse was more than attentive. They helped me tremendously.	3-May-22	Sib 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Meals	Meals	Excellent food.	29-Apr-22	Sib 6	Medical
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	Great staff and service.	27-Apr-22	Sib 4	Medical Telemetry
Meals	Meals	Food on this floor (5th) came up very warm - I was very surprised. Kitchen was spot-on with comments on menu - such as 2 coffees please etc.	25-Apr-22	Sib 5	Medical
Postpartum	Post-Partum	Labor and delivery nurses were attentive and went above and beyond.	25-Apr-22	Sib 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Nurses	Nurses	Was very pleased with sharing info with me as they received it & calling MD for me when I needed it.	25-Apr-22	Sib 5	Medical
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	Nurses, dietary etc., very kind & pleasant - Met my request as best as possible. (2nd cup coffee) etc.	25-Apr-22	Sib 5	Medical
Labor and Delivery	Labor and Delivery	Nurses were excellent in keeping me updated.	25-Apr-22	Sib 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	*Diane, *Laurie, & *Julia in L&D were the best nurses I could have asked for!	25-Apr-22	Sib 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Doctors	Doctors	*Dr. Benson helped me make a safe decision in delivering my child.	25-Apr-22	Sib 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Doctors	Doctors	Well done.	22-Apr-22		
Nurses	Nurses	Job well done.	22-Apr-22		
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	Thank you for caring for me I'm a NA/HHA/PCA.	22-Apr-22		
Personal Issues	Personal Issues	Did their best.	21-Apr-22	Sib 6	Medical
Doctors	Doctors	Take their time and explained better.	21-Apr-22	Sib 6	Medical
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	Worked as a team.	21-Apr-22	Sib 6	Medical
Nurses	Nurses	Always on time.	21-Apr-22	Sib 6	Medical
Labor and Delivery	Labor and Delivery	*Donna was amazing, thoughtful, caring, explained everything!	13-Apr-22	Sib 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Labor and Delivery	Labor and Delivery	Labor nurses were amazing.	8-Apr-22	Sib 2	Obstetrics/Gynecology
Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment	The staff (both doctors and nurses) were exceptional. The lactation specialist was also amazing.	7-Apr-22	Sibi 1	Obstetrics
Doctors	Doctors	All the doctors were great. The pediatricians and neonatal team were the best.	7-Apr-22	Sibi 1	Obstetrics

Richmond University Medical Center Hosts Cancer Survivors Month Dedication Ceremony



Cancer survivors, RUMC leadership, and keynote speaker Aubrey Barr pose during post-event celebrations.

One quote that has really resonated with Aubrey throughout her journey by Charles R. Swindoll is, "Life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you react to it." Aubrey Barr won a seven-year battle with childhood cancer, after being diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and undergoing four separate trial treatments. Aubrey was first diagnosed with cancer in 1971, when the survival rate for this type of cancer was less than 10 percent. The unique aspect of Aubrey's diagnosis was the fact that her parents decided to keep her cancer a secret from everybody in her family in an effort to keep their environment entirely positive and give Aubrey the most "normal" life she could live. They enrolled Barr in a private school to provide the necessary flexibility for doctor's appointments and treatments and told Aubrey that her blood had a cold and that whenever they traveled into New York City to Memorial Sloan-Kettering it was because they were the only ones with the type of medicine that she needed. As a child, Barr didn't question her parents' explanation and it wasn't until college, after seeing a breakthrough cancer treatment announcement on television by a Memorial Sloan-Kettering doctor, that Barr understood the full extent of what she had gone through and that fact that she not only had cancer, but survived it. Aubrey took up running in college as a way to process all that she had been through and developed a true passion for the sport. Her commitment to running inspired her to train for a marathon and after completing the Boston Marathon, unofficially, as a "bandit" who jumped into the back of the pack at the start, she was hooked and knew that she had to qualify

the following year, which she did. After receiving her parents' blessing to share her childhood story, Aubrey told Fred LeBow, who used Aubrey's story as an inspiration to childhood cancer patients that there is a way through cancer, by creating the Aubrey Fund in 1997. Having completed over 30 marathons, Aubrey has continued to find joy in running and giving back by raising awareness and money for childhood cancer research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering.

