

## Annual RUMC Gala Transports Partygoers Back to “A Night at the Copa”



*Honoree Alexander Beylinson, MD, makes his way to the podium.*

On Saturday November 2, over 450 guests, supporters, hospital trustees, and staff stepped back in time for “A Night at the Copa,” the theme of the 18th annual Richmond University Medical Center gala. The event was held at the Hilton Garden Inn and served as an opportunity to shine the spotlight on accomplishments from the past year and this year’s pair of honorees: Alexander Beylinson, MD, president of the RUMC Medical Staff from 2021 to 2023; and Mount Sinai Health System for strengthening its collaboration with RUMC. Brendan G. Carr, MD, Mount Sinai Chief Executive Officer, accepted the award from the hospital.

“Our shared efforts are bringing medical care to those who need it the most,” Dr. Carr said. “As RUMC continues with its mission for the future, the Mount Sinai Health System stands by them. It’s a pleasure to be here tonight. Thank you for your partnership over the years.”

In accepting his award, Beylinson offered his sincere thanks. “Thank you to RUMC. I feel like a superstar. I mentioned I once wanted to be an actor. This is like an Academy Award.”

Among the attendees were New York City Council Members Joseph Borelli, David Carr, and Kamillah Hanks. Entertainment, which reflected the the Big

Band era, was provided by Sal “The Voice” Valentinetti, a finalist on “America’s Got Talent,” followed by plenty of dancing to disco and contemporary classics. James Passatelli, whose Uncle Carmine Fava was the original general manager of the Copacabana in Manhattan, was a special guest at the event.



*Brendan G. Carr, MD, Mount Sinai Health System Chief Executive Officer, spoke about the partnership between Mount Sinai and RUMC.*

“Richmond University Medical Center truly depends on you,” Timothy C. Harrison, Chair of the RUMC Board of Trustees, said to attendees. “It would not exist without your support — support that we do not take for granted, and for which we remain deeply grateful, each and every day.”

*More pics on page 8*

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



By the time you read this, many of you will have put your Thanksgiving holiday plans into motion. Whether you will be traveling, hosting family and friends, or will be here in our hospital taking care of patients, no other holiday, in my humble opinion, generates feelings of gratitude, melancholy, and deep appreciation for those we love. I want to take this moment to express my deep appreciation for the incredible contributions all of you, our RUMC

Family, make for the health and wellness of our community.

To all our healthcare professionals and entire hospital staff, your tireless commitment, dedication, and devotion to our patients, your colleagues, and our hospital does not go unnoticed. The sacrifices you make all year for your profession, in service to others and often prioritizing their needs above yours, truly inspires so many people on so many fronts. Thank you for your service above self.

To our Trustees and RUMC Foundation Board, thank you for your guidance, stewardship, and support of our hospital. Without you as our benefactors, we would not be able to provide the extraordinary care we administer every day, 24/7. You stood by us this year as we celebrated major accomplishments, like the first procedures in our new Lucille and Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion, and helped us navigate the rough waters that come with the ever-changing landscape that is inherent in the healthcare industry. From the growing market competition we face, to exploring innovative ways to meet the increasing need

for our world-class healthcare services, your commitment has remained true and your devotion steadfast.

To our patients and our community, simply stated: thank you for trusting us with your care. You have come to us in your time of need and uncertainty. You have asked us to improve or protect your health, to heal what hurts, and to be a source of comfort and compassion. In some cases, you have put your life or the life of your loved one in our hands. We do not ever take such responsibility lightly. It is my sincere hope that we have served you well, exceeded your expectations, and earned the trust you have placed upon us. To you and your families, thank you and warmest wishes for continued health this entire holiday season.

