



85 YEARS

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About Us

Hospital for Special Care is the fourth largest, free-standing long-term acute care hospital in the U.S. and one of only two in the nation serving both adults and children. Located in New Britain, Hartford, and Hebron, we operate on a not-for-profit basis.

We are recognized for advanced care and rehabilitation in the following areas:

Autism | Brain Injury and Neurobehavioral Care | Cognitive Health and Memory Loss
Complex Pediatric Care | Neuromuscular and Movement Disorders
Pulmonary Care | Specialized Cardiac and Medical Care
Spinal Cord Injury Care | Therapy and Rehabilitation

HFSC is...

...the first and only Patient-Centered Specialty Practice for autism, offering outpatient services, inpatient care, and a partial hospital program to meet the specific needs of children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder.

...the largest and most comprehensive multi-disciplinary neuromuscular care center in Connecticut, treating muscular dystrophy, ALS, Parkinson's disease, and other disorders.

...the first in Connecticut to achieve Enhanced Respiratory Care Accreditation from the Physician-Patient Alliance for Health & Safety (PPAHS), and is recognized for having the highest ventilator-weaning rate in the state.

Envisioning What Matters Most

Leadership Message

What matters most.

2026 marks a significant moment in the history of Hospital for Special Care. What started as the New Britain Rest Home in 1941 has transformed into one of the most unique healthcare facilities in the country. Our organization today is the result of 85 years of innovation, advocacy, and commitment to patients who have exceedingly limited options for essential care and support. Throughout our history, one common purpose has defined who we are and what we do: a dedication to help patients with complex needs maximize their health, independence, and hope.

While our purpose has remained consistent for 85 years, so has change. This past year, Hospital for Special Care experienced a change in leadership, with Brian assuming responsibilities as Board Chair and Lynn returning as interim CEO. Both of us are working together with staff from all departments to prepare the organization for a new CEO in the second half of 2026 and build excitement for our future. A future where we continue to strengthen our clinical capabilities and expand our service offerings to deliver care to more patients.

Looking ahead, there is tremendous opportunity to positively impact even more patients with complex needs. Our current accomplishments and strategic vision are rooted in our 85-year legacy and serve as a strong foundation from which to grow. Some of the achievements we are most proud of this past year include:

- **Consistent recognition as a Top Workplace in Connecticut and in Healthcare.** Thirteen consecutive years as a Hartford Courant Top Workplace, four straight years as a USA Today Top Workplace, and recent recognition as a Top Workplace for Frontline Workers and Nursing underscore our commitment to fostering a supportive environment where team members can thrive both personally and professionally.
- **High-quality, patient-centered care for everyone we serve.** An engaged and committed workforce drives excellence in patient care, as reflected in our quality performance measures and patient satisfaction scores, both of which exceeded benchmarks this year.
- **A renewed vision for innovation and excellence in specialized care.** We continue to grow our roster of renowned clinical experts and strengthen our already nationally recognized rehabilitation, autism, and neuromuscular programs. With transformational gifts, like the Jeffery and Sara Buell Impact Fund, we are well-positioned to drive even more meaningful change to help our patients pursue what matters most to them.

Our teams. Our approach. Our community of supporters. These things make up who we are and why we are unique. It's why we are so committed to our mission. It's why we are trusted to take on the challenges that other organizations aren't equipped to handle. It's why we are able to maximize health, independence, and hope for all our patients, and bring meaningful impact to their lives, their families and the communities they call home. Our patients matter most to us. With the combined strength of our teams, our approach, and our supporters, we are truly able to help our patients pursue what matters most to them.

Thank you for being part of our journey this year, and for the past 85 years. You are an important part of our past, our present, and our future, and we look forward to making an even greater impact for our patients in the next 85 years and beyond.

Lynn Ricci, *Interim President & Chief Executive Officer*
Brian Tevnan, *Board Chair*



