

# Your Lasting Commitment to the Health of Our Community

Some of the most meaningful gifts are those that continue to make a difference far into the future. Many Griffin supporters choose to include the hospital in their long-term giving plans to ensure that exceptional care remains close to home for generations to come.

These future commitments help advance lifesaving technology, support compassionate patient programs, and strengthen the services patients and families rely on every day. Whether directed toward cancer care, cardiac services, emergency care, or another area of personal importance, these gifts are a powerful reflection of what you value most.

By making a future gift through your will or estate plans, you help ensure that the same high-quality, person-centered care trusted today will be here for your children, grandchildren, and neighbors tomorrow.

To learn more, please contact Executive Director Kristy Jelenik at 203.732.7539.

# Stay Connected. Stay Healthy. Join the Fun.

Learn from Griffin Health physicians and experts at this free monthly program covering important health and wellness topics. Sessions are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Griffin Hospital's Community Health Resource Center. Registration is required.



# 18th Annual 5K Walk/Run for Cancer Care — October 24

It's not too early sign up for Griffin's annual community 5K Walk/Run supporting the Center for Cancer Care.

<https://www.griffinhealth.org/5k>



# GRATITUDE

INSPIRING HOPE THROUGH YOUR ACTS OF KINDNESS  
SUMMER 2026



GRIFFIN HOSPITAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND, INC.

# Moving Exceptional Care Forward - Together

Dear Friends,

As we move into summer, we are grateful for the continued strength of our community and the many ways you help advance care at Griffin Health. Your support is making a lasting impact, helping bring nationally recognized excellence in orthopedic care, patient safety, and cancer treatment to the Valley.

In this issue, you will read a powerful patient testimonial that reflects what your generosity supports - compassionate, personalized cancer care provided close to home during one of life's most difficult journeys.

From investments in next-generation radiation therapy technology for our Center for Cancer Care to innovative robotic-assisted surgery, your partnership is helping shape the future of care in our community.

As you read and engage in this issue, please know your involvement matters. Together, we are ensuring that exceptional care remains close to home for generations to come.

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.**

GRIFFIN HOSPITAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Frederick D. Stanek, Esq., Chairman  
John Betkoski, III  
Patrick Charmel  
Maureen Coffey  
Nancy DiNardo  
Michael Duncan  
William Mis

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

# Griffin Hospital Earns Prestigious Recognition for Clinical Excellence

Your generosity helps bring award-winning healthcare to Valley families

Griffin Hospital continues to receive widespread recognition for exceptional, patient-centered treatment and outcomes.



In Money magazine's inaugural Best Hospitals for Orthopedic Surgery 2026 rankings, Griffin Hospital was named #1 in Connecticut and ranked 13th in the nation. Griffin received an "A+" orthopedic grade, placing it among just 75 hospitals nationwide recognized for excellence in orthopedic care, patient outcomes, and clinical expertise.



Adding to this achievement, Griffin was recognized as one of Newsweek's World's Best Hospitals. This is an "all time winner" designation which recognizes the very few hospitals that have received the World's Best designation eight years in a row. The distinction reflects Griffin's commitment to high-quality care, patient satisfaction, and positive health outcomes.



Griffin Hospital also earned an "A" grade in the Spring 2026 Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit organization focused exclusively on patient safety. The recognition highlights Griffin's success in preventing medical errors, injuries, and infections.

# Inspiring the Next Generation of Healthcare Leaders

Bringing Advanced Surgical Innovation to Our Community

Students from Ansonia High School recently explored the future of medicine during a hands-on demonstration of the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System led by Griffin Faculty Physicians Surgeon Dr. Leland Soto.



Robotic-assisted surgery is commonly used in procedures such as hernia repair, allowing surgeons enhanced precision, smaller incisions, and often providing faster recovery times for patients.

In addition to hernia repair, Griffin Hospital's Robotic-Assisted Surgery Program — made possible through the generous support of the Hartnett family, philanthropic champions of Griffin Health—offers advanced surgical care across a wide range of specialties, including bariatric, cardiac, colorectal, gynecologic, head and neck, and general surgery. The program is supported by a highly trained multidisciplinary team dedicated to delivering exceptional patient care.

Learn more about Griffin Hospital's robotic-assisted surgery program here: [www.griffinhealth.org/treatments/robotic-surgery/](http://www.griffinhealth.org/treatments/robotic-surgery/)

# A Cancer Patient's Story of Strength, Care and Compassion



"In May of 2024, I was diagnosed with Stage 1 breast cancer. My diagnosis came only eight months after my younger sister's breast cancer diagnosis, making me high-risk, and opening the door for me to get genetic testing and an MRI. The MRI found my tumor after both a mammogram and ultrasound did not, and thus began my 'summer of breast cancer,' as I gently called it.

My 'summer of breast cancer' brought a lumpectomy, four weeks of radiation, and the beginning of five years of hormone blockers. The care I received from the front desk to the exam rooms, the OR, the radiation table, and physical therapy was more kind and compassionate than I could have asked for.

Walking into the Cancer Center to this day feels like 'coming home' for me, which may sound so strange because the whole reason I'm there is because I had cancer. There was always room for laughter and connection. I wouldn't want to be cared for anywhere else." – April

# A Celebration of Community for a Special Purpose:

Advancing Cancer Care

Friends of Griffin recently gathered at Jones Winery for a special evening benefiting cancer patients today and for years to come. The event raised awareness and support for bringing next-generation radiation therapy technology and equipment to Griffin's Center for Cancer Care.

With donor support, this investment will significantly enhance the precision, speed, and adaptability of cancer treatment, allowing clinicians to target tumors with extraordinary accuracy while better protecting healthy tissue. The result is improved outcomes and a better quality of life for patients facing cancer.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors and community partners, this important project is already moving forward, helping ensure patients can access advanced cancer care close to home.

Learn more and support the project here: [www.griffinhealth.org/radiation-therapy-campaign/](http://www.griffinhealth.org/radiation-therapy-campaign/)

Special thank you to the Jones family for generously hosting this evening and championing Griffin Health. Left to right: Jean Jones; Jamie Jones; Christiana Jones; and Terry Jones



Griffin Health President and CEO Patrick Charmel sharing remarks about Griffin's Center for Cancer Care.