So as the scent of roasting turkey and warm apple pie fill the air, may you take this Thanksgiving holiday as a time to reflect on the importance of friendship, the love of family, and the many memories that only the holidays can create. May this Thanksgiving and many more to come find you in good health and strong spirit. Thank you for all you do. I consider myself very fortunate to work alongside each of you. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

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

Sincerely,

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

## Once Again, “Angels” Deliver for RUMC Pediatrics

Angels on the Bay, a Queens based nonprofit that supports pediatric services at several hospitals across New York City, once again selected Richmond University Medical Center as one of its beneficiaries. This year, the organization donated over \$22,000 to RUMC's Pediatric Department. The check presentation was made during the organization's annual gala held at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach, Queens. Members of RUMC's senior leadership team and Pediatrics Department, including Chair Brian McMahon, MD, were on hand to receive the donation. Angels on the Bay has generously donated to RUMC for the past five years.



## AVP of Women and Children Services Recognized at Holy White Mass

On October 13, St. Claire's Parish Church in Great Kills held its annual Holy White Mass for Healthcare Professionals where several healthcare workers on Staten Island were honored for their years of service. Richmond University Medical Center's Assistant Vice President of Women and Children's Services/Nursing Education Victoria Orleman, MSN, RNC-OB, IBCLC, C-ONQS, was recognized for her work as a healthcare professional. Orleman has been an employee at RUMC for 27 years, starting as an assistant nurse manager for Labor and Delivery. In 2007, she became an education specialist on maternal health within the hospital, and was promoted to her current position in 2018.

The annual Holy White Mass for Healthcare Professionals, sponsored by the Catholic Mental Health Professionals, recognizes individuals for their service to the healthcare field with the presentation of the St. Luke Award. Rev. Arthur Mastrolia acted as the celebrant for the Mass and delivered a "Blessing of the Healing Hands" to healthcare professionals in attendance during the service. Every year, the White Mass is held on a Sunday near the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, who is the patron saint of physicians and surgeons, according to tradition.

Joining Orleman as recipients of the St. Luke Award this year were the Carmelite Sisters from Carmel Richmond Healthcare; ToniAnne Colucci, coordinator for St. Claire' Parish blood drive and a former nurse at RUMC; and Timothy Hicks, also a former employee at RUMC.



*Victoria Orleman (red dress) receives her award while RUMC President and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, looks on.*

## Hundreds Attend RUMC Sponsored 12th Annual Nonprofit Conference



*Safety Officer and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Trientina Campbell surrounded by her RUMC colleagues after receiving the Community Response award.*

Over 300 people attended the 12th annual Nonprofit Conference held by NonProfit Staten Island on October 30. The conference is the only full-day event in Staten Island specifically focused on empowering and enhancing the capacity of the nonprofit sector. The conference brings together nonprofit staff, leaders, stakeholders, and volunteers and features workshops; keynote addresses from visionary leaders; and networking opportunities. RUMC was lead sponsor of the conference and Vice President for Public Relations and Marketing Alex Lutz served as the conference chair.

In addition to providing information on RUMC services and offering free health screenings, RUMC was also well represented throughout the day. Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer Gaitre Lorick was part of a panel discussing how to manage a multigenerational workforce. At a lunch ceremony, Safety Officer and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Trientina Campbell was presented with the Community Response Award for her long time leadership of the Staten Island Community Organizations Active in Disaster (SI COAD). Formed after

Hurricane Sandy, the SI COAD focus on better preparing the borough for future emergencies.

Since 2005, Nonprofit Staten Island has provided resources, support, and advocacy for the borough's nonprofit community. Nonprofit Staten Island membership includes over 150 cultural institutions, faith-based organizations, health care providers, senior and youth service providers, and local community groups that provide critical services and meaningful programs for individuals, families, and communities.



*Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer Gaitre Lorick answering a question from the audience during her panel on managing a multigenerational workforce.*

# RUMC Celebrates Emergency Nurses Week, Honors Outstanding Nurses



*This year's Emergency Nurse Award honorees with their colleagues, families, and friends.*

On October 8, Richmond University Medical Center handed out its 2024 Emergency Nurses awards. The annual ceremony recognizes emergency nurses in several categories, honoring those who demonstrated a remarkable commitment to excellence, teamwork, and patient care. The ceremony was also an opportunity to celebrate National Emergency Nurses Week, which runs from October 6 to October 12.

