

CARING TOGETHER

Fall 2024 Edition

What's Inside?

Heartfelt gift funds new
Cancer Center lab
pages 1 & 2



Gift from former Shore CEO's
family builds leaders
pages 3 & 4



Lightkeeper's Society Members
page 5



Stainton Society Members
page 6



Buckley Gift Transforms Cancer Care at Shore Medical Center

Volunteers Needed



Enjoy a rewarding experience as a Shore volunteer while helping patients and families, with flexible schedules to fit your life. Call 609-653-3543 today to learn more!



Marlene Buckley's heartfelt desire to comfort every cancer patient undergoing treatment at Shore led her to fund a new onsite lab at Shore Cancer Center. Her generosity wasn't just about providing resources—it was about ensuring the well-being of each patient. On October 18, Marlene and her family witnessed the profound impact of her gift at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the oncology lab, now named in honor of her and her husband, Bob.

Marlene has been a member of Shore's Auxiliary for 15 years. She and Bob have also been members of Shore's Lightkeeper's Society since 2019. They have deeply appreciated the guidance of Mary McGuckin and Jessica Mazzoni. They are the Lightkeeper Liaisons who

help the Buckylys navigate Shore's healthcare services.

Mary knew Marlene's passion for helping others. In fact, Marlene was greatly influenced to become a nurse by her father, Dr. Stanley J. Miller, a general practitioner, who made house calls and even welcomed patients into their home. Mary approached Marlene with a significant issue affecting Shore Cancer Center patients – it did not have an onsite lab - an issue Marlene's support could resolve.

Photo: Shore held a ribbon cutting Oct. 18 to officially open the Shore Cancer Center oncology lab, made possible with a major gift from Marlene Buckley. Pictured left to right is Mary McGuckin, Lightkeeper's Society Manager; Marlene Buckley; Kim Keidat, MHA, MLS(ASCP), Director of Lab Services; Vijay Sandilya, MD, Medical/Hematology Oncology; Mei Gavrell BA, R.T.(R), Administrative Director of Diagnostic Imaging Services and Oncology; and Bob Buckley.

(continued inside)



(continued from page 1)



At the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the medical oncology lab, Marlene Buckley expressed heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering support she and her husband, Bob, have received from Jessica Mazzoni (far left) and Mary McGuckin (second from right) through the Lightkeeper's Society. Jessica and Mary have guided them through the health system with compassion and care since they joined five years ago.

“I explained to Marlene that while Shore Cancer Center is a place of hope with cutting-edge technology, not having a lab was a problem,” Mary said. “Before starting chemotherapy, patients need their blood tested to confirm they are healthy enough for treatment that day. Staff had to walk the blood samples to the hospital’s 6th-floor lab across the street. The results could take up to 90 minutes. If tests showed the patient wasn’t ready for treatment, they’d have endured the wait only to be sent home without care.”

The need for a lab weighed heavily on Marlene. “I kept thinking about those patients, and I wanted to help.” In January, Marlene made a major gift to Shore, enabling Shore Cancer Center to move forward with creating the new lab.

Cutting-Edge Equipment

Marlene’s donation funded advanced lab equipment that significantly

reduces patient wait times. The center acquired the Piccolo Xpress, a portable analyzer that performs up to 14 diagnostic tests in under 12 minutes, assessing liver, kidney, and metabolic function. Her gift also covered the Pochi100 hematology analyzer, essential for chemotherapy readiness, the UniPOC Data System for lab integration, plus a reagent refrigerator, laptop, and other lab essentials.

“We are incredibly grateful to Marlene,” said Mei Gavrell, Administrative Director of Shore Cancer Center and Laboratory Services. “Her donation has transformed the efficiency of treatment days, reduced patient anxiety, and empowered our staff to deliver faster care. The ripple effect of her generosity is profound.”

An Immediate Impact

“The new lab is a gamechanger,” says Marianna Ardolino, BSN, RN, CMSRN, OCN of Shore Cancer Center. “Faster results mean quicker


treatment decisions and less time waiting. Patients can now spend more time at home with loved ones, instead of waiting anxiously here. Many patients feel relief not having to wait hours to learn they can’t receive treatment. One patient even said the shorter wait time reduced their pain by minimizing discomfort.”

A Legacy of Compassion

The ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 18 was a proud moment for Marlene Buckley. “I’m just so happy!” she said. “Knowing patients no longer have to wait for lab results makes it all worthwhile. It’s incredible that I could make such a difference with this gift.”

Through her generosity, Marlene has done more than fund a lab—she’s helped Shore Cancer Center deliver the kind of care every cancer patient deserves: timely, compassionate, and patient-centered. Her contribution will continue to make a meaningful impact on patients’ lives for years to come, embodying Shore Medical Center’s commitment to providing the best possible care. Her dream came true!

