



GIVING SPOTLIGHT

THANK YOU!

**to The Mews Tavern and all
those who participated in the
Gear 'N' Beer 5K in November.**

\$29,000

**in proceeds from the event were
donated to South County Health
in support of a patient-centric
Breast Health Center**



STAY CONNECTED

**SOUTH COUNTY
HEALTH**

FOUNDATION

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To receive future updates, please email
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SCH Pulse

FOUNDATION

January 2024 | southcountyhealth.org



The New Year brings with it all the hope and optimism of fresh beginnings. In pursuing our mission to be Rhode Island's Most Trusted Health Partner and with the commitment of providers, nurses, clinicians, volunteers, and administrators, here are just a few of the ways South County Health will continue to set the standard as Rhode Island's premier community healthcare system in 2024. Here are several examples:

- 1. Patient-Focused Care:** South County Health is uniting our primary care providers, the Center for Women's Health, and our esteemed Cancer Center to champion a fundraising initiative for a dedicated Breast Health Center. This initiative aims to enhance timely mammography screenings, expand local access, and deliver best in class clinical support and state-of-the-art technology for the prevention and treatment of breast cancer within our community.
- 2. Expanding Accessibility:** Our Patient Portals allow patients to schedule an appointment with a provider and even seek care from the comfort of home. Use Get Care NOW before visiting any of our Express Care locations or the South County Hospital Emergency Department, and "Get in Line" from your phone.
- 3. Community Health & Wellness Events:** Again this year, South County Health — in collaboration with our partnering providers — will be offering a series of free community educational programs, screenings, seminars, and events focused on health and wellness.
- 4. Celebrating Our Healthcare Heroes:** Our healthcare professionals, frontline staff, and volunteers define the South County Health experience. Late last year, we introduced Expressions of Gratitude to offer pathways to acknowledge the care received at South County Health. Maybe you are a Grateful Patient or want to Thank Your Provider. Maybe you are ready to Share Your Story or prefer to Nominate a Caregiver. Whatever you decide, the Expressions of Gratitude program offers ways to say "thank you."

- 5. Commitment to Patient Experience:** South County Hospital is in the top 5% nationally for patient experience. We invest in talent and technologies to deliver quality care in a manner that is streamlined, safe, professional, and pleasant.

As we enter into the New Year, on behalf of my fellow Board Trustees, we want to express our sincere thanks for your support of South County Health. Together, we can make 2024 a year of health and wellness for our communities.

Be well,

Joseph Matthews
Chair, South County Health Board of Trustees

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Guardian of Excellence

South County Hospital has been named a **2023 Human Experience (HX) Guardian of Excellence Award®** winner by Press Ganey, the global leader in healthcare experience solutions and services. As a winner of the Press Ganey HX Guardian of Excellence Award®, South County Hospital is in the top 5% of healthcare providers in delivering patient experience in the last year. South County Hospital consistently remains among the best in patient experience, focused on delivering the best care for patients.

This award is part of Press Ganey's annual ranking of the top hospitals and health systems in the country, according to performance in patient experience. 



Designated Baby Friendly

South County Hospital has been re-designated as a "Baby-Friendly" hospital for the optimal level of care, education and support provided to breastfeeding families.



"It is an honor to receive this re-designation. At SCH, our expert team of physicians, midwives, neonatal nurse practitioners, nurses, and support staff are committed to high-quality care, and nurturing a supportive environment, both for breastfeeding families and for those who cannot or decide not to breastfeed," said Megin Dalton, MD, Medical Director, Center for Women's Health

In 2000, South County Hospital became the first in Rhode Island to achieve this status. 

Learn more about about these recognitions at southcountyhealth.org/news

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



DAISY Award

In December, **Bethany Reinhard, RN**, was honored with a DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. She was nominated by a patient, Andrea, who attended the recognition with her 6-month-old daughter, Caroline.

In her nomination letter, Andrea said:

"My husband and I cannot say enough wonderful things about Bethany, our Labor and Delivery nurse for the birth of our daughter. She truly went above and beyond to make sure we were as comfortable, answered any questions we had, kept us in the loop every step of the way." 



