# REPORT

News from the Richmond University Medical Center Foundation

SPRING 2023 • RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER • WWW.RUMCSI.ORG



World Class Emergency Care Close to Home

### **Foundation Board Welcomes Timothy Mannix**



As a new foundation board member, Timothy Mannix is eager to put his business skills and community connections to work for Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC).

Timothy serves as Chief Operating Officer for Mannix Family Supermarkets, which is led by his father, Kevin, as president and CEO. The family has

generously partnered with the RUMC over the years by hosting food and toy drives and facilitating donations.

"My family and our organization have always felt a passionate obligation to maximize our involvement throughout Staten Island," Timothy explained. "There is no better way to continue to expand our existing community participation than with this opportunity to serve RUMC."

A graduate of Fordham University and the University of Southern California Food Industry Management Graduate Program, Timothy was real estate vice president for Capitol One Bank before joining his family's business in 2017.

"I look forward to utilizing my network and experience within the Staten Island community to promote the hospital and its accomplishments and help it achieve tremendous goals set forth for 2023," Mannix said, adding praise for existing board members and RUMC staff. "They devote an admirable amount of time to this great organization."

Part of the Wakefern Cooperative, Mannix Family Supermarkets owns and operates three ShopRite Supermarkets on Staten Island with 1,500 employees that serve more than 25 percent of the population.

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## A Message from the President of the Foundation Board



By every measure, 2022 was a successful and transformative year at Richmond University Medical Center.

In several of my past messages, I highlighted plans for the expansion and enhancement of our facilities. I am pleased to report that our signature project, a new Emergency

Department, is now complete and serving the Staten Island community. We celebrated this major accomplishment at a ribbon-cutting ceremony acknowledging the contributions of our public officials, board leadership and the many donors whose gifts helped make this dream a reality.

In his remarks that day, President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, thanked those benefactors who contributed a combined \$13 million to this project. He also announced a second campaign with a \$15 million goal that has already realized more than \$12 million in gifts and pledges.

As a nonprofit, independent, community-based hospital, philanthropy plays an important role in our ability to grow and meet the challenges facing today's healthcare industry. This second campaign, building on the momentum of our first effort, will support our continued work to improve the long-term health and well-being of our families, friends and neighbors for generations to come.

Gifts of all sizes make an impact. I encourage you to support our ongoing efforts to build a future worthy of our proud past.

Sincerely,

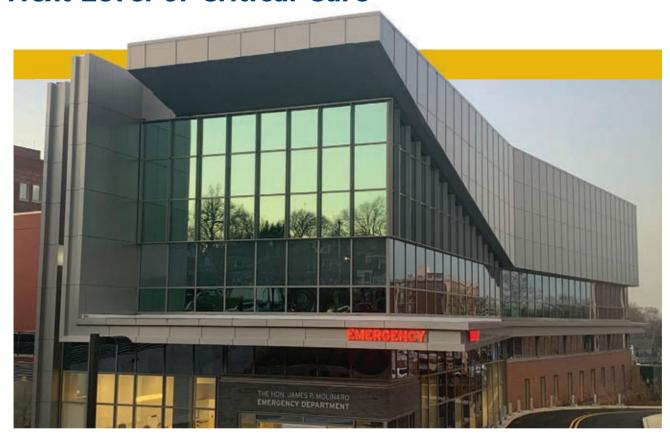
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#### **Robert Urs**

President, Richmond University Medical Center Foundation



# New Emergency Department Ushers in the Next Level of Critical Care



Richmond University Medical Center's new Emergency Department began caring for its first patients on Friday January 20. The state-of-the-art facility with more than twice the space of its predecessor and a host of patient amenities, is a testament to the hospital's commitment to community.

"This Emergency Department is a symbol of our hospital's continuing commitment to being guardians of our community's health and well-being," said Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer. "It is our promise that everyone in need of care will have continuous access to emergent, lifesaving services. We are grateful to the many benefactors who contributed a combined \$13 million for this transformational project."

#### ENHANCING THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE

The centerpiece of a six-year, \$250 million historic expansion project, the Emergency Department occupies the ground level of a new pavilion, offering private trauma bays and treatment rooms and comprehensive specialty areas for pediatrics and urgent care.

It replaces an aging and undersized Emergency Department built in 1978, when Staten Island's population was 25 percent smaller.

