

# Donor Impact Report

The Smarter Choice for Care



OFFICE OF PHILANTHROPY

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Dear **Friend**,

It's been a busy year so far, and we have much to celebrate. We value your support, which is absolutely essential to successfully achieving our mission to advance the health and well-being of our community. I am pleased to share this report with you, highlighting the multiple ways that your commitment has helped us make a remarkable impact. Thank you so much for your compassion and generosity.



Best regards,

Sarah Moore  
Executive Director, Development

## The Mayer Center Celebrates Progress



▲ Two-year-old Ryan Ortolani is a patient at The Mayer Center in Essex.

Ryan Ortolani was born at 23 weeks — one pound eight ounces, and he spent 163 days in a neonatal intensive care unit. Although born a triplet, his brothers sadly died shortly after their birth. Ryan has already endured so much in his life, but he has also made great strides thanks to The Mayer Center, a Middlesex Health facility in Essex that provides developmental services to children and adolescents with developmental challenges.

A capital fundraising campaign helped to build The Mayer Center, which opened in late 2022. It was named in recognition of Sally and George Mayer, of Essex, and their generous donation to the campaign.

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## Pay it Forward

When Doreen Gagnon retired from her second career as a social worker for Middlesex Health Cancer Center, she wanted to establish a lasting legacy in honor of her late husband, Joe, and to continue her work to support cancer patients.

Motivated by a desire to help patients and families cope with the diagnosis and treatment of a serious chronic illness, Doreen decided to create a special interest fund to support cancer patients at Middlesex Health. She also included Middlesex Health as a beneficiary in her estate plans, allowing her to continue this support for years to come.

Like Doreen, you can help support the work of Middlesex Health by including a gift in your estate plan. You are invited to begin a no-obligation conversation with Middlesex Health's development team about the gift that best matches your intentions.

For information about legacy and planned giving, visit [middlesexhealthheritagecircle.org](http://middlesexhealthheritagecircle.org).



▲ Doreen Gagnon

## Congratulations and Thank You to PMA Companies!



PMA Companies has been the title sponsor of the Middlesex Health Golf Tournament for 20 years. This tournament raises money for Middlesex Health Cancer Center, and Middlesex recently recognized PMA Companies for its continuous support.

Over the years, the money raised has been used to help cover the costs of cancer patient support services not covered by insurance, such as personalized nurse navigation and integrative medicine therapy. The money has also helped the Cancer Center acquire new and innovative technology and renovate facilities to help improve patient care.

“It’s been a great partnership for many years,” says Dominic Perno, senior vice president at PMA Management Corp. “We realize how much the support has meant to Middlesex Health Cancer Center, and that really hits home.”

▲ Middlesex Health President and CEO Vin Capece presents an award to Dominic Perno, PMA Management Corp, as a token of appreciation.

## Empowering Women’s Wellness

Middlesex Health Women’s Wellness Fund is a transformative, membership-based initiative that advocates for, educates about, and funds priority health projects in the community. Launched on International Women’s Day in March 2017, sponsors and members have since donated more than \$286,624 to support women’s health.

Some impactful highlights include raising funds to help replace all of the health system’s 2D mammogram machines with 3D machines and supporting a new center for integrative medicine, which offers new and expanded programs for patients seeking alternative therapies to alleviate symptoms of many diseases, including cancer. The fund has also supported new technology to detect and treat breast and gynecological cancers; supported women before, during, and after pregnancy; and supported community-based health equity programs.

Current priority projects include breast reconstruction technology; a second radar localization machine for breast tumor and lymph node removal; mastectomy pillow sewing supplies; birth boxes with infant and postpartum care items; head coverings for cancer patients; and the perinatal social work program that connects pregnant women who face challenging circumstances with community resources. The success of the Middlesex Health Women’s Wellness Fund depends on the collective effort of individuals who share the vision of a healthier future for women.

To learn more about the fund and how you can be part of this impactful journey, visit [middlesexhealth.org/womenswellnessfund](https://middlesexhealth.org/womenswellnessfund).



▲ Members of the Women’s Wellness Fund enjoy a walk at Camp Hazen YMCA.



▲ Middletown Police Department’s decorated duck was voted as the first-place winner in 2022.