Frank Fico was named Extern of the Year for his exceptional dedication to patient care, while Rookie of the Year, for nurses who have been on the job less than one year, went to Tom Bossert. Nikolas Ruggiero, demonstrating continued excellence, was recognized as Rookie of the Year for those in their second year of work. Liz Murphy earned the prestigious title of Nurse of the Year for her exemplary service and leadership,

while Erin Rogers was named Preceptor of the Year for her commitment to mentoring and guiding new nurses. Ronnie Thomas was celebrated as Team Player of the Year for his collaborative spirit. Additionally, Esther Rose was recognized as Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Nurse of the Year, and Fallon Putillo was honored as Assistant Nurse Manager (ANM) of the Year for her leadership within the department.

"We are immensely proud of our emergency nurses and the critical role they play in patient care every day," RUMC President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, said. "These awardees embody the spirit of teamwork, compassion, and clinical excellence that define our nursing staff."

"Celebrating Emergency Nurses Week with awards is a wonderful way to

recognize the hard work and dedication of our RUMC staff," said Christine Mahoney, DNP, RN, AGACNP-BC, NEA-BC, CCRN, chief nursing officer and senior vice president at RUMC. "Today, we had the opportunity to honor several staff members whose contributions have a significant impact on ensuring that our patients receive exceptional care."

Jean Gordon, RN, MSN, FNP-C, CPHQ, CEN, assistant vice president, emergency services, shared her gratitude: "We are grateful not only for the incredible care you provide to patients, but for the trust you build within our community. Being chosen by your peers is the highest honor, and it reflects your influence in shaping the culture of this department. Congratulations to all, and thank you for your continued dedication."

## RUMC Takes “Strides” to Battle Breast Cancer



RUMC walkers gather before taking part in this year's walk, which included sections of the boardwalk in Midland Beach.



Chief of Breast Radiology Dara Fedele, MD, addresses the crowd, joined by President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, and board certified oncologist Thomas Forlenza, MD.

Richmond University Medical Center was a proud sponsor of the 2024 American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on Sunday, October 27. Held in Midland Beach, the walk brought together thousands of walkers to celebrate breast cancer survivors, support those battling

the disease, and remember those lost to the disease.

Over 80 walkers gathered behind the RUMC banner. Walkers included patients, staff, physicians, and hospital leadership. Prior to the walk, President and Chief Executive Officer Daniel J. Messina, PhD,

FACHE, was joined on stage by RUMC's Chief of Breast Radiology Dara Fedele, MD. Both spoke about the importance of scheduling regular mammograms and the services provided at RUMC's Breast and Imaging Center, located at 1161 Victory Boulevard.

## RUMC Sponsored Spooktacular Scares Up a Good Time for Thousands

Staten Island's premier annual Halloween-themed event, the Staten Island Zoo's Spooktacular, drew thousands of costumed kids and their families October 19 and 20 for spooky, family-friendly events.

Volunteers from Richmond University Medical Center were on hand distributing trick or treat bags, candy, and other goodies. Kids learned first aid thanks to

the Trauma Department's Teddy Bear Clinic and got to go inside a RUMC ambulance.

The popular event has been held at the zoo for over 26 years, with Richmond University Medical Center as the presenting sponsor for the first time this year. Several students from Wagner High School and Tottenville High School volunteered alongside staff from RUMC.



Staff from RUMC and local high schools give out trick or treat bags.



A Spooktacular attendee inside the RUMC ambulance.

# Q&A at RUMC

This month's question:  
**What is your favorite  
Thanksgiving dish**



**Elena Sabates**  
Medical Student  
"Sweet Potatoes"



**Monica Riad**  
Physician Assistant  
Student, Surgical  
Department  
"Turkey"



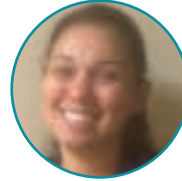
**Alicia Defonte**  
Medical Student,  
Ophthalmology  
Department  
"Mashed Potatoes"



