



# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center

WINTER 2026

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION

### Happy New Year from the Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center to you and yours!

This is an energizing time of year, full of fresh starts, new plans and the promise of exciting opportunities during the next 12 months.

The foundation team is looking forward to a great year ahead, and we're poised to put our plans into action to continue to support Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center.

I'm excited to report that our fundraising priority for 2026 is a special initiative to raise \$1 million toward an exciting and much-needed \$6.5 million renovation/expansion of the Emergency Department at Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center. The expansion will bring significant enhancements designed to improve patient care, enhance staff efficiency and optimize space utilization.

Within the scope of the project, the number of treatment spaces will increase from 16 to 22, allowing for greater patient capacity; the waiting area will expand from 23 to 49 chair spots; a new stroke bay will be added to support critical care needs; a private patient registration area will be created; the behavioral health crisis office will be relocated to the same level to improve access and coordination; and the expansion will include six dedicated behavioral health rooms in a secured area.

There is a great need for this Emergency Department expansion and renovation, and the Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center is proud to help fulfill this need by raising funds through campaign donations, as well as time-honored annual events like the WRNJ Radio Auction, An Evening of Wine & Roses, the Foundation Golf Classic and the Shining the Light fall social. I look forward to sharing great news of our fundraising progress in future communications.

Please read on to see more foundation news and examples of your gifts and support in action. Thank you for your continued interest in Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center and the foundation – we look forward to seeing you in 2026!

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

## FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

We're pleased to welcome Jeffrey Day as the newest member of the Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center Board of Trustees.

Jeff is the owner and CEO of Tutor Doctor of Morris County and Day to Day Consulting, and his entrepreneurial mindset comes from years of experience in both the corporate and educational sectors. Prior to business ownership, Jeff worked across various therapeutic areas in the pharmaceutical industry and his accomplishments also include global sales and leadership development for ADP.

We're grateful that Jeff is now sharing his time and talents with the foundation for the benefit of Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center and patients in this region!

## SAVE THESE DATES!



### ANNUAL WRNJ RADIO AUCTION

**Friday, March 6, 2026**

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

[atlantichealth.org/radioauction](http://atlantichealth.org/radioauction)

### AN EVENING OF WINE & ROSES

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

Perona Farms, Andover, NJ

[atlantichealth.org/wineandroses](http://atlantichealth.org/wineandroses)

### 39TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

**Monday, June 8, 2026**

Panther Valley Golf & Country Club  
Allamuchy, NJ

[atlantichealth.org/hmcgolf](http://atlantichealth.org/hmcgolf)

### SHINING THE LIGHT – FALL SOCIAL

**Thursday, October 8, 2026**

Panther Valley Golf & Country Club  
Allamuchy, NJ

[atlantichealth.org/shiningthelight](http://atlantichealth.org/shiningthelight)



Left to right: Foundation Director Stephen Flynn; new Board Member Jeffrey Day; and Chief Philanthropy Officer Megan Sandow

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### The Hackettstown Medical Center Auxiliary



#### **You've no doubt heard the name of this group, but do you know what they do?**

The Hackettstown Medical Center Auxiliary is an important part of the foundation's fundraising team, hosting several fundraisers throughout the year, such as bake sales, in-hospital vendor sales and their popular annual Tricky Tray.

Since the group's founding in 1986, it has donated an impressive \$500,000+ in profits from its fundraising efforts to support renovation and expansion projects, new equipment and technology! The Joan Knechel Cancer Center, radiology, cardiology, physical and occupational therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, mammography, the Emergency Department and surgical services are just a few of the areas that have benefitted from auxiliary donations.

"The many auxiliarians who have served as members these last nearly 40 years have set a wonderful example

of generosity and service," said Megan Sandow, chief philanthropy officer at Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center. "We sincerely thank all the auxiliarians - past and present - for making such a positive difference to Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center and health care in this community."

The auxiliary meets periodically to discuss and plan its fundraisers as well as participate in presentations on topics of general interest such as flower arranging, current health topics and historical talks by area experts and historians.

If you'd like to learn more about membership in this powerhouse fundraising group that makes a significant difference in the lives of patients and team members at Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center, please contact the Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center at 908-850-6876 and we'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

## Shining THE Light on Honorees

There was a lot to celebrate at the Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center's 3rd annual Shining the Light fall social event at Panther Valley Golf & Country Club in October. The event featured delicious food and drink, a silent auction, wine pull and plenty of mixing and mingling.

