



SCH **Pulse**

FOUNDATION

BY THE NUMBERS

EXPANDING ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY HEALTHCARE.

In the last year, SCH has welcomed

1,700+

NEW ONCOLOGY PATIENTS

3,500+

NEW OB/GYN PATIENTS

5,000+

NEW PRIMARY CARE PATIENTS

2,800+

NEW UROLOGY PATIENTS

INSIDE:

Read more about Expanded Access
and Strengthening Community Care

*July 2025-July 2026

STAY CONNECTED

SOUTH COUNTY
HEALTH

FOUNDATION

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Community Engagement Officer

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To receive future updates, please email
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Dear Friends,

As I write my first letter to you as Executive Director of the South County Health Foundation and Community Engagement Officer, I am filled with gratitude. Since joining SCH this year, I have had the privilege of meeting many of the generous donors, volunteers, patients, physicians, nurses, and community members who make this organization so special. What has struck me most is

the extraordinary commitment this community shares to ensuring exceptional healthcare remains available close to home.

That spirit of generosity has been part of South County Health's story since the very beginning. More than a century ago, local residents came together to establish what was then the Cottage Hospital, believing that access to quality healthcare was essential to the well-being of our community. Today, that same commitment continues through every gift, every volunteer hour, and every act of support that helps advance our mission.

Looking ahead, we are energized by the opportunities before us. Among our highest priorities is the creation of a comprehensive Breast Health Center—the final component of a truly integrated women's health model on our campus. This transformative project will bring together prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and support services in one convenient location while providing a seamless experience for women and families throughout our region. It represents not only an investment in healthcare infrastructure, but an investment in the health, dignity, and peace of mind of generations to come.

In the pages that follow, you will read stories that demonstrate the impact of your generosity and the remarkable work happening every day across South County Health. These stories belong to all of us. They are a reflection of what can be achieved when a community comes together in support of a shared purpose. You make it possible for us to invest in innovative healthcare programs, recruit and retain expert clinicians, acquire advanced technology and equipment, and create spaces that enhance the patient experience.

Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your belief in our mission. It is an honor to serve alongside you as we build an even stronger future for healthcare in southern Rhode Island.

With gratitude,

Kate E. S. Wishart

Executive Director, South County Health Foundation
Community Engagement Officer

P.S. My door is always open, and I look forward to getting to know many more of you in the months ahead.



EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

“When you’re diagnosed with cancer, you’re vulnerable. People need to know someone cares. You can feel it at South County Health.”

Lois James

Breast Cancer Survivor & Grateful Patient

When Lois James walked into South County Health for what she expected would be another routine mammogram, breast cancer was the last thing on her mind.

“I was stunned,” she recalls. “I thought, I’m healthy. I feel good. My head just didn’t go there.”

At 80 years old, Lois had delayed her screening for several months, hoping to avoid the winter surge of respiratory illnesses. When the results came back, everything changed.

Suddenly, she was faced with decisions no one wants to make. Should she travel to a larger medical center? Would she need chemotherapy? Radiation? Surgery? How would she manage countless appointments and travel?

Many encouraged her to seek treatment elsewhere. But Lois already knew where she wanted to be.

“No way,” she says with a smile. “I didn’t want the stress of driving to Providence. I wanted to stay here. This is my community hospital.”

She remains grateful for that decision to this day.

The first person Lois met after her diagnosis was South County Health’s Breast Health Navigator, Lania Rodgers, RN, BHCN.

“She was the first one I met, and her attitude changed everything,” Lois says, her voice catching with emotion. “She welcomed me. She sat with me. She explained exactly what was going to happen. She gave me confidence that I could do this.”

For Lois, the experience was never just about medical treatment. It was about people. It was about knowing that her surgeon knew her by name. That the radiation staff greeted her every day. That someone offered her a warm blanket before she even asked.

“I felt taken care of,” she says simply. “If I had a question, I knew I could ask it.”

One moment, in particular, still stands out.

After her treatment plan changed, Lois’s only son became worried about the surgery. She called Lania, hoping someone could help reassure him.

“Within ten minutes, my surgeon, Dr. Tassanari, was on the phone with my son explaining everything,” Lois remembers. “You’re not going to get that everywhere.”

“I was referred to radiation treatment after my surgery, and Dr. Assif’s confidence and the welcoming attitude of the radiation staff made me feel like I had been welcomed into a family: that I would be well taken care of.”