Lynn Ricci



Brian Tevnan

Our Leadership

Lynn Ricci

Interim President & CEO

William J. Pesce, DO

Senior Vice President,
Chief Medical Officer

Laurie Rudman

Senior Vice President, Finance
Chief Financial Officer

Stanislaw Jankowski, MBA

Vice President,
Chief Information Officer

Jennifer Farley, RT(R)(M), MBA, FACHE

Vice President, Organizational Excellence
Chief Quality Officer

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Human Resources

Jeff Lawton

Vice President,
Facilities and Hospitality Services

R. Moses Vargas, Esq.

Chief Legal Officer
Vice President, Government Relations

Paula Doyle

Interim Chief Nursing Officer
Director, Center of Nursing Excellence

Our Medical Leadership

William J. Pesce, DO

Senior Vice President / Chief of Staff
Chief Medical Officer
Chief of Physiatry

Marcy L. Goldstein, MD, FCCP

Chief of Medicine
Pulmonologist

Nathan Nartey, MD

Medical Director, Medical Rehabilitation Unit

Kevin Watson, MD

Chief of Pulmonology

Regina Palazzo, MD

Chief of Pediatrics

Hassan Minhas, MD

Chief of Autism Services

Saboo Mubbashar, MD

Medical Director, Autism IP

Annie Daniel, MD

Medical Director, Neuromuscular

Kevin Felice, DO, FANA

Medical Director, Neuromuscular Research

Jonathan Woodhouse, Psy.D., ABPP-CN

Medical Director, Neuropsychology

Natalie Sajkowicz, MD

Medical Director, Neurobehavioral Program

Colette Elliott, Ph.D.

Program Director, Neurobehavioral Program



Our Board of Directors

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Barbara Kirejczyk,
Vice Chair

Brian Tevan,
Ex-Officio

Lynn Ricci,
CEO, Ex-Officio

Robert Daniels

Steve Parker

Advancing What Matters Most

Financial Health

Ensuring the financial resources required to support our mission.

Consolidated Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended March 31	Unaudited 2026	Audited 2025
Net revenues from services to patients	137,853,795	132,325,462
Other revenue	7,661,230	6,149,313
Total Revenue	145,515,025	138,474,775
Salaries, wages, and employee benefits	108,104,618	101,829,200
Supplies and other	30,639,182	28,801,723
Interest	874,439	927,956
Depreciation and amortization	5,706,587	5,877,164
Bad debts	762,827	860,884
Total Operating Expense	146,087,653	138,296,927
Income from operations	(572,628)	177,848
Investments	5,242,603	4,813,856
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	4,669,975	4,991,704

Consolidated Balance Sheet

As of March 31	Unaudited 2026	Audited 2025
Cash and cash equivalents	8,404,068	10,813,681
Investment securities	113,483,347	101,803,851
Accounts receivable	27,240,546	25,806,752
Property, plant, and equipment	44,547,971	47,720,830
Other assets	13,534,012	7,725,663
Total Assets	207,209,944	193,870,777
Accounts payable	3,675,447	2,619,980
Salaries, wages, and other accruals	6,280,814	5,956,564
Other liabilities	9,667,751	10,248,608
Long term debt	32,020,391	33,763,759
Net assets without donor restrictions	149,377,918	136,684,829
Net assets with donor restrictions	6,187,623	4,597,037
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	207,209,944	193,870,777



Quality Measure Successes

Patient safety and delivering high-quality care is top priority.



Patients discharge back to the community 2.7 times more often than the national average



Preventable hospital readmissions are 50% lower than the national average



Reduction of falls by 24% from 2024-2025



Liberation from tracheostomy tubes that exceed national benchmarks by 23%



Reduction in hospital acquired pressure injuries by 33% from 2024-2025



99% of patients rate Outpatient Rehab as Very Good/Excellent



Inpatient satisfaction scores improved in EVERY category from 2024-2025

This means our patients receive safe, patient-centered and equitable care.

New Leader Welcome

R. Moses Vargas, Esq.

Chief Legal Officer and Vice President of Government Affairs



Please Help Us Welcome These New Providers to HFSC

Neuromuscular

Annie Daniel, MD

Lucas Meira Benchaya, MD

Psychiatry

Kichul Pak, MD

Internal Medicine

Alyssa Hammond, APRN

Sarah Sutton, APRN

Psychology

Kyler Allen, Psy.D.

Brigit Clancy, Psy.D., LPC

Podiatry

Shannique Bingham, DPM

House Officers

Riki Ranat, MD

Jen Persio, APRN

Alexis Gunter, APRN





Expanding Access to Care – HFSC opens our Neuromuscular Center Hebron Campus

On July 1, 2025 we expanded access to expert neuromuscular care in Connecticut with the opening of our Hebron Campus. This remarkable growth of our nationally accredited services brings advanced diagnostic and treatment services for neuromuscular conditions to a new outpatient location, making care more accessible for patients in eastern Connecticut.

Led by Dr. Annie Daniel, our new Medical Director of Neuromuscular, the center builds upon our commitment to provide compassionate, expert treatment and solidifies our standing as the largest and most comprehensive neuromuscular center in the state.



Alyssa Peckham, Director of Physician Practices, Kevin Felice, MD, Medical Director Neuromuscular Research and Annie Daniel, MD, Medical Director Neuromuscular participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony, building the future of neuromuscular care across Connecticut.

