



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the Newton Medical Center Foundation
SUMMER/FALL 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION

I hope this finds you having an enjoyable summer!

I'm excited to share that the Newton Medical Center Foundation has reached our goal to raise \$1 million toward the expansion of oncology services at the Sparta Health & Wellness facility. Phase I of the project has been completed, with six new infusion bays, a new nurse charting station, a new medication preparation area and a new nourishment area, as well as a renovated waiting area, reception area and patient restroom.

Phase II will soon be underway, and we look forward to a ribbon cutting when the project is completed.

This important project will have a meaningful and lasting impact on oncology patients and families throughout our region. We're grateful to a very generous community for your support of the foundation and our mission-driven hospital, making projects like this possible.

We have more exciting events and initiatives planned, so be sure to stay tuned!

Thank you and best wishes to you and yours for a safe, enjoyable, healthy summer and fall!

—**Megan Sandow, Chief Philanthropy Officer**
Newton Medical Center Foundation

Romano Family to Be Honored at 35th Annual C. Edward McCracken Festival of Lights

The Dominick V. & Kathryn P. Romano family will be honored at the 2026 C. Edward McCracken Festival of Lights in recognition of their extraordinary commitment to Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center and the greater community.

"Through decades of enduring leadership and service, the Romano family has played an integral role in advancing the mission of Atlantic Health Newton," said Jo-Ellen McCracken Hazan, Newton Medical Center Foundation board member and co-chair of the C. Edward McCracken Festival of Lights planning committee. "Their thoughtful stewardship and vision have left a lasting impact on the hospital's ability to meet the



community's evolving healthcare needs, and we are so pleased to be celebrating them at this year's C. Edward McCracken Festival of Lights!"

"Beyond their leadership, the Romano family's deep investment in the

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SAVE THESE DATES!

Newton Rotary Golf Outing

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Newton Country Club, Newton, NJ

For more information, visit

atlantichealth.org/rotarygolf

Frank Redfern Memorial Golf Open

Rescheduled from June.

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Lake Mohawk Golf Club, Sparta, NJ

atlantichealth.org/redferngolf

Auxiliary of Newton Medical Center Bingo

Thursday, October 29, 2026

Romano Center at Atlantic Health
Newton Medical Center

Call 973-579-8309 for more info.

35th Annual C. Edward McCracken Festival of Lights

Saturday, November 14, 2026

Newton Medical Center, Newton, NJ

atlantichealth.org/festivaloflights

Webinars

In conjunction with OneTeam Financial
Call 973-579-8309 for more info

Mastering Medicare

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 • 8:30am

How Your Social Security
Benefits Are Impacted by the
One Big Beautiful Bill

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 • 8:30am

**Do you want to stay "in the know"
on the latest news and events
related to the Newton Medical
Center Foundation?**

Join our growing email list today!

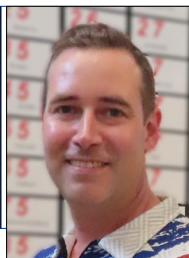
Email NMC.foundation@atlantichealth.org

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Foundation Board Spotlight

Chris Wolverton

Community Roots, Lasting Impact



When Chris Wolverton joined the Newton Medical Center Foundation Board in 2023, he did so with a deep appreciation for both the organization's legacy and its future. Following in the footsteps of Bill Houghton—a founding partner of HQW Architects who devoted more than 40 years of service to the Atlantic Health Newton board—Chris brings a strong sense of continuity, commitment and community-minded leadership.

Today, Chris serves as a principal at HQW Architects, an award-winning, full-service firm that has been a fixture in Sparta for more than 55 years. Known for its expertise in design, planning and construction administration, HQW has long been recognized as a strong community partner—making Chris' professional perspective an asset to the foundation.

A lifelong resident of Sussex County, Chris was born and raised in Vernon, where his family has lived for three generations. He now calls Sparta home, where he lives with his wife, Heather, and their two children, Harvey and Cybil. His connection to Atlantic Health Newton is not just professional—it's deeply personal. Both of his children were born at the hospital, and his sister devoted nearly a decade of service there as an Emergency Department nurse.

"HQW encourages giving back to the community—but also as an area resident, it's important to stay involved," Chris shared.

That sense of civic responsibility is evident in his extensive volunteer work. In addition to his role on the foundation board, Chris serves as chair of the Sussex County YMCA Board, is an active member of the Newton Rotary Club and previously chaired the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce's Young Professionals group. Across each of these roles, he has demonstrated a consistent commitment to strengthening the community he calls home.

For Chris, one of the most rewarding aspects of serving on the foundation board is the opportunity to build meaningful relationships.

"I've always enjoyed networking," he said. "Building personal friendships and business relationships with my fellow board members is probably my favorite part. We're like-minded people with a common desire to help our community, and it's wonderful to be part of that."

