



# SCH **Pulse**

FOUNDATION

## 2022 DONOR IMPACT

\$3.8M

received from 1,181  
generous donors

~\$6M

of charity and uncompensated care  
annually supporting community  
members in need

100%

of our Executive and BOT Leaders have  
pledged their philanthropic support of  
South County Health's Mission

1600  
EMPLOYEES

South County Health is the largest private  
employer in South Kingstown

120

Volunteers at South County Health helping  
to serve our community

250%

increase in patients seen in our  
Community Cancer Center since 2016

June 2023 | [southcountyhealth.org](https://southcountyhealth.org)

## CREATING A CULTURE OF GRATITUDE



Dear Friends of South County Health,

Welcome to our second issue of SCH Foundation Pulse, a publication we started to keep our donors and friends updated on current events and new projects at SCH.

As the weather begins to get warmer, many of us start to think about summer and feel grateful that another winter is behind us. We hear a lot about gratitude now, but why gratitude?

"The word gratitude comes from the Latin word *gratus*, which means "thankful, pleasing." In its simplest form, gratitude refers to a state of being grateful, or state of thankfulness and appreciation.

Gratitude has been found to be associated with social, emotional, and psychological wellbeing. The positive effects of experiencing and expressing gratitude are endless. Gratitude can be demonstrated in many ways. It can be shown with a simple "thank you" or it can be more elaborate.

I am grateful for my family and friends. I am also grateful to pioneers like Caroline Hazard, who raised \$4,950 to purchase the Walter Watson House, SCH's first cottage hospital. I am grateful to the thousands of philanthropic community members who have sustained our health system for over 100 years. I live in this community with my family and cannot imagine not having a hospital close to home.

### What does gratitude mean to you?

We want to know what you are grateful for. Are there stories that you want to share with us? Did you or your loved one receive care from one of our healthcare workers that you are grateful for? We encourage you to share your stories, to let our healthcare workers know you appreciate their dedication and care. Please email your stories to [gratitude@southcountyhealth.org](mailto:gratitude@southcountyhealth.org).

I thank YOU for your ongoing support that allows us to continue to fulfill our mission of being Rhode Island's Most Trusted Health Partner!

### Christine M. Foisy

*Vice President of Development, Chief Philanthropy Officer*

SOUTH COUNTY  
HEALTH  
FOUNDATION

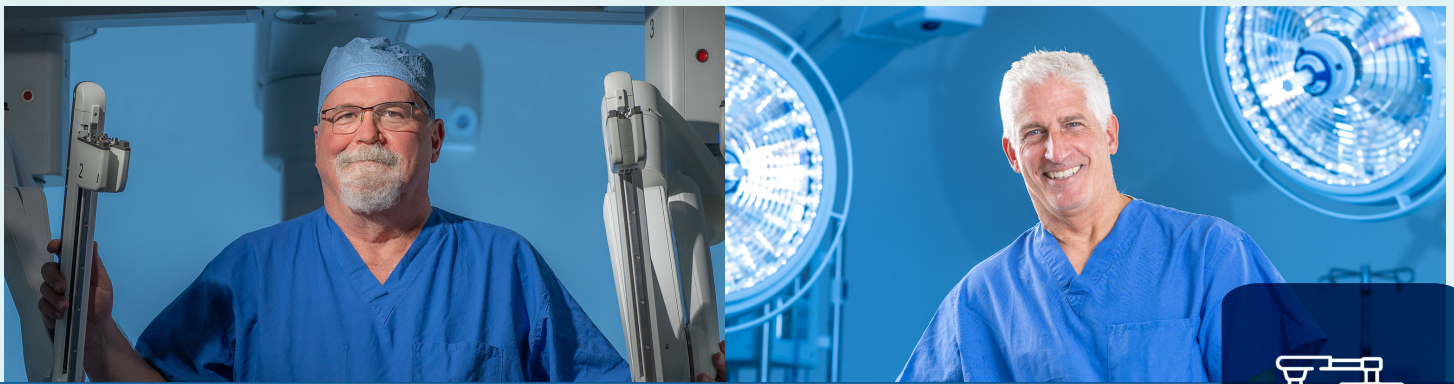
### To contact us, please reach out to:

Christine M. Foisy  
VP of Development | Chief Philanthropy Officer  
401-788-1608 | [cfoisy@southcountyhealth.org](mailto:cfoisy@southcountyhealth.org)

**To receive future updates, please email us at**  
[foundation@southcountyhealth.org](mailto:foundation@southcountyhealth.org)



# ADVANCEMENTS & MILESTONES



## South County Health Surgeons are breaking records with Robotic-Assisted Surgeries

On Monday, February 13, 2023, **Dr. Joseph Brady** reached a milestone after completing the 1,000th robotic surgery of his career. A general surgeon at South County Health since 2017, Dr. Brady, achieved this milestone during a routine gall bladder surgery using the assistance of the da Vinci Xi Surgical System, the most advanced, minimally invasive option for a variety of surgical treatments.

