

# Your Legacy of Compassion

Gifts through your will and estate planning offer the opportunity to make a meaningful impact, while offering potential tax benefits for your loved ones. You can support advancements in medical treatments, improve patient experiences, and help further the Griffin's mission of empowering people and advancing care.

Your generosity reflects a commitment to a healthier, stronger community - one that will benefit from your kindness for years to come.

Making a bequest to Griffin in your will or estate plan is easy to do. Simply call Executive Director Kristy Jelenik at 203-732-7539 to get started on your legacy for exceptional patient care.



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Development Fund  
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130 Division St, Derby, CT 06418  
kjelenik@griffinhealth.org  
203-732-7539

# Dates You Don't Want to Miss!

- We invite you to be a part of some of our community's most anticipated events, bringing together hundreds of people from across the region. These enjoyable, engaging fundraisers offer meaningful opportunities to support your community hospital while having fun!
- **Griffin Golf Classic** - Monday, June 30 at Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield
  - **5k Walk/Run for the Center for Cancer Care** - Saturday, September 20 at Griffin Hospital
  - **Griffin Gala** - Saturday, November 8 at the Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford

Scan here for more details:



# GRATITUDE

INSPIRING HOPE THROUGH YOUR ACTS OF KINDNESS  
SPRING 2025



Griffin Hospital  
Development Fund, Inc.

# Your Support Powers Our Progress - Thank You!

Dear Friends,

As we approach Mental Health Awareness Month this May, we express our deepest gratitude for your ongoing support of Griffin Health. Your generosity profoundly enhances our exceptional care, especially in behavioral health. Thanks to you, we are closer to opening the state's first Emergency Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment and Healing (EmPATH) Unit, which features an innovative model that will provide compassionate care for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

We remain committed to strengthening our behavioral healthcare services because the need in our community is urgent and undeniable. Every day, our caregivers see the impact of mental health challenges on individuals and families, and it is through the support of donors like you that we are able to meet this challenge and offer desperately needed care and resources.

At Griffin, we are dedicated to providing high-quality healthcare centered on patients and their families. Your selflessness fuels our progress, and together, we ensure that Griffin Health sets the standard for community healthcare.

Please enjoy the updates about Griffin's work in our community in this newsletter and the ways to get involved. We are incredibly grateful for you.

In gratitude,



Patrick Charmel  
President & CEO  
Griffin Health



Kristy Jelenik  
Executive Director  
Griffin Hospital  
Development Fund

# Griffin Health Mission

- To provide personalized, humanistic, consumer-driven healthcare in a healing environment.
- To empower individuals to be actively involved in decisions affecting their care and well-being through access to information and education.
- To provide leadership to improve the health of the community served.

Your partnership and support means the world to us, and as a nonprofit community hospital, we are resolute in our commitment to exceptional and compassionate care for you.



# EmPATH Unit: A Critical Step for Better Behavioral Health Crisis Care

Thanks to the incredible generosity of early champion donors, Griffin is pleased to announce that construction has officially begun on its Emergency Psychiatric Assessment, Treatment and Healing (EmPATH) Unit.

This groundbreaking initiative will provide much-needed, compassionate mental health crisis care for our community. While we are making steady progress, there is an urgent need for support to fully fund this transformative project. Every donation brings us closer to our goal of delivering exceptional behavioral health care to our families, friends and neighbors.

To learn more visit [griffinhealth.org/supportempath](http://griffinhealth.org/supportempath)

*"The EmPATH unit addresses the urgent need to free up a congested ER, enabling professionals to provide help for patients with critical physical injuries and trauma. But more importantly, it goes a step further by acknowledging the need to compassionately respond to mental health issues in our community. The unit will provide a calm, safe and reassuring place for those who are at a critical point in dealing with depression, anxiety, adjustment disorders and/or addiction. I applaud and support Griffin Hospital for taking this much needed step to help recovery for those with emotional and mental health issues."*

Ernestine Luise,  
Donor

# Together, We Are Empowering Healthcare's Future

## Transforming Lives through Griffin's School of Allied Health Careers

Allied health professionals are essential to patient care, supporting doctors and nurses by assisting with diagnosis, treatment, and the overall patient well-being. With Connecticut's aging population and increasing healthcare needs, the demand for skilled healthcare workers is critical. Yet there is a shortage of trained caregivers to meet the increasing need.



2025 Practical Nursing Program graduates

Since 2009, the Griffin Hospital School of Allied Health Careers has trained more than 2,000 students with the skills to be patient-centered nursing assistants, patient care technicians, phlebotomists, and medical assistants, most of whom secure rewarding employment right after graduation. Recently, the school relocated to a more spacious facility on Division Street in Ansonia adjacent to the hospital's west campus, providing larger classrooms and patient care simulation rooms to accommodate growth in these programs and help more community members find fulfilling careers. In addition to this growth, the school proudly offers Connecticut's only hospital-based Practical Nursing program at its Naugatuck campus to further nurture the next generation of healthcare professionals.

For many students, including those who lack the employable skills necessary to earn a living wage and those seeking career changes, these programs offer a meaningful path to a more financially sustainable future while strengthening the state's healthcare workforce and ensuring high-quality care for our Greater Naugatuck Valley community. Through collaboration with the Derby, Seymour, Ansonia, and Shelton high schools, the School of Allied Health offers Valley teens certification in its allied health programs — providing them with excellent employment opportunities and a clear career path immediately after graduation.

To learn more visit [www.griffinhealth.org/supportededucation](http://www.griffinhealth.org/supportededucation)

# Griffin Named World's Best for the 7th Straight Year

Griffin Hospital has been named one of the World's Best Hospitals by Newsweek for the 7th consecutive year, ranking 2nd in Connecticut and 242nd in the U.S. out of 4,500 hospitals nationally. This recognition highlights the dedication, compassion, and professionalism of Griffin's caregivers, who form meaningful connections with patients to address their medical, emotional, and social needs. This commitment to kindness and patient-centered care sets Griffin apart as a leader.

Your generous support makes it possible for Griffin to expand its exceptional care, ensuring that our community receives innovative patient-centered services and advanced treatments, year after year.



# Make an Impact at Griffin's



You are invited to participate in an energizing 36-hour fund-raising marathon that amplifies Griffin's local initiatives that improve health and access to high-quality care, and highlights the incredible goodness of our community of donors.

On May 7 and 8, every gift made to the Griffin Great Give will help fund empowering health education, free

# Great Give on May 7 & 8

community wellness programs, and efforts to address social conditions that adversely affect well-being. Donations of all sizes can unlock matching funds and prizes, making your support go even further.

Join the excitement, rally with us, and let's make a lasting impact on the health of our community!

Scan here to learn more:

