

# Focused On You

Winter 2023

Health News and Information from MedStar Montgomery Medical Center

## From the heart: Giving with gratitude.



**Inside:** Strengthening our community's hospital through meaningful philanthropy | Honoring the remarkable heart, generosity, and giving spirit of our community | Give where your heart is, and you'll find unexpected rewards | Built by gratitude: Laying the foundation for exceptional cancer care

# Deep and lasting gratitude lives in all of us.



Throughout the year, my two daughters divide their allowance into three categories: spend, save, and share. And each December, they experience firsthand the joy that comes from giving as they use the funds in the share category to support causes that are meaningful to them. It is a reminder to me that philanthropy is not limited to those with abundant

resources—even small acts of kindness and compassion make a meaningful impact.

Our community has proven it is built with giving and gratitude at the cornerstone. And this edition of *Focused on You* illustrates that giving with a purpose is a profound experience. It creates a feeling of fulfillment and a deep connection to something greater than ourselves. When I think of MedStar Montgomery Medical Center, I think about all the gifts our community has given to our hospital—gifts of resources, hope, and time. To our dear community, I hope you accept my deepest appreciation and know how grateful we are to be the recipient of your gifts.

There are countless examples of individuals and organizations who have given time, talents, and resources, through all seasons of life. For some, it is the ability to provide time and energy to a cause, like Bruce Ebersson, whose devotion to the emergency department has for years enhanced our team's ability to provide crucial care to those in need; business owner Carlos Covarrubias, whose support helped during Nurses' Week at the hospital; and Robert "Buck" Bartley, whose philanthropic gifts will help make opening the doors of a new oncology pavilion possible.

For others like Jan Rowe and Pat Romanchock, pictured on the cover, it's volunteering at the hospital, which provides a way to stay connected and give back. Both enjoyed long careers at MedStar Montgomery and cite the hospital for giving them purpose—then and now. Jan and Pat can frequently be found at the hospital gift shop, where they volunteer as part of their work with The Women's Board. In addition, both women serve as members of MedStar Montgomery's Philanthropy Committee.

Our MedStar Montgomery community continues to grow with empathy and compassion, making it abundantly clear that **Gratitude Matters**. So, I would like to pose these questions:

## How does gratitude take shape for you? What are you most grateful for?

I have my own answers as to what I am grateful for: Here, we are supported by our colleagues, patients, and families. Here, we are innovative, and we work together to build upon new successes. Here, we all share in the gift of giving back—of our time, talents, and generous spirits. And for all these reasons, I am incredibly grateful for this community.

Yours in good health,

### Emily Briton

President, MedStar Montgomery Medical Center,  
Senior Vice President, MedStar Health

## Focused On You

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Showcasing the  
extraordinary  
kindness and  
generosity of  
our community.

# Strengthening our community's hospital through meaningful philanthropy.

By Jenne Young

**Every member of our community, from our neighbors to our loved ones, plays an integral role in the vitality of MedStar Montgomery Medical Center.**

As we come together to care for our patients and enhance the facility that serves them, we build a healthier, more resilient future for all. Nothing illustrates the commitment and generosity of our community better than the stories of people creating extraordinary change.

## Championing the Ob/Gyn experience

Sujithra Jayaraj-Sudarsan, MD, is the chair of the Ob/Gyn department at MedStar Montgomery and a proud philanthropic partner. Dr. Jayaraj-Sudarsan saw the need for mothers to learn about nursing their babies in a private and calm environment. She made a gift in support of the lactation room, where nurses could work with new moms.

## Supporting our emergency department

Bruce Ebersson sees the emergency department at MedStar Montgomery as a vital resource that touches the lives of everyone. He and his wife, Mimi Wong, volunteer their time to support the staff and comfort patients at MedStar Montgomery. Over the years, Bruce and Mimi have generously gifted the emergency department to help with supplies and improvements so the department can be the best it can be—their community deserves no less.

## Honoring the unique needs of our aging population

Wendy Walker, a retired veterinarian, is an advocate for the Center for Successful Aging at MedStar Montgomery. She is currently helping to care for several aging family members and understands the physical and emotional challenges of aging as well as the importance of getting the right care. She believes deeply in the center's work and expresses that through her philanthropic partnership.

These varied stories all have one thing in common: people giving where it feels most meaningful to them. "Giving is a deeply meaningful experience," says Jennifer Smith, vice president of philanthropy at MedStar Montgomery. "It is important to us that when someone gives a gift, it not only impacts the hospital, but it is fulfilling and healing for them."

For more information on how your support can make a difference, contact Jennifer Smith at **301-774-8804** or [jennifer.t.smith@medstar.net](mailto:jennifer.t.smith@medstar.net).