Honoring What Matters Most



In memory of cherished colleagues whose lives and contributions will never be forgotten.

In Remembrance

2024

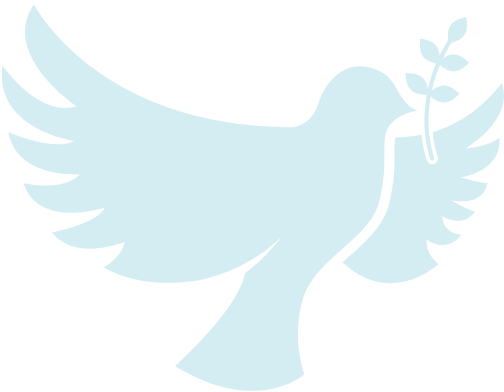
Dr. Charles H. Whitaker, Jr.
John David Clark

2026

Ravendra “Ravi” Nohar, MD
Valerie Bohren

2025

Bryana Raye
Juan F. Acevedo
Jonathan Parent



Fulfilling Critical Healthcare Needs for Connecticut

Hospital for Special Care and the state of Connecticut have been strong partners and collaborators in healthcare since our inception 85 years ago. Working together, we have been able to leverage investments from the state to create much needed services for patients with complex healthcare needs – services that wouldn't have otherwise been available to residents in Connecticut, and beyond.

1949-1950

With a \$75,000 grant from the state [Commission on the Care and Treatment of the Chronically Ill, Aged and Infirm](#), we added a 12-bed extension to the original hospital building. This provided space for physiotherapy, as well as space (15 of the hospital's 50 total beds at the time) for patients assigned by the commission.

1953-1960

A \$3 million bond issue for "hospitals wholly or partially maintained by the State of Connecticut or under the supervision of an agency thereof" funded further expansion of a new wing with up-to-date therapy space and 100 additional beds.

1986

Hospital for Special Care (then New Britain Memorial Hospital) agreed to become a Medicaid provider accepting rates set by the [Connecticut Commission on Hospitals and Health Care](#).

1993

\$33.8 million in tax-exempt bond proceeds funded the major share of construction costs for a new wing that housed rehabilitation gyms, new patient rooms, and a pediatric unit.