Specializing in gall bladder and hernia repair surgeries, Dr. Brady performed his first robotic surgery in 2015 and the first ever at South County Hospital in May 2018.

**Dr. Bob Marchand** of Ortho Rhode Island reached a global milestone on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, after becoming the first orthopedic surgeon in the world to complete their 9,000th robotic-assisted joint replacement procedure.

Since Dr. Marchand pioneered the use of Stryker's Mako SmartRobotics™ surgical technology for hip and knee replacements in 2010, the expert surgeons at Ortho Rhode Island have performed more than 17,000 robotic-assisted hip and knee replacement surgeries at South County Hospital. ▽

For more recent news from South County Health, visit [southcountyhealth.org/news](https://southcountyhealth.org/news)

## LOWER REIMBURSEMENT BANKRUPTING RHODE ISLAND'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

### The *NEGATIVE IMPACT* on Rhode Island Healthcare Systems

#### Lowest Reimbursements

- Lowest private commercial and Medicare reimbursements rates in all of New England

#### Under Funded Hospitals

- Significant operating losses by ALL Rhode Island not-for-profit healthcare systems
- Distressed health systems resulting in hospital bankruptcies, acquisitions and closures

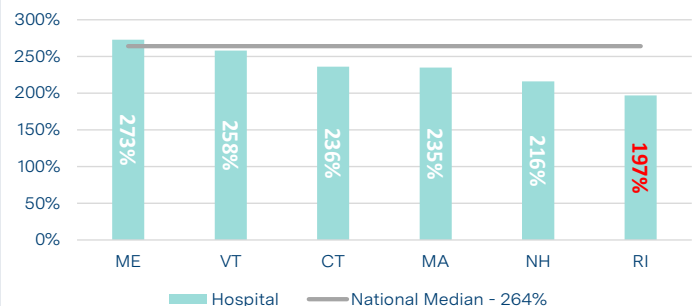
#### Facility Infrastructure

- Stress on hospital infrastructure resulting in use of older equipment in older facilities

#### Unattractive for Physicians and Nurses

- Decrease in recruitment and retention of Physicians and Registered Nurses due to low compensation, while being ranked amongst the most expensive states to live in
- Rhode Island ranked worst state for physicians to practice in.
- RI Nurses can expect to make 16% less per year than MA-based nurses.

#### Standardized Hospital Commercial Rate of Reimbursement as a % of RI Medicare



To see how you can help, please visit  
**[SouthCountyHealth.org/support](https://SouthCountyHealth.org/support)**

# Welcome – New Providers

As a comprehensive health system, South County Health constantly strives to offer the services patients need in convenient locations. With offices in Cranston, Warwick, East Greenwich, Newport, South Kingstown, Westerly, and through Digital Health, we can meet you where you are at!



**Gracie G. Luetters, MD**, is a board-certified general surgeon with an expertise in the surgical treatment of hernias, gallstones and cholecystitis, offering laparoscopic and robotic-assisted techniques as well as breast surgery and all other general surgery conditions.

**p. 401-284-1212**



**Theodore Delmonico, MD, FACS**, is a board-certified critical care and general surgeon with expertise in surgical treatment of hernias, cholecystitis, colon, and gastrointestinal surgery offering open, laparoscopic and robotic-assisted techniques.

**p. 401-284-1212**



**Kaitlin R. Lee, MD, FACOG**, joined the Center for Women's Health specializing in obstetrics and gynecologic care for patients from adolescence through menopause. She brings experience in traditional and laparoscopic abdominal surgery, with additional expertise in vaginal surgery.

**p. 401-789-0661**



**Daniel Fass, MD**, is a board-certified radiation oncologist joining South County Health Radiation Therapy in August 2022. Dr. Fass brings extensive clinical experience and was part of the pioneering team that developed both 3D RT and IMRT at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

**p. 401-284-0850**

## ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

The providers listed below are accepting new patients, timeline to appointment may vary. Availability subject to change, please call numbers provided to schedule an appointment.

### CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

*Wakefield, Warwick, Westerly*  
**p. 401-789-0661**

Megin Dalton, MD  
Mohamad Hamdi, MD  
Kaitlin Lee, MD  
Steven Schneider, MD  
Lindsay Delaire, CNM  
H. Naomi Deutschman, CNM  
Emily Hoffman, CNM  
Sarah West Allen, CNM  
Deborah White, CNM  
Erin Smith, PA

### GENERAL SURGERY

*Wakefield, Warwick, Westerly*  
**p. 401-284-1212**

Joseph Brady, MD  
Ted Delmonico, MD  
Gracie Luetters, MD

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

**p. 401-471-6285**  
**Brian Cilley, DO**  
*Wakefield, Narragansett*

### PULMONOLOGY & SLEEP MEDICINE

**p. 401-788-8780**

**Patricia Russo-Magno, MD**  
*Wakefield, Narragansett*

### UROLOGY

*Newport, Wakefield, Warwick*  
**p. 401-788-8780**

Angelo Cambio, MD  
Joseph Cambio, DO  
Talía Coppola, NP  
John Heffernan, MD  
Alexander Lubin, MD  
Tess Martens, NP  
Arnold Sarazen, MD  
Julie Woodside, NP

Browse all South County Health providers at [southcountyhealth.org/providers](https://southcountyhealth.org/providers)



# A Legacy of Giving

Two Individuals who will help transform the care we provide for future generations



**Edith Johnston** was a long-time volunteer and supporter of South County Health. Over three decades, she donated more than 25,000 hours of volunteer service. She came in on holidays, weekends and evenings when she knew she'd be the only volunteer to assist staff. As a teacher, Edith taught in Cape Elizabeth, ME, and elementary schools in Wakefield, North Kingstown, Warwick, and Westerly.

Sadly, Edith passed away in July of 2022. Her longtime commitment to our patients and staff led Edith to bequest her estate of over \$500,000 to South County Health in her will. This commitment will leave a lasting impact on South County Health for many years to come.

**Marco Marinelli** defines the meaning of a "grateful patient." Marco spent his professional life in the heart of Providence's Jewelry District working at his family's company, Marbro Mfg. Inc. In retirement, he became an award-winning sculptor and painter, as well as a patron of the arts.



A lifelong summer resident of South County, Marco made Narragansett his home in 1984. His first encounter with SCH came in 2007, during a bout with Lyme disease. Four years later, he found himself in the Emergency Department with an unexpected diagnosis: stage 4 cancer.

Cancer can be life-changing. For Marco, it reinforced his commitment to paying it forward and highlighted the importance of giving. Marco made a significant gift to our Cancer Center that has, and will continue to, touch the lives of countless patients facing cancer. There is an infusion bay that bears Marco's name.

Marco lost his courageous battle with cancer in 2018. His gratitude for the exceptional care he received at the South County Hospital Cancer Center motivated Marco to leave a transformative gift of over \$500,000 to South County Health after his passing. Marco's legacy of giving will be a part of the life-saving care we provide to future generations. 🍷

To learn more about legacy giving at SCH, please call 401-788-1608 or email [foundation@southcountyhealth.org](mailto:foundation@southcountyhealth.org)

## Sandi's Story



### GRATEFUL FOR COMPASSIONATE CARE

After a recent visit to our new endoscopy suite for a routine colonoscopy procedure, Sandi Rosen sent a note of gratitude to her care team:

“Each person I encountered treated me with respect and caring. Everyone was on time and professional, asked questions, gave information and addressed my concerns. I appreciated and trusted each dedicated person.

As I left the hospital, I reflected on how lucky I was to be served by the wonderful South County Hospital that offers so much to our community.”

Share your story at [SouthCountyHealth.org/story](https://SouthCountyHealth.org/story)





## Investing in life-saving technology for breast health

Ann Kelley was diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in July of 2013. A long time donor along with her husband, Charles, to South County Health since 1990, Ann found the tumor herself on a routine breast exam. The 5.5 centimeter tumor did not show up on the conventional mammogram her doctor ordered two days later. It was ONLY revealed in an ultrasound. Ann later learned that she had dense breast tissue which made it more difficult to identify tumors on a regular scan. In fact, an estimated 40 percent of women have “dense” breast tissue — made up primarily of glandular and connective tissue — rather than “fatty” breast tissue. On a mammogram, dense breast tissue is white and so are tumors, making them more difficult to detect.

South County Health recognized this limitation in our equipment and responded by purchasing a 3-D tomosynthesis mammography unit in 2016. A 3-D mammogram offers significant advantages in detecting breast cancer in people with dense breast tissue because the 3-D image allows doctors to see beyond areas of density. This advanced screening tool is now available at our Medical & Wellness



**“I encourage all women to take advantage of the advanced technologies at the SCH Breast Health Center and gain the peace of mind that they are doing all they can to protect their own health.”**

— Charles Kelley, Ann’s husband

Centers in East Greenwich, Warwick and Westerly, as well as on the South County Hospital campus.

