



MILESTONE

100TH

AQUABLATION PROCEDURE

In October, the South County Health Urology team successfully completed their 100th Aquablation procedure, marking a significant milestone in the use of this innovative technology to treat men with BPH.

Learn more about this milestone at southcountyhealth.org/news

STAY CONNECTED

SOUTH COUNTY
HEALTH
FOUNDATION

Christine M. Foisy-Kent
VP of Development
Chief Philanthropy Officer
401-788-1608
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To receive future updates, please email foundation@southcountyhealth.org



SCH Pulse

FOUNDATION

November 2024 | southcountyhealth.org



Dear Friends,

I've had the privilege of seeing firsthand how deeply our community cares about South County Health. Even as we navigate what could be seen as a crisis of faith — not just within our organization, but across the entire healthcare landscape — it is the strength and caring of our community that drives us. Like all healthcare systems, we face unprecedented pressures, but our mission remains steadfast: to be your Most Trusted Health Partner.

We understand the concerns and conversations happening around us, and we are committed to transparency as we meet the ever-evolving needs of our patients and their families. The future of healthcare in Rhode Island is not just a story about finances or regulations — it's about the people we serve. At South County Health, we believe that philanthropy is an essential part of our path forward. Now, more than ever, your support can make a lasting impact.

We recognize that there are differences of opinion, and where we encounter distortions of truth, we are committed to providing accurate information, but our purpose transcends the narratives that have been heard in the media. This is about being here for one another — through every challenge, every health concern, and every new chapter.

Philanthropy goes beyond financial support; it is a partnership of shared values and collective action. It's about making sure that South County Health is always there for those who need us most.

We need your help. Please join us in ensuring that our healthcare system remains strong, compassionate, and trusted for generations to come. Together, we can rise above the noise and focus on what truly matters — caring for one another.

With gratitude,

Christine Foisy-Kent

Vice President of Development
Chief Philanthropy Officer

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

Your generous contributions have sparked transformative projects that change lives and strengthened our community. Together, let's take pride in what we've achieved and continue this journey of impact into 2025!



EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

With more patients requiring inpatient behavioral health level care presenting to our ED, we responded by creating a 6-bed Behavioral Health holding unit that is safe and clinically-appropriate.



CREATING A PROGRESSIVE BREAST HEALTH CENTER

As stewards of our community's health, we are responding to the high incidences of breast cancer in Washington County by creating a new Breast Health Center.



AQUABEAM SYSTEM

South County Health, the only provider in Southern RI offering the AquaBeam Robotic System for Aquablation therapy, delivers advanced, minimally invasive treatment for benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), a condition affecting 50% of men over 50. This technology, partially funded through philanthropy, is improving local patient outcomes and care.



STATE-OF-THE-ART CATH LAB & IR SUITE

2025 will see philanthropy transform our Cardiac Catheterization (Cath) Lab and Interventional Radiology (IR) Lab into a state-of-the-art hybrid Cath Lab/IR Suite. This upgrade will improve patient access and enable us to offer treatments currently unavailable in the community. 

With your support, we can ensure these initiatives remain accessible to all who need them.

To give a gift, visit southcountyhealth.org/give or use the enclosed envelope to send your gift by mail.

BUSINESS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

South County Health Foundation is thrilled to welcome **Marquis Health Consulting Services** as our newest Associate Club Business Partner!

Marquis Health Consulting Services provides administrative and consulting services to skilled nursing facilities and senior housing communities. They deliver operational guidance to enable nursing facilities to achieve their quality and operational goals.

As a Business Partner, Marquis is part of a legacy of business leaders committed to supporting our mission to be RI's Most Trusted Health Partner.