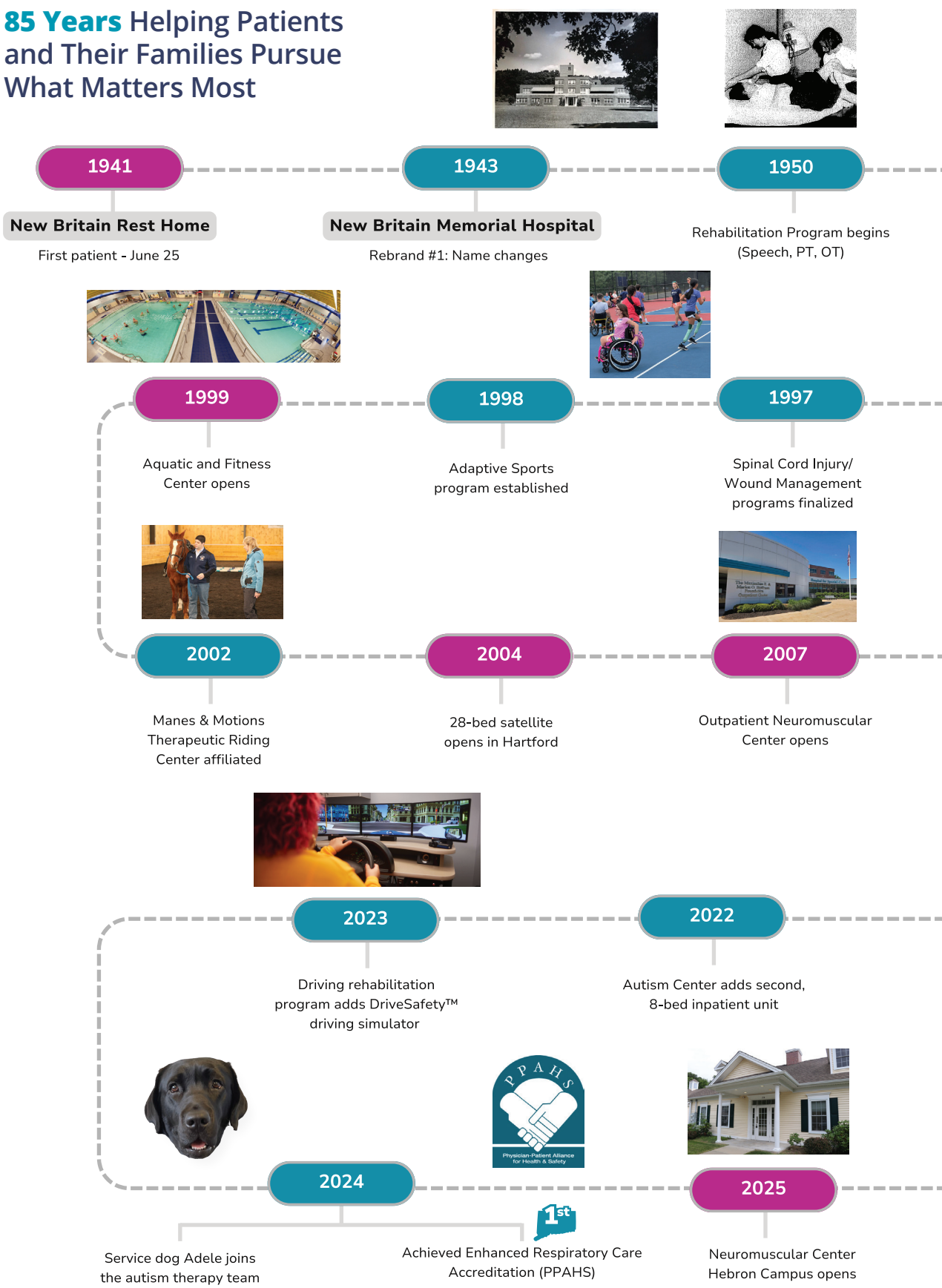
2014-2018

State grants totaling \$5.1 million enable the implementation of electronic medical records for both inpatient and outpatient services.

2018-2020

\$11 million in state funds provided capital to create the state's first inpatient autism unit as part of the Autism Center at Hospital for Special Care.

85 Years Helping Patients and Their Families Pursue What Matters Most





→ **85 YEARS** hfsc Hospital for Special Care

Icon Key



First in Connecticut



First in the USA

Celebrating What Matters Most



Top Workplaces USA

Hospital for Special Care has earned the USA TODAY Top Workplaces award for the fourth consecutive year. Winners are recognized for their commitment to fostering a workplace environment that values employee listening and engagement.



Hartford Courant Top Workplaces

Our employees feel respected, supported, and empowered. For the thirteenth consecutive year, we have been awarded Top Workplaces regional recognition by the Hartford Courant.



Hartford Courant



Recognized as a Top Workplace in the healthcare industry

Hospital for Special Care has been recognized for prioritizing the needs, contributions, and workplace experience of our frontline staff. We were also celebrated for fostering supportive, sustainable environments where nurses can thrive personally and professionally.

Hartford Business Journal 2025 C-Suite Honoree

Jennifer Farley

Winner Category | Chief Operating Officer

As the chief quality officer and vice president of organizational excellence, Jennifer Farley provides executive leadership to quality, risk, performance improvement, clinical contracts, respiratory and pharmacy operations, emergency preparedness and legal affairs.

Statewide, she represents the long-term, acute-care hospital interests on committees within the Connecticut Hospital Association and the Connecticut Healthcare Coalition for Emergency Preparedness.

Jen's primary role can be summarized as "complex problem-solver," taking on improvement projects in a collaborative manner to ensure safe healthcare delivery.



2026 Nightingale Award Recipients

The Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing recognize individuals who go beyond the call of duty and make a significant impact on patient care and mentorship of other nurses.



Heather Hancort
MSN, APRN, FNP-B, CRRN

Heather consistently makes a profound impact on both patient care and the professional growth of the nursing staff. She is patient, approachable, and deeply committed to teaching. She takes the time to mentor every new nurse on our unit, helping them become familiar with our unique patient population in a supportive and nurturing way. Her guidance builds confidence, strengthens clinical judgment, and fosters a culture of learning that elevates the entire team. She has consistently demonstrated that prized combination of advanced clinical expertise and the compassionate “heart of a nurse,” which shines through in her work ethic and her dedication to those she serves.



Milkent Pinote
RN, BSN

As a Charge Nurse, Milkent consistently demonstrates strong clinical judgment and situational awareness, coordinating staffing, patient assignments, and resources to meet changing patient needs. By proactively addressing barriers, escalating concerns, and supporting real time clinical decision making, Milkent helps maintain patient safety. His calm, organized leadership during high acuity or high census situations reassures both patients and staff. Milkent also serves as a reliable clinical and operational resource, providing guidance, hands on support, and constructive feedback to bedside nurses, new graduates, and float staff. He fosters a collaborative and respectful environment where nurses feel supported, heard, and empowered to ask questions and grow professionally. Through coaching, role modeling, and advocacy for staff needs, Milkent strengthens team cohesion, builds confidence, and promotes accountability, ultimately elevating staff performance and quality patient outcomes.



