

CARE

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INSIDE

TRANSFORMING CARE: RICHMOND
UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER'S
CAPITAL PROJECT EXPANSION (PGS. 6-9)

Richmond University
Medical Center

A Message from the President & CEO



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Winter 2026 edition of Care Magazine. Richmond University Medical Center is on the move — advancing our community promise to deliver exceptional patient care while investing in innovation that makes a meaningful difference for Staten Island and beyond. This issue highlights new milestones across our mission:

- **Advancing colorectal cancer care:** A new grant will help accelerate treatment advances and expand access to screening, diagnosis, and personalized therapies for our neighbors who need them most.
- **Heart health, close to home:** Our at home cardiac rehabilitation program is designed to meet patients where they live — combining clinical oversight with digital tools and coaching to improve outcomes and convenience.
- **Welcoming new talent:** We welcome Arthy Yoga, MD, a fellowship trained, board certified breast surgeon, whose expertise strengthens our comprehensive breast program and underscores our commitment to individualized care.
- **Sustainable power, smarter care:** As part of our forward looking infrastructure plan, our new cogeneration plant enables our hospital — through sustainable technology — to generate its own electricity and thermal energy from a single natural gas source, supporting efficiency and environmental stewardship.
- **Cardiovascular excellence:** Our Joan and Alan Bernikow Heart and Vascular Institute, slated to open in Summer 2026, brings advanced diagnostics, interventional therapies, and multidisciplinary expertise elevating cardiac and vascular care for our community.
- **Growing for our youngest patients:** Expansion of our Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit continues to progress, providing more capacity and specialized resources for newborns and families during critical moments.
- **Strengthening behavioral health:** Plans are underway to expand our existing adult inpatient unit with additional beds and modern, patient centered spaces.

Looking ahead, I am excited to share that long range discussions continue to expand and deepen our community-based partnerships and academic affiliations, ensuring the latest advancements reach our patients close to home.

None of this is possible without the unwavering dedication of our exceptional Board of Trustees, medical staff, and support team — people who place our community and each patient first every day. Their commitment illuminates our path and powers our progress.

Thank you, and my very best wishes for a healthy, happy New Year.

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

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Richmond University Medical Center

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355 Bard Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10310

Table of Contents

- 4 Enhancing Cardiac Care Through At-Home Rehabilitation
- 5 Expanding Surgical Excellence in Breast Health
- 6 Capital Projects at Center of RUMC's Bold Vision for Better Care
- 12 Addiction Services: Hope and Healing at RUMC

Executive Leadership

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Editorial

ALEXANDER P. LUTZ, JR., CHERYL GARBER

**Richmond University
Medical Center**

Richmond University Medical Center Awarded Grant to Combat Colorectal Cancer

Richmond University Medical Center has been awarded a grant to help fight 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," Chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Cancer Service Line Director, and Fellowship Program Director Victoria Forte, MD, said.

With the funds, RUMC will focus efforts on driving up colon cancer screening rates among low-income and uninsured community members, improving early detection of colon cancer and precancerous conditions, and reducing 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 also 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, 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 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.

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, Staten Island had 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).

The Harry S. Black & Allon Fuller Fund was established in 1930 to support quality health care and human services programming for underserved populations.



*Scan here
to learn more
about our colon
cancer services*



Victoria Forte, MD

RUMC Offering At-Home Cardiac Rehabilitation Program to Improve Patient Outcomes



Patients enrolled in the at-home program are monitored through a smart watch, blood pressure monitor and cuff, and weight scale.

In partnership with Movn Health, RUMC is now one of the first providers on Staten Island offering at-home cardiac rehabilitation to qualifying patients.

Under the program, patients are monitored virtually by RUMC cardiologists and a heart care team through devices provided to them, including a smart watch, blood pressure monitor and cuff, and weight scale. The devices are included as part of the program at no extra cost and can be kept after completing the program. Patients also meet weekly with a dedicated care manager to discuss healthy habit goals and track progress based on a set treatment plan developed by their RUMC cardiologist. The program is covered by most insurances.