Her cancer was successfully removed. She completed her radiation treatment close to home and today is back where she loves to be— remotely handling the accounting for



By the Numbers — South County Health Breast Health Program



1,160
people are
expected to be
diagnosed with
breast cancer in
Rhode Island
in 2026



16,286
Mammograms*



276
Breast Biopsies*



132
Breast surgeries*



11
Oncology providers
in Medical, Surgical,
+ Radiation Oncology
2 Breast Surgeons
+ Certified Breast
Health Nurse
Navigator



1 in 8 women will be diagnosed
with breast cancer in their life.

her family business, spending time with her grandchildren, and tending the gardens surrounding her home.

Looking back, Lois believes what made the greatest difference wasn't simply receiving excellent medical care. It was feeling cared for as a person.

"When you're diagnosed with cancer, you're vulnerable," she says. "People need to be comfortable. They need kindness. They need to know someone cares. You can feel it (at South County Health)."

That spirit of compassionate, excellent, and personalized care is exactly what South County Health hopes to build upon through the expansion of its comprehensive Breast Health Center.

The planned center will bring together imaging, physician consultations, nurse navigation, survivorship services, nutrition counseling, education, supportive care, and other wraparound resources in one welcoming location—making it easier for patients to receive coordinated care close to home.

For Lois, that investment couldn't be more important.

"I don't think people realize what we have here," she says. "They think if they have cancer, they have to go to Boston or Providence. They don't. Every woman deserves the experience that I had."

With the support of generous donors, South County Health will create a Breast Health Center that ensures more women—and the families who love them—experience that same compassion, expertise, and hope for generations to come.

Together, we can build a place where every patient facing breast cancer feels exactly as Lois did: cared for, supported, and never alone. 🍷



Annual Auxiliary Fashion Show Raises \$39K for Breast Health Center

The South County Health **AUXILIARY FASHION SHOW** was held on Wednesday, June 10th at The Dunes Club. The sold-out event featured fashions by J.Jill and was emceed by Sam Read of NBC10. Thank you to our dedicated committee, sponsors, volunteers, guests and models for making this signature event a success again this year! 🍷



Annual Golf Invitational Raises \$132K for South County Health

South County Health's **ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL** was held on Wednesday, June 3rd at The Misquamicut Club in Westerly. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of our sponsors, golfers, volunteers, and staff, the tournament was an extraordinary success. Together, we raised an incredible \$132,000 to support South County Health and direct patient care services. 🍷

**Your Support Today,
Saves Lives Tomorrow**

HELP US BUILD THE BREAST HEALTH CENTER



Give a Gift Today

southcountyhealth.org/give



Angels in Action FOR CANCER CARE

South County Health is honored to recognize the **THREE ANGELS FUND** for its extraordinary dedication to supporting cancer patients and their families throughout Newport and Washington Counties.

Founded with a mission to enhance the lives of individuals facing cancer, the Three Angels Fund has become a vital partner in helping SCH provide compassionate, patient-centered care. **Over the past four years alone, they have contributed more than \$185,000 to support programs and services** that improve both access to care and quality of life for patients undergoing treatment.

The Three Angels Fund has provided support for South County Health's new Breast Health Center, helping to advance a vision of comprehensive, coordinated breast care close to home. They have also funded transportation for patients who would otherwise struggle to attend lifesaving appointments and treatments, ensuring that access to care is not limited by transportation barriers.

Recognizing that healing extends beyond medical treatment alone, the Three Angels Fund has also supported Reiki therapy services for cancer patients. These therapies help reduce pain, fatigue, anxiety, and sleep disturbances while promoting relaxation, comfort,

and emotional well-being during a difficult time.

Perhaps one of their most meaningful contributions is their support of the "Warrior Bags." The Three Angels Fund is the sole funder of these special bags, which are presented to every newly diagnosed cancer patient before treatment begins. Filled with comfort items, practical supplies, and resources, Warrior Bags offer encouragement and support when patients often feel overwhelmed and uncertain. More than a gift, they are a reminder that patients are surrounded by a community that cares deeply about their journey.

The impact of the Three Angels Fund reaches far beyond the dollars contributed. Their generosity brings comfort, hope, dignity, and support to patients when they need it most.

Because of their partnership, SCH can offer programs and services that address not only the physical aspects of cancer treatment but also the emotional and practical challenges that accompany a diagnosis.