Jennifer Soto
LPN

Since joining Hospital for Special Care in 2006 on the Respiratory Care Unit and transitioning to the Pediatric Unit in 2014, Jennifer has become a cornerstone of clinical excellence and mentorship. Jennifer is widely recognized as a trusted resource whose depth of knowledge and clinical expertise strengthen the care provided across units. She generously shares her skills with colleagues, mentoring peers and nurses who seek guidance with complex procedures such as subcutaneous immunoglobulin administration and G-tube management. Beyond her clinical knowledge, Jennifer creates a supportive and empowering environment where nurses feel confident seeking guidance and growing professionally. Her ability to lead by example, remain calm in challenging situations, and consistently advocate for her patients elevates the entire team. Through her mentorship and unwavering commitment to excellence, Jennifer has helped shape a culture of compassionate, skilled nursing care.

Castle Connolly 2026 Top Doctors



Castle Connolly Top Doctors represent the highest standard of medical excellence, combining outstanding clinical expertise with exceptional interpersonal and patient care skills. This prestigious distinction, based on nominations from peers, recognizes physicians who are among the top 7% of all practicing doctors in the United States.



**William J. Pesce,
DO**

Senior Vice President,
Chief Medical Officer,
and Chief of Staff



**Kevin J. Felice,
DO, FANA**

Medical Director Research,
Neuromuscular Center



**Hassan M. Minhas,
MD**

Chief of Autism Services



**Natalie Sajkowicz,
MD**

Medical Director of the
Neurobehavioral Program,
Staff Physiatrist



Connecticut Hospital Association Healthcare Hero

Sara Heath Occupational Therapist, Autism Center

Sara is an exceptional member of the Hospital for Special Care (HFSC) team who consistently exemplifies the organization's core values while going above and beyond for her patients. While working as a staff therapist in the Autism Center, Sara recognized the limited recreational opportunities available to her patients and took the lead in creating an inclusive Fun and Fitness Program in partnership with the Adaptive Sports Program. Sara has also extensively supported the New Britain School system and played an instrumental role in developing the neurodiverse track for the HFSC Ivan Lendl Adaptive Sports Camp, expanding opportunities to participate in sport-specific activities for this underserved community. She is always willing to lend a helping hand and truly is an everyday hero within HFSC.

Caregiver Awards

Lotus Award

The Lotus Award is designed to honor team members in rehab specialties who embody our mission through compassion, collaboration, and excellence in care.

Angela Gerry

Lead Therapeutic Recreation Specialist

Angela's leadership shines through a number of initiatives she led to involve patients in activities like the Garden Club, Haunted House, PFAC trips and more. She demonstrates exemplary skills in organization and team engagement. Her ability to manage the TR team to provide exceptional care and create programs that feel like an experience is admirable.



Caryn Brady

Physical Therapist

Caryn supports outpatient, inpatient (MRU/CMU), and long-term care with remarkable adaptability and strong clinical communication. Caryn has also been instrumental in launching and growing our Outpatient Amputee Clinic and continues to lead initiatives that strengthen our limb loss programming — creating a more seamless bridge from inpatient to outpatient care.



Kim Miles

Lead Therapeutic Recreation Specialist

Kim was recognized for creating and leading the Wii Bowling Challenge throughout the hospital. Her nominator states: "Her unwavering passion for fostering inclusivity and engagement has brought remarkable joy and therapeutic benefits to our patients and the hospital community. The Wii Bowling Challenge stands out as a unique and impactful program that united patients, many of whom eagerly participated despite their physical or emotional challenges. Through Kim's thoughtful planning and compassionate leadership, she created an inclusive program that involved both staff and patients alike, fostering a true sense of community".



Colleen Doyle

Physical Therapist

Colleen began at HFSC in 1986 and over the years has worked across several of the units. Currently, she primarily serves on our Cardiac Medical Unit and Medical Rehab Unit. Colleen has previously won the Lotus Award and remains the only therapist to receive this honor more than once. She is highly regarded by both her peers and patients for her compassion, sense of humor, and engaging personality.