Designed as a 12-week program, RUMC and Movn Health track each patient's activities and progress, making changes as needed based on the information collected. Once completed, patients can choose to continue for up to an additional nine months.

Joe, a survivor of three heart attacks and a stroke, said the ability to perform his rehab at home through the program has made an almost immediate impact. "I enrolled in this cardiac rehab program and I am happy that I did," he said. "My coach Monder

is excellent. I felt the program was very informative as far as teaching me how to change my lifestyle with eating better and doing proper exercises to manage my heart rate and regain my strength."

Cardiovascular Department Chief Francesco Rotatori, MD, FACC, serves as medical director of the program. "When we care for patients with heart disease, we have multiple tools, including medications or medical devices, but in reality, physical exercise through a cardiac rehabilitation program has been proven to be one of the most effective tools to improve quality and prolong life," he said.

Studies have found that cardiac rehabilitation helps men and women of all ages with mild, moderate, or severe heart problems. However, some people are less likely to start or finish a cardiac rehabilitation program. Studies show that women, especially minority women, are less likely than men to start or complete cardiac rehabilitation. Older adults are also less likely to join a cardiac rehabilitation program because they may think they are unable to do the physical activity.

Cardiac rehabilitation is medically proven to have many short- and long-term health benefits including strengthening the heart after a heart attack, relieving symptoms of heart problems, reducing stress, improving mood, encouraging a more healthy lifestyle, and increasing a person's energy and strength.

RUMC will continue to also offer in-person, on-site cardiac rehabilitation through its Comprehensive Rehabilitation Center located on the hospital campus at 288 Kissel Avenue in West Brighton. For more information, call 718-818-7425.



*Scan here
to learn
more about our
cardiovascular services*



Francesco Rotatori, MD, FACC,

RUMC's Comprehensive Breast and Imaging Center: Entering A New Era of Care

Since opening in 2018, Richmond University Medical Center's Comprehensive Breast and Imaging Center has been dedicated to providing exceptional breast care services to women on Staten Island. Over the years, the center has expanded its offerings to include advanced diagnostic and treatment options such as 3-D mammography, breast ultrasound, image-guided biopsies, breast cancer and surgical consultations, benign breast disease evaluations, and bone density testing.

Now entering its eighth year, the center is proud to introduce its new board certified breast surgeon, Arthy Yoga, MD, who will guide the program into a new era of comprehensive breast care for the Staten Island community.



Arthy Yoga, MD

Raised on Staten Island, Dr. Yoga is a highly trained breast surgical oncologist.

She earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Binghamton University in 2005 and completed her medical education at SUNY-Upstate Medical University in 2009. Following medical school, Dr. Yoga completed a rigorous general surgery residency and internship before pursuing advanced training through a breast surgical oncology fellowship at Jackson Memorial Hospital, and an oncoplastic surgery fellowship at Clinique Bizette in Paris, France. This extensive training enables her to perform complex procedures, including nipple-sparing mastectomies and breast-conserving surgeries with immediate reconstruction.

Reflecting on her journey, Dr. Yoga recalls being inspired during medical school by the collaborative approach of multidisciplinary team surgeons, oncologists, radiation specialists, and plastic surgeons — all working together to support patients through treatment and survivorship. This experience, combined with her personal connection to breast cancer, solidified her commitment to the field.

Dr. Yoga's clinical interests include caring for high-risk patients, managing benign breast disease, and providing comprehensive breast cancer treatment. Dr. Yoga's vision is clear: to deliver compassionate, cutting-edge breast care close to home.

"It is a privilege to work in my hometown, caring for the community in a hospital that serves the underserved, and to bring back the knowledge and experience I've gained from near and far," Dr. Yoga said. "Returning home to Staten Island is deeply meaningful for me."

The Comprehensive Breast and Imaging Center is located at 1161 Victory Blvd. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 718-818-1161.



