



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The E-Newsletter of the Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center

WINTER 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION

It's hard to believe that a new year is already under way! Plans are in place for a busy 2025 at Hackettstown Medical Center and in the Foundation.

As exciting as it is to look ahead to all the opportunities that a new year and fresh start have to offer, it's also gratifying to look back on the year that was—there are accomplishments to celebrate and experiences to learn from and build upon.

Perhaps one of the most exciting things to report from the Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center is news of two grants totaling \$150,000!

We received \$100,000 from the Douglas M. Noble Family Foundation for a new Oncology Patient Assistance Fund. The newly established Oncology Patient Assistance Fund is modeled after similar funds established at the other Atlantic Health System hospitals. Financial barriers to cancer care can have devastating consequences for patients, families, and communities. An Oncology Patient Assistance Fund can help combat health care inequality and provide vital assistance to vulnerable members of the community, helping patients and families with some relief from financial hardships when they need it most. This fund will help reduce delays in care and promote successful treatment for the best possible outcomes.

The second grant received was \$50,000 generously provided by the John A. and Margaret Post Foundation, Inc. As we have been reporting, behavioral health programs and services are rapidly growing at Hackettstown Medical Center following the relocation of our Outpatient Behavioral Health Center from an outdated, off-site location to newly renovated space in the Willow Grove Medical Plaza, 653 Willow Grove Street, on the campus of Hackettstown Medical Center. As a result of the move, programs, services, and staff have grown and continue to expand to meet the behavioral health needs of the communities we serve. The Post grant will greatly assist in the growth of this essential service line.

Please read on to see more examples of your gifts and support in action. Thank you for your continued interest in Hackettstown Medical Center and the Foundation. The Foundation team and I look forward to seeing you in 2025!

— **Megan Sandow, Chief Philanthropy Officer**
Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center

SAVE THESE DATES!

2025

Annual WRNJ Radio Auction

Friday, March 7, 2025

Live on WRNJ Radio (1510AM, 105.7/92.7/104.7 and WRNJ.com)

atlantichealth.org/radioauction

An Evening of Wine & Roses

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Perona Farms, Andover, NJ

atlantichealth.org/wineandroses

38th Annual Golf Classic

Monday, June 9, 2025

Panther Valley Golf & Country Club
Allamuchy, NJ

atlantichealth.org/hmcgolf

Shining the Light

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Panther Valley Golf & Country Club
Allamuchy, NJ

atlantichealth.org/shiningthelight

Shining THE Light ON FOUNDATION HONOREES

The Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center's second annual "Shining the Light" fall social was held in October at Panther Valley Golf & Country Club in Allamuchy, and it was a memorable night for the over 140 guests who attended.

This fundraiser highlighted Atlantic Health System's Hackettstown Medical Center and celebrated two very special

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From left to right: Foundation Board member Norman Worth; Chief Philanthropy Officer Megan Sandow; Shining the Light Community Honoree Janen Ardia; and President of Hackettstown Medical Center Bob Adams

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Newbaker Funeral Home



Erik and Damaris Schneider

When Erik Schneider purchased Newbaker Funeral Home in Blairstown over four years ago, he quickly reached out to the Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center to see how he could get involved. An avid supporter of his community—something he says he learned from friend and mentor Bob McCracken—Erik explained his strong belief in the importance of giving back.

From that day forward, Erik and his wife Damaris have embraced the Foundation, sponsoring and attending fundraising events for both the Hackettstown and Newton Medical Center Foundations.

Newbaker Funeral Home is also the exclusive sponsor of the Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center Ambassadors Group gatherings. The Ambassadors are a dynamic group of volunteers committed to raising awareness, fundraising, and building support among the next generation of community leaders and philanthropists for Hackettstown Medical Center and its Foundation.

Now a Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center Board member, Erik continues his involvement with the Foundation in another avenue. We thank Newbaker Funeral Home and Erik and Damaris Schneider for their proactive interest and dedication to the Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center as loyal donors and supporters!

Shining THE Light

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honorees—Community Honoree Janen Ardia of RE/MAX Heritage Properties, and Physician Honoree Bobby Rupani, MD, a board-certified vascular surgeon.