For designers and hospital leaders, ushering in a new era

of critical care while maintaining RUMC's high standards of treatment was the expansion project's top priority.

"It's about expediting care and enhancing the patient experience," summarized Johnathan LeBaron, DO, Chair of Emergency Medicine. "It's about providing privacy and dignity to each and every patient in their time of need with the latest in critical care technology."



The patient-friendly Emergency Department experience for walk-ins begins on arrival at the main entrance, now easily accessible from Castleton Avenue with an expanded parking lot nearby.

"I went into the new Emergency Department and had a great experience. The new facility is state-of-the-art and the nurses are great! I drove from across the island...

I'm glad I did! Great job RUMC!

- Robert Currie



Patients take a seat in the spacious waiting area before moving into triage and to one of three private trauma bays, fully equipped with medical gases and ready for rapid assessment and treatment. The former Emergency Department provided only one trauma bay.

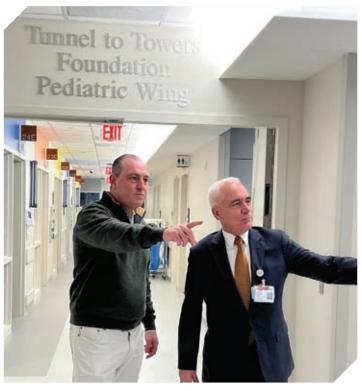
New ultrasound and airway equipment in the Emergency Department facilitates surgical intervention and other life-saving measures, Dr. LeBaron said.



"It is a much better space for a high volume of patients and the care teams assigned to treat them," he added.

Along the way, family members remain close to their patient in designated zones with comfortable seating, where they can monitor the situation and stay informed.

"When you care for a patient, you care for the entire family," emphasized Francesco Rotatori, MD, chief of cardiology. "As physicians, we know the best recoveries happen when a patient's family is by their side."



#### **TUNNEL TO TOWERS PEDIATRIC WING**

Even the youngest patients deserve privacy when experiencing a medical crisis. The enhanced specialty area for pediatrics is adjacent to the main Emergency Department area, but with restricted access and privacy glass in each treatment bay -- and room for family members.

The pediatrics unit is appropriately decorated to make young patients of all ages, from toddlers to teens, feel welcome and comfortable as they receive treatment, Dr. LeBaron pointed out.

The Emergency Department pavilion also includes Behavioral Health Urgent Care, and suites for the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) program, allowing for highly individualized and compassionate treatment. It is the only SAFE Center of Excellence on Staten Island, and one of only 19 in New York City.

"The new Emergency Department allows us to continue providing that same cutting edge care in a brand new state-of-the-art environment that matches the level of quality and service we provide every day to our patients," Dr. LeBaron said with conviction.

"It is a physical representation -- a symbol -- of the advanced care that the people of Staten Island deserve and should expect when they are faced with a medical emergency," he added.

With a flawless transition of staff and equipment, RUMC's new Emergency Department began receiving its first patients on January 20.

# So Many Reasons to Celebrate at RUMC Gala Was 'A Night to Reunite'



Robert Urs, Daniel Messina, Kathryn Rooney, Rev. Tony Baker, James Molinaro, Ronald Purpora, Dennis Quirk and Dr. Pietro Carpenito



Allison Cohen, Julie and James Coher



Charlie Romo



Rev. Tony Baker, Hyon Suk Baker, Joan Cusack and James Molinaro



Joseph and Margaret Burt, Daniel and Debbie Messina and Barbara and Dom Famulari

Supporters and staff were grateful to gather in-person for the 16th annual Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) gala on November 5 at the Hilton Garden Inn. The event had been held virtually for two previous years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After two years of holding virtual galas, it was exciting to come together to celebrate the major accomplishments of RUMC this past year," said Board of Trustees Chair Ronald Purpora.

Appropriately themed, "A Night to Reunite," the gala drew more than 400 guests who watched a video presentation of the hospital's 119-year history culminating with the October ribbon-cutting for the state-of-the-art Emergency Department.

Honorees included Investors Bank Foundation, Northfield Bank Foundation, Richmond County Savings Bank Foundation,

and the Staten Island Foundation. The four foundations were honored for their impact on the Staten Island community and their continuous support of RUMC.