Scan here
to learn
more about our
Comprehensive Breast
and Imaging Center



Transforming Care: Richmond University Medical Center's Capital Project Expansion

Richmond University Medical Center

Richmond University Medical Center has served Staten Island for over 120 years. To meet the community's growing need for quality healthcare services — close to home — RUMC is in the middle of over \$300 million in capital improvements. These major investments — completed, underway, and planned — are all part of a transformational “renaissance” aimed at further expanding the hospital's infrastructure and care capabilities. Part of a capital expansion, these improvements reflect RUMC's commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the community by delivering high-quality, accessible care closer to where patients live and work.

“I think that the important part of our projects is that they are very patient-focused and staff-focused to attempt to improve patient safety, improve throughput, reduce work intensity on the staff,” President and CEO Daniel J. Messina, PhD, MPA, FACHE, said.

Phase 1 (Completed)

Richmond Health Network

The Richmond Health Network consists of outpatient primary care, family medicine, and specialty services across Staten Island, with additional offices in Brooklyn and Manhattan. The Network has over 200 providers and medical professionals who provide direct referrals to Richmond University Medical Center.

Medical Intensive Care Unit

In 2022, the Medical Intensive Care Unit underwent a \$15 million investment to expand the unit's capacity to care for the hospital's most critically ill patients. The unit expanded from 10 patient care rooms to 14 rooms and now features state-of-the-art isolation/negative pressure rooms, modernized nursing stations and patient observation areas, and larger family visiting areas inside each room.



Hon. James P. Molinaro Emergency Department

The Hon. James P. Molinaro Emergency Department was unveiled in 2023. The \$101 million state-of-the-art 35,000 sq. ft. facility serves the Staten Island community as a Level 1 Adult & Level II Pediatric Trauma Center. It features expanded trauma and triage bays, dedicated pediatric suites, designated areas for cardiac/stroke emergencies and sexual assault victims, increased ambulance access, and a larger patient drop-off area at its front entrance.

"The new Emergency Department has elevated the standard of emergency care in Staten Island. Patients are now able to enjoy the same expediency and efficiency they have done with an environment that affords more comfort and privacy for the patients," Department of Emergency Medicine Chair Johnathon LeBaron, DO, MBA, FACEP, said.



Lucille & Jay Chazanoff Surgical Pavilion

Opened in 2024, the 40,000 sq. ft. \$42 million pavilion features 11 modern operating rooms, 23 pre-op and recovery bays, robotic surgery technology, larger nursing stations, and a family waiting area. The pavilion is located directly above the Emergency Department for quick transfer of critical trauma patients requiring immediate surgery.

Window Replacement Project

As part of a \$52 million upgrade, over 700 hurricane-force wind-resistant windows were installed throughout the entire hospital. The windows enhance safety and energy efficiency. RUMC is Staten Island's only hospital located outside existing New York City flood zones.



Richmond County Savings Foundation Mother/Baby Unit

This \$2.4 million renovation converted all maternity suites into single occupancy rooms. This conversion allows new mothers to have the necessary means of privacy to allow family bonding with their newborn. The new suites include modern amenities such as new bathrooms, flooring, windows, and lighting.

Capital Project Expansion

Phase 2 (Underway)



Cogeneration Plant

RUMC's cogeneration plant allows the hospital to generate its own electricity and thermal energy from a single natural gas source. The \$40 million project ensures that during a crisis, there will be uninterrupted power in the hospital. The plant will also help reduce emissions and energy costs. Built in a re-purposed structure at the rear of the RUMC campus, it houses two Rolls Royce turbines.

Joan & Alan Bernikow Heart and Vascular Institute (Opening Summer 2026)

An \$11.5 million investment will consolidate cardiology and neurovascular services in one unit. The current catheterization suite will be expanded to include advanced biplane technology. "The new Cath Lab project elevates our department with a second lab to increase efficiency and accommodate more procedures. Biplane technology enables advanced neurovascular and electrophysiology treatments, while our expanded recovery area enhances patient comfort and privacy — matching the excellence of our nationally recognized staff," said Francesco Rotatori, MD, FACC, Chief of RUMC's Cardiovascular Department. The advanced biplane imaging technology featured in the new suite will provide a real-time, high resolution technology that helps detect blockages, aneurysms, and vascular disease with unmatched precision.



