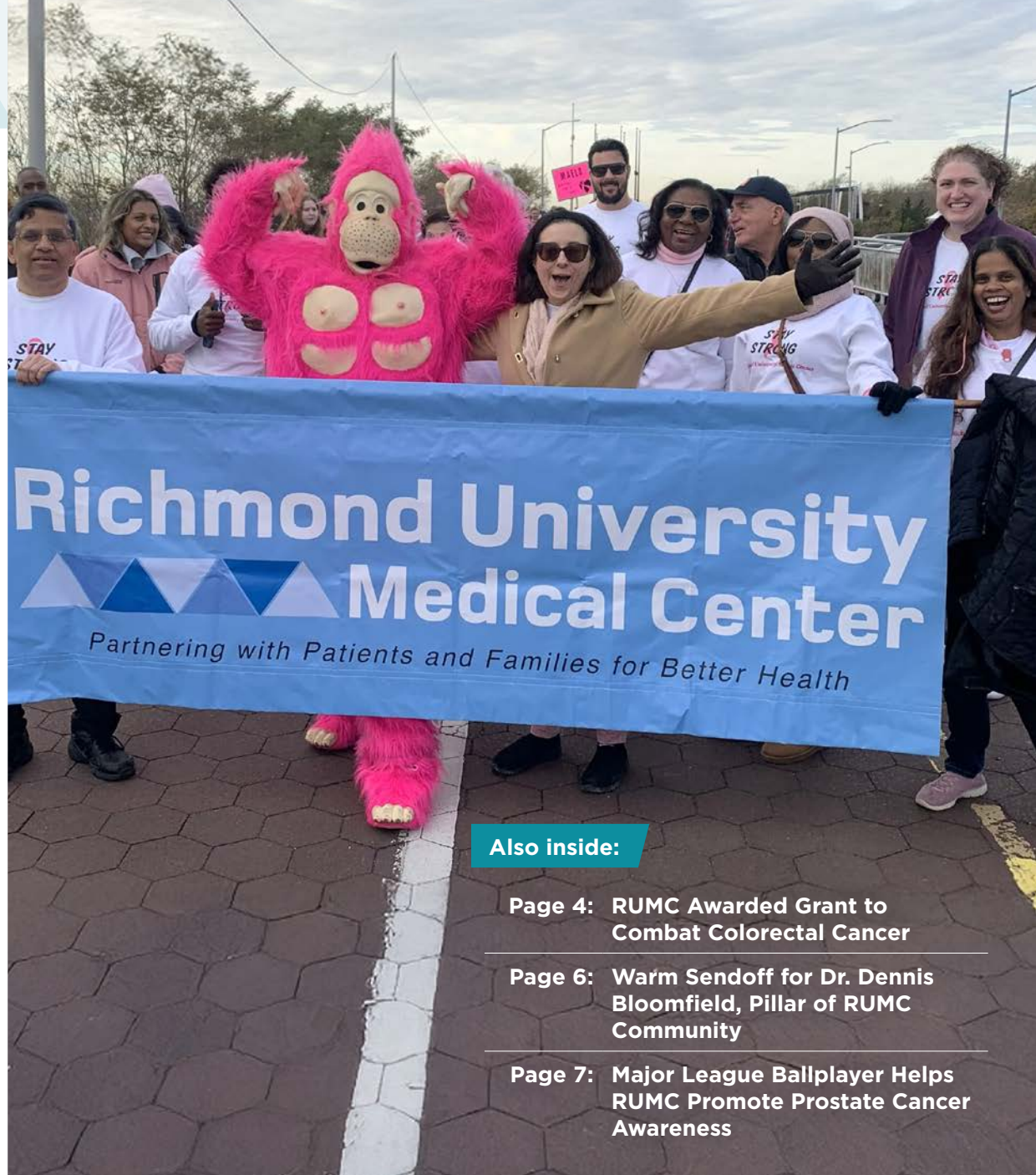


RUMC Marks National Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2025



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From flag raising to Making Strides Walk, RUMC shows its support for survivors, fighters, and those with us in spirit.