The highlight of the evening was a special recognition of six trustees for their unwavering dedication and leadership. These trustees stepped off the board after 15 years of service each: Former board chair, now chair emeritus, Kathryn K. Rooney, Esq.; the Rev. Tony Baker Sr.; Pietro Carpenito, MD; former Staten Island Borough President James P. Molinaro; Catherine Paulo, Esq.; and Dennis Quirk. "You have brought us from struggle to success, from trial to tribulation," shared Daniel J. Messina, PHD, FACHE, president and chief executive officer.

A few weeks earlier, Kate Rooney received a special honor for her distinguished service as board chair.



Charlotte Sciarrino, Lois Nicotra, Richard Nicotra and Marcello Sciarrino

# Fitting Tribute to a Tireless Champion



L to R Pietro Carpenito, MD, Gina Gutzeit, Rosemarie Stazzone, Borough President Vito Fossella, James Molinaro, President and CEO Dan Messina, Kate Rooney, New York City Deputy Mayor Anne Williams-Isom, Ronald Purpora, Timothy Harrison, Krishne Urs MD, and John Tapinis.

In recognition of 15 years of service to Richmond University Medical Center and its community, the hospital campus has been renamed to honor Kathryn K. Rooney, Esq., who retired from the board earlier in 2022 and had served as its chair since 2007.

"It's been my privilege to lead this incredible RUMC team for 15 years," Rooney said at a dedication ceremony in November of last year. "With hustle, professionalism and sheer determination, we kept the hospital open, stabilized its finances, opened new programs, recruited first-rate doctors, and now are finishing a major modernization of our facilities. What we've done together is really remarkable and I couldn't be prouder of this team. Having the new campus named for me is a huge honor."

Born and raised on Staten Island, Rooney served as special counsel to late New York State Senator John J. Marchi for over 30 years. She has served on the board of the Staten Island Foundation since June 2007 and is currently its chair. She is also on the boards of ArchCare and Carmel Richmond Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center. Rooney is a former chairperson of Pax Christi Hospice and the Staten Island CYO, and has served on the boards of Sisters of Charity Housing, St. Joseph Hill Academy and the Staten Island Zoological Society.

"Under Kate's leadership RUMC, the successor to St. Vincent's Hospital-Staten Island, has thrived going from almost closing its doors to undergoing a complete transformation that has seen the hospital grow its service lines and expand its outpatient services," said RUMC President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE. "Kate was also instrumental in securing financial support and backing for the \$250 million in capital improvements and upgrades currently underway at our hospital."

"Like the ground beneath our feet that supports our journey, Kate Rooney supported RUMC with an unwavering commitment to bring improved healthcare to her community," said Ronald A. Purpora, current chair of RUMC's board. "That's why it's so appropriate to name our grounds in her honor."







**OUR HOME. OUR HOSPITAL. OUR FAMILY.** 

# A Message from the President & CEO: The Transformation Continues



I have had the opportunity to speak and write about the transformation that is taking place here at Richmond University Medical Center as we invest more than \$275 million in our hospital's physical plant. However, our continued growth and advancement would not be possible without an extraordinary investment of human capital.

Our dedicated team of caregivers combined with our loyal benefactors and new friends are at the core of our transformation. Although they are not as evident as our bricks and mortar improvements their impact is beyond measure.

Through a record level of philanthropic support we successfully completed the "Vital Campaign," raising more than \$13 million for our new Emergency Department. Building on this momentum I was pleased to be able to announce, at our ED ribbon cutting, our next campaign with a goal of \$15 million. I am gratified to share that we have already received \$12.5 million in gifts and pledges.

This campaign will fund additional expansion and enhancements to our facilities and allow us to recognize several benefactors for their leadership gifts including:

The Lucille and Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion is new construction of 10 world class surgical suites with integrated technology and remote consulting for preoperative and post-operative patients. Completion is expected in summer 2023.

The Joan and Alan Bernikow Heart and Vascular Institute will feature biplane imaging that allows doctors to follow the path of blood flow through vessels and create a "roadmap" for reaching and treating the precise location

of cardiac and neurovascular disease or malformation. Construction will begin in the 2nd quarter of 2023 the end of the first quarter of 2023 and end in the fourth quarter of 2023.