Phase 3 (In Design)

Radiology & Emergency Department Scan Suite Upgrades (2026-2027)

A \$2.9 million project beginning in 2026, RUMC's Emergency and Radiology Departments will be receiving new CAT scan equipment and will see renovated scan suites.



Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Expansion (2026-2027)

A newly expanded care unit for RUMC's smallest but strongest patients, this \$5.6 million investment will add 18 private infant bays, a new isolation room, a renovated nursing station, and an expanded waiting area for parents.

"The improvements and expansion of our Level 3 Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to a new, state-of-the-art facility will allow us to provide highly specialized, family-centered care to our smallest and most vulnerable newborns," said Santosh Parab, MD, Chief of Neonatology. RUMC's Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit boasts a survival rate of 997 out of 1,000 newborns.

Adult Inpatient Psychiatric Unit Redesign (2027-2028)

The project will focus on the redesign of the hospital's existing Adult Psychiatric Unit. This \$25 million project will be executed utilizing a trauma-informed design that provides natural light and calming spaces for patients. The unit redesign will add an additional 10 inpatient beds in a brand new facility.

"The expansion and improvements to our inpatient psychiatric unit will increase our capacity to provide care to more members of the Staten Island community in an environment that is both dignified and promotes needed healing and recovery," said Joel A. Idowu, MD, DLFAPA, Chairman, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences.



Richmond University
Medical Center

The Sister Dorcas Bernard Pavilion

Suite Dreams: Transforming Sleepless Nights into Restful Recovery



Each of the center's private rooms is equipped with plush bedding, decorative artwork, and additional amenities to make patients as comfortable as possible.

Sleep disorders such as sleep apnea affect millions of Americans. If left untreated, they can result in a variety of health issues ranging from cardiovascular disease to cognitive decline. On November 17, Richmond University Medical Center unveiled its new Suite Dreams Center for Sleep & Neurodiagnostic Studies.

Located on the third floor of the hospital, the new center will provide sleep diagnostic studies as well as video electroencephalogram studies for both adult and pediatric patients. The outpatient center consists of three rooms dedicated specifically to sleep studies and one room dedicated to video electroencephalogram (VEEG) studies. VEEG testing records continuous brain wave activity with real time video monitoring to help diagnose seizures and other neurological conditions.

"The ability to accurately diagnose sleep disorders can transform a patient's quality of life," Keith Diaz, MD, Chief of Pulmonary Medicine said. "From sleep apnea to insomnia and other sleep disturbances, our comprehensive testing capabilities allow us to pinpoint the cause and guide patients toward effective, personalized treatment plans."

The center has its own dedicated nursing station and was designed to maximize patient privacy and comfort. The center is sectioned off from the rest of the floor to reduce disruptions or disturbances during patient evaluations. Each of the three private rooms in the center is equipped with plush bedding, decorative artwork, and televisions to make the room as comforting as possible while studies are being conducted. To promote a comfortable, hotel-like experience, patients are provided with fresh towels, washcloths, and complimentary amenities such as mouthwash, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. The center also offers shower facilities for patient use.

The Suite Dreams Center for Sleep & Neurodiagnostic Studies offers a full range of diagnostic testing. "Our goal is to deliver the highest standard of care for patients experiencing sleep or neurological challenges," Felicia Roseto, Sleep Center Manager, said. "We've designed this space to make patients feel at ease while receiving precise, reliable diagnostic evaluations."

Patients are monitored by center staff that includes two registered polysomnography technologists — trained to perform both sleep studies and VEEGs — and a dedicated VEEG technician.



