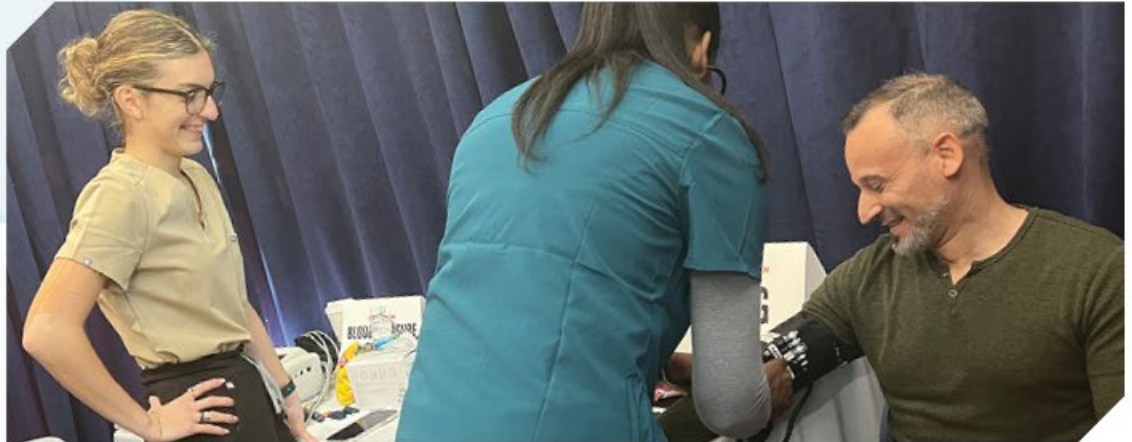


## RUMC Sponsors 2023 SIEDC Health & Wellness Expo



*Medical Assistants Angela Adragna and Tiffany Burrus provided blood pressure screenings and EKGs to over 50 people.*

On November 2, Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) was a proud co-sponsor of the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation's Health & Wellness Expo. The event was held on the campus of the College of Staten Island and was attended by over 1,000 people over the course of the day.

RUMC provided over 200 free health screenings including EKGs, blood pressure checks, glaucoma exams, lung capacity screenings, and prostate cancer testing. The department of oncology also distributed at-home colorectal cancer test kits and the department of psychiatry and behavioral science provided Narcan training and distributed Narcan kits. RUMC had several information tables highlighting the various services and programs available to care for the community.

RUMC was also represented in a breakout session entitled "Getting the Upper Hand on Arthritis, Gout and Other Rheumatologic Ailments." RUMC's chief of rheumatology, Daniel DeMizio, MD, conducted the session.

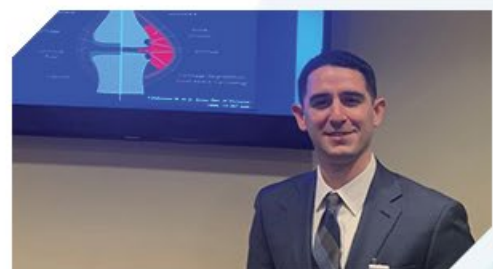
Each year a Healthcare Hero is honored in recognition of their service to the wellbeing of the Staten Island community. RUMC's honoree this year was Isangozi Shoneyi, RN, Forensic Nurse Coordinator. Shoneyi leads RUMC's team of specially trained nurses who provide care and support to victims of all ages, including children, who are victims of sexual assault. Since 2008, RUMC has been designated by the New York State Department of Health as a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner, or SAFE, Center of Excellence. The hospital is one of fewer than 20 such centers in all of New York City and the only center on Staten Island.



*RUMC's Healthcare Hero award winner for 2023, Isangozi Shoneyi, RN, Forensic Nurse Coordinator, along with President and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE.*

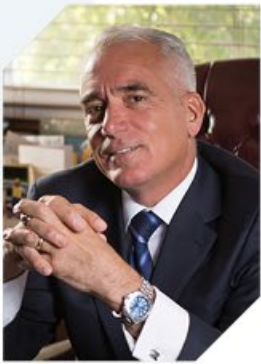


*Optometrist, Joseph Muscente, OD, provided free screenings for glaucoma for over 30 conference attendees.*



*Chief of Rheumatology, Daniel DeMizio, MD, provided a presentation on the diagnosis and treatment for common conditions such as gout and arthritis.*

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



The Thanksgiving season is once again upon us and I for one prefer this time of year compared to any other: cooler nights, the autumn leaves and the sense that yet another year is slowly winding down. On that note, as we prepare to gather with family and friends, our hospital, like many of you, has much to be thankful for this year.