Barr's battle with cancer wasn't quite over. In 2010, Aubrey was married at the time with a four-year-old son and a nine-year-old daughter, when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. The skills of survivorship were still with Aubrey and she said, "I coped by turning all of my fear over to the doctors. That's your responsibility and your gift. You understand it, you're doing the best you can, and what good does it do any of us to fret and worry? It changes your whole body chemistry too, it's not good." Barr advises others to stay patient not to be deterred by a negative diagnosis, because she believes that it's a chance to find out what is going on and pivot to take the necessary steps for treatment. Throughout it all, Aubrey continued running because it helped her to stay positive, having only missed the 2010 marathon because she wasn't fully healed from her surgeries. Barr stresses the need to, "stay positive, stay healthy and avoid the victim mindset, because you need to have a survivor mindset. I did it by taking control. I don't know what the future holds, but the survival rates keep climbing thanks to the excellence that you're experiencing here with screenings, innovative treatments,

and palliative care. It's actually a super exciting time in medicine."

Barr encourages others to "stay positive, do what you love, be patient, and take action when needed. Engage in your community and give your gift whenever you can. In the sometimes up and down ride of it, it's a positive trajectory, but it's not always straight up. In those sometimes down times, nothing makes you feel better than doing something for somebody else. Quickest way out of a slump, best thing ever. Cancer is a part of your story, it's not all of it. Again, do what you can to take control over what you can and let go of what you can't. Turn over your fears to your medical team and be happy."

RUMC's Center for Cancer Care opened in 2018, providing a variety of medically-proven cancer treatments and therapies. RUMC's oncology program is in its 84th consecutive year of accreditation from the American College of Surgeons, making it the longest consecutively accredited cancer program on Staten Island. In 2020, the Center for Cancer Care earned three-year accreditation in positron emission tomography by the American College of Radiology for providing the highest level of image quality and patient safety. Last spring, RUMC's radiation oncology department also received first time accreditation from the American College of Radiation Oncology in recognition of its exceptional standard of patient care.

"The American Cancer Society uses the term 'cancer survivor' to refer to anyone who has ever been diagnosed with cancer, no matter where they are in the course of their disease," Richard Salhany, chief administrative officer for RUMC, and president of the Richmond Health Network, said. "Our Center for Cancer Care has supported and treated hundreds of cancer patients since the center opened with full service cancer care in a beautiful peaceful setting, restoring them back to a normal lifestyle and focused on wellness. In other words, restoring hope to patients and their families. This event helps us to remember our mission in the brave fight against cancer."

New RUMC expansion of neonatal and pediatric intensive care units fueled with \$7M from NYC



A project to expand Richmond University Medical Center's neonatal (NICU) and pediatric intensive care units (PICU) was fueled with \$7 million from the city's budget, which was recently passed by the City Council.

The Staten Island City Council delegation, led by City Council Minority Leader Joe Borelli (R-South Shore), and Speaker Adrienne Adams secured the capital funds for the expansions.

"For decades, Staten Island's two private hospitals were left to their own devices, forced to meet the borough's constantly growing healthcare challenges without any financial assistance from the city," Borelli said.

"It took tenacity and teamwork to get us here, but finally we can say that our borough is no longer forgotten when it comes to healthcare funding. This significant capital allocation continues our historic financial commitment to RUMC and to the health and wellness of Staten Islanders," he added.

The funding builds on \$2 million Borough President Vito Fossella announced earlier this year for the hospital that will also help fund the NICU and PICU.

RUMC is currently updating approximately 75 percent of its footprint with a mission to

bring a more modern medical experience to the people of Staten Island. The six-year, \$250 million overhaul includes giving high priority to upgrading the nursing in women's and children's services at RUMC, which caters to 3,000 babies who are born at the facility each year, according to the hospital.

As part of the upgrades, the existing NICU, which is 3,600 square feet, will be expanded to 7,950 feet. With nearly double the space, the renovated NICU will be able to accommodate 25 infants and maximize the quantity of private rooms

"We're really on a great road to advancing and modernizing all our clinical facilities at the hospital," Messina said. "This is going to be great for the entire Staten Island community."

Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer

by incorporating new pods, required clinical support spaces, space for families, a treatment room, infant nutrition areas, lactation support and staff support areas. Aiming to benefit the many newborns

who require advanced, specialized care, the newly-renovated and expanded space will provide better access for parent-baby bonding and overall satisfaction.

RUMC President and CEO Dr. Dan Messina said that in addition to the PICU and NICU, the funds would also go to building 10 new mental health beds to serve the community. It's all part of a hospital-wide effort first announced in 2016 to bring a more modern medical experience to the people of Staten Island.

"We're really on a great road to advancing and modernizing all our clinical facilities at the hospital," Messina said. "This is going to be great for the entire Staten Island community."

Said Councilwoman Kamillah Hanks (D-North Shore), "Having the capacity to take care of the ever-growing Staten Island population takes funding, investments, and resources — especially in the only borough without a public hospital."

"I am glad that alongside my colleagues Minority Leader Borelli and Council Member [David] Carr, the Staten Island delegation was able to work with Speaker Adams to secure these critical capital funds."



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Association.

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STROKE

Richmond University Medical Center Is Nationally Recognized for Its Commitment to Providing High-Quality Stroke Care

Richmond University Medical Center has received the American Heart Gold Plus Get With The Guidelines® — Stroke quality achievement award for its commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, ultimately leading to more lives saved and reduced disability.

Richmond University Medical Center also received the American Heart Association's Target: StrokeSM Honor Roll Elite award. To qualify for this recognition, hospitals must meet specific criteria that reduce the time between an eligible patient's arrival at the hospital and treatment with the clot-buster alteplase.

In addition, Richmond University Medical Center received the American Heart Association's Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll award. Target: Type 2 Diabetes aims to ensure patients with Type 2 diabetes, who might be at higher risk for complications, receive the most up-to-date, evidence-based care when hospitalized due to stroke.

Stroke is the number 5 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the U.S. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot

get the blood and oxygen it needs, so brain cells die. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability, and accelerating recovery times.

Get With The Guidelines puts the expertise of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association to work for hospitals nationwide, helping ensure patient care is aligned with the latest research- and evidence-based guidelines. Get With The Guidelines — Stroke is an in-hospital program for improving stroke care by promoting consistent adherence to these guidelines, which can minimize

“Richmond University Medical Center is committed to improving patient care by adhering to the latest treatment guidelines.”

Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer

the long-term effects of a stroke and even prevent death.

“Richmond University Medical Center is committed to improving patient care by adhering to the latest treatment

guidelines,” said Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, president and chief executive officer of Richmond University Medical Center. “Get With The Guidelines makes it easier for our teams to put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis, which studies show can help patients recover better. The end goal is to ensure more people in Staten Island can experience longer, healthier lives.”

Each year, program participants qualify for the award by demonstrating how their organization has committed to providing quality care for stroke patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines, Get With The Guidelines participants also educate patients to help them manage their health and recovery at home.

“We are incredibly pleased to recognize Richmond University Medical Center for its commitment to caring for patients with stroke,” said Steven Messe, MD, chairperson of the Stroke System of Care Advisory Group. “Participation in Get With The Guidelines is associated with improved patient outcomes, fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates — a win for health care systems, families, and communities.”

Local Students Make Special Delivery at Richmond University Medical Center



Student and staff from PS45 delivering handmade cards for families with babies in the NICU.



Students on their way to deliver cards to the NICU.



Approximately 280 students from Public School 45 in West Brighton visited Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) today to deliver handmade cards, which will be distributed to families with infants in the hospital's Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The visit was organized by the school, the hospital, and the March of Dimes.

"PS 45's mission for the March of Dimes WonderWalk is to make a connection between the March of Dimes cause and our community. The students made cards, in hopes of bringing smiles and support to the families of babies in the NICU at RUMC," said Donna Porat-Furyan and Jennifer Sousa, speech-language pathologists at PS 45.