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to learn
more about our
sleep center*



Keith Diaz, MD

Breathing Easier: How Inspire Therapy Is Changing Sleep Apnea Treatment



Inspire patient James Collins with Shanmugappiriya Sivarajah, MD.

Inspire therapy represents a transformative approach to managing obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), offering patients an innovative alternative to traditional treatments. Unlike CPAP machines, which require wearing a mask and relying on continuous airflow, Inspire therapy uses advanced technology to restore natural breathing during sleep — without external equipment.

The procedure is minimally invasive and performed on an outpatient basis by highly skilled specialists, including Shanmugappiriya Sivarajah, MD, head and neck surgical oncologist and reconstructive surgeon. Since August 2024, she has led Staten Island's first Inspire

procedures, bringing this cutting-edge solution to patients seeking long-term relief.

The procedure takes approximately 90 minutes. During the procedure, an electrode is carefully tunneled from the hypoglossal nerve in the neck — which controls tongue movement — to a small, battery-powered device implanted beneath the skin in the chest. This device works by stimulating the tongue muscles to keep the airway open during sleep, preventing the interruptions in breathing that characterize OSA. Patients have full control of the therapy: they simply activate the device before bedtime and turn it off upon waking.

The results speak for themselves. "It's rewarding to see patients experience a significant improvement in their quality of life," says Dr. Sivarajah. "They sleep better and longer, with less snoring and fewer disruptions. Many report increased energy and no longer feel the need for daytime naps."

Two months after implantation, a follow-up sleep study ensures optimal device settings and effectiveness.

Inspire therapy also integrates seamlessly with modern technology — patients benefit from 24-hour support and monitoring through a dedicated app, enhancing convenience and confidence in their treatment. The device is designed to last for years, reducing the need for frequent replacements or adjustments. Most patients return to normal activities within a few days, making recovery quick and manageable. Inspire therapy is FDA-approved and backed by extensive clinical research, ensuring both safety and efficacy. For many, it represents not just a treatment, but a life-changing solution that restores independence and peace of mind.

James Collins, a 29-year-old hospital administrator, couldn't understand what was causing his chronic fatigue. "Even just sitting down on the couch was a no-go," he said. "I would fall right asleep." James was diagnosed with OSA and underwent Inspire therapy surgery. After undergoing sleep tests post-surgery, James' OSA is now under control. "I feel a lot better," James says. "I used to wake up every 40 minutes, now I can sleep through the night."



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more information
on our ENT services

Addiction Services: A Commitment to Hope and Healing



Addiction is a complex disease that affects individuals, families, and communities. Richmond University Medical Center offers three specialized outpatient programs dedicated to diagnosing and treating individuals struggling with addiction: the Silberstein Clinic, the Center for Young Adults, and the Gamblers Treatment Program. Each program provides compassionate, evidence-based care tailored to the unique needs of each individual who walks through the door:

The Silberstein Clinic

For more than two decades, the Silberstein Clinic has been a cornerstone of addiction treatment on Staten Island. Originally established at the former Bayley Seton Hospital, the clinic honors Dr. Richard Silberstein — a founding member and past chairman of RUMC's Department of Psychiatry and former executive director of the Staten Island Mental Health Society. His legacy of advocacy and innovation continues to inspire the clinic's mission: providing accessible, comprehensive outpatient services for individuals battling addiction.

Today, the clinic is led by Joanne Asparro, MA, CASAC, a seasoned professional with over 25 years of experience in addiction treatment.

Asparro also serves on Richmond County District Attorney Michael McMahon's Fentanyl Task Force, a collaborative effort addressing the opioid epidemic that has devastated communities nationwide.

Located in the Bloomfield section of Staten Island, the Silberstein Clinic serves adults 18 and older struggling with substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health conditions. Licensed by the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), the clinic offers a full range of services, including access to vital community resources and Narcan (Naloxone) training for schools, senior centers, and local organizations, empowering the community to respond effectively to opioid overdoses.