We are thankful to our patients and our community for the trust they place in us. We see people when they are most in need, when life has been disrupted, when illness or injury strike. They put their lives in our hands; they put their faith in the training and expertise of our medical staff and the technology to make them well. Our hospital would not exist without that trust and faith. It is a trust not easily given and one that requires constant nurturing for us to succeed as an institution. We must never lose sight of the fact that someday the table may be turned.

Thank you to our medical and nursing staff. You are the cornerstone of our hospital. You are the guardians of health and the providers of care. Your expertise and drive to be the best has shaped our hospital and earned us national recognition. In just this past year, we have earned awards from the American Heart Association, American Stroke Association, American College of Cardiology, American College of Emergency Physicians, US News and World Report, American College of Surgeons, and The Joint Commission, to name just a few. Thank you for your continuous commitment to excellence.

To our ancillary staff, thank you for your compassion and commitment to our hospital and our patients. You keep us safe, keep the hospital shining, welcome patients and guests, provide food, transport patients, answer telephones, and keep the lights on. The list goes on. You are all the backbone of our hospital. It is my honor and privilege to walk these halls alongside you.

We are grateful for our donors and their support of our institution. Their belief in our mission and the good we do for all of Staten Island and beyond is moving beyond words. Without them, many of our accomplishments this year, and those on the horizon, would remain dreams instead of becoming reality. Through their generosity, our future continues to look bright and our historic expansion and transformation projects are accelerating our ability to meet the expanding needs of our community. This past January, the James P. Molinaro Emergency Department cared for its first trauma patients. The Center for Cancer Care, Bariatric and Metabolic Institute, and our Comprehensive Breast and Imaging Center each celebrated their five-year anniversaries. Our state-of-the-art Medical Intensive Care Unit celebrated its first year of service, and the opening of our new Lucille and Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion is just around the corner.

We give thanks to those who will be missed this holiday season, but remain in our hearts. Among them is our longtime friend and trustee Alan Bernikow. A pillar of support for our hospital for many years, Alan's impact, generosity, and legacy will continue for generations to come through our new Joan and Alan Bernikow Heart and Vascular Institute opening in 2025. I know Alan would be proud.

And at the top of our organization, our governing board of trustees, whose commitment to RUMC and our community is second to none. Their leadership is an inspiration and a blessing.

So much to be thankful for, but time and space is short. Therefore, let me close simply by saying thank you to everyone for another year of tremendous dedication to our hospital.

**Remember the Power of One — You Make A Difference!**  
**Happy Thanksgiving!**

Sincerely,

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

## RUMC Pediatrics Gets the Help of “Angels”



On October 18, Richmond University Medical Center was one of several hospitals honored by Angels On The Bay, a Queens-based nonprofit supporting programs and facilities that provide quality health care and services to children. Angels on the Bay presented RUMC with a check for \$22,815. Based in Howard Beach, Queens, Angels On The Bay has supported RUMC annually for the past several years.

*(l-r): Milla Ahmadullina, Regional Director, Richmond Health Network; Joseph Burt, Vice President, Development; and Catherine Burns from Angels on the Bay.*



## Engaging Our Community



On Tuesday, October 17, Victoria Forte, MD, cancer service line director, chief of the hematology-oncology division, and program director for hematology-oncology, spoke to a crowd of over 50 people at the **Annual Judges & Lawyers Breast Cancer Awareness Breakfast** in the Supreme Court Building at 18 Richmond Terrace. Dr. Forte discussed the various types of breast cancer and where these cancers can be detected within the breast. Different forms of treatment were also shared along with the importance of annual screenings. Dr. Forte participated in an Q&A at the end of the session with guests and survivors in attendance.



On October 22, Richmond University Medical Center proudly wore its pink at the **2023 Staten Island Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Midland Beach**. RUMC joins with the American Cancer Society each year to co-sponsor the event, which attracts over 1,000 people annually. Thank you to all our walkers!



