



# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the Newton Medical Center Foundation  
WINTER 2026

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION

### Happy New Year from the Newton Medical Center Foundation 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 Newton Medical Center 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 Newton Medical Center.

As we begin 2026, I'm happy to share exciting news about our funding initiative to raise \$1 million for the expansion of oncology services in Sparta. Thanks to your incredible generosity and commitment to supporting our community, we have raised over 95% of our goal! Your belief in delivering exceptional, compassionate care close to home is truly making a difference for patients and families who rely on us.

Construction on the enhanced oncology space is underway and we are thrilled to see this project come to life. The newly designed treatment and physician areas will provide a more comfortable, modern and patient-centered experience. We look forward to sharing photos of the completed space with you soon and celebrating this important milestone together.

Thank you again for your extraordinary support—this progress would not be possible without you.

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 Newton Medical Center and the foundation – we look forward to seeing you in 2026!

— **Megan Sandow**  
Chief Philanthropy Officer  
Newton Medical Center Foundation

## SAVE THESE DATES!



### HEART & SOUL, A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Perona Farms, Andover, NJ  
[atlantichealth.org/heartsoul](http://atlantichealth.org/heartsoul)

### AN EVENING OF WINE & ROSES Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Perona Farms, Andover, NJ  
[atlantichealth.org/wineandroses](http://atlantichealth.org/wineandroses)

### REDFERN GOLF OPEN Monday, June 22, 2026

Lake Mohawk Golf Club, Sparta, NJ  
[atlantichealth.org/newtongolfopen](http://atlantichealth.org/newtongolfopen)

### NEWTON ROTARY GOLF OUTING Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Newton Country Club, Newton, NJ  
[atlantichealth.org/rotarygolf](http://atlantichealth.org/rotarygolf)

### 35TH ANNUAL C. EDWARD MCCrackEN FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Saturday, November 14, 2026  
Newton Medical Center, Newton, NJ  
[atlantichealth.org/festivaloflights](http://atlantichealth.org/festivaloflights)

## FOUNDATION FUNDING IN ACTION

### Grateful Patient Donation Funds Nursing Relaxation Room

The Newton Medical Center Foundation recently hosted a ribbon cutting for a Nursing Relaxation Room created for the nurses of Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center. This space was made possible thanks to a generous donation to the Nursing Department from John and Pat Kennedy of Blairstown as a thank you for great care.

The room boasts massage chairs, soothing music, specialty teas, aromatherapy and a beautiful custom feature wall in relaxing hues of blue and green. Thank you to the Kennedys for their donation that funded this thoughtful and unique space – it will offer Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center nurses a bit of well-deserved pampering and respite.



## C. EDWARD McCracken

# Festival of Lights

## BRINGS JOY TO OUR CAMPUS

It was a great night for the Newton Medical Center Foundation's 34th annual C. Edward McCracken Festival of Lights!

Once again, members of the community visited Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center's beautifully decorated campus to kick off the holiday season at this much-loved annual event. Santa and his snowman friend were on hand as guests and three generations of the McCracken family enjoyed refreshments and the glorious lighting of the trees across the campus.



Bob McCracken, Jo-Ellen McCracken Hazan and Jim McCracken



Thanks to many generous sponsors and attendees, over \$130,000 was raised for the benefit of Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center!

The Auxiliary of Newton Medical Center was celebrated as the event's Community Honoree. Through revenue from various fundraising events over the years, the auxiliary has contributed more than \$7 million to support foundation-funded projects at Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center.

"We sincerely thank all Newton Medical Center auxiliary members - past and present - for making such a positive difference to Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center and health care in this community," said Megan Sandow, chief philanthropy officer at Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center. "Honoring this dedicated group of volunteers made this beloved annual community event even more special."



## 57TH ANNUAL NEWTON ROTARY GOLF OUTING RAISES FUNDS

The Newton Rotary held their 57th Annual Newton Rotary Golf Outing at Newton Country Club in September. Honorees were Steve and Helen Wescott and, as always, all proceeds benefitted Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center.

Over the years, Newton Rotary has raised more than \$1 million to support Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center. Thank you to all the golfers, sponsors, volunteers and rotarians for their continued support and generosity - we're grateful for all you do for Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center and our community!



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The Auxiliary of Newton Medical Center Celebrates 90 Years of Service!

The Newton Medical Center Foundation recently hosted a celebration honoring the Auxiliary of Newton Medical Center's impressive 90 years of volunteer service and fundraising for Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center.

Established in 1935 as the Newton Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, this group has been led by 30 presidents, the first being Mrs. Roland T. Hull, who served for 11 years, and the most recent being Barbara Wylie, who was elected in 2023.

Past president Bea Rush is currently the auxiliary's longest-serving member. She joined the Auxiliary in 1965 and is still an active member, 60 years later.

Through revenue from various fundraising events over the years, the Newton Medical Center Auxiliary has contributed over \$7 million to support various foundation-funded projects at Newton Medical Center. Among many others, these include the Your Care Our Future Campaign to fund renovations in the Intensive



Care Unit, the Maternity Unit and the behavioral health section of the Emergency Department; the Healing Hearts Campaign to upgrade the Charles L. Tice Heart Center's Cardiac Catheterization Lab for the STEMI Program; the Transform Campaign to upgrade the 1 Hussey Cardiac Telemetry Unit; and the TogetHER Campaign to transform the Emergency Department.

"The many auxilians who have participated over these last 90 years have set a wonderful example of generosity and service," said Megan Sandow, chief philanthropy officer. "Through the many campaigns, projects and events they have helped fund at Newton Medical Center, the auxiliary has left an impressive legacy."



## REDFERN MEMORIAL GOLF OPEN SIZZLES

With temps in the mid-90s at Lake Mohawk Golf Club, it was a hot day of golf in more ways than one! Whether you were a golfer, sponsor or volunteer, thanks to everyone who supported the Newton Medical Center Foundation's annual Frank Redfern Memorial Golf Open to benefit Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center!



## OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY

*Top, right:* Area resident, **Jan Schmale** (pictured center), delivered a generous donation of handmade baby quilts to the Maternity Center at Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center. Jan has been sewing quilts for newborns for several years and with this latest donation she has made and donated over 200 quilts to be given out to parents for their newborns. Thank you, Jan, for your continued support and generosity!

*Middle, right:* **The Auxiliary of Newton Medical Center** recently conducted its biannual baby shower for Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center's Maternity Center. Over 400 items were donated including diapers, wipes, clothing, blankets and toys. Pictured are nurses from the Maternity Center along with auxiliary Barbara Wylie, Megan Sandow and auxiliary Bea Rush.

*Bottom, right:* **Students from Fredon School** recently donated over 250 care bags for pediatric patients and little visitors who come to the Atlantic Health Newton Medical Center Emergency Department during the holiday season. Students created the bags, which were decorated with messages of hope and included stuffed animals, coloring books, crayons and fidget toys. This is the second year in a row that students from Fredon School participated in this initiative.



**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 [www.atlantichealth.org/wineandroses](http://www.atlantichealth.org/wineandroses) for sponsorship information and to register to attend!

**DID YOU KNOW?** The work of the Newton Medical Center Foundation 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 Newton Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors:



**Atlantic  
Health System**  
Newton Medical Center  
Foundation

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### FOUNDATION STAFF

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