In 2025, the clinic expanded its approach to treatment by integrating holistic therapies alongside traditional counseling. "We have now built upon traditional individual and group therapy by adding additional complementary treatments such as acupuncture, yoga, and meditation," says Asparro. "We also offer Sparrow Ascent treatment for opioid withdrawal. This wearable device uses transcutaneous auricular neurostimulation (taN) to help alleviate withdrawal symptoms without the need for external

opioids. As patients progress in their recovery, we help them learn — or re-learn — how to socialize in healthy ways."

To support this goal, the clinic organizes social events like barbecues, movie nights, and holiday gatherings, creating safe, substance-free environments where clients can build confidence and healthy relationships. "Silberstein truly focuses on giving each individual a tailored treatment plan specific to their needs and goals," Asparro adds. "Our experienced, caring interdisciplinary staff and welcoming environment promote stability, growth, and overall well-being. We also offer various forms of Medication-Assisted Treatment for opioid and alcohol use disorders and work closely with families and community agencies."

The Center for Young Adults

Recognizing the unique needs of adolescents and young adults, RUMC established the Center for Young Adults—an OASAS-licensed program exclusively focused on individuals ages 11 to 24. Addiction services for youth are scarce in New York, and this program fills a critical gap by offering hope and specialized care for a vulnerable population.

The center provides a full spectrum of therapeutic services, including substance use and mental health screening, individual and group counseling, family therapy, and referrals to community resources. Treatment plans are tailored to each participant's developmental stage and personal goals, acknowledging that the needs of a 12-year-old differ significantly from those of older individuals.

Jenifer Saccacio, LMHC-D, Center for Young Adults program manager, says, "Addiction services are very limited for adolescents in New York and even in Staten Island, whether it is inpatient rehab treatment or outpatient therapy services. From that alone, people who are younger than 18 years old struggling with dependence and addiction are already feeling like there is no hope because services are limited. We also offer treatment that is appropriate and tailored to people of this population. It is important to structure treatment according to the developmental milestones people under 24 years old strive for while using substances (i.e., school stressors, housing issues, employment etc.)."

Family involvement is a cornerstone of the center. Addiction affects the entire family unit, and the center offers family sessions to strengthen communication and support systems. To enhance traditional therapy, the program incorporates holistic practices such as yoga and acupuncture, which help alleviate symptoms like anxiety, insomnia, and withdrawal while promoting relaxation and emotional balance.

By creating a calming environment and offering developmentally appropriate care, the Center for Young Adults empowers young people to build resilience, develop healthy coping strategies, and realize their full potential.



RUMC's addiction treatment programs are housed inside the Center for Integrative Behavioral Medicine at 1130 South Avenue.

The Gamblers Treatment Program

Since 1982, Richmond University Medical Center's Gamblers Treatment Program has been a leader in addressing gambling addiction. As the longest-standing outpatient gambling treatment program in New York State, it provides comprehensive services to individuals 16 and older, both in-person and via telehealth.

The program offers psychiatric assessments, individual and family therapy, medication management, and crisis intervention. Staffed by licensed clinicians and credentialed gambling counselors, the team specializes in treating gambling disorders and related issues such as depression, anxiety, substance use, financial hardship, and relationship problems.

"Here at RUMC, we offer one of the oldest Gamblers Treatment Programs in the State of New York," Asparro said. "Our program provides problem gamblers, their families, and loved ones with a comprehensive clinical approach aimed at achieving abstinence and improving quality of life. Our experienced professional staff approach treatment from a traditional standpoint while staying

current with new gambling trends."

The program uses evidence-based strategies, particularly cognitive behavioral therapy, to help clients identify and change distorted beliefs about gambling and money. In addition to traditional therapy, patients can incorporate complementary treatments such as acupuncture, yoga, and meditation to support emotional balance and stress relief. "As patients progress in their recovery, we help them learn — or re-learn — how to socialize in healthy ways," Asparro adds. To reinforce this, the clinic organizes socialization events throughout the year, creating safe environments for clients to build confidence and healthy relationships.