The College of Staten Island was the site of the **2023 Staten Island Autism Speaks Annual Staten Island Walk**. Over 1,000 people walked the campus on October 22 to raise awareness for services that help children, adolescents, and adults with autism. Representing RUMC was Staten Island Mental Health Society director of developmental disabilities and early child mental health, Javonne Faison, LCSW. Staten Island Mental Health Society is a division of Richmond University Medical Center.



To help parents connect with children's resources and programs across Staten Island, SI Parent Magazine held its **2023 Staten Island Parent Day at the College of Staten Island on October 22**. Representing our hospital was clinical treatment coordinator, Sarai Santiago-Vidal, and family peer advocate, Pilar Brzyski.

## HYLAN Donates \$75,000 to Support Palliative Care Services



HYLAN, a leading communications infrastructure construction company, hosted its 5th Annual Golf outing recently at the Metedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, NJ. A record number of golfers was greeted with gray skies and light rain, but the sun was shining on Richmond University Medical Center, the beneficiary of the event that raised \$75,000 for the hospital's palliative care program.

President and chief executive officer, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, was joined by Thomas Forlenza, MD, MS, chief of palliative care, in accepting the donation. Dr. Forlenza shared that this gift was “a dream come true as we work to enhance palliative care with a dedicated pain management program, music therapy, and pastoral care services.” Messina added, “We are grateful to Robert DiLeo, John DiLeo Jr., and Robert Bianco for leading this effort.

My thanks to the entire HYLAN team and the outing sponsors for their generous support.”

Founded over 60 years ago on Staten Island, HYLAN is a leading provider of full-service turnkey communications solutions, electrical infrastructure design, and construction services for wireline, wireless, and smart city municipal services across the United States.

## RUMC Helps Staff Prepare for Emergencies at Home

Richmond University Medical Center hosted an emergency preparedness training on October 17 in partnership with the New York State National Guard. The purpose of the training was to share with staff the tools and resources needed to prepare, respond, and recover quickly from any type of disaster within their home including cyber events, active shooter, fire, and storm related emergencies.



*Helping RUMC staff prepare for emergencies that could affect their home and families were SMSgt John P. McGhee and SSgt Dionis Dvorin from the New York State National Guard.*



## RUMC Shows Its Support for Staten Island's Non Profit Sector



*Vice President of Public Relations and Marketing, Alex Lutz, provided opening remarks to nearly 200 attendees at the 11th annual NonProfit Staten Island conference.*

On October 19, Richmond University Medical Center was a co-sponsor of the 11th annual Nonprofit Staten Island Conference. The event was attended by nearly 100 nonprofit organizations from across the borough. The only such event held on Staten Island for the sector, it was an opportunity for organizations to network and gather resources through keynote speakers and over a dozen workshops.

Vice president of public relations, Alex Lutz, served as the conference chair and was part of a panel dedicated to helping organizations raise brand awareness and increase marketing exposure. Additional workshops focused on financial development, building human resources and board development, among others.

"It was a privilege to be part of this annual event geared at strengthening the nonprofit

community on Staten Island, Lutz said. "The sector is the largest employer in the borough and provides a vast array of services that might not otherwise be available to the community. It was important for RUMC, one of Staten Island's largest nonprofits, to support the conference, which is a resource for many of the smaller nonprofits and an opportunity for us to share our knowledge and expertise in areas like fundraising and marketing with them."



*Representing RUMC along with Lutz was Meredith Gaskins, Senior Public Relations & Marketing Specialist, and Cheryl Garber, Manager, Richmond Health Network Administrative Services*

***"It was a privilege to be part of this annual event geared at strengthening the nonprofit community on Staten Island."***

*Vice President of Public Relations and Marketing Alex Lutz*

## Vice President of IT Featured Panelist at National Conference



*Joseph B. Cuozzo, MBA*

Vice president of information technology, Joseph B. Cuozzo, MBA, was a featured speaker at Becker's 8th Annual Health IT + Digital Health + RCM Conference held in Chicago.

Cuozzo was on a panel entitled "Smart IT Investments and Innovations When Finances are Tight." There he discussed budget optimization, application portfolio consolidation, the pros and cons of IT application early adoption, the early stages of AI, and issues involving cybersecurity.

At Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC), Cuozzo oversees IT, switchboard, biomedicine, AV, and telecommunications for Richmond University Medical Center, Richmond Health Network, Staten Island Mental Health (SIMH) and the Visiting Nurse Association of Staten Island. He joined RUMC in 2016 and has successfully advanced through various positions in key roles as a systems analyst, applications manager, and director of IT. He also holds ITIL certification and Lean Six Sigma Black Belt from Villanova University.