Through her years of leadership as a Foundation board member and various committee work, Janen Ardia has dedicated countless hours and resources to enhancing the lives of patients, their families and hospital team members.

Physician Honoree Dr. Rupani has been caring for patients in this region for over two decades. She is a member at large of Hackettstown Medical Center's Medical Executive Committee and has been integral in the growth of vascular surgery at Hackettstown Medical Center.

The event featured delicious food and drink, live music, a wine pull, and silent auction.

Proceeds from "Shining the Light" will support programs and services at Hackettstown Medical Center by providing medical technology, equipment, and facility enhancements such as the renovations to the Willow Grove Medical Plaza, located on the hospital campus at 653 Willow Grove Street.



Fawaz Nesheiwat, DPM, Chair of Hackettstown Medical Center's Department of Surgery and Foundation Board member; and Jane DeWitt, Director of Operations



From left to right: Lakshmi Sodagum, MD, Chair of Hackettstown Medical Center's Medical Executive Staff; Damanpreet Ubhi, MD, Infectious Disease Specialist; Bobby Rupani, MD, Vascular Surgeon and "Shining the Light" Physician Honoree; Susie Nesheiwat, BSN, RN, Nurse Manager Vascular and Surgical Services; and Bo Soobryan, APN, Hospitalists

OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY



Clockwise, starting top left:

Continuing a tradition that began in 2010, the **Hackettstown High School Lady Tigers Volleyball team** donated proceeds from their annual Pink Game to the Foundation for the benefit of the Joan Knechel Cancer Center at Hackettstown Medical Center.

Leslie Waters, instructor and owner of Hackettstown Jazzercise, recently presented a check to the Foundation representing funds raised for the Joan Knechel Cancer Center during October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Once again, the **Centenary University Alumni Association** and friends generously used their annual holiday party as a way to collect new toys, games, and stuffed animals to be distributed to pediatric patients who visit Hackettstown Medical Center's Emergency Department.

The **Mt. Olive Jr. Marauders Cheerleading Association** recently presented a generous check to the Foundation for funds raised from a Booster Club sale to benefit the Joan Knechel Cancer Center at Hackettstown Medical Center.

Thank you to **Marley's Gotham Grill**, the **Town of Hackettstown**, and the **Hackettstown Police Department** for their generous donation of turkey dinners to the entire team of Hackettstown Medical Center caregivers and support staff who worked overnight into Thanksgiving.



**Atlantic
Health System**
Foundation for Hackettstown
Medical Center

HACKETTSTOWN MEDICAL CENTER AMBASSADORS

The Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center has been growing an Ambassadors Group—a dynamic group of volunteers committed to raising awareness, fundraising, and building support among the next generation of community leaders and philanthropists for Hackettstown Medical Center and its Foundation. The Ambassadors Group attracts members by inviting friends and colleagues to social and fundraising events that highlight Hackettstown Medical Center's programs and services. Currently chaired by longtime area residents Mark and Erikka Bahnuk, the Ambassadors Group meets two to three times each year and is a wonderful way to get to know and support Hackettstown Medical Center.

What does it mean to be an Ambassador?

Ambassadors are knowledgeable about what's new at Hackettstown Medical Center and are encouraged to share that good news in their circles within the community. Members are encouraged to grow the group by engaging and inviting business associates, friends, family, and contacts to become advocates for Hackettstown Medical Center as Ambassadors and participate in the hospital's fundraising events.



Attendees of the most recent Hackettstown Medical Center Ambassadors Group gathering in December

Who can be an Ambassador?

The Ambassadors Group is open to any adults with an interest in Hackettstown Medical Center and the Foundation. Ambassadors should have a philanthropic nature and a desire to support and grow high-quality health care in Hackettstown Medical Center's service area.

How can I become involved?

If this sounds interesting to you, give the Foundation office a call to learn more!

Call 908-850-6876 or email stephen.flynn@atlantichealth.org.



DID YOU KNOW? The work of the Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center 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 Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center Board of Directors:



**Atlantic
Health System**

Foundation for Hackettstown
Medical Center

FOUNDATION BOARD

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