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

As we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving this year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Board of Trustees, medical staff, clinical and support teams, and your families and friends who stand beside you each day. We are profoundly grateful for your commitment to our patients and to the Staten Island community we so proudly serve.

Your exceptional dedication and compassion continue to define Richmond University Medical Center as a place of healing, hope, and excellence. In a time when the entire healthcare industry faces extraordinary challenges, it is your resilience and teamwork that strengthen our mission and sustain our spirit. Having each other at our sides—through every trial and triumph—makes all the difference.

I also wish to thank our affiliated organizations, including the Richmond Health Network and Head Start, for their unwavering partnership and shared devotion to improving lives. This season reminds us that gratitude is not only a feeling, but a practice—one that brings light even on the hardest days.

As the poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, *"I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new."*

And in the spirit of the season, may we find comfort in these simple words:

*"For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends."*

On behalf of Richmond University Medical Center, I wish you and your loved ones a warm, peaceful, and joyous Thanksgiving.

Thank you for all that you do—every day, for every patient.

Sincerely,

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

Celebrating Excellence in Residency and Fellowship Program Honoree

Each month, one or more residents and/or fellows are selected for their exemplary service and for embodying RUMC's commitment to fostering a collaborative culture that enhances patient care and professional excellence. Honorees are nominated by their colleagues and selected by the Office of Graduate Medical Education's Wellness Council.

This month's honoree is Ahmed Mohamed Bayoumy, MD, Pediatrics – PGY 2. Dr. Bayoumy earned his medical degree from Al Kasr Al-Ainy School of Medicine at Cairo University in Egypt. He is a member of the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health in the United Kingdom.



Congratulations to our Employee of the Month:



Jakelyn Yunganaula
Receptionist
Richmond Health Network

RUMC Celebrates, Reflects on National Breast Cancer Awareness Month



RUMC's pink breast cancer awareness flag.



The hospital remembers its former Vice President for Development, Laura Gajda.

Each year, October is recognized across the country and at Richmond University Medical Center as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Throughout the month, RUMC held events and educational seminars to raise awareness of the importance of early screening while honoring those who have been diagnosed and remembering those lost to the disease who remain with us in spirit.

Flag-Raising Ceremony

On October 23, the hospital's pink breast cancer awareness flag was hoisted high while staff, members of our oncology department, and survivors gathered to share experiences and encouragement, and remember those no longer with us

because of the disease. The flag was flown from RUMC's 9/11 memorial flagpole in the rear of the campus because of scaffolding around the flagpole located in the front of the hospital. Among those who spoke were Chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology Victoria Forte, MD; Chief of Breast Radiology Dara Fedele, MD; and RUMC President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, MPA, FACHE. Following the flag-raising ceremony, pink ribbon markers were placed in front of the hospital, each bearing the name of someone diagnosed with breast cancer, gone but never forgotten.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

On the morning of October 26, our

RUMC Family took part in the annual American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Midland Beach. Over a dozen walkers joined over 2,000 people for a one-mile walk along the Staten Island Boardwalk. Prior to the walk, RUMC handed out pink giveaways, provided materials about the importance of mammograms, and provided walkers with the opportunity to schedule breast exams at the hospital's Breast and Imaging Center. RUMC also sponsored a "WHY I WALK" message board for people to leave notes of encouragement and the names of loved ones. The board featured a pink ribbon with the photos of people who are fighting breast cancer or who had passed from the disease.

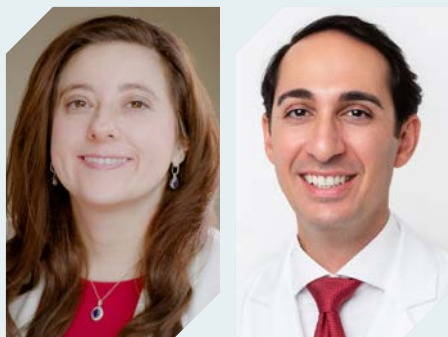


Change purses and compact mirror/combs were among the hospital giveaways provided at the Making Strides Walk.



A walker leaves a message on the RUMC sponsored WHY I WALK message board.