For more information:

Silberstein Clinic:

718-818-6970

Center for Young Adults:

718-818-7038

Gamblers Treatment Program:

718-876-1285 or 718-818-7024



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about our programs*

News Briefs

RUMC Auxiliary Gifts New Blue Light to Emergency Department

The Richmond University Medical Center Auxiliary recently presented the Department of Emergency Medicine with a new bilirubin blue light for use in the hospital's James P. Molinaro Emergency Department. Bilirubin is a substance in the blood that forms after red blood cells break down. When a newborn presents to the Emergency Department with high bilirubin levels, blue light therapy is a critical intervention, converting bilirubin into a form that the newborn's body can easily excrete, preventing potential complications from untreated jaundice. Accepting the new light on behalf of the Department of Emergency Medicine were Department Chair Johnathon LeBaron, DO, MBA, FACEP and Assistant Vice President Emergency Services Jean M. Gordon, MSN, RN, FNP-C, CPHQ, CEN.



Major League Help Promoting Prostate Cancer Awareness

Richmond University Medical Center partnered with Fans for the Cure to host an educational event at the Joan and Alan Bernikow Jewish Community Center of Staten Island. Board certified urologist Richard Maggio, MD, spoke about prostate cancer symptoms, risk factors, and treatment options. Attendees learned about the importance of early detection and had the option to have a free screening for prostate cancer through a simple blood test that measures PSA levels, which can help detect prostate cancer early. Fans for the Cure is a nonprofit founded in 2003 that focuses on raising awareness and providing resources for men's health. Former MLB pitcher and Staten Island native Jason Marquis attended the event.

Fundraiser Benefits Critical Newborns

Over 100 guests gathered at Campania Coal Fired Pizza on Hylan Blvd. to show support for RUMC's Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The event was held by the Richmond University Medical Center Foundation, in conjunction with Campania. The event raised over \$28,000. RUMC's Wayne Zenna NICU is a Level III intensive care unit consisting of 19 intensive-and intermediate-care beds and six continuing care beds. The unit specializes in the care of high-risk newborns, with some newborns weighing only one pound when born.



Going Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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, honored those who have been diagnosed, and remembered those who remain with us in spirit. Activities throughout the month included hosting a pink breast cancer ribbon flag-raising ceremony at the hospital, planting pink ribbon markers in front of the hospital bearing names of individuals diagnosed with breast cancer, and participating in the annual American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Midland Beach on October 26th.

Angels on the Bay Supports Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

The Queens-based organization Angels on the Bay presented a donation of \$22,815 to support the hospital's Wayne Zenna Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. 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.



Fabulous Night in Las Vegas

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, FACC; RUMC Foundation Chair and Trustee Robert Urs; and Angels on the Bay. 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.