DAISY Nurse Leader Award

Danielle Dombkowski Registered Nurse, CNA Training Program Coordinator

Danielle received the DAISY Nursing Leader Award for her dedication, leadership, and commitment to education and patient care throughout her career. As one of her colleagues stated, “she is the epitome of clinical excellence and compassionate leadership”. Since joining the organization in 2013 as a pediatric floor nurse, she has continually grown within the hospital, serving as a Clinical Educator, CC, and now as the instructor for the CNA Academy within the Center of Nursing Excellence. Danielle consistently demonstrates professionalism, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to patient care while also mentoring and supporting countless staff members throughout their careers. Her ability to educate, inspire, and lead by example has created a lasting impact across the organization. Danielle’s dedication to maintaining high standards, promoting teamwork, and fostering growth in others truly embodies the values of the DAISY Award.



DAISY Award

Leigh Ann Grumo Registered Nurse

Leigh Ann received the DAISY Award for her unwavering dedication, compassion, and teamwork throughout her nursing career. Having worked as a floor nurse on both MRU and TRU, she consistently provides exceptional patient care while remaining calm, knowledgeable, and dependable in even the most challenging situations. Leigh Ann is known for her positive attitude, strong patient advocacy, and willingness to support both her patients and coworkers without hesitation. Her professionalism, attention to safety, and ability to foster teamwork make her an invaluable part of the unit and a nurse who truly makes a lasting impact on everyone around her.

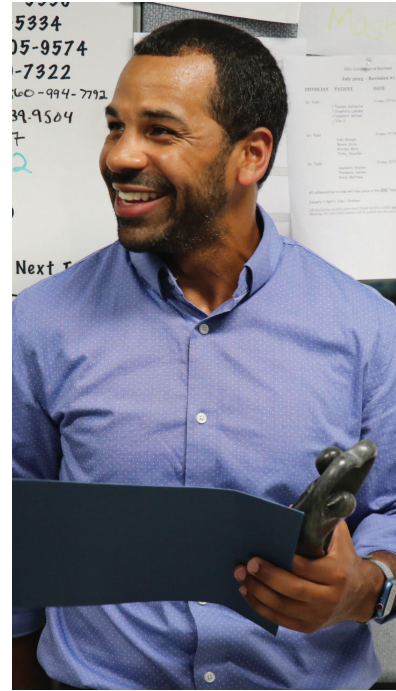
BEE Award

The BEE Award - Be Extraordinary Every Day - award honors healthcare professionals whose unwavering dedication and compassion make a profound impact on patient care and the success of our clinical teams.

Kevin Awugah

Clinical Pharmacist

Known for his infectious sense of humor and unwavering positivity, Kevin brings light to even the most stressful days. His nominator stated, "Kevin helps find the humor in any situation, dispelling tension and building resiliency in his team," shared one colleague. The colleague also added, "His sense of humor adds to the levity and helps him connect with patients, colleagues, and students alike." Beyond his ability to lift spirits, Kevin is a cornerstone of reliability and support. He frequently steps up to assist with heavy workloads, acts as a go-to resource for his peers, and is invaluable when it comes to troubleshooting complex issues."



Willow Award

The Willow Award for Respiratory Therapists is HFSC's recognition program that honor and celebrates the compassionate and skillful care provided by our respiratory therapists on a daily basis.

Ann O'Brien

Respiratory Therapist Supervisor

Ann was nominated by both patients and employees at Hospital for Special Care for her kind, compassionate commitment to care. As one of her patient's states, "Ann is a friendly face in a new environment who listens, reassures and puts her at ease, always with a smile."

Volunteers of the Year

Brent Leveille

2026 Manes and Motions Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc's Volunteer of the Year

Brent has been volunteering with Manes & Motions since 2010. He has become an integral part of our Manes Family, arriving at his weekly lessons with a smile and a positive attitude. Brent consistently steps up to lead lessons or the sidewalk whenever a substitute is needed, ensuring consistency and continuity for our participants.



His fellow volunteers comment that Brent is always a pleasure to be around. He brings a positive, upbeat attitude and a great personality to every interaction with staff, participants, and other volunteers.

Brent is a natural leader for our volunteer community, and when combined with his reliability and enthusiasm, he makes a meaningful impact on both the program and the people we serve regularly.

Kayla Beaulieu

HFSC Volunteer of the Year

Kayla has made an extraordinary impact as a volunteer, and her dedication has been especially meaningful during a time when the Fiscal team needed additional support. Although she has been with us for a short time, she has made a strong and lasting impression in every area she has supported.



From the moment she joined, Kayla proved herself to be reliable, responsible, and an exceptional team player. She quickly learned new tasks and adapted with ease, transitioning from filing invoices to confidently managing the AP inbox and posting invoices with accuracy and efficiency.