## What The Duck?

*Decorated ducks to take center stage in Middletown and throughout Middlesex County*

In October, be on the lookout for decorated ducks throughout Middlesex County!

Back for its second year, “What The Duck?” is a goPINK+ event that raises funds for cancer patients to receive free integrative medicine therapy at Middlesex Health Cancer Center, including those with breast cancer. Businesses, families and community groups donate money and receive a wooden duck to

decorate. The decorated ducks are then displayed in downtown Middletown and throughout Middlesex County. Members of the public can view them and vote for their favorite duck. Awards are given to the top ducks.

New this year is the Downtown Waddle. This goPINK+ kick-off event will be held on October 4 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. For this event, goPINK+ partners with local restaurants and merchants

along Main Street in Middletown. During the Downtown Waddle, participating businesses will offer food and drink specials, promotions and discounts to participants.

**For more information and tickets, visit [middlesexhealth.org/gopink](https://middlesexhealth.org/gopink), or contact Sally Ann Lee at [sallyann.lee@midhosp.org](mailto:sallyann.lee@midhosp.org) or 860-358-4065.**

## What to Expect in 2024

### ► **State-of-the-Art MRI Units Revolutionize Patient Care**

Middlesex Health is proud to advance its diagnostic capabilities with investments in new, state-of-the-art MRI units. This Siemens technology will offer significant improvements with the integration of advanced AI software designed to reduce scan times for patients. It also offers improved image quality, which leads to more accurate diagnoses and expedited treatment and recovery. The new units will be installed in Middletown at Middlesex Hospital and the Middlesex Health Outpatient Center.

► **New Ambulances to Improve EMS Coverage** After receiving state approval, Middlesex Health will add seven new ambulances to its fleet for a total of 12 vehicles. These ambulances are much-needed and will help shorten wait times for more than 21,000 patients who

receive ambulance transports from Middlesex Health annually.

### ► **Innovative Breast Reconstruction: DIEP Flap**

In a significant leap forward for breast reconstruction for cancer patients, Middlesex Health's Comprehensive Breast Center will soon offer DIEP (deep inferior epigastric perforator) flap surgery. This microsurgical procedure uses a patient's own abdominal tissue and vasculature to reconstruct the breast following mastectomy.

### ► **Advancing Cancer Treatment with a New Radiation Therapy Linear Accelerator**

Staying at the forefront of cancer treatment, Middlesex Health Cancer Center is replacing its third, back-up linear accelerator with the latest in radiation therapy technology. The Varian TrueBeam linear accelerator offers unparalleled accuracy when targeting cancer cells. The new unit will become the primary unit used

to treat patients in Middletown. The Cancer Center also has a back-up unit in Middletown and a primary unit for patients receiving treatment in Westbrook. This upgrade not only enhances treatment effectiveness, but also improves quality of life during and after therapy.

### ► **Mayo Clinic Care Network**

This marks the ninth year of Middlesex Health's membership in the Mayo Clinic Care Network. Middlesex is one of only 45-plus healthcare systems worldwide, and the first member in New England. This gives Middlesex physicians and their patients access to the knowledge and expertise of Mayo Clinic, a world-renowned healthcare innovator. For example, Middlesex physicians can request eConsults, or electronic second opinions, from a Mayo Clinic expert.

## The Mayer Center Celebrates Progress *(continued from front page)*

Ryan, now 2, travels to The Mayer Center from Waterford and works with Middlesex Health physical therapists and occupational therapists to improve various skills, including his gross motor skills. His mother, Taylor Ortolani, marvels at how much progress he has made in just a few short months.

"The services Ryan receives at The Mayer Center have helped him meet milestones and navigate the world around him in ways we weren't sure were possible," Taylor says. "The staff there are like our family, and we're so grateful for their commitment to Ryan's success."

In addition to receiving services at The Mayer Center, Ryan benefited from the Helping Hands Assistance Fund, a fund established to assist patients and employees facing hardship. The fund covered the cost of his gate trainer, an assistive device that helps children who cannot stand or walk without assistance explore the world around them independently.

Look out world! Ryan is on the move and getting stronger every day.

**For information about The Mayer Center, visit [MiddlesexHealth.org/mayercenter](https://MiddlesexHealth.org/mayercenter).**



▲ Ryan Ortolani