The fundraiser highlighted Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center and celebrated two very special honorees - Community Honoree Greg Stewart and Physician Honoree Suvud Chaudhari, DO, and the Emergency Department physicians at Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center.

During his years as a Hackettstown Medical Center Foundation board member and through various foundation fundraising event-related committee work, Greg Stewart, an area business and community leader, has dedicated countless hours and resources to enhancing the lives of patients, their families and hospital team members.

Board-certified in emergency, internal and lifestyle medicine, Dr. Chaudhari is a member at large of Hackettstown Medical Center's Medical Executive

Committee and vice president of Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center's Medical Executive Committee. He is medical director of both the Atlantic Health Hackettstown and Newton Medical Center Emergency Departments.

Special thanks to our many sponsors and a strong presence from Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center team members who attended to show their support.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the foundation's current fundraising initiative to raise \$1 million toward a \$6.5 million renovation/expansion of the Emergency Department at Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center.

"The foundation was so pleased to honor Dr. Chaudhari, the Emergency Department physicians and Greg Stewart at this year's Shining the Light event," said Megan Sandow, chief philanthropy officer. "Their significant contributions to Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center help make this hospital a cherished community resource and go-to destination for safe, high-quality health care."



## OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY

*Clockwise, starting top right:*

Continuing a tradition that began in 2010, the **Hackettstown High School Lady Tigers volleyball team** donated proceeds from its annual Pink Game to the foundation for the benefit of the Joan Knechel Cancer Center at Hackettstown Medical Center. This year, the group's varsity players were given a tour of the Joan Knechel Cancer Center so that they could see their donations in action, firsthand.

Foundation director Stephen Flynn recently accepted a check from Jazzercise instructor **Nancy McCarthy** and **Leslie Waters**, instructor and owner of **Hackettstown Jazzercise**. The check represented funds raised by the group for the Joan Knechel Cancer Center during October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The **Centenary University Alumni Association** once again organized a toy drive in conjunction with their annual holiday party at Rock Ridge in Hackettstown. Members of the group, along with town leaders, CU board members, faculty and staff generously donated several bags full of new toys and stuffed animals to be given to young patients who visit Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center's Emergency Department for care. These items help keep the children occupied and offer great comfort.

Thank you to **Marley's Gotham Grill**, the **Town of Hackettstown** and the **Hackettstown Police Department** for their generous annual donation of dozens of fresh, hot, individual turkey dinners for Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center team members working over the Thanksgiving holiday.



**AN EVENING OF WINE & ROSES—  
a Toast to 250 Years!**

*Celebrating America's Milestone and the Spirit of Community Care*

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026 | Perona Farms, Andover, NJ**

Visit [atlantichealth.org/wineandroses](https://atlantichealth.org/wineandroses) for sponsorship information and to register to attend!

# AMBASSADORS GATHER IN SUPPORT OF ATLANTIC HEALTH HACKETTSTOWN MEDICAL CENTER

The Foundation for Hackettstown Medical Center's Ambassadors Group gathered recently at Jersey Girl Brewing Co. in Budd Lake.

Thank you to our host, brewery owner and foundation board member Chuck Aaron, all

those who attended and director of operations Jane DeWitt, who gave an update on the latest projects at Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center.



Chaired by longtime area residents Mark and Erika Bahnuik, our ambassadors help the foundation share all the great things happening at Atlantic Health Hackettstown Medical Center with those in their community and business circles.

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



**If this sounds interesting to you, give the foundation office a call to learn more! Call 908-850-6876 or email [stephen.flynn@atlanticehealth.org](mailto:stephen.flynn@atlanticehealth.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

Janen Ardia, *Chair*  
John Johnson, *Vice Chair*  
Bob Adams, *President, Atlantic Health Hackettstown and Newton medical centers*

Charles Aaron	Peter Olivieri
Mark Bahnuik	Erik Schneider
Eric Cross	Michael Selvaggi, Esq.
Jeff Day	Gregory Stewart
Virginia Mahoney	Robert Wanamaker
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Fawaz Nesheiwat, DPM	Judy Arnold, <i>Auxiliary Representative</i>
Neil Nimkar, MD	

## FOUNDATION STAFF

Megan Sandow  
*Chief Philanthropy Officer*

Stephen Flynn  
*Foundation Director*

Lisa Dimiceli  
*Foundation Communications Manager*

Dawn Sullivan  
*Operations & Data Manager*

Lori Walker  
*Philanthropy Manager*

Kimberly Walsh  
*Foundation Event Manager*

Patricia Dunn  
*Data Analyst*

## FOUNDATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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