Richmond University Medical Center Awarded Grant to Combat Colorectal Cancer on Staten Island



Victoria Forte, MD, Chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Cancer Service Line Director, and Fellowship Program Director

Vahe Shahnazarian, MD, MPH, FACP

Richmond University Medical Center has been awarded a grant to help combat the growing rate of colorectal cancer on Staten Island. RUMC was awarded \$25,000 from the Harry S. Black & Allon Fuller Fund to expand educational outreach and the number of no-cost colonoscopies provided to underserved individuals.

"We are extremely pleased and grateful to the Harry S. Black & Allon Fuller Fund. As a safety-net hospital we are proud to serve the most vulnerable patients in the community," RUMC's Chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Cancer Service Line Director, and Fellowship Program Director, Victoria Forte, MD, said. "This grant will increase our colonoscopy screenings thereby detecting cancers early and even preventing colon cancers. As Benjamin Franklin said, 'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.'"

With the funds, RUMC will focus efforts on driving up colon cancer screening rates among low-income and uninsured community members, improve early detection of colon cancer and precancerous conditions, and reduce disparities in cancer outcomes among populations that face the highest barriers to care. In many of the communities RUMC serves, screening rates remain well below national targets, contributing to higher incidence of

late-stage diagnoses and poorer health outcomes.

RUMC will utilize the funding to provide a limited number of no-cost colonoscopies to uninsured, underinsured, and/or low-income individuals. Those who meet the criteria will be eligible for two physician visits (pre- and post-procedure), the colonoscopy procedure, and pathology reading of any specimens collected during the procedure. Additionally, the individuals will also receive navigation support to help them manage scheduling, transportation, preparation instructions, and follow-up care, minimizing common barriers that often lead to missed appointments or incomplete screenings.

RUMC will also offer community-based educational sessions through the grant aimed at raising awareness about colon cancer prevention, the importance of early detection, and available screening resources. These education and outreach initiatives will be delivered in partnership with local community groups and faith-based organizations and will be tailored to meet the cultural and language needs of the audience, including printed materials in both English and Spanish.

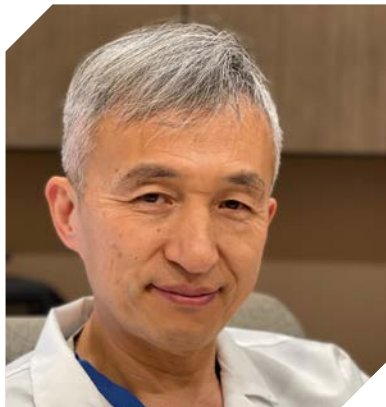
Board certified gastroenterologist Vahe Shahnazarian, MD, MPH, FACP, said, "We are absolutely thrilled to have been awarded this grant. It will go a long way to providing colon cancer screening in our underserved community members. Between raising awareness with our educational sessions and providing high quality care with colonoscopies, we hope to drastically cut down on this easily preventable cancer in our close-knit community." Dr. Shahnazarian cares for patients at RUMC and as a member of RUMC's Richmond Health Network, which has over 30 primary care and specialty offices in Staten Island, Brooklyn and Manhattan.

Staten Island has the highest rate of colorectal cancer cases in New York City. According to the New York State Cancer Registry, from 2018 to 2022, the most current data shows that Staten Island has a rate of 41.4 cases of colorectal cancer per 100,000 people, well ahead of Brooklyn (35.5 cases), the Bronx (34.7 cases), Queens (34.3 cases), and Manhattan (30.1 cases).

"Colon cancer remains a leading cause of cancer-related death, yet it is one of the most preventable with timely screening and early detection," RUMC President and CEO, Daniel J. Messina, PhD, MPA, FACHE, said. "Despite this, significant disparities persist, particularly among low-income, uninsured, and underinsured populations who face barriers such as lack of access to affordable screening, limited awareness, and challenges navigating the healthcare system. Our hospital plays a critical and unique role in addressing these disparities. Through our deep-rooted partnerships with community-based organizations and trusted local leaders, we are able to engage these hard-to-reach populations effectively. Our bilingual staff and culturally tailored outreach initiatives also ensure that our services are accessible and responsive to the diverse needs of the community."