The **Richmond County Savings Foundation Mother Baby Unit** will continue conversions to patient rooms making the entire unit single suite occupancy.

Reconstruction of the **Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit** is now in the design stage with construction to follow.

We continue to call upon others who share our vision to bring the highest quality healthcare to the people of Staten Island to support this campaign. Joining our Campaign Chair Dom Famulari in leading this effort are Campaign Cabinet members, Robert Urs, Jay Chazanoff, Marcello Sciarrino and Joseph Torres.



I am grateful for their leadership support and encourage you to explore how your gift can transform RUMC as we continue on our 120 year legacy of providing the highest level of compassionate care for the people of Staten Island.

Sincerely,

**Daniel J. Messina, PHD, FACHE**President & Chief Executive Officer

To learn more about RUMC's Campaign to Transform Healthcare for Staten Island, visit:



When I look back, it's very gratifying that I worked on projects that helped people and created something that wasn't there before.

— Laura Gajda

Former Vice President of Development Richmond University Medical Center

# RUMC Salutes Outgoing VP for Development Milestones

When Laura Gajda looks back at her seven-year tenure as Vice President of Development at Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC), one project stands out above the rest as a major accomplishment.

RUMC's new Emergency Department, the glass and steel pavilion rising majestically behind the main hospital building, is a testament to Laura's impact, dedication and tenacity in the competitive field of non-profit fund-raising.

Soon after settling into the role in October 2015, the Missouri native was laser-focused on raising funds for a capital campaign that made the state-of-the-art Emergency Department possible.

Grants are an essential part of fund-raising, Laura points out, and working in collaboration with President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE senior leaders and board members, she was responsible for managing the process that secured more than \$63 million in public and private funding for a variety of capital projects.

Navigating the complex New York grant process was a learning curve, she admits.

"There is so much money available in New York," she says. "We made sure RUMC took advantage of all the grants available - at the city, state and private levels."

Laura retired in November to care for her husband, Walter, a college administrator who sadly passed away on January 21, 2023.

She looks back on her contributions to RUMC with satisfaction and characteristic humility.

In 2021, she helped secure a \$500,000 grant from Mother Cabrini Health Foundation in support of RUMC's palliative care program. The grant assists patients and their families in navigating health care options while adjusting to a critical diagnosis.

Laura's fundraising also benefitted RUMC's partial psychiatric hospitalization program, which helps adolescents transition back to day-to-day life after inpatient treatment for a behavioral health condition.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Laura kept the community and the hospital connected by overseeing donations of food and medical supplies.

Born in St. Louis, Laura earned a degree in journalism from the University of Missouri and worked in the advertising department of a local newspaper. She later worked in development for her alma mater where capital projects included a new student center and a mechanical engineering building.

Laura put her development skills to work to establish cancer centers for two Missouri hospitals in Rolla and Lake of the Ozarks, as well as a women's and children's hospital and a neonatal intensive care unit for the University of Missouri Health Care in Columbia.

"When I look back, it's very gratifying that I worked on projects that helped people and created something that wasn't there before," says Gajda, who also holds an MBA from Maryville University of St. Louis.

She swells with pride when recalling the ribbon-cutting ceremony in October, 2022 for RUMC's Emergency Department.

"The new facility is something the people of Staten Island really deserve," she says. "I'm happy that I was a part of it."

# RUMC Welcomes a New Leader in Development

Joseph Burt has been named Vice President of Development for the Richmond University Medical Center Foundation. In his new role, Burt will lead fundraising efforts to support at (RUMC) growing facilities, patient services and programs.

Burt has more than 25 years of experience in fundraising for nonprofit organizations in healthcare and higher education. Most recently, he served in leadership positions with the Hackensack Meridian Health Foundation, including several network hospitals and its School of Medicine.

He serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations supporting education and services for the homeless and hearing impaired.

A graduate of the University of Dayton, Joe and his wife, Margaret, are the proud parents of three children.





Honoring Joseph Ferrara Principal, BFC Partners and Loren J. Harris, MD FACS FCCP, Chairman, Department of Surgery



**Richmond University Medical Center Foundation** 355 Bard Ave., 6th Floor Staten Island, NY 10310

# Thank you to the team at M. Donato & Co. Real Estate for their generous donation of toys to our Pediatric Clinic during the Holidays