**Sujithra Jayaraj-Sudarsan, MD, made a gift in support of a lactation room at the hospital, where nurses will work with new moms.** Photo by Hilary Schwab

## Opportunities for philanthropic giving

### Emergency Department

With a growing population of older adult residents in Montgomery County and a national mental health crisis, we serve an ever-increasing number of geriatric and behavioral health patients in our emergency department. Renovations are planned to meet this growing need, enhancing patient comfort, safety, and the overall care experience, including:

- Private rooms for behavioral health patients to provide a safer crisis evaluation unit
- A new CT scanner centrally located in the emergency department to decrease wait time for stroke patients
- Geriatric-specific rooms tailored to the needs of elderly patients, including structural modifications that promote additional comfort, safety, mobility, and memory cues

### Addiction and Mental Health Center Enhancement

The facility that houses the Addiction and Mental Health Center at MedStar Montgomery is outdated, and there are opportunities to support critical renovations that will contribute to a safer and more comfortable healing environment.

### Ob/Gyn

We plan to purchase state-of-the-art incubators for our tiniest patients. These innovative beds provide newborn babies with a safe environment by controlling temperature, humidity, and oxygen levels.

# Honoring the remarkable heart, generosity, and

From our neighborhoods to our hospital, we celebrate all the ways our community comes together through incredibly meaningful gifts of gratitude.



**"By supporting the oncology pavilion, I honor the memory of loved ones lost and help create a healing space where others facing similar battles can find comfort, strength, and the care they deserve."**

– Robert "Buck" Bartley

**"I give because, as a local doctor, I value the role MedStar Montgomery plays in my patients' health and well-being. Giving back is my way of supporting the staff and ensuring that our hospital continues to thrive for years to come."**

– Dawn Broderick, MD



**"To celebrate special occasions, it is very meaningful for me to give to this very special community hospital. I also enjoy bringing treats in for the staff as my way to say thank you for their kindness and care. It's my way of spreading smiles, one treat at a time."**

– Julia Reider



**"After dedicating decades of my life as director of finance for MedStar Montgomery, my connection has not ended with retirement; it's simply transformed! My philanthropic gifts and Philanthropy Committee membership are ways of nurturing the legacy I helped build and supporting the current generation of hospital staff."**

– Jan Rowe



# and giving spirit of our community.



"I'm blessed to be a business owner and believe that it's important to give back and help others. There is nothing better than investing in the heart of the community. I know that a thriving hospital makes our community stronger, ensuring that everyone has access to the best possible care at their fingertips."

– Carlos Covarrubias

"As a longtime volunteer in the emergency department, I've witnessed the skill, compassion, and calm demeanor of our staff in the face of chaos. My gifts to the emergency department are another way I support MedStar Montgomery and help ensure everyone has the tools and equipment they need to provide the best possible care to our community."

– Bruce Ebersson



"As an Ob/Gyn, I've dedicated my career to bringing new life into this world. Giving to the hospital's maternity unit is another way I help ensure that every mother and baby receives the best possible care. Last year, my gift created a lactation room, which serves as a space for new mothers to receive the support they need for breastfeeding."

– Sujithra Jayaraj-Sudarsan, MD



"MedStar Montgomery is not just our local hospital—it is a pillar of our community. Knowing that the hospital is here serving our family, friends, and neighbors gives us a sense of gratitude. Our commitment is rooted in our appreciation for the exceptional quality of care MedStar Montgomery provides, to help ensure that this incredible community asset continues to thrive."

– Dave and Linda Little



# Give where your heart is, and you'll find unexpected rewards.

By Emily Marrs

## Patricia "Pat" Romanchock has a motto she lives by.

"You always get more back than you give," she says. "I'm a true believer in that sentiment."

As both a long-term associate and now as a volunteer at MedStar Montgomery Medical Center, Pat has continuously been inspired by the tight-knit community. The mother of two sons, she began working part-time at the hospital in 1978 as a radiology technician. She was instantly enamored.

"MedStar Montgomery is a remarkable place," she says. "When I first walked in, I thought, 'I'm here, I'm home, and this community is going to take care of me.' It's just one of those places where everybody knows your name," she says.

What she imagined would be a few hours of weekend work at the hospital turned into a flourishing career spanning 38 years. Even after her retirement, Pat's benevolence is well-known. "I gave my heart and soul to MedStar Montgomery," she says. "And this community gave its heart and soul back to me."

Pat officially retired in 2017, but her contributions to the hospital were far from finished—she fulfilled her longtime promise to join The Women's Board and work in the gift shop, where she offered a listening ear to patients' loved ones while they shared their stories.

Composed of service-minded women, The Women's Board has raised funds to expand and update the hospital for more than a century. With a focus on community, philanthropy, and education, members and volunteers utilize their unique talents to bring the community together in support of MedStar Montgomery.

"The Women's Board is an incredible group of hardworking women who are dedicated to the hospital," Pat says. "I am so honored to be a part of such a heartfelt, instrumental organization."

Most recently, Pat joined the Philanthropy Committee, alongside her friend Jan Rowe, who retired from MedStar Montgomery after a 40-year career in the Finance Department. Compassionate about supporting the community through philanthropic commitments, Pat hopes the two retirees' dedication to the hospital will entice others to become involved.