Excellence in Nursing

Marcia Bourque-Moreno, ARNP, CRNA, was named among the 2023 Excellence in Nursing Award winners by *Rhode Island Monthly* earlier this year. This year also marks a fifty-year career in nursing for Marcia, who has been with South County Health since 2018.

"At South County Health, being a CRNA. It's what I was chosen to do, there's no doubt in my mind. I don't want to retire. I love what I do." she says 



Volunteer of the Year

At South County Health's annual Volunteer Appreciation event in December, **Karen Grace** was recognized as South County Health Volunteer of the Year for 2023. Karen has volunteered with South County Health since 1998 and has donated over 2,800 hours of her time to South County Health. Karen serves as a patient escort and plays an integral role in South County Health Auxiliary's annual Fashion Show fundraising event. 

Read more about these employee recognitions and achievements at southcountyhealth.org/news

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR BPH COMES TO SCH

Introducing, the latest breakthrough in medical technology, **Aquablation Therapy**, a one-of-a-kind procedure for men suffering from Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH).

Now available at South County Hospital, Aquablation Therapy is an advanced, minimally invasive treatment that uses the power of water delivered with robotic precision to provide long-lasting BPH relief without compromise.

Aquablation therapy is performed by board-certified surgeons specializing in urology using the **AquaBeam® Robotic System**, the first FDA-cleared, surgical robot utilizing automated tissue resection for the treatment of LUTS due to BPH. Aquablation therapy combines real-time, multi-dimensional imaging, automated robotics, and heat-free waterjet ablation for targeted, controlled, and immediate removal of prostate tissue. This technology allows surgeons to create a personalized treatment plan tailored to each patient's anatomy.



“We are proud to be the first in South County to offer a solution for men with BPH that provides significant, long-lasting symptom relief, with lower risk to sexual function and continence,” said Arnold Sarazen, MD, Medical Director, South County Urology. “Aquablation therapy is the next step to furthering our commitment to innovation and providing access to new technological advancements to our community. Being able to provide this treatment, right here in South County, is going to significantly improve the lives of our patients.”



For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call **401-788-8780** or register for one of our upcoming educational events discussing Robotics in Surgery and Aquablation.

Calendar of Events

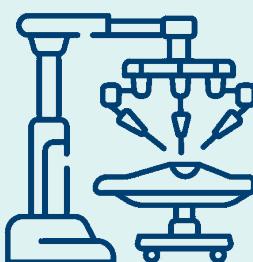
See more events at southcountyhealth.org/events

Meet the Ortho RI Surgeons

February 3, 3:00 p.m.

The Ryan Center, Kingston

Learn more about robotic-assisted surgery for knee, hip and spine from the orthopedic experts at Ortho Rhode Island following the URI Men's Basketball game vs Duquesne. Attendees will receive a ticket to the game.



Robotics in Surgery

February 18, 2:30 p.m.

The Ryan Center, Kingston

Discover how South County Health can get you on the road to recovery faster with robotic technology for general and urologic surgery. Surgeons will discuss da Vinci Xi® for minimally invasive surgery and Aquablation therapy for treatment of BPH. Following the URI Basketball game vs Loyola Chicago. Attendees will receive a ticket to the game.



Scan code to register for these events

Prostate Health Discussion

March 5, 6 p.m.

Virtual Seminar

Join us for a virtual discussion with Urology and Oncology providers on topics including prostate cancer, diagnosis, and treatment.

Breast Health Center Fundraiser

March 9, 6-10 p.m.

The South Kingstown Elks Club

Gansett Nutrition will host a Mardi Gras themed fundraiser to benefit the Breast Health Center at South County Hospital. For details, visit ElksSoCoHealth.Eventbrite.com

All About Aquablation® Therapy

March 19, 6:00 p.m.

Meet our Urology physicians and learn about a new, minimally invasive treatment for men with BPH.

PRECISION AND CARE — *Jeb's Story*

When Jeb Balise, President of Balise Automotive, needed a double knee replacement, he was willing to travel just about anywhere to work with the best surgeon for his procedure. As it turned out, his search led to Ortho Rhode Island surgeon Robert Marchand, MD, and The Center for Advanced Orthopedic Surgery at South County Hospital, right here in Rhode Island.

