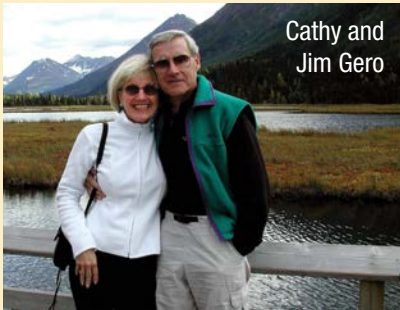




Her Legacy Lives On



Cathy and
Jim Gero

In a heartwarming tribute to a beloved member of our community, St. Joseph Healthcare has announced its orthopedic center will be named in memory of Cathy Gero. This is thanks to a generous \$2 million donation from her husband, Jim Gero.

“Cathy was a lovely person and an engaged community member,” shares Mary Prybylo, president of St. Joe’s. “We are grateful her legacy will live on and help ensure St. Joseph Healthcare continues to provide best-in-class orthopedic care close to home for our neighbors.”

Jim’s substantial contribution honors his late wife Cathy’s passion for the community and unwavering commitment to helping others. “St. Joseph Healthcare meant a great deal to Cathy,” shares Jim. “She valued the organization’s dedication to caring for their neighbors and providing a great patient experience. Cathy was the kind of person who ended each day asking, ‘What have I done for others today?’ She believed in striving to make a difference. This contribution in Cathy’s honor and memory will enable St. Joe’s to continue to make a positive difference in our community for years to come.”

The Cathy Gero Orthopedic Center used the donation to purchase an Orthopedic Robotic Surgical Assistant. In a surprise announcement at an event celebrating Cathy and the donation, the robot was dubbed “Jimmy the Zimmy,” which Jim sincerely appreciated. This cutting-edge navigation system assists surgeons in planning, personalizing and performing joint replacements with precision and consistency, promising excellent outcomes for patients.

Thank you to the Gero family for their gift and many years of devoted service to St. Joseph Healthcare’s mission of providing healing and care for the whole person, in service to all.

“St. Joseph Healthcare meant a great deal to Cathy. She valued the organization’s dedication to caring for their neighbors and providing a great patient experience.”

— Jim Gero



The Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation Transforms Rural Healthcare with Grant Funding

In rural America, many struggle to find quality healthcare. But thanks to a \$150,000 grant over 18 months from the Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation, that's changing.

With this funding, we're pioneering shared workforce programs that bridge the gap between emergency medical services (EMS) and rural clinics. Imagine EMS providers seamlessly transitioning from medical assistants in clinics during regular office hours to heroes responding to 911 calls. This uninterrupted care for those in need will help solve rural clinic and EMS workforce shortages.

Over the next year, we'll partner with Eastern Maine Community College and other clinical organizations to hire and train medical assistants; identify communities in need of support; and develop, implement and evaluate the program's impact. The program will involve a mix of Community Care Partnership of Maine (CCPM) and non-CCPM federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and rural clinics.

Everyone deserves access to local, timely primary care and emergency services, regardless of race, class or location. With help from our strategic partners and donors like the Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation, we're not just changing lives — we're transforming communities and improving rural healthcare for years to come.





The Bingham Program Supports Recovery with Sober Housing Grant

With heartfelt appreciation for the \$4,560 grant from the esteemed Bingham Program, St. Joseph Healthcare will address a critical need in our communities: sober housing for individuals facing homelessness and substance use disorder (SUD) who need outpatient intravenous antibiotics treatment.

This pilot program, born of necessity and fueled by compassion, offers sanctuary to 20 vulnerable individuals. St. Joe's is the first hospital in the state with level III Pain and Addiction Care in the Emergency Department Accreditation (PACED) by the American College of Emergency Physicians. We are uniquely equipped to address SUDs with earlier treatment than if patients were confined to the hospital for the full six weeks of required therapy, which many patients do not complete.