We are profoundly grateful to the Three Angels Fund for their continued generosity, compassion, and commitment to improving the lives of cancer patients in our community. Their support is making a lasting difference. 🍀

Learn more at threeangelsfund.org



BUSINESS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

MARQUIS HEALTH CONSULTING SERVICES is proud to provide administrative and consulting services to a network of eight skilled nursing facilities in Rhode Island, including Bayview Rehabilitation at Scalabrini in North Kingstown, Riverview Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in Coventry, and Westerly Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in Westerly. These facilities provide their communities with the highest levels of subacute short-term and comprehensive long-term care in compassionate and caring environments.

"We always put our residents at the center of everything we do, and strong partnerships with health care providers are essential in meeting their evolving needs," said Abe Cohen, vice president of business development and field operations at Marquis Health Consulting Services. **"Our partnership with South County Health helps ensure that those we serve experience smooth transitions between settings while receiving high quality care at every point along the continuum."**

As a Business Partner, Marquis Health Consulting Services is part of a legacy of business leaders committed to supporting our mission as Rhode Island's Most Trusted Health Partner. 🍀

To learn more at southcountyhealth.org/businesspartner



 **Members of the Marquis network**

To learn more about Marquis Health Consulting Services visit mqshealth.com



Expanding Access, Strengthening Community Care

At South County Health, our mission is rooted in a simple belief: everyone deserves access to exceptional health-care close to home. As the needs of our growing community continue to evolve, we remain committed to expanding access to high-quality primary and specialty care across southern Rhode Island.

The addition of new physicians and advanced practice providers is an important part of that commitment. By welcoming talented clinicians who share our values of compassion, excellence, and patient-centered care, we are increasing appointment availability, reducing wait times, and ensuring that more individuals and families can receive the care they need when they need it.

From South County Health Primary Care in Narragansett, Warwick, and



“[A second opinion from Dana-Farber] confirmed for us that we were already getting outstanding care at South County Health. You don’t have to drive to Boston to receive world-class cancer treatment.”

– Phil, Grateful Patient, Oncology
Read more at southcountyhealth.org/phil

Westerly now accepting new patients to growing specialty services such as urology, our expanding provider network helps connect patients with comprehensive care throughout every stage of life. These investments not only improve access but also strengthen the health and well-being of the communities we proudly serve.

As a nonprofit healthcare organization, South County Health continually reinvests in programs, people, and

services that enhance the patient experience and improve health outcomes. The support of our donors and community partners helps make this work possible, allowing us to recruit exceptional providers, expand services, and deliver on our promise of being Most Trusted Health Partner.

Together, we are building a healthier future for our community — one patient, one family, and one provider at a time. ❤️

South County Health is accepting new patients in all practices.

Learn how to request an appointment at southcountyhealth.org/schedule



WELCOME OUR NEW PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

South County Health is proud to welcome 6 new providers in Primary Care, with more joining our team this fall. They bring expertise, compassion, and a commitment to keeping care local and accessible.



Babak Ettekal, MD
Narragansett
Patients Ages 5+



Robert Fox, MD
Narragansett
Patients 18+



Tiffany Acosta, NP
Westerly
Accepting New Patients
Ages 18+



Lamlat Badaru, APRN
Warwick
Accepting New Patients
Ages 12+



Claire O'Brien, DNP
Narragansett
Accepting New Patients
Ages 12+



Andrea Ramirez, PA-C
Warwick
Accepting New Patients
Ages 12+

To self-schedule with an accepting provider,
scan the QR code above
or call **401-789-8543**

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SOUTH COUNTY
HEALTH | UROLOGY

Expert Urological Care for MEN & WOMEN

Constantly searching for the bathroom, waking up at night with an overactive bladder, or dealing with enlarged prostate symptoms? It's time to talk with a urologist.

The expert team at South County Health Urology provides advanced urologic care for men and women. From kidney stones to prostate concerns to urologic cancers, we offer comprehensive medical and surgical treatment options, including minimally invasive robotic surgery.



**Ready for a
Consultation?**

Call **401-788-8780**

or scan QR Code to
request an appointment.

Introducing

L. ERIC OLSSON, MD

UROLOGIST

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

East Greenwich • Wakefield • Warwick



South County Medical Group is pleased to welcome Dr. Olsson to our growing urology team. Dr. Olsson joined our team in July and is seeing patients on the South County Hospital campus in Wakefield as well as at new outpatient practices within our Medical and Wellness Centers in East Greenwich and Warwick.

These new locations expand access to specialty care services and strengthen the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

— ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS AT ALL LOCATIONS —



Arnold A. Sarazen, MD
Medical Director
Newport & Wakefield



John P. Heffernan, MD
Newport & Wakefield



Katelyn Johnson, MD
Wakefield