Dr. Marchand is an expert in robotic joint replacement, and became the global leader for MAKO robotic-assisted surgeries in 2023, with over 9,000 robotic-assisted procedures since 2010, including two for Mr. Balise.

“Dr. Marchand and his team made me feel like I was the most important patient in the world,” says Jeb. **“I can’t tell you how impressed I was, from the first moment at South County Hospital. What struck me was the quality of the people and how much they genuinely cared, and on top of that how well trained they were.”**

The results of a double knee replacement surgery on his daily life were impressive and fairly immediate. Jeb describes a moment during his rehabilitation process when he realized that he was “able to walk, relatively pain free, and able to do things I hadn’t been able to do for fifteen years.”

“Thank you, Dr. Marchand, and a big thank you to all the nurses, and physical and occupational therapists, I worked with. Every one of them went out of their way to give me the best care.”

Jeb’s gratitude for the care he received left him inspired to do more.

Jeb went on to make a very generous donation to the South County Health Foundation. His gift became the new Balise Entrance at South County Hospital.

Opened in June of 2023, The Balise Entrance is a beautiful addition to the Hospital campus. This project provides improved parking access and a much-needed outdoor respite area for patients, visitors, and the exceptional caregivers that serve our community daily.

“In addition to providing great medical care, the staff at South County Hospital exemplifies a true culture of caring,” says Jeb. “Every person I’ve interacted with here has made me feel like my well-being is their top priority. I’m honored to support this amazing team of caregivers right here in Rhode Island.”

South County Health President and CEO Aaron Robinson says “Philanthropy like this donation from the Balise Family is a remarkable example of the extraordinary and enduring community partnership that has helped make South County Health Rhode Island’s Most Trusted Health Partner.”

The Center for Advanced Orthopedic Surgery is a partnership between South County Health and Ortho Rhode Island which offers a complete range of orthopedic care services, board-certified surgeons with a record of superior outcomes, and the latest robotic surgical technology.



Jeb Balise, and daughter, Alexandria, cut the ribbon for the grand opening of The Balise Entrance in June 2023

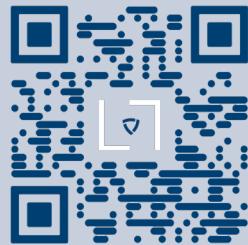
EXPRESSIONS OF *Gratitude*

GRATITUDE COMES IN MANY FORMS.

At South County Health, we invite patients, visitors, and staff to say ‘Thank You’ for the care they’ve received.

Please take a moment to share your story or appreciation through a simple thank you note, a caregiver nomination, or philanthropic gift.

Express Your Gratitude Today!



southcountyhealth.org/gratitude



Brian's Story

The American Cancer Society now recommends that people at average risk of colorectal cancer start regular screening at age 45. Not counting some kinds of skin cancer, colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer in men and women.

Last Spring, Brian Clayton was 46.

With this in mind, Brian's primary care physician referred him to Gastroenterologist Colin Woodard, DO, a member of the South County Health medical staff, for screening.

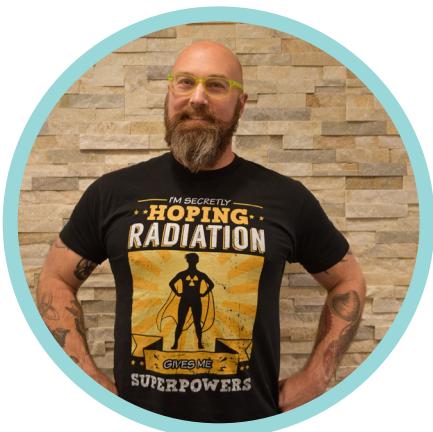
On April 18, 2023, Brian woke from his colonoscopy to the unexpected news that he had a rectal tumor. Days later, he met with oncologist and South County Hospital Cancer Center Medical Director, Angela Taber, MD.

Brian's care plan included multiple rounds of chemotherapy, followed by multiple rounds of radiation, as well as a potential surgery. Brian says, "Dr. Taber's friendly, upbeat demeanor was contagious. Also, Caroline Kinney (Family Nurse Practitioner), and all the staff of the beautiful Cancer Center, were absolutely great."