Washington County has one of the highest incident rates of breast cancer in RI and compliance with annual mammograms has plummeted since the pandemic. We are aggressively responding to this drop in screenings by

creating a progressive **Breast Health Center** to bring expanded access, best of class physicians, and state-of-the-art technology to treat and prevent breast cancer.

A pioneer for the advancement of breast health, sadly, Ann lost her courageous battle with cancer in 2019. However, her legacy will live on for so many Rhode Island women whose lives will be saved because of her advocacy work.

She became an advocate who led the fight to create RI’s current law requiring all mammography providers to inform women of their breast density level as interpreted on their mammogram. Those with dense breasts are advised that they might benefit from an additional screening and to discuss options, such as an ultrasound, with their doctor. For Ann, it was a crusade to make sure other women wouldn’t be caught unaware, as she had been. 🍀

*Early detection saves lives*

**CALL 788-1486  
TO SCHEDULE A MAMMOGRAM**



## Facility Upgrades



**100%  
philanthropy  
funded  
initiatives**



### PARKING

A generous donor has stepped forward to fund expanded parking on our Hospital campus. We are working with the Town of South Kingstown to finalize a new plan that would allow SCH to obtain the town’s Public Services Building to create 55 new parking spaces.



**This  
initiative  
requires  
additional  
philanthropic  
support**

### BALISE ENTRANCE

Completed in March 2023, South County Hospital’s new Balise Entrance offers improved Hospital access to patients and visitors, as well as a respite area for all to enjoy. Made possible by a generous donation from the Balise Family.

### BREAST HEALTH CENTER

Working in concert with our award-winning Cancer Center and our Center for Women’s Health, a progressive Breast Health Center will bring expanded access, best of class physicians, and state-of-the-art technology to treat and prevent breast cancer.

Learn how you can support facility upgrades like these along with the recently purchased Linear Accelerator for Radiation Therapy and the Emergency Department’s ER-B Unit at [southcountyhealth.org/give](https://southcountyhealth.org/give)



## EXPERIENCE THE NEW MEDICAL GROUP PATIENT PORTAL

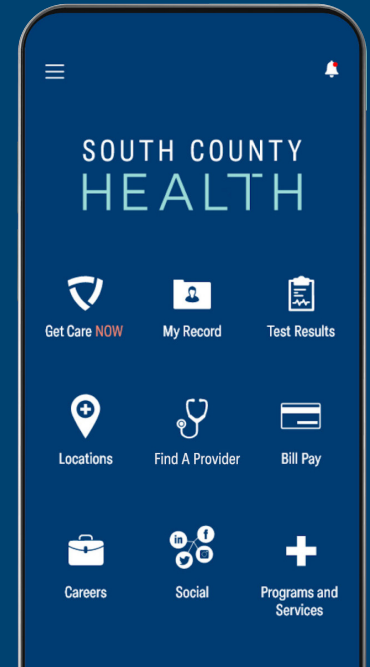
- ✓ View medical records
- ✓ View visit history and documentation
- ✓ Exchange secure messages with providers
- ✓ Schedule office appointments or virtual visits
- ✓ Pay bills online for accounts starting with "SM"
- ✓ Complete pre-visit questionnaires

ENROLL TODAY!  
[PatientPortal.SouthCountyHealth.org](http://PatientPortal.SouthCountyHealth.org)

ACCESS HIGH-QUALITY  
HEALTHCARE FROM THE  
PALM OF YOUR HAND.  
Download our SCH **NOW** app today!



SCAN TO DOWNLOAD  
AND LEARN MORE



## MEET THE ORTHO RI SURGEONS

A free community Seminar series in  
partnership with Ortho Rhode Island

Learn more about robotic-  
assisted surgery for knee, hip and  
spine. RSVP and learn more, at  
[southcountyhealth.org/ortho](http://southcountyhealth.org/ortho)

**June 27**, 6-7:30 p.m.  
The Haversham, Westerly

**August 8**, 6-7:30 p.m.  
Wyndham Newport Resort, Middletown

**September 12**, 6-7:30 p.m.  
Providence Marriott

REGISTER NOW ➤



## CENTER FOR ADVANCED ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

SOUTH COUNTY  
HEALTH | Ortho Rhode Island



**GLOBAL LEADER**  
FOR ROBOTIC-ASSISTED HIP AND KNEE REPLACEMENT