Opportunities to Support Cancer Care

Marlene’s gift highlights how meaningful support transforms Shore Medical Center. Donations fund essential equipment, support patient care programs, and advance treatment services—making a real difference for patients and families. Shore is committed to expanding its services, and contributions like Marlene’s are vital to that mission. For information on supporting Shore, contact Mary McGuckin at 609-653-4657. Together, we ensure compassionate, high-quality care close to home. 

Donor Spotlight:

Dr. Constance Jenkins Pritchard's Gift Builds a Legacy of Leadership and Growth at Shore Medical Center



Dr. Constance Jenkins Pritchard and her daughter Laura Pritchard stand proudly in Shore's Jenkins Room next to the portrait of Connie's father, William Jenkins, who served as Shore's CEO from 1960 to 1980, overseeing major expansions. Connie's generous \$250,000 pledge in memory of her parents will fund career and leadership development for both clinical and non-clinical staff at Shore, ensuring the continued growth and excellence her parents championed.

Shore Medical Center has been a cornerstone of our community for nearly 85 years, and much of what stands today is a testament to the vision and leadership of William Jenkins, who served as Shore's CEO from 1960 to 1980. During his tenure, Jenkins oversaw the construction of three new wings to meet the growing needs of the community and led efforts to bring a CT machine to Shore, making it the first hospital in South Jersey to offer CT capabilities. Now, his daughter, Dr. Constance Jenkins Pritchard, is extending that legacy in a powerful way by investing in the people who make Shore such a special place.

Connie recently made a transformative gift of \$250,000 to Shore Medical Center in memory of her parents, William and Marguerite Jenkins, to provide scholarship and tuition opportunities to Shore employees. As founder of The Pritchard Group, a company dedicated to developing employees and leaders at organizations across the globe, Connie has a deep appreciation for the importance of investing in people. Her gift supports career and leadership development for both clinical and non-clinical staff at Shore, continuing the legacy of growth her parents championed and breaking down financial barriers for employees to advance their careers.

"The physical footprint of Shore Medical Center may not expand, but there's always room to build from within," says Connie. "By investing in the staff who are committed to the mission of Shore, we're cultivating clinicians and leaders who will carry forward the legacy of excellence my father championed."

Connie's daughters, Laura Pritchard and Leslie Pritchard Ward, also share the significance of this gift to their family. Laura shares, "I'm really humbled by the work my grandfather put in, and I think he'd be very proud of Shore Medical Center today. It's energizing to be able to continue his

legacy by providing opportunities for the team at Shore to grow professionally and further their careers. I hope this gift allows the valuable team members at Shore Medical Center to pursue their passions and to contribute to the Shore Medical community in new ways.

Leslie adds, “This gift is more than just education, it’s about ensuring that Shore Medical Center continues to be a place where people feel valued and can grow their careers. Our family has always valued career development and the mentorship of others. I am proud that we can support the Shore Medical team in this way and pay it forward.”

The programs supported by Connie’s gift include the Career & Leadership Development Programs, Standard Reimbursement for RNs, respiratory therapists, and medical laboratory technicians, tuition reimbursement for graduates of Shore’s School of Radiologic Technology, and the Operating Room RN Immersion Program. These opportunities are crucial as Shore Medical Center, like hospitals across the nation, faces ongoing staffing challenges, particularly in nursing and respiratory therapy.

Building success from within not only supports Shore’s mission but also contributes to the best patient experience possible. Connie’s gift ensures that the staff at Shore Medical Center are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to excel in their roles, ultimately benefiting the entire community.

With this gift, Connie Jenkins Pritchard continues her father’s legacy, “building” a different kind of infrastructure at Shore—one that is designed to develop the minds, hearts, and careers of the very people who care for us all. 🧡

Your Gifts in Action



We recently built a \$2.5-million pharmacy clean room, ensuring a safer, larger, and more sterile environment for IV medication preparation. Its modern materials and design also allow us to adapt to evolving healthcare needs. Pictured are Director of Pharmacy Shannon Burke at the control desk and pharmacist Mike Deleener preparing an IV. Your support enables us to provide the safest care possible to our patients!



*For many patients, getting out of bed and moving is vital for recovery. Our new **Mobility Program** utilizes trained volunteers, like Taylor Sheridan from Stockton University, pictured here, to assist patients with walking and personal care. Since piloting the program this summer, we’ve seen significant improvements in patients’ health. Interested in volunteering? Call the Volunteer Office at 609-653-3543.*



*With your support, we’re able to **renovate patient rooms** like this one on our 5 Stainton floor, enhancing the healing environment for everyone who comes through our doors. These continuous improvements allow us to meet the evolving needs of our patients and families, creating a more comfortable and welcoming space to support recovery. We’re deeply grateful to our donors for making these transformations possible.*

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.



2024 STAINTON SOCIETY MEMBERS

We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our 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 or contact Mary McGuckin at 609-653-3800.

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