

# CARING TOGETHER

Spring 2023 Edition

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## Mike & Letty McKenna Help Bring Comfort to Hospice Patients and Their Families

When Mike McKenna of Ocean City was the President and COO of Crown Cork & Seal, he never felt the need to stay in fancy hotel suites when traveling, unlike some colleagues. “We’d be gone all day and go right to sleep when we got to the hotel. I’d say, ‘What do you need a suite for?’ I could never understand it.”

However, when it comes to patients at Shore Medical Center, Mike believes they deserve the very best. It’s why he and his wife, Letty, began supporting Shore in 2001, and it’s why they made a major gift in 2019 to renovate rooms on Shore’s 5 Hayes unit. With their generous donation, Shore was able to transform a section of hospital rooms into three beautiful and home-like suites

for patients at end-of-life so their families can be with them comfortably during their final days.

“We love Shore Medical Center greatly,” said Mike. “We became members of the Stainton Society in 2001, and then joined the Lightkeeper’s Society. We attended their fundraising galas and contributed to the Shore Tomorrow capital campaign to help fund the hospital expansion. We enjoyed giving back to Shore.”

*Photo: Letty and Mike McKenna with their children in the family room of one of three new suites for patients who are at end-of-life, located on Shore’s 5 Hayes unit. Shore Medical Center dedicated the suites to Letty and Mike at a ceremony on October 19, 2022. Pictured left to right is Kathy Doyle, Letty and Mike McKenna, Suzanne Karcher, Meg Herman and Archie Karcher.*

(continued inside)

Join us August 3  
 for a  
**DONOR APPRECIATION RECEPTION**

5:30 - 7:00 PM  
 Shore Medical Center

RSVP by July 20  
 with Jessica Giles  
 at 609-365-5257.



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In October, Mike and Letty McKenna helped cut the ribbon on the new suites for patients who are at end-of-life and their families, made possible with their generous donation. Pictured left to right is Ron Johnson, Shore Medical Center President & CEO; David Hughes, Chief Financial Officer & Chief Development Officer; Mike and Letty McKenna; Kelly Duma, RN, BSN, NE-BC, 5 Hayes Nurse Manager; and Mary McGuckin, Manager, Shore Lightkeeper's Society.

## A Priceless Gift

Mary McGuckin became close with Mike and Letty over the years through her role as manager of Shore Medical Center's Lightkeeper's Society, which provides concierge-like benefits to donors who give \$5,000 or more annually. She took Mike and Letty out to lunch and presented them with three possible projects they could support, and they chose the patient suites.

When a patient is at end-of-life, most would rather be home during their final days. When that can't happen, the suites provide them with a wonderful alternative. Two suites have an attached family room with a sofa bed and ample space for friends and family to gather and spend time with their loved one.

Jill Shultz, MSN, RN, Administrative Director of Nursing at Shore Medical Center, explains exactly why these suites are so important.

"Our standard patient rooms are big enough for most situations, but when a patient is at end-of-life we allow them to have as many visitors as they want. Recently we had 12 family members gathered in one of the suites. Being

able to give them that comfort of being with their loved one and with each other so they can begin the grieving process is so very special," said Jill. "It also gives our nurses peace of mind, knowing the families have space to gather together."

Kelly Duma, RN, BSN, NE-BC, nurse manager on 5 Hayes, says the patients' and families' reactions to the suites have been priceless.

"One patient sent a photo of his room to a friend, who asked, 'What hotel are you in?' Another family looked around in awe and exclaimed, 'All this is ours?' Thanks to Mike and Letty, we can give patients and families this space in their time of need," Kelly said.

The suites feature high-end custom furnishings and shutters, soft lighting, and soothing color schemes and artwork, all carefully selected to create a peaceful and calming environment.

"When someone you love is dying, those last days are some of the most difficult but also the most precious. This gift is touching many people in our community in wonderful ways," Kelly said.

## From Family Pollyanna to Charitable Donations

Mike and Letty passed down their philanthropic values to their six daughters and sons by marriage, and now their grandchildren, who celebrate the holidays with an annual collective donation to a charity.

"Years ago, our kids had a Pollyanna with each other, but they realized they didn't need the gifts and instead decided to make a group donation to a charity," Mike said. "Now, our grandchildren do the same. They actually make their donation in honor of Letty and me."

Mike and Letty's children deeply appreciate their parents' humbleness and how they were always helping others. They all agree that their parents have been incredible role models who taught them the importance of giving back.

After the suite dedication ceremony, Mike and Letty's children felt even more in awe of their parents and the difference they have made at Shore and in our community. They shared that their parents' most recent gesture made them want to give back even more.

When asked why he thought giving to Shore was important, Mike said, "When you get to know Shore and all they are doing, you realize how worthwhile it is to support them any way you can. I know Mary McGuckin would love to help connect other families like ours with meaningful projects that can make a big impact."

*If you would like to leave a legacy at Shore Medical Center, please call Mary McGuckin, Lightkeeper's Society Manager, at 609-653-4657 or [mmcguckin@shoremedicalcenter.org](mailto:mmcguckin@shoremedicalcenter.org)*



## Leave a Legacy at Shore Medical Center with a Planned Gift

Help Shore meet the healthcare needs of current and future generations!

Learn more at [www.GivetoShore.org](http://www.GivetoShore.org) or call Mary McGuckin at 609-653-4657.

## Charitable Annuity: Another Great Way to Support Shore

In December 2022, Congress passed the SECURE Act 2.0, which stands for Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement. As part of this law, the age for Required Minimum Distribution is now 73. IRA owners who turn 72 in 2023 (those born in 1951) do not have an RMD due this year. Instead, they will need to start taking RMDs when they attain age 73 in 2024.