There are over 600 annual admissions to

the hospital's NICU, which has a survival rate of 997.2 out of 1,000 births, one of the highest survival rates nationwide. The NICU has saved babies weighing as little as a pound and a half. The cards created by the students carried messages of hope and encouragement. "'Keep Calm and March On,'" "Sending Love and Hope," and "You Are Not Alone," were some of the messages written by the students on the multicolored cards. The cards will be handed out to NICU families and also posted around the NICU for staff and visitors to see.

"This wonderful example of kindness at such a young age makes it that more special for the families in our NICU," said Dr. Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, president and chief executive officer of Richmond University Medical Center. "The

world should take special notice from these young students and their thoughtful teachers at PS 45. It certainly sends a great message of hope and love in a world that is going through the tough times we read about every time we lift a newspaper or turn on a TV or radio."

"The children of PS 45 demonstrated their sincere kindness and sensitivity to our smallest and sickest babies in our NICU," Rosemary Stazzone, chief operating officer and chief nurse officer, said. "It is actions such as this that make our nurses and physicians and all members of our health care team see the impact of the important work they do each day. Children helping children is a wonderful message. I thank them for seeing an opportunity to bring sunshine to others and acting on it."

I.S. 75 Frank D. Paulo School Donates to the Richmond University Medical Center Child Psychiatry Program

Recently, the Frank D. Paulo School Junior Giving Circle made a large donation of games and arts and crafts materials to the Richmond University Medical center (RUMC) Child Psychiatry program. The donation will be used for patients in the program.

Under the direction of their advisor, Ms. Stephanie Theodorou, the students gathered boxes of donations, which were also distributed to several other child psychiatry programs in addition to RUMC's.

"This is such a generous donation, and we thank the students at I.S. 75 for their thoughtfulness," said Miriam Prat, director of OMH Child and Adolescent Outpatient Mental Health Services and Project LAUNCH clinical director at RUMC, continuing, "Their support is very much appreciated."



Director of OMH Child and Adolescent Outpatient Mental Health Services, Project LAUNCH Clinical Director, Miriam Prat, MBA, LMHC pictured with I.S. 075's generous donations.



Cheryl Garber, Richmond Health Network Manager Of Administrative Services, Deborah Rodriguez, Associate Director Of Cancer Services, Kevin Geoghegan of POPPA, Richard Salhany, President Of Richmond Health Network.

Richmond University Medical Center was proud to participate in a Self-Care Seminar for Police Organization Providing Peer Assistance (POPPA), with members offering Prostate Cancer Screening PSA Blood Draws, Colon Cancer Screening FIT Kit take home tests, EKG and blood pressure readings. There were also key note speeches from chief of Cardiovascular Disease, Dr. Francesco Rotatori, John Travieso, PTA, physical therapist, and Maria Falzone, MS, RD, CDN, nutritionist.



Dr. Francesco Rotatori educating the crowd about cardiovascular health.



Physical therapist John Travieso, PTA, engaging the crowd with stretches and exercises that they can incorporate into their daily routines.



Maria Falzone, MS, RD, CDN, discussing healthy eating, food, and health tips.

On May 4, 2022, the SIPP Auditorium was filled to capacity at a Memorial Service that was held to remember two physicians who recently passed. “The medical staff with the board of trustees wanted to remember these two fine members of the medical staff in a special way,” stated Dr. Pietro Carpenito, EVP, CMO, and chairman of Anesthesia.



Dr. Avijit Dhiren Mukerji was a popular ob/gyn who worked tirelessly over the years serving the Medical Center. He had excellent clinical judgement covering the often challenging labor and delivery room for the S.I. Community, was popular with the staff, and could always be depended upon in any emergency situation. Dr. Marino Polisen, vice chairman of Ob/Gyn, reflected on his professional and personal relationship with Dr. Mukerji, recalling, “Dr. Mukerji was here during my training and I spent many hours with him. I could always depend on his judgement and advice. I really have lost a colleague and a friend.” Several professional nurses provided anecdotes about their friend and the long hours they worked together side by side.