RUMC has already been at the forefront of the battle against colorectal cancer for many years thanks to its many comprehensive oncology services, free health screenings, and its Colon Health Initiative, an endeavor funded by the New York City Council, which provides no-cost or low-cost colon cancer screenings, patient education, and navigation services to help individuals overcome logistical, financial, and informational barriers. The Harry S. Black & Allon Fuller Fund was established in 1930 to support quality health care and human services programming for underserved populations.

RUMC Surgeon Earns MBA, VP Earns FACHE Certification



Lance Jung, MD

Longtime Richmond University Medical Center surgeon, **Lance Jung, MD**, fulfilled a lifelong dream recently, earning his master of business administration degree from Eastern University in Philadelphia.

Dr. Jung specializes in general, breast, laparoscopic, and robotic surgeries. He has served on the medical staff at RUMC since May 1996. Dr. Jung completed his medical education at New York Medical College. From there, he went on to complete both an internship and residency in general surgery at the University Hospital at Stony Brook, where he served as chief resident. Dr. Jung also completed an advanced laparoscopic surgery fellowship at the Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery at Westchester County Medical Center.

Vice President of Clinical Operations, Kathryn Giovinazzo, successfully earned the Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) credential, a board certification in healthcare management that signifies high standards

of professional competence and ethical commitment.

Giovinazzo, a native Staten Islander, is an experienced healthcare leader responsible for RUMC's clinical operations, which include radiology, respiratory, rehabilitation, the vascular lab, sleep lab, laboratory medicine, and cardiology. Kathy began her career at RUMC over 30 years ago.

FACHE certification requires rigorous evaluation across multiple domains, including demonstration of professional experience, continuing education in healthcare management, contribution to professional and community service, and successful completion of a comprehensive examination. The American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), an international professional society of more than 50,000 healthcare executives. Its prestigious FACHE credential signifies board certification in healthcare management. FACHE is the only professional board certification in healthcare management.



Kathryn Giovinazzo, MBA, FACHE

PR and Marketing Department Wins Awards at International Competition

At the 2025 MarCom Awards, Richmond University Medical Center's Public Relations and Department earned eight awards, including three platinum awards, the top honor, for ads, campaigns and publications produced over the past year.

Since its inception in 2004, the MarCom Awards have evolved into one of the largest creative competitions in the world. Each year over 6,500 print and digital entries are submitted from dozens of countries. The MarCom Awards are presented by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, an international organization of several thousand marketing, communication, advertising, public relations, digital, and web professionals.

RUMC has collaborated on a majority of its creative projects with **David Henry Marketing and Media**, a New Jersey based company, for nearly 12 years. RUMC's Public Relations and Marketing Department includes Vice President **Alex Lutz**; Senior Public Relations and Marketing Specialist **Meredith Gaskins**; and Public Relations and Marketing Specialist **Cheryl Garber**.

Here are the MarCom awards won by the Public Relations and Marketing Department:

★ PLATINUM:

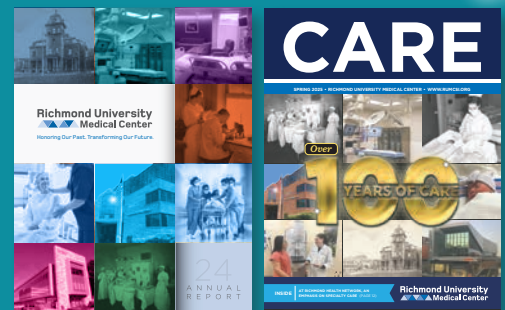
- Heart Month Social Media Campaign
- 2024 RUMC Annual Report
- Maternity Onesies Branding

★ GOLD:

- Spring 2025 CARE Magazine
- RUMC Foundation Newsletter
- Acupuncture brochure

★ HONORABLE MENTION:

- Wagner High School Student Clinic Design Contest Poster
- COVID-19 Tribute Exhibition Design



Bridge to Supporting Quality Care for High-Risk Newborn Stretches Across Boroughs



Left-Right: Angels On The Bay Vice President and Executive Director Cookie M. Kurtz; RUMC President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, MPA, FACHE; Santosh Parab, MD; RUMC VP, Public Relations and Marketing Alex Lutz; Angels On The Bay Secretary Cathy Burns; and RUMC VP for Development Joseph Burt.