Learn more about our Business Partner Program at southcountyhealth.org/businesspartner



 Members of the Marquis network

WELCOME OUR NEWEST PROVIDERS

ONCOLOGY



Sylvia Vania Alarcon Velasco, MD

Dr. Sylvia Vania Alarcon Velasco is a skilled medical oncologist and internist, board-certified in both specialties. She received her medical education from San Simón Mayor University in Bolivia. Dr. Velasco is a frequent contributor to medical journals and has extensive research experience, underscoring her commitment to staying at the forefront of advancements in oncology. She brings both expertise and dedication to patient care.

p. 401-783-6670



Jean K. Lee, MD, PhD

Dr. Jean K. Lee is a distinguished medical oncologist with board certifications in Internal Medicine and Medical Oncology. A graduate of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dr. Lee has made significant contributions to medical journals and has extensive research experience. Her dedication to advancing the field of oncology through both patient care and academic research reflects her commitment to improving outcomes for those living with cancer.

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Nancy F. McKinney, MD

Dr. Nancy F. McKinney is a medical oncologist and hematologist with a focus on treating all types of cancers and blood disorders. She is dedicated to providing individualized care that addresses the whole person, not just their disease. She earned her medical degree from the University of Missouri and holds board certifications in Internal Medicine, Medical Oncology, and Hematology from the American Board of Internal Medicine.

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ORTHOPEDICS



Diana G. Douleh, MD

Dr. Douleh joins South County Health through our partnership with Ortho Rhode Island. She holds an MD from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, completed her residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Colorado, and completed a fellowship in spine surgery at Washington University in St. Louis/Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Dr. Douleh is proud to practice in her home state.

p. 401-777-7000



Ryan A. Hudson, MD

Joining us as Vice Chair of Emergency Medicine, Dr. Ryan A. Hudson, is a 2012 graduate of the University of Miami School of Medicine, has established a strong reputation for his dedication to patient care and expertise in emergency medical practices. He has collaborated with various medical groups, such as Shadow Emergency Physicians, and is known for his ability to work effectively within multidisciplinary teams.



Jenna Mut, PA

Jenna Mut, PA, is a 2018 graduate of Florida International University. Jenna is board certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. Her commitment to patient-centered care and collaborative approach will be invaluable in the fast-paced environment of the emergency department.

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

"I arrived for bilateral total knee arthroplasties literally shaking with fear and had the dreadful feeling I was not going to survive the surgery. **Within 30 minutes of meeting Barbara, she had somehow calmed all my fears and reassured me they would take care of me and not to worry.** She is angelic in her nursing talents and also felt like a patient whisperer to me. She is beyond kind and compassionate in her abilities to treat patients. I will never forget her. Thank you."

— South County Health patient

“Erica Ogni is the best provider I have ever had.

Would recommend her to anyone who needs a primary care provider. She's always so helpful and nice. She's the best”

— Primary Care patient, October 2024

"After a traumatic first birth 3 years ago in Florida, it was scary to imagine giving birth again. While everyone at South County Health has been great, Samantha really made the difference in my birth going the way I wanted. **She listened to our concerns and answered every question we had with compassion and kindness.** I wish everyone could have a nurse like Samantha for every hospital visit — nobody would be scared of hospitals."

— Center for Women's Health patient

“Gratitude is not a strong enough word for how I feel about South County Hospital.

I spent nine days in the ICU, and two weeks and a day in the hospital. The camaraderie collectively working together at this hospital was exceptional!"

— Harry, South County Health patient

“I would love to thank Dr. Colin Ireland in the Emergency Department for saving my son. He had gone to another hospital in the state twice for breathing difficulties. He was misdiagnosed both times. The staff at South County Health really listened! Dr. Ireland and his team heard our story and sent my son directly for imaging. I think we only spent about an hour total in the South County Hospital ED before being transferred to a more specialized facility in Boston. Thank you Dr. Ireland and your team, and thank you South County Hospital, for the amazing care you gave my son."

— Lorraine, mother of patient



Express Your Gratitude Today!

southcountyhealth.org/gratitude

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

5-Star Hospital

South County Hospital has once again been awarded a prestigious 5-Star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for overall hospital quality. This marks another year of exceptional care and commitment to patient safety, satisfaction, and outcomes. The CMS rating system, which evaluates hospitals across the nation, awarded only 381 hospitals with a 5-Star rating this year, 102 fewer than last year. SCH stands out among these top performers, highlighting an unwavering dedication to delivering the highest standards of care.