What truly sets Kayla apart is her willingness to help in any way needed. She consistently steps up without hesitation, embodying the spirit of teamwork and HFSC's core value of Caring. Her initiative and strong work ethic are evident in her commitment; she shows up ready to contribute, even when getting there isn't easy, and does so with a positive attitude and no complaints.

Beyond her skills and dependability, Kayla brings a bright, cheerful energy that uplifts everyone around her. Her presence is genuinely appreciated, and her contributions have made a lasting impact. Kayla exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding volunteer, and any team would be fortunate to have her in the future.

Recognizing Our Extraordinary Talent – HFSC’s MVP Program

The Most Valued Professional (MVP) Program was designed to recognize and reward outstanding contributions by employees go above and beyond in performance, teamwork and overall contributions to HFSC. We proudly recognize our 2025 MVPs; six extraordinary team members who were selected from nominations submitted by staff, patients, families, and visitors since the launch of this program in July 2025. Each nomination told a story of compassion, teamwork, reliability, and excellence. These individuals remind us that being an MVP at HFSC is not just about what you do, it's about how you make people feel and the impact you have on those around you. Our MVP recipients exemplify collaboration, outstanding customer service, exceptional work ethic, and a commitment to creating a positive culture for both our staff and the patients we serve.

Please help us recognize our 2025 Most Valued Professionals:

- December 2025: **Scout Crafts**, Licensed Social Worker, Autism PHP
- November 2025: **Jennifer Weed**, Lead Application Analyst, IT
- October 2025: **Robyn Cop**, Occupational Therapist, Inpatient Rehabilitation
- September 2025: **Kelly Keating**, Financial & Budget Analyst, Fiscal
- August 2025: **Kristina Guanzon**, Registered Nurse, Medical Rehabilitation Unit
- July 2025: **Beth Massey**, Quality and Preparedness Manager, Quality Improvement

The 2025 MVP of the Year is
Beth Massey
Quality and Preparedness Manager



Clinical Ladders

Congratulations to the 48 outstanding team members recognized with the Advancement for Clinical Excellence (ACE) Award! This year’s honorees represent a broad range of clinical roles including nurses, behavioral technicians and specialists, and therapists in respiratory, physical, occupational, speech-language and recreational disciplines. These individuals have demonstrated exceptional commitment to professional growth by advancing through the clinical ladder, meeting rigorous milestones in education, certification, and skill development. Join us in celebrating their achievements and dedication to excellence.

Hospital for Special Care Outstanding Leader Award

Jonathan Recchi

Director of Satellite Operations

Jonathan received several nominations from his team at the Satellite and was selected by the Executive Leadership Team. All of the nominations he received spoke about his positive influence, collaborative leadership style, hands-on approach to leadership, and his overall commitment to the Satellite Unit and HFSC overall.



Pamela Held

Director, Respiratory Therapy

Pam was named the first-ever Hospital for Special Care Outstanding Leader in November 2025. Pam leads with empathy, transparency, and collaboration, and fosters a positive culture and professional growth among her team. She collaborates with other departments to ensure seamless patient care and operational efficiency, often stepping in to assist during staffing shortages or organizational needs. Pam's exceptional leadership impacts our patients, our people, and our mission every day.



Exceptional Provider Award

Nathan Narthey

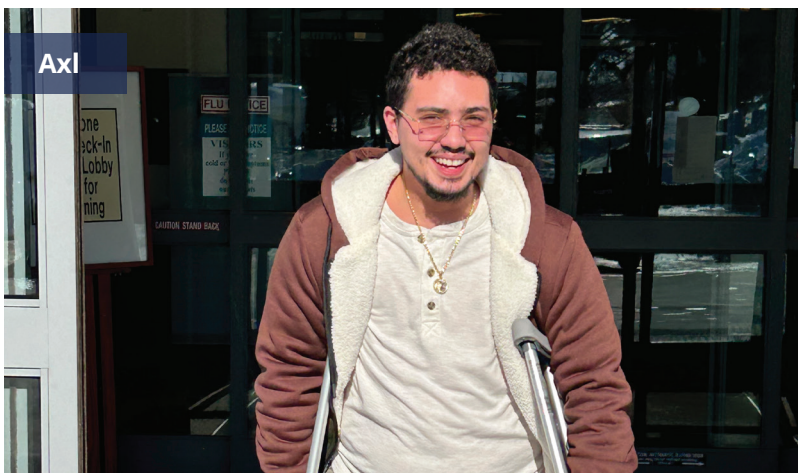
MD, Medical Director, Medical Rehabilitation Unit

Dr. Nathan Narthey received the first Exceptional Provider Award, recognizing his outstanding commitment to patient care, quality, and leadership. Dr. Narthey leads with compassion, integrity, and professionalism, serving as a trusted and respected representative of our organization across the hospital community. He is deeply engaged in quality initiatives that enhance both the patient and family experience, reflecting a steadfast dedication to excellence in care delivery.