Richmond University Medical Center was one of the beneficiaries to receive support from the Queens-based organization Angels On The Bay during the organization's annual gala on October 15. The donation will go to supporting critical care services provided in RUMC's Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Angels on the Bay provided \$22,815 to RUMC this year.

Based in Howard Beach, Queens, Angels on the Bay was founded over 20 years ago by Frank Russo, Jr., owner of

Russo's On the Bay catering hall. Its mission is to support programs and facilities that provide quality health care and services to children. RUMC has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Angels on the Bay. This year, the organization is being recognized at RUMC's annual gala on November 1 for its generous support over the years.

"I would like to thank Angels on the Bay from the bottom of my heart for their generous donation," RUMC's Chief of Neonatology Santosh Parab, MD, FAAP, said. "Because of their kindness and

generosity, we will be able to continue bringing hope, comfort, and vital resources to the tiniest and most vulnerable newborns as well as their families. I am grateful to everyone from Angels On The Bay, particularly Mr. Frank Russo and family, for making such a meaningful difference in the lives of the families we care for on Staten Island."

RUMC's Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit has one of the highest survival rates in the country at 997 newborns out over every 1,000 admitted to the NICU. As a certified Level III NICU, RUMC provides comprehensive and high-tech critical care for premature newborns, including those born before 32 weeks gestation and/or with complex medical and surgical conditions. The unit's neonatologists have cared for and "graduated" NICU infants weighing as little as one pound. The unit has a full range of pediatric medical subspecialists, advanced respiratory support such as ventilators, the capabilities to perform minor procedures, and innovative imaging services.

Warm Sendoff for Dr. Dennis Bloomfield, Pillar of RUMC Community

On October 17, Richmond University Medical Center bid a fond farewell to Dennis Bloomfield, MD, after over 50 years of service to the medical community and Staten Island. Dr. Bloomfield was surrounded by family, friends, colleagues, students, trustees, and well-wishers as he begins a well-deserved retirement.

Dr. Bloomfield began his career at RUMC in 1975, when it was still known as St. Vincent's Hospital, assuming the position of Chair for the hospital's Department of Medicine. In 2002, he changed positions, becoming Director of RUMC's Clinical Research Department, the role he would fulfill until announcing his retirement. Dr. Bloomfield was a driving force behind



Philip Otterbeck, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Chair for the Department of Medicine, and Chief of Endocrinology, was one of many praising Dr. Bloomfield for his years of service.

many of the hospital's services, including the establishment of the Cardiac Catheterization Lab and the Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Center, to name just a few.

The hospital honored Dr. Bloomfield for his many contributions and dedication to the hospital a few years ago when one of the medical school conference rooms was named in his honor.



New Hires — Welcome to RUMC!

Emily Alba — *Mental Health Tech*
Ashley Almodorar — *Medical Assistant*
May Amoroso — *RN*
Jeremy Arias — *Mental Health Tech*
Marilyn Benitez — *Nursing Assistant*
Gianna Chiovaro — *RN*
Delcia Coye — *RN*
Merrick Crocker — *RN*
George Engle — *Respiratory Therapist*
Sarai Fernandez — *Registrar*
Silvana Foglia — *RN*
Danielle Fuller — *RN*
Ayad Girgius — *Respiratory Therapist*
Alaan Howrami — *Receptionist*
Nicole Hyman — *Registrar*
Briana Iacono — *RN*
Pamela Isufi — *Pharmacy Tech*
Learda Janko — *Clinical Lab Technician*
Mimoza Kacokaj — *Building Service Worker*
Ashish Kadinjicandy — *RN*

Dilani Kohulan — *Lab Tech*
Abeer Kraish — *Polysonomographic Tech*
Ann Marie Lanza-Bisciello — *Consultant*
Molina Lebrun — *Mental Health Tech*
Kohkasian Mallick — *Pathology Assistant*
Hunter McBride — *Registrar*
Nathaniel McLean — *Mental Health Tech*
Seliena Mei — *Data Analyst*
Janine Miller — *Unit Clerk*
Michele Monsalve — *Registrar*
Danisha Prince — *Receptionist*
Liza Ranadive — *Clinical Lab Technician*
Sarah Remyes — *Child Healthcare Coordinator*
Quiomarie Rodriguez — *Medical Assistant*
Ariela Rustja — *Receptionist*
Michelle Senerchia — *RN*
Alec Shubert — *RN*
Andrew Thompson — *Respiratory Therapist*
Rui Xiao — *Guest Representative*
Xinwei Zhong — *Clinical Lab Technician*