It's not just about providing access to medical care; it's about creating safe, stable environments conducive to healing. Thanks to the support of donors like the Bingham Program, we're breaking down barriers for recovery and sustained wellness. Together, we're making tangible strides in the lives of those who need it most.



Give the Gift of Comfort

“My grandmother received amazing care from the St. Joseph Healthcare Hospice Care team. Her final eight weeks of life were spent at home, where she wanted to be at the end. My mother and I both worked in collaboration with hospice professionals. Without them, we would have been lost. They provided my grandmother with direct care and taught us ways to care for her.

The hospice professionals from St. Joe’s provided us with special tools to keep my grandmother engaged, even as her dementia and overall health worsened. I hope that members of our community will give generously to the St. Joseph Hospice program so that people like my grandmother can get the care they need when they need it.”

– *Nikki Fletcher, in recognition of her grandmother
Molly Wiswell’s care*

Unrestricted Gifts Address Immediate Healthcare Needs



Unrestricted giving allows St. Joseph Healthcare the flexibility to distribute funds where they are most needed and can have the greatest impact. These gifts help support cutting-edge equipment, technologies, programs and services that enhance patient care.

We thank our donors for trusting us with their gifts to support these recent purchases.

Pulmonary Function Tests Cut Wait Times and Improve Lung Health

We recently acquired two new donor-funded pulmonary function test (PFT) units. These tests measure lung volume, capacity, rates of flow and gas exchange to diagnose and treat lung disorders. Previously, patients had a six-month wait for these tests. With the new units, we've reduced the wait time to under two months, alleviating stress and improving patient satisfaction.

"We are incredibly thankful for our donors' support," says Nathaniel Rockwell, MHA, senior operations manager of medical imaging and diagnostic services. "Our previous equipment was over 12 years old, and having new, reliable equipment has significantly increased employee morale. At the end of the day, we want the best for our patients, and this equipment ensures they receive the best tests."



Cutting-Edge Microscope Enhances Surgical Precision

Our donors also helped us acquire the Leica microscope, the gold standard for neurosurgery and minimally invasive spine surgery. This advanced tool magnifies nerves and blood vessels in 3D. It enables minimal tissue disruption during surgeries, improves patient outcomes and reduces recovery times. Its precision and clarity have revolutionized our surgical procedures.

Robotic Sterilization Instrument Improves Patient Safety

The STERIS InnoWave™ Pro washer/disinfector has transformed our reprocessing of robotic instrumentation. It uses ultrasonic technology to maximize productivity and disinfect thoroughly. This donor-funded equipment has streamlined our sterilization processes, improved operational efficiency and reduced patient infection risks.

Save the Date!