Pursuing What Matters Most

Axl



Before arriving at HFSC, Axl was told he would never walk again after suffering a significant spinal cord injury in a motor vehicle accident in September 2025. But he was motivated and worked hard with our care teams, believing he would recover.

On the last day of January 2026, he walked out on his own to go home!

Carti



When Cartier (Carti) first started visiting the Autism Center at Hospital for Special Care in 2018 at age 3, he was nonverbal. He struggled with everyday tasks such as dressing himself, brushing his teeth, and communicating his needs. He was also a very selective eater. Carti worked with the outpatient therapy at HFSC, receiving physical, occupational, and speech therapy services through a plan tailored to his needs. Today, the transformation is extraordinary. Carti speaks in full sentences, rides his bike, cooks, and enthusiastically shares his favorite interests—including the solar system, history, and airplanes. For his parents, Dorota and Marcin, one milestone stands above the rest.

"My favorite memory is hearing Carti tell me, 'I love you' for the first time," Dorota said.



When Sharon went to a local hospital for surgery to remove a mass from her spine, she expected to go home the next day. Instead, she woke up unable to move. What followed was a seven-week rehabilitative journey at HFSC filled with resilience, teamwork and community.

From her very first day, Sharon says she felt “an aura of comfort.” Her care team immediately began physical and occupational therapy, helping her regain strength and confidence one step at a time. More than providers, they became partners in her recovery, including Sharon in every decision and making her feel like part of the team.

During her time with us, Sharon also created something unexpected: an art group for fellow patients. After ordering art supplies to the hospital, she began setting them out in a common area where others naturally gathered to draw, paint and bead together. “It was something I didn’t know that I needed,” she says. What started as a simple activity quickly became a source of connection, comfort and joy for patients navigating their journeys with us together.

Today, Sharon’s story is one of perseverance, partnership and the power of community in healing.



Taylor arrived March 2025 to continue her recovery following a motor vehicle accident, where she was in the ICU, on a ventilator and was diagnosed with a double bilateral stroke and diffuse axonal brain injury. She communicated primarily through minimal eye movement and required tracheostomy weaning and full mobility support. After a month of coordinated care, Taylor was able to begin comprehensive therapy including physical, occupational, and speech therapy. Our team targeted her balance and core strength, and helped Taylor relearn basic functional tasks.

A key component of Taylor's recovery was the integration of Therapeutic Recreation, bringing joy and enthusiasm using gamification-based therapy. She also benefitted from Aquatic Therapy, which enhanced her upper body range of motion and balance.

As Taylor was getting ready to discharge, she spent time in our ADL (Activities of Daily Living) Apartment, where she participated in a 24-hour overnight stay with her parents. This experience was pivotal, as it gave her the opportunity to apply everything she had worked on in therapy in a more independent, home-like setting.

Taylor formed deep bonds with the staff, and through her determination became an inspiration to all who worked with her.

As she transitioned home, Taylor leaves behind not just a successful recovery story, but lasting friendships and warm memories.

Chanel



About two years ago, 17-year-old Chanel arrived at HFSC paralyzed from the waist down. At the time, she had earned very few high school credits and lacked direction for her future. During her time at HFSC, Chanel worked tirelessly to adapt to life in a wheelchair, both physically and emotionally. With the support of her physical rehabilitation team, social workers, and school tutor, she was able to earn her high school diploma.

Because HFSC played such a vital role in her recovery journey, Chanel chose to celebrate her graduation at the hospital. It was an incredibly meaningful day—not only for Chanel, but also for the dedicated HFSC staff who cared for her during one of the most difficult periods of her life.

Her story exemplifies the compassion, commitment, and heart that define the care we provide to our patients every day.

Margie



Margie faced challenges in managing her COPD, but found compassionate care from our Respiratory Care Unit team, who were dedicated to helping her regain strength and confidence. With steady progress and ongoing support, Margie became strong enough to return home and joined our Pulmonary Support Group. Margie learned practical techniques to manage her breathing, pace herself, and build resilience in her daily life. After completing the support group, Margie took the next step by joining our Pulmonary Exercise Program.

Surrounded by others with similar diagnoses, she continues to excel and strengthen her body and confidence.

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