Richmond University Medical Center Gets Major League Help Promoting Prostate Cancer Awareness



Former MLB pitcher Jason Marquis was one of many to get their prostate cancer screening done at the event at the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island.

On September 30, Richmond University Medical Center hosted a prostate cancer awareness event at the Joan and Alan Bernikow Jewish Community Center of Staten Island, in partnership with Fans for the Cure. In attendance at the event was former Major League Baseball pitcher and Staten Islander Jason Marquis. Each year, September is recognized as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

At the event attendees learned about the importance of early detection and available prostate cancer screenings, and spoke directly with urologists and

medical professionals from RUMC about symptoms, risk factors, and treatments. Attendees also had an opportunity to meet Marquis as well as receive a complimentary prostate cancer screening.

“Prostate cancer is silent,” Richard Maggio, MD, FACS, board certified urologist at RUMC, said. “Screening gives it a voice before it’s too late.”

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in men in the United States after skin cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. This year alone, about 314,000 new cases will be diagnosed and close to 36,000 lives will be lost due to prostate cancer. PSA, or Prostate-Specific Antigen testing, is a simple blood test that reveals PSA levels in men. This is the most effective way to annually screen for prostate cancer. Samples taken during the event were analyzed by RUMC and results provided to the individuals at no cost.

At the age of 12, Marquis drew acclaim for pitching a no-hitter in the Little League World Series. The graduate of Tottenville High School is one of the few

players to compete in the Little League World Series and the MLB World Series. Marquis’ career began with the Atlanta Braves in 2000. But he began to make his mark after being traded to St. Louis. In 2004, he went 15-7 for the Cardinals and started a World Series game. He went on to win 11 or more games for six straight years through 2009. In 2009, while pitching for the Colorado Rockies, Marquis was named to the National League All-Star Team.

“Fans for the Cure is so grateful to have the support of Richmond University Medical Center,” Fans for the Cure Founder and Chief Advocacy Officer Ed Randall said. “Early detection is the heartbeat of our mission. RUMC’s belief in it — both through its generosity and its encouragement — helps make screening events like these possible.”

Since 2003, Fans for the Cure, a non-profit organization, has been dedicated to positively influencing the lives of men by organizing medical, educational, and awareness programs focused on prostate cancer.

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 2 to 8: National Radiologic Technology Week
November 5 to 11: National Diabetes Education Week
November 18 to 24: US Antibiotic Awareness Week
November 24 to 30: 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 17: World Prematurity Day
November 19: World COPD Awareness Day
November 20: Great American Smokeout
November 20: World Pancreatic Cancer Day
November 22: International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day
November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
November 27: National Family Health History Day

“Viva Las Vegas”: RUMC Gala Raises Over \$460K for Hospital

With a fabulous Las Vegas theme, over 500 people attended the Richmond University Medical Center Foundation's 19th annual Gala. The event was held on November 2 at the Hilton Garden Inn.

This year's honorees were Cardiovascular Department Chief, Francesco Rotatori, MD; RUMC Foundation Chair and Trustee, Robert Urs; and Angels on the Bay, a Queens-based organization that has supported RUMC's pediatric services for several years.

At the gala, it was also announced that the hospital's lobby and main entrance area will be transformed, thanks to the generosity of hotel owners Richard and Lois Nicotra. The new Lois & Richard Nicotra Welcome Center will feature a more inviting reception area, upgraded food and beverage stations, artwork, and flowerbeds.



This year's honorees Robert Urs; Frank Russo, Jr., Founder of Angels on the Bay; and Dr. Francesco Rotatori.



RUMC President and CEO Daniel J. Messina with Richard and Lois Nicotra at the announcement of the new Lois & Richard Nicotra Welcome Center.