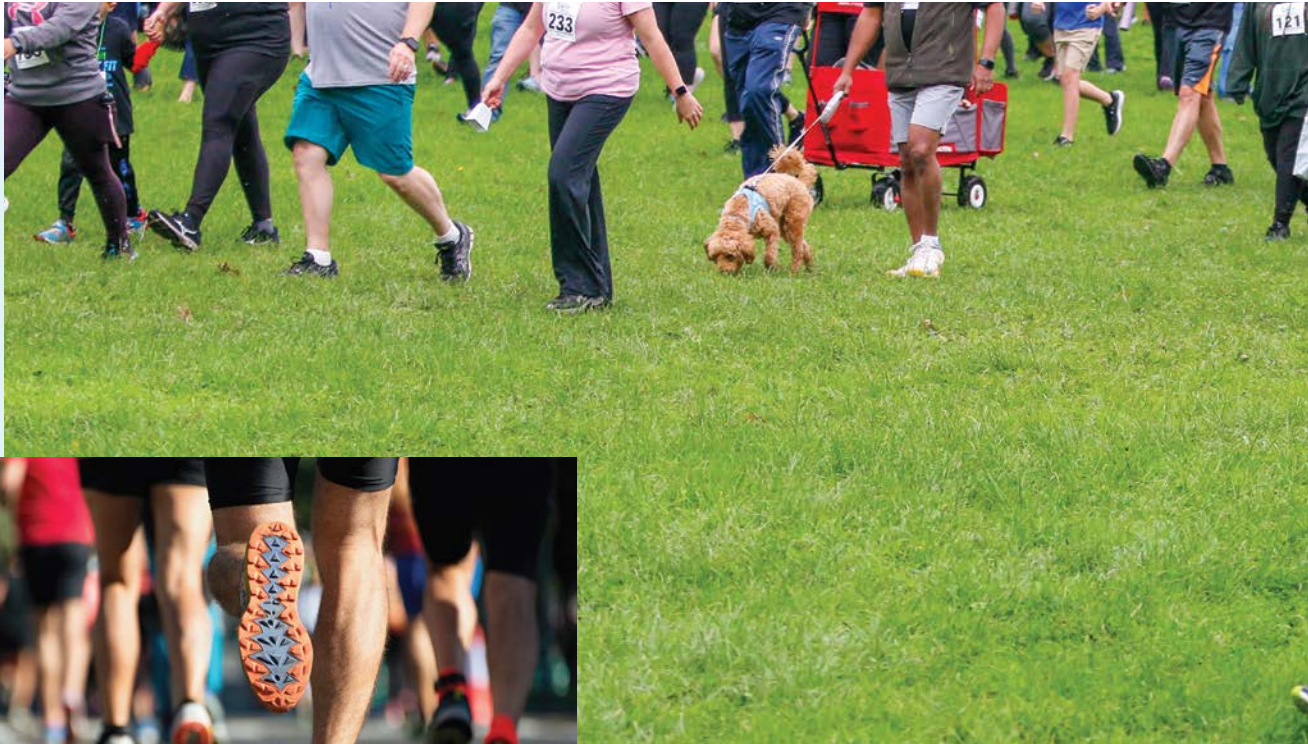
6th ANNUAL!

Sunday, September 29

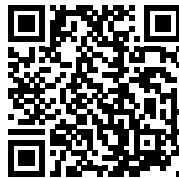
Broadway Park

St. Joe's COMMIT to Community

Supporting Victims of Violence & Abuse
5K/10K & Kids Obstacle Course



To learn more and register,
please scan this
QR code or visit
www.stjosephbangor.org/c2c.



St. Joseph's Healthcare is grateful to the City of Bangor as well as our business sponsors, community partners and volunteers for collaborating with us to present Commit to Community 2024.

Every Step Matters

Every stride and every dollar raised at the *Commit to Community* (formerly *Commit to Get Fit*) race provides vital support for survivors of assault through St. Joseph Healthcare's Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) program. The annual event features a 5K walk, 5K run and 10K run and Kids' Obstacle Course, bringing the community together to raise funds and awareness.

All proceeds, including participant fundraising, benefit the SAFE program's around-the-clock services for victims of violence. This year, we're encouraging participants to rally their family and friends to support the cause. Every dollar raised

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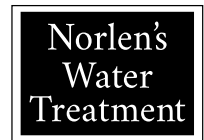
ensures highly trained SAFE nurses can provide compassionate, holistic and trauma-informed care and resources 24/7 to over 150 acute victims of violence each year and more than 500 people affected by abuse.

SAFE nurses work tirelessly to guarantee this lifeline in the community. SAFE Program Coordinator and Assistant Nurse Manager Keri Kapaldo, BSN, RN, SANE-A, ME-SAFE-A/P, says, "It's something the community, our sponsors and the hospital should be incredibly proud of supporting."



Keri Kapaldo, BSN, RN, SANE-A, ME-SAFE-A/P

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



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CORNERSTONE

— St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation Newsletter —


Supporting Victims of Violence & Abuse
5K/10K & Kids Obstacle Course

6th ANNUAL!
Sunday, September 29
Broadway Park



WALK | RUN | CHEER! or VOLUNTEER

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