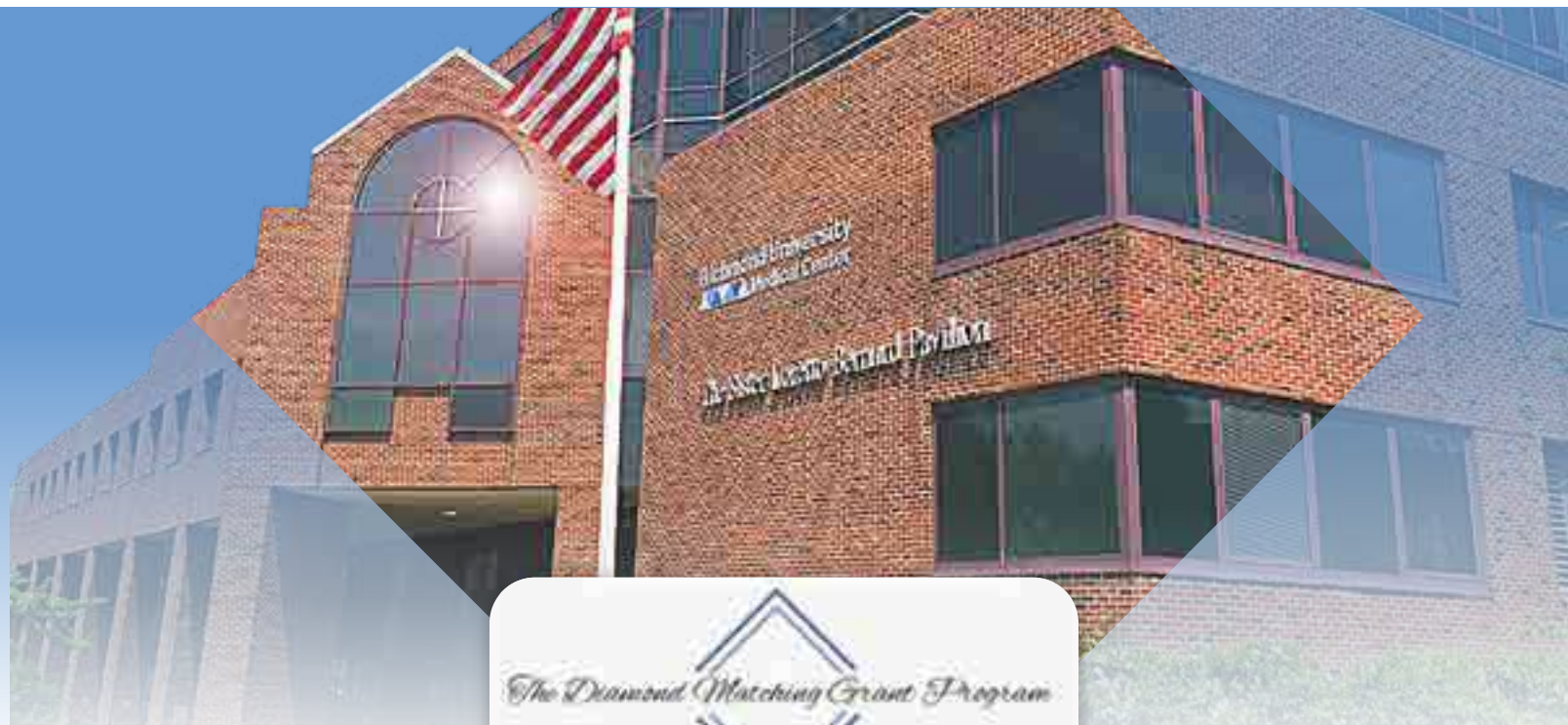
Shining the Light on National Lung Cancer Awareness Month

On November 4, Richmond University Medical Center hosted its annual "Turquoise Takeover" to honor National Lung Cancer Awareness Month. Staff and survivors gathered in the hospital's main lobby to promote early screening and remember those no longer with us due to lung cancer. The event is part of the American Lung Association's national campaign, with turquoise as the official color of lung cancer awareness. During RUMC's "Shine a Light" ceremony, lights were dimmed, flashlights lit, and a moment of silence held. Special guests included survivors Rosaria Kassis and Elizabeth Hayes, both treated at RUMC's Center for Cancer Care. The event emphasized the importance of early detection and support for those affected by lung cancer.



RUMC Provides Free Health Screenings at Annual Expo

On November 21, Richmond University Medical Center co-sponsored the annual Staten Island Economic Development Corporation's Health and Wellness Expo. RUMC offered a variety of free health screenings at the expo including EKGs, blood pressure checks, vision and glaucoma tests, lung capacity screenings, and distributed take-home colorectal cancer test kits. Over 100 people completed screenings.



We are grateful and honored to be a recipient of the Staten Island Foundation's Diamond Matching Grant program.

The Staten Island Foundation's Diamond Matching Grant program award "celebrates a milestone for a nonprofit champion and founding Staten Island Foundation Board member, Mrs. Alice B. Diamond."

Through this program your gift may be eligible for a match on a \$2 to \$1 basis. Eligibility includes gifts from new donors, increased giving from existing donors, and funds raised through new events and strategies.

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