**Jesse Jobin**  
Lab Aide, Pathology  
Department  
"Mac and Cheese"



**Joseph Muscente, O.D.**  
Optometrist,  
Ophthalmology  
Department  
"Stuffing"



**Analia Feliciano**  
Clerk, Endoscopy  
Department  
"Turkey"



**Michael Dembitsky**  
Volunteer,  
Research Department  
"Turkey"



**Stephanie Martinez**  
Office Manager,  
Department  
of Neurosurgery  
"Lasagna"



## Public Relations Specialist Honored by New York Blood Center



The New York City Chairpersons' and Volunteers' Recognition Breakfast, hosted by New York Blood Center, took place on October 16 at The View at The Battery in New York City. The event celebrated the dedication and unwavering commitment of those who have worked tirelessly to support life-saving initiatives. Meredith Gaskins, senior public relations and marketing specialist at RUMC, was recognized for organizing five successful blood drives in collaboration with the New York Blood Center, making a significant impact on the lives of many in need. Meredith's leadership in organizing these blood drives exemplifies her passion for community service and saving lives.

*Meredith Gaskins, Senior Public Relations and Marketing Specialist*

## New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Kettelie Antonie — *Respiratory Therapist*  
Danielle Bove — *Speech Language Pathologist*  
Freddy Cardona — *Mental Health Tech*  
Arkie Carto — *Security Guard*  
Tasnim Chowdhury — *Dir, Financial & Analytics*  
Melissa DeFrancesco — *Unit Clerk*  
Remirez Diana — *Unit Assistant*  
Taylor Francis-Castro — *Social Worker*  
Eli Furhang — *Medical Physicist*  
Anna Gonzalez — *Pharmacy Tech*  
Ivonne Guerrero — *Teacher 1A*  
Elizabeth Hawkins — *Medical Dosimetrist*  
Gwenette Johnson — *Nursing Assistant*  
Diozy Joseph — *Social Worker*  
Eliza Kollie — *RN*  
Corrine Kovalsky — *Patient Representative*  
Katrina McCoy — *Physician Assistant*  
Jenny Navarro — *Classroom Sub*  
Tyrell Nugent — *RN*  
Celine Okoro — *RN*

Russel Opoku — *Unit Clerk*  
Aleksander Prenga — *Financial Planning Analytical Super*  
Lakshani Rathnayaka — *Clinical Lab Technologist*  
Francine Reyes — *Executive Assistant*  
Melissa Ribauda — *RN*  
Jacqueline Santiago — *Social Worker*  
Nicole Serebrinskiy — *RN*  
Jose Tayag — *RN*  
Esther Turay — *Registrar/Discharge*  
Mieka Tyrell — *Nursing Assistant*  
Lesley Tzintzun — *LMSW*  
Nylissa VanMaren — *Substitute Teacher*  
Anna Wasilewka — *Medical Assistant*  
Anya Winfield — *Nursing Assistant*  
Michael Wittick — *Security Guard*  
Emily Yurkins — *Physician Assistant*  
Michelle Zeltser — *Clinical Pharmacy Supervisor*  
Alana Zupo — *RN*

## 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  
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:

November 3 to 9: National Diabetes Education Week  
November 3 to 9: National Radiologic Technology Week  
November 18 to 24: US Antibiotic Awareness Week  
November 19 to 25: GERD Awareness Week

### Recognition Days:

November 8: International Day of Radiography  
November 9: National Diabetes Heart Connection Day  
November 10: World Keratoconus Day  
November 12: World Pneumonia Day  
November 14: World Diabetes Day  
November 15: Great American Smokeout  
November 17: World Prematurity Day  
November 20: World COPD Awareness Day  
November 21: World Pancreatic Cancer Day  
November 23: International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day  
November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women  
November 28: National Family Health History Day

## A Night at the COPA,



Jean M. Gordon, AVP Emergency Services, with Dr. and Mrs. Jonathon LeBaron



Sal "The Voice" Valentinetti, a finalist on "America's Got Talent," entertains the crowd.



President and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, FACHE, thanked attendees for their support and acknowledged the staff of RUMC for their tireless dedication to the community.



A Night at the Copa was this year's theme.



Gala partygoers dance the night away.



Current Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Philip Otterbeck and his wife (right) with retired Chief Medical Officer Pietro Carpenito (left) and Dr. Marianne LaBarbera.