RMDs are of course taxable income. As part of the SECURE Act 2.0, you can take a one-time qualified charitable distribution (QCD) of up to \$50,000 per person (\$100,000 per couple) directly from your IRA to a charity like Shore Medical Center. Shore Medical Center is one of a small number of charitable organizations to have a Charitable Gift Annuity in place.

Shore Medical Center's Charitable Gift Annuity provides you with a great option to reduce your overall IRA value, support Shore Medical Center, and generate stable, fixed taxable income for life. At maturity, the balance of your annuity will benefit Shore Medical Center. To learn more, please contact Mary McGuckin at 609.653.4657 or [mmcguckin@shoremedicalcenter.org](mailto:mmcguckin@shoremedicalcenter.org).

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## Auxiliary Thrift Shop Fashion Show Raises \$18,300

May 10 saw the return of one of the Auxiliary of Shore Medical Center's most beloved fundraising events, and it was a huge success! The Thrift Shop Fashion Show, held at Greate Bay Country Club, featured volunteer models decked out in donated clothing, accessories, and shoes, hand-picked from the Auxiliary's Somers Point and Marmora thrift shops. Special thanks to our Auxiliary, volunteers, thrift shop team, guests, donors and sponsors for their time and generosity. *Would you like to join the Auxiliary of Shore Medical Center and help raise funds for patient care initiatives at Shore? They are always eager to welcome new members! To learn more, contact Lisa DiTroia at 609-653-4646 or [lditroia@shoremedicalcenter.org](mailto:lditroia@shoremedicalcenter.org)*



Auxiliary Co-Chair Gerri Yollin, left, with Auxiliary member Lynn Brock, getting ready to walk the runway.



Guests enjoyed a Thrift Shop Pop-Up sale featuring a wide selection of clothing and accessories, carefully selected from items donated to the Auxiliary's Somers Point and Marmora thrift shops.

# Shore Offers New Outpatient Rehabilitation Services to Meet Patient Needs

With your support and with the March 2023 closure of Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation, Shore has added four new outpatient rehabilitation therapists from Bacharach and two new service lines. These new therapists include Kevin Scott, MSPT, and Nancy Thurlow, MSPT, as well as Jennifer Brooks, PT, DPT, CLT-LANA, who is providing oncology rehab and lymphedema management, and occupational therapist Patricia Chichester OTR/L, who specializes in hand therapy.

Jennifer Pesce, Director of Rehabilitation, says Shore's outpatient rehabilitation program has grown rapidly, especially since Shore Physicians Group's Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine Division moved to the same building. Now, with oncology rehabilitation and hand therapy, she and her team are looking forward to helping even more people receive care close to home.

"With these new therapists and services, we can offer our community greater convenience, more diverse treatments and even better patient outcomes," Pesce says.

## Cancer & Lymphedema Therapy

Jennifer Brooks PT, DPT, CLT-LANA is a physical therapist with over 20 years of experience in oncology rehabilitation and lymphedema management. Her office is located at Shore Cancer Center, making it the only cancer center in the region to offer this program.

"People with cancer can experience many side effects from the cancer itself

or from treatment," Brooks says. "Specialized therapy is vital to helping them regain range of motion and strength, reduce pain and swelling, and improve their quality of life."



*Physical therapist Jennifer Brooks, PT, DPT, CLT-LANA, is now providing oncology rehabilitation and lymphedema management at Shore Cancer Center.*

Brooks added that she also helps people with non-cancer-related lymphedema and swelling management, including those with poor circulation or lymphatic system problems resulting from accidents or surgeries.

"I love what I do, and I'm thrilled to be here at Shore for anyone who needs cancer-related therapy – including those who get their cancer care elsewhere," Brooks says.

## Hand Therapy

Until Patricia Chichester, OTR/L, came to Shore, we did not have a full-time outpatient occupational therapist at our Center for Outpatient Rehabilitation. Chichester specializes in hand therapy, a rare service in this region, and helps patients with hand or wrist fractures, contractures, tendon

tears, and post-operative issues. She also treats repetitive stress injuries, such as carpal tunnel syndrome. Using a variety of therapeutic modalities including splinting, exercises and fluidotherapy, Chichester helps her patients regain the ability to perform daily living activities, like turning a key in a door or brushing their hair.

But hands are not the only thing Chichester treats.

"I began my occupational therapy career at Bacharach 34 years ago and had OT mentors in practically every expertise. Hand therapy is my focus, but I love helping all patients, including people with neurological conditions such as stroke," Chichester says.



*Occupational Therapist Patricia Chichester, OTR/L, is now providing hand and upper extremity therapy at Shore's Center for Outpatient Rehabilitation.*

## Caring Together

With our donors' generous support, we were able to add these needed services and the equipment and technology required to provide care. Thank you for the essential role you play in *Caring Together* for our community! 🧡

# LIGHTKEEPER'S SOCIETY MEMBERS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following members of Shore Medical Center's Lightkeeper's Society, which recognizes donors who annually contribute \$5,000 or more to Shore Medical Center to help further advance the care of our patients. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) are also members of the DiOrio Society, which recognizes those who have made a planned gift to Shore Medical Center. We thank these individuals and families for their investment in future generations.

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*We would also like to thank our generous donors who have requested to remain anonymous.  
Their contributions, along with those from our donors listed above, have had a tremendous impact on our hospital and our patients.*



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We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our current Stainton Society members listed below. Stainton Society members give between \$500 and \$4,999 to Shore Medical Center annually, and help provide ongoing philanthropic support for our hospital's patient care initiatives. If you would like to join the Stainton Society, please visit [www.GivetoShore.org](http://www.GivetoShore.org) or contact Jessica Giles at (609) 653-3986.

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