Venturing into his first day of treatment, Brian wore a "Make My Colon Great Again" t-shirt gifted to him by his wife, Tiffany, for the occasion. "Tiffany is incredibly supportive. She bought me funny shirts for each of my six chemo sessions. The shirts were always a hit with both staff and other patients. For my 28 sessions of radiation with Dr. Daniel Fass, Tony, Brianna, and the rest of the excellent staff, we decided a funny shirt for the first day would have to be enough."

Brian describes his sessions at South County Health Radiation Therapy as "smooth and thankfully painless. I was so grateful to have such a nice facility so close to home, just a mile and a half from my house. I was even able to ride my bicycle there most days," he says.

"Throughout the process at South County Health, everyone was warm, caring, and professional. I felt confident I was in good hands and the communication was great. I am so grateful for the consistently



For his first radiation treatment, Brian wore a shirt that reads "*I'm secretly hoping radiation gives me superpowers*"

excellent care I received from South County Health!" Although surgery may eventually be required, Brian reports that "follow-up imaging has again confirmed no visible indication of cancer!"

In November, Brian ran The Mews Tavern Gear 'N' Beer 5K, the proceeds from which were donated to South County Health's Breast Health Center. Appropriately, says Brian, "it was my first 5K since completing my cancer treatments. Caroline Kinney (who was volunteering at the event) even served me food after!"

To learn more about Cancer Care at South County Health, including Radiation Therapy, visit southcountyhealth.org/cancer.

SCH's Daniel Fass, MD, Making a Positive Impact in Ukraine

Daniel Fass, MD, is a longtime advocate for healthcare access. His most recent project: donating a Tomotherapy machine, used to deliver radiation therapy treatments, to a hospital in Odessa, Ukraine.

Dr. Fass explains that "Radiation therapy is an integral part of the treatment of cancer. Over half of cancer patients will need radiation at some point in their care. Unfortunately, access to this life saving technology is not available in many parts of the world."

It's this work that inspires Dr. Fass to continue. "One of the nations I have been involved with is Ukraine. There is a critical lack of modern radiation therapy units, and many cancer patients there have to travel to neighboring countries to receive treatment. Recognizing this, I donated



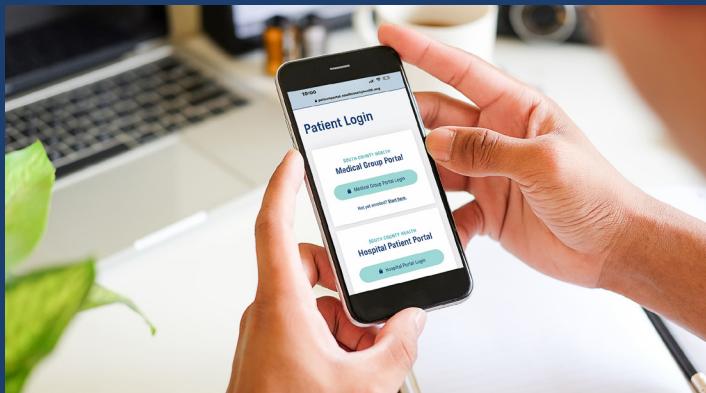
my Tomotherapy unit for installation in Odessa, as there's no modern facility in the area."

Dr. Fass has over 35 years of Radiation Oncology experience. His commitment to helping to address the global need for access to state-of-the-art radiation therapy services is one that's been guiding him for years. Prior to this project in Odessa, his work helped to bring radiation therapy technologies to facilities in Kazakhstan and Vietnam.

Dr. Fass is now Medical Director of South County Health Radiation Therapy, which reopened in 2022 under the full ownership of SCH and underwent months of renovations and technology upgrades. Under Dr. Fass' leadership, this program was recently awarded a three-year accreditation from The American College of Radiation Oncology.

To learn more about Radiation Therapy at SCH, visit SouthCountyHealth.org/RadiationTherapy

Check out the latest edition of **SCH Foundation Pulse** to learn about an innovative new technology now available at South County Health!



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

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HEALTHCARE FROM THE
PALM OF YOUR HAND.

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AND LEARN MORE