He also takes pride in the tangible impact of the foundation's work, particularly recent advancements in patient care. Chris points to the expansion of oncology services at Atlantic Health's Sparta Health & Wellness facility as a significant and timely investment.

"The project is very impressive and so necessary," he noted. "Expanding oncology services is very timely, and it's been great to see this project starting to come to fruition."

As someone whose life and career are closely intertwined with the region, Chris understands the importance of accessible, high-quality healthcare. His message to the community is clear:

"I encourage everyone to support Atlantic Health Newton and the foundation. Having high-quality, local healthcare options is so important—other options are often much farther away, and it's a tremendous

"The project is very impressive and so necessary. Expanding oncology services is very timely, and it's been great to see this project starting to come to fruition."

advantage to have the programs and services we need right here, close to home."

Through his leadership, personal connection and unwavering belief in community engagement, Chris Wolverton exemplifies the vital role that dedicated volunteers play in advancing the mission of Atlantic Health Newton—ensuring exceptional care remains close to home for generations to come.

Our Generous Community

New moms and babies in Atlantic Health Newton's Maternity Unit were recently showered with generous gifts from the **Newton Medical Center Auxiliary's bi-annual Baby Shower**. Pictured are Atlantic Health Newton maternity nurses gratefully accepting the gifts that were presented on behalf of the Auxiliary by longtime Auxiliary member Bea Rush (center) and Auxiliary President Barbara Wylie.



Caitlin Carmody from the Sparta High School Key Club donated handmade bracelets for patients with inspiring messages of hope and healing for Atlantic Health Newton patients.



"An Evening of Wine & Roses" Fundraiser Features Patriotic Sights, Sounds and Tastes

What a night of celebration at the Newton and Hackettstown medical center foundations' annual "An Evening of Wine & Roses" at Perona Farms in April!

With a theme of "A Toast to 250 Years! Celebrating America's Milestone and the Spirit of Community Care," patriotism was on full display everywhere with red, white and blue as far as the eye could see.

Teddy Roosevelt, George Washington, Abe Lincoln and Uncle Sam were on hand to entertain the crowd and there were many samplings of fine food, wines and spirits—all capped off by spectacular fireworks!

Over 600 guests were in attendance and the event raised over \$310,000 for Atlantic Health Newton and Hackettstown medical centers.



Our Generous Community

Jennifer Sorg
from **Newton Veterinary Hospital**
generously donated stuffed animals for pediatric patients in the Emergency Department at Atlantic Health Newton.



Representing
Vernon Girl Scout Troop 99014,
Juliana M. (center left) and **Estee P.** (center right) presented a basket of treats and supplies, as well as a hand-sewn baby blanket, to the Atlantic Health Newton maternity team.





Newton Medical Center Auxiliary Scholarships

In June, the Newton Medical Center Auxiliary awarded three \$2,000 scholarships to local high school students at their annual Auxiliary Scholarship Luncheon.

Sydney Herold of Lenape Valley High School, Samantha Ruitenbergh of Kittatinny Regional High School and Audrey Bonner of Pope John XXIII Regional High School each received a scholarship based upon their GPA, community service, school involvement and pursuit of a healthcare-related field.

Congratulations and best of luck to these graduates!

Festival of Lights to Honor Romano Family

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community reflects a profound belief in giving back and building a healthier future for all," said Dr. David Schreck, Atlantic Health, retired vice president, care transitions coordinator, and co-chair of the C. Edward McCracken Festival of Lights planning committee. "Their philanthropic support has strengthened critical programs, enhanced patient care and reinforced the importance of access to outstanding medical services close to home."

Each year, the Romano family supports more than 300 organizations and individuals in need through both monetary and product donations. Their dedicated ShopRite store teams have raised over \$2.2 million for local food pantries as part of ShopRite's signature hunger-fighting initiative, Partners in Caring. They also partner with local radio stations and the Sussex County Social Services Food Pantry for their annual Stuff the Bus events that collect many food

donations, both in the summer and during the Thanksgiving season. In addition, the Romano family sponsors community blood drives and the annual Pat Romano Sr. Golf Classic to benefit the SCARC Foundation, which raises over \$380,000 annually.

"It is with sincere gratitude that we celebrate the Romano family—whose legacy of philanthropy, service and compassion continues to shine brightly throughout our community," said Megan Sandow, chief philanthropy officer, Newton Medical Center Foundation. "For more than 50 years, the Romano family has been a steadfast champion of compassionate, high-quality healthcare close to home—ensuring that patients and families in our region have access to exceptional care when it matters most."

This time-honored annual event will be held on Saturday, November 14, on the campus of Atlantic Health Newton.

For more information about the C. Edward McCracken Festival of Lights, visit atlantichealth.org/festivaloflights.

DID YOU KNOW? The work of the Newton Medical Center Foundation is supported and enriched by a dedicated group of volunteer board members. Thank you to the following who so generously offer their time and talents as members of the Newton Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors:



Atlantic Health

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