Dr. Calogera “Lilla” Perrone-Liodakis from the pediatrics department was a graduate of the RUMC Residency Program. She was popular with the staff and was fondly remembered by Dr. Brian McMahon, chairman of Pediatrics. In a touching tribute, Dr. Rita Shats, Dr. Lenny Shats, and Dr. Anna Pavlides paid homage to their friend and recounted their close bond and spoke of how Dr. Perrone-Liodakis was like family.

Additional comments were made by Kathryn K. Rooney, Esq., board chair, and Daniel J. Messina, PhD, RUMC president and CEO. Each family received a special plaque from the medical staff reminding them of their deep affection for their colleagues. Maryanne Plumb, RN, from labor and delivery, sang “Amazing Grace” as the families lit a memorial candle to end the service.



RUMC Graduate Medical Education Department is proud to introduce the Graduating Class of Residents for 2022.

We are truly honored to congratulate this group of physicians that has worked diligently through the midst of a global pandemic caring for our community. Despite these challenges, they have remained resilient and have become stronger physicians for it. We salute them.



Department of Medicine Chief Resident Graduates



Department of Psychiatry Graduates and Program Director and Chairman Joel Idowu, MD



Richmond University Medical Center Graduation Class of 2022, Grand Oaks Country Club



Resident Graduation Party 2022



Resident Housestaff Association 2022



Resident Graduation Party 2022, Snug Harbor Cultural Center

From Joan Gleason Scott, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CPHQ, CPPS
Vice President Quality, Infection Prevention, Patient Experience, Language Services



Joan Gleason Scott

Keeping Our Patients Safe — Medication Safety Recognized

For over 20 years, The Leapfrog Group has collected, analyzed, and published data on safety and quality in order to push the health care industry forward. Leapfrog’s bold transparency has promoted high-value care and informed health care decisions — and helped trigger giant leaps forward in the safety, quality, and affordability of U.S. health care.

One of the best practices that is supported by The Leapfrog Group is known as medication reconciliation (MR). The Institute for Healthcare Improvement identifies medication reconciliation as a process that identifies the patient’s most up-to-date medication list and uses this medication history to provide correct medication for each phase of care within the health care facility (Institute for Healthcare Improvement, 2022).

The multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals at Richmond University Medical Center has implemented evidenced-based best practices so that all of our patients are given the correct medications while under our care, and also, upon discharge as they are transitioned to home.

Inpatient medication reconciliation consists of the following components:

1. Upon admission, the patient is asked to provide a list of all of the medications that are actually being taken.
2. This list should be clearly documented and updated throughout the hospitalization if more information becomes available.

3. The list is updated based upon the patient’s current condition throughout the hospital stay.
4. At the time of hospital transfer or discharge, any unintended discrepancies between pre-admission, current, and transfer/discharge orders should be identified and resolved. Reasons for any purposeful discrepancies (i.e., for clinical reasons) should be documented.
5. At discharge, provide patient and/or family/caregiver with an accurate medication list and appropriate education regarding the discharge medication regimen, including name, dose, frequency, route, purpose, and duration. Any new medications, changes in dose or frequency, and stopped medications compared with the pre-admission medication regimen should be clearly identified and explained.
6. The importance of keeping an updated medication list should be explained to the patient and/or family/caregiver. The discharge medication regimen should be documented and communicated with post-discharge providers, highlighting changes from the pre-admission regimen and the reasons for those changes.

The evaluation of the quality of our medication reconciliation practices is completed under the leadership of the Quality Department and Pharmacy Department. Under the guidance of Lenny Shats, PharmD, pharmacy director, and Kelsey Cipriano, medication reconciliation data are collected using a nationally endorsed protocol to insure the accuracy of data to minimize the percentage of unintentional medication discrepancies. Thanks to all for working together in this collaborative effort on our continuous Journey to High Reliability.