## New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Olabode Adekoya — *Nursing Assistant*  
Christine Adenegan — *Nursing Assistant*  
Theresa Belfiore — *RN*  
Michael Byford — *Building Service Worker*  
Kevin Das — *Clerk*  
Alexandra Desena — *RN*  
Trie Arni Djunadi — *Resident PGY 1*  
Ricardo Fontaine — *Paramedic*  
Saher Godoy — *Correspondence Clerk*  
Carly Guillard — *RN*

Polina Ifraimova — *RN*  
Mariam Kamal — *Resident PGY 2*  
Chelsea Kennedy — *RN*  
Karolina Ktruchel — *FNP*  
Maria Leonardo Sr. — *Rev Cycle Analysis*  
Coleen Madigan — *RN*  
Jessica Marquez — *LMSW*  
Agatha Melton — *Nursing Assistant*  
Patricia Moyse — *Nursing Assistant*  
Dominick Palladino — *Ap Specialist Coord*

Elizabeth Rodriguez — *RN Intern*  
Tylor Royal — *RN*  
Caitlyn Salensky — *Speech Language Pathologist*  
Pranvera Sela — *RN*  
Shanmugappiriya Shivarajah — *Physician*  
Barbara Siegal — *Pharmacy Tech*  
Jagmeet Singh — *RN*  
Michael Ucciardino — *Pharmacy Tech*



## Catch Up on the Latest Episodes of *RUMC Connections* Podcast

Through RUMC Connections, you will meet the medical professionals that make Richmond University Medical Center thrive. RUMC Connections also provides useful information about maintaining your own health and provides answers to some of your own medical questions.

### Episode 17: Pediatric Rehabilitation



In this episode, Kristine Delgado, RUMC's administrative director of rehabilitation, discusses the comprehensive pediatric rehabilitation services available at RUMC from birth through three years old.

### Episode 18: Adult Rehabilitation Services



In this episode, Kristine Delgado discusses the comprehensive array of adult rehabilitation services offered at RUMC for acute and chronic conditions, injuries, and post-surgical recovery.

To listen to these episodes and others covering a range of health-related topics, scan the QR code.

[rumcsi.org/RUMCCpodcast](http://rumcsi.org/RUMCCpodcast)





## November Observances

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

### Month-Long:

American Diabetes Month  
Bladder Health Month  
COPD Awareness Month  
Diabetic Eye Disease Month  
Gastric Cancer/Stomach Cancer Awareness Month  
Lung Cancer Awareness Month  
National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month  
National Diabetes Month  
National Epilepsy Awareness Month  
National Family Caregivers Month  
National Healthy Skin Month  
National Hospice and Palliative Care Month  
National Marrow Awareness Month  
Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month  
Prematurity Awareness Month

### Week-Long:

US Antibiotic Awareness Week: November 18 to 24  
GERD Awareness Week: November 19 to 25

### Recognition Days:

International Day of Radiography: November 8  
World Keratoconus Day: November 10  
World Pneumonia Day: November 12  
World Diabetes Day: November 14  
Great American Smokeout: November 16  
World Pancreatic Cancer Day: November 17  
World Prematurity Day: November 17  
International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day: November 18  
World COPD Awareness Day: November 18  
National Family Health History Day: November 23  
International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women: November 25

## Congratulations to our Employee of the Month!



Congratulations to our Employee of the Month: Nicole Marchese, LMSW. Nicole is a behavioral health social worker in our inpatient psychiatry department.



## RUMC Gala Salutes Two Community Champions

Two outstanding community leaders in the fields of finance and medicine were saluted at the 17th annual Richmond University Medical Center gala, held on Nov. 4 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Gina Gutzeit, a financier and former trustee, along with Marianne LaBarbera, MD, a family physician and the first woman to serve as RUMC's President of the Medical Staff, were honored for their ongoing support of the hospital.



Over 500 people attended this year's gala.



(l-r) Board Chair Timothy Harrison, honoree Marianne LaBarbera, MD; Honoree Gina Gutzeit; and President and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE



The theme of this year's gala was New York, New York. The event came complete with its very own versions of a taxicab, the Brooklyn Bridge and the Statue of Liberty.



RUMC Foundation member Dom Famulari served as the event's Master of Ceremonies.