5-Star Home Health Patient Experience

South County Health is proud to announce that we have received a 5-Star Patient Experience Home Health rating from The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). These results highlight South County Home Health's commitment to providing professional, compassionate, and comprehensive care to the community through a team-based approach.



Learn more at southcountyhealth.org/awards

SCH STORY

The Importance of Annual Mammograms

For Susan Davis, her annual screening detected cancer before it could progress.

Like many women, Susan had been diligent about getting her mammograms every year. But in 2024, she almost skipped it.

"I have been having annual mammograms faithfully for 18 years. May 2024 was the first time I almost didn't go. I remember saying, 'I go every year and have never had an issue, what's the big deal if I miss this year?' (I didn't feel like driving), my husband said, 'You already have the appointment set up and time off from work, you should just go and get it over with.'"

Thankfully, Susan decided to follow through with her appointment. This decision proved life-changing.

A LIFE-SAVING DIAGNOSIS

At her routine mammogram, something unexpected happened.

"This was the year I am so grateful that I went. My appointment was on a Tuesday, and by Friday that same week I received a phone call that I needed to come in for a rescan."

After a few more tests, Susan was diagnosed with breast cancer.



A SUPPORTIVE TEAM

Upon her diagnosis, Susan was introduced to Lania Rodgers, RN, South County Health's Breast Health Navigator. Lania provided invaluable guidance, helping Susan understand her treatment options and navigate the overwhelming emotions of the diagnosis.

"After a couple more tests showed that I was positive for breast cancer, I went in to meet my Breast Health Navigator. Lania was kind and reassuring; I knew I was in the best place for me. She took time to explain everything and let me know all my options. Even though it was all a bit overwhelming, I walked out feeling like, 'I can handle this.'"

PEACE OF MIND IN A HEALING ENVIRONMENT

In addition to the outstanding care from her medical team, Susan also found comfort in the location of her treatment.

"There's something calming about a hospital by the shore, offering a sense of peace that would've been hard to find with city treatments."

The combination of personalized care and a serene environment helped Susan feel at ease during her treatment.

A REMARKABLE RECOVERY

Thanks to the early detection and the compassionate care she received, Susan is now cancer-free.

"From the moment I first walked into South County Hospital's Cancer Center, I felt like they had everything under control, guiding me every step of the way. Within 4 months from diagnosis to finishing up my treatment, I am cancer-free!"

Read more patient stories at southcountyhealth.org/stories

Early Detection Saves Lives

Call today to schedule your annual mammogram: **401-788-1486**



Scan code to request an appointment

Calendar of Events

All About Aquablation® Therapy

December 9, 6:00 p.m.

South Kingstown Elks Club

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



Scan code to register for these events

Stroke: Spot the Signs, Save a Life

WEBINAR | December 11, 6:00 p.m.

Whether you're a caregiver or simply want to learn more about stroke awareness, this webinar will equip you with the information needed to recognize the signs of stroke and act swiftly and effectively.

See more events at southcountyhealth.org/events

Receive news and updates by email!

Subscribe to our monthly eNewsletter

SouthCountyHealth.org/Subscribe

Early Detection Saves Lives

Regular health screenings are key to catching potential issues early. Learn more about recommended tests that can help you stay ahead of health concerns.

“If I can do it, you can, too.
Schedule your breast cancer screening today, it could save your life.”

— Tammi Reiss, URI Women’s Basketball Coach and breast health advocate

BREAST CANCER
Women 40-74
Breast cancer screening saves lives. Schedule your mammogram today for peace of mind.



COLORECTAL CANCER

Men & Women 45-75

There are several kinds of tests for colorectal cancer, some can even be done at home. Talk with your provider about which test is right for you.

PROSTATE CANCER

Men over 55

Depending on age and other factors, your provider may recommend prostate cancer screening with a blood test, physical exam, or both.

Learn more about health screenings at SouthCountyHealth.org/screenings