**After retiring as director of medical imaging in 2017, Pat Romanchock has become an ardent volunteer and supporter of MedStar Montgomery.** Photo by Hilary Schwab

In March of 2022, Pat's connection to the hospital grew even stronger when she became a patient after a breast cancer diagnosis. She will be forever grateful for the care she received from her providers, Luther Ampey, MD, director of oncology at MedStar Montgomery; Jennifer Son, MD; Nora Sudarsan, DO; and Mary Ritchie, MD. "I was fortunate that Dr. Ritchie, my primary care physician, was so persistent about getting me in for a mammogram because my cancer was found early," Pat says.

"I saw a different side of the hospital as a patient. Dr. Son, my surgeon; Dr. Ampey, my radiation oncologist; and Dr. Sudarsan, my medical oncologist; and their entire team guided me through each step of my treatment. They were so calming and helpful—it was an outstanding care experience."

Since her first day as an associate at MedStar Montgomery, Pat has been fueled by a giving spirit. She is always looking for opportunities to give back to the community that celebrated her successes throughout the years and offered her compassion and companionship as she overcame challenges.

"I've been blessed throughout my entire life with receiving more than I've ever given," she says. "Everyone at MedStar Montgomery is like a second family to me, and it's such a joy to give back. Every time I give, I find good things in unexpected places."

# Built by gratitude: Laying the foundation for exceptional cancer care.

**With the help of our generous community, the Centennial Campaign—which is dedicated to renovations of the hospital’s current cancer center—has surpassed its target, raising more than \$3 million for the project.**

“We surpassed this goal because of the kindness and generosity of many people,” says Jennifer Smith, vice president of philanthropy at MedStar Montgomery Medical Center. As a result of this achievement, the MedStar Montgomery Oncology Pavilion will become a reality, with preliminary construction set to begin in the spring of 2024.

Among those whose meaningful philanthropic investments contributed to the Centennial Campaign’s success are Marian Maylath and Kathryn Lindquist. Marian’s gift honors her father, John Maylath, MD—who was a long-time MedStar Montgomery physician—and Kathryn made a gift of gratitude in honor of her husband, who received oncology care at MedStar Montgomery.

“Both Marian and Kathryn attended a Philanthropy Committee meeting where I expressed what was needed to reach our goal,” says Jennifer. “After that meeting, the two of them offered to provide philanthropic gifts to meet that goal. And because of their extraordinary generosity, we exceeded it.”

Funded entirely through philanthropy, the updated pavilion will house the existing infusion center, as well as the radiation oncology and medical oncology

departments. Our patients will appreciate improvements including an updated building facade and a welcoming new lobby.

“The MedStar Montgomery Oncology Pavilion renovation and expansion project will transform our oncology center’s environment and expand the footprint of our space for the patients and families we serve,” says Luther Ampey, MD, director of oncology. “With philanthropic support from our community, grateful patients, and local organizations, this opportunity will ensure that cancer patients continue to receive world-class care right here in our community.”

“We want to acknowledge everyone whose philanthropic gifts are making this vision and future advancements possible,” Jennifer says. “In health care, there are always advancements to be made, and we continue to invite philanthropic investments in support of oncology. Together, we help families and caregivers with the tools that will support cancer patients for years to come.”



**The MedStar Montgomery Medical Center Oncology Pavilion will become a reality, serving the community with world-class cancer care.**



## Our philanthropic partners of \$10,000 or more.

- Lead gift: Robert “Bobby” Smith
- Emily and Zach Briton
- The Helen Pumphrey Denit Charitable Trust
- Varda Fink
- Frederick Finelli, MD, and Victoria Finelli
- The Fred Frederick Family Foundation, Inc.
- Gleason, Flynn, Emig & McAfee, Chartered
- Everette Hammond
- Richard and Priscilla Hoffman
- Iron Bow Technologies
- LAZ Parking
- Mr. and Mrs. Gary W. Kramer
- Kathryn Lindquist
- Dave and Linda Little
- Marian Maylath
- MedStar Montgomery Medical Center, Medical Staff Services
- Peter and Cathie Monge
- Sandy Spring Bank
- T.J. and Lindsay Senker
- Dr. and Mrs. Richard I. Weinstein

To learn more about philanthropic opportunities and how you can support the MedStar Montgomery Oncology Pavilion, contact Jennifer Smith at **301-774-8804** or [jennifer.t.smith@medstar.net](mailto:jennifer.t.smith@medstar.net).

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# Meet our philanthropy team.



**Dave Little**  
Philanthropy  
Committee, Chair



**Jennifer Smith**  
Vice President



**Claire Meltzer**  
Philanthropy  
Officer

The MedStar Montgomery Medical Center Philanthropy Team facilitates gratitude and philanthropic partnerships from grateful patients, their loved ones, associates, and community members in a way that is most meaningful to them. To connect to our philanthropy team, call **301-774-8804**.

To make a gift of gratitude,  
**scan the QR code** using your  
mobile device.



**It's how we treat people.**

  
MedStar Health