New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Albanese Kayli — RN
 Alfaro Guzman Daniel — *Transporter*
 Allen Tanya — *Medical Assistant*
 Andes Sarah — *Medical Assistant*
 Asare Christian — *MHT*
 Baidoo Joseph — *MHT*
 Bivona Andrea — *Bariatric Coordinator*
 Bongiovanni Margaret — *Registrar*
 Brown Dyane — *Unit Clerk*
 Calvo Julia — *Extern*
 Castro Samantha — *Support Staff*
 Chan Emily — *Extern*
 Chan Lam Pun — *Extern*
 Contreras Reyes Garcia Josias — *Extern*
 Cooper Endia — *LMSW*
 D'Albero Jonathan — *Desktop Analyst*
 Dale-Felder Shenequa — *Switchboard Operator*
 DeCaro Tatiana — *RN*
 Diglio Amanda — *NP*
 Edwards Kadia — *Nursing Assistant*
 Ehven-Teich Chaya — *Extern*

Eisler-Grynstajn Stacey — *RN*
 Eismont Agnes — *RN*
 Fernandez Dawn — *Delivery Room Tech*
 Ferraro Christina — *RN*
 Fraumeni Nicole — *Extern*
 Gentilella Nicholas — *RN*
 Gill Jai Krish — *Anesthesia Tech*
 Grande Samantha — *Unit Clerk*
 Harangjerkay Arta — *Extern*
 Ibeka Bright — *Manager*
 Improta Madison — *Extern*
 Johnson Dominique — *RN*
 Jones James — *Transporter*
 Joy Priyanka — *RN*
 Judeh Maysara — *RN*
 Kilobuchista Besnik — *Building Service Worker*
 LaMassa Amara — *Extern*
 Lucchesi Kristi — *LMHC*
 Lynch Delia Sr — *HR Business Partner*
 Marrella Annamarie — *Guest Rep*
 McCombs Adam — *Transporter*

Napoli Theresa — *Building Service Worker*
 Noruwa Yvonne — *RN*
 Onabanjo Nimota — *Administrative Assistant*
 Ortega Issac — *RN*
 Pepi Jennifer — *Registrar*
 Perera Sachini — *Unit Clerk*
 Pickering James — *Transporter*
 Pickering Michele — *Registrar*
 Ruggiero Nikolas — *Extern*
 Sanicola Nicolette — *Unit Clerk*
 Savino Anjolie — *Unit Clerk*
 Simpson Francetta — *Nursing Assistant*
 Sridharan Tissera Niranjala — *Unit Clerk*
 Taglianetti Cory — *Physical Therapist*
 Todeasa Martha — *RN*
 Tomlin Darius — *Building Service Worker*
 Trapanese James — *Security Guard*
 Vitale Madeline — *Extern*
 Wright Niljah — *Unit Clerk*
 Yaqoob Kanwal — *Clinical Lab Tech*

July Observances

Please join us in acknowledging the following health-related observances for the month of July:

Month-Long

Cord Blood Awareness Month

Group B Strep Awareness Month

Healthy Vision Month

Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

National Cleft & Craniofacial Awareness & Prevention Month

Sarcoma Awareness Month

UV Safety Month

Week-Long

National Childhood Obesity Week: July 4 to 10

Recognition Days

International Self-Care Day: July 24

World Hepatitis Day: July 28

Employees of the Month

Congratulations to the Employees of the Month for June 2022!



Kelsey Cipriano, Pharm D, and Lisa Yeno RN, MICU

Richmond University Medical Center

THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE IS NOW!

NEW MEDICAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT



- ▶ Increasing from 10 to 14 private patient rooms.
- ▶ New isolation/negative pressure rooms.
- ▶ Larger family visiting areas in each room.

NOW OPEN!

A NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART EMERGENCY TRAUMA DEPARTMENT



- ▶ More than doubling in size to 35,000 sq. ft.
- ▶ Expanded emergency trauma unit and triage sections.
- ▶ Specialty areas for pediatrics and urgent care.
- ▶ New ambulance bays and patient drop-off area.

Early Fall 2022

NEW SURGICAL DEPARTMENT



- ▶ 10 new advanced and fully equipped operating suites.
- ▶ Increased preoperative and recovery space.

Late Fall 2022

FULLY RENOVATED RICHMOND COUNTY SAVINGS FOUNDATION MOTHER/BABY CENTER



- ▶ All rooms converted to single occupancy private rooms.
- ▶ Remodeled bathrooms, flooring, windows, and lighting.

Coming 2023

Our Largest Expansion In Over 100 Years... All To Better Serve You!

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Medical Center

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