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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to those who give \$5,000+ annually to advance care at Shore Medical Center. An asterisk denotes members of the DiOrio Society, honoring those whose planned gifts help care for future generations. We're also grateful to our anonymous donors for their lasting impact.

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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to those who give \$500-\$4,999 annually in support of patient care at Shore Medical Center.

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or call Mary McGuckin at 609-653-3800.

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### **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!





## Pete Madden: Strengthening His Community - and His Hospital

When Pete Madden moved to Ocean City full-time in 2004 in his late 20s, he wasn't thinking about hospital donations or civic service. Like many young professionals, he was focused on growing his career in real estate and raising his family. But it didn't take long for him to realize that a strong community doesn't just happen—it takes people willing to step up.

"I quickly learned if you want your community to be great, you have to be a part of it," says Pete, now 47. "You can't sit on the sidelines and expect everything to take care of itself."

That belief led him to get involved wherever he saw a need. He first volunteered as a crew coach, drawing on his own experience as a rower. Then, as his kids entered public school, he ran for school board.

"I grew up going to Catholic school, so when my kids started in the public school system, it was a new experience for me," Pete says. "But instead of standing back, I chose to get involved and learn. I saw it as a way to contribute and support the schools that were shaping my children's future."

Pete's civic engagement didn't stop there. He later joined Ocean City Council, where he now serves as Council President. He's also president of the Ocean City Board of Realtors and the Ocean City Education Foundation. His focus has always been the same: help where you can, and lead by example.

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That same mindset is what inspired Pete to begin supporting Shore Medical Center in 2010, after a conversation with his mentor, longtime Shore board member Scott Halliday. Pete joined the Stainton Society, Shore's annual giving society for donors contributing \$500 or more per year, and has continued to grow his involvement ever since. In 2018, he joined the Lightkeeper's Society and he's also on Shore's Planned Giving & Development committee.

"Every gift helps, but for many people, the Stainton Society is attainable," Pete says. "If you can make a small sacrifice of \$500 over the course of a year—about \$40 a month—that support helps ensure Shore can care for all of us when we need it most."

Three of Pete's four children were born at Shore, and he says the care his family received was exceptional. But his support goes beyond personal experience—it's about keeping Shore strong for the entire community.

"You want a hospital that's at the top of its game when people need it," he says. "And it doesn't just happen. It takes community support—just like good schools or safe neighborhoods."

Pete believes there's a role for everyone in building a stronger community. If you can't give financially, he says, volunteer your time. Show up. Ask where you can help.

"Schools and hospitals are always being asked to do more with less," Pete says. "Whether it's education, healthcare, or local government, it takes a village. And if I'm in a position to help, I'm going to help. It's the right thing to do."

Through Shore, Pete has found one more way to give back—and one more way to lead.

"Giving back doesn't have to be huge," he says. "It just starts with showing up." §

### Your Gifts in Action



Shore celebrated the opening of its new Sensory Friendly Outpatient Lab on April 28. It offers a calm, supportive space for patients with autism or sensory sensitivities to receive bloodwork and other testing Pictured is Jen Cruickshank, Ed.S, Atlantic County Special Services School; Sherri Richmond, MSN, RN, Administrative Director of Emergency Dept., Pediatrics and Respiratory; Mike Monichetti, who generously funded the lab, and Shore President & CEO David Hughes.



Shore donor Michael McKenna recently made an additional generous gift to renovate the restrooms in the Letty & Michael McKenna Suites on 5 Hayes, which will compliment and complete these three high-end suites. These suites are primarily used for end-of-life care to provide comfort to patients and their loved ones. We are grateful for Mr. McKenna's continued generosity. Pictured with him are Mary McGuckin, Director of Planned Giving & Development, and Jessica Mazzoni, Lightkeeper Liaison.



Thanks to a generous gift from the Renee Parker Monihan Foundation, our Emergency Department family room has been completely renovated into a calming, beautiful sacred space for difficult conversations. It features ample seating, comfort items, and a play area for young visitors. The room also includes "Wings of an Angel," an original painting by local artist Leon Wescoat. Pictured in the newly renovated room is Wescoat, Chris Monihan, Lindsay Monihan and Shore President & CEO David Hughes.

# Rest Assured: Shore Expands Sleep Medicine with Pediatric Studies



Shore's Center for Sleep Medicine has expanded to include pediatric sleep studies for children ages 3 and up. All sleep rooms in the Sleep Center have been renovated, including this child-friendly Dr. Suess-themed room.

Since 2006, Shore Medical Center has cared for adults with sleep disorders at its Center for Sleep Medicine, and now, through the generosity of our donors, we've expanded services to include pediatric sleep medicine. Through a new partnership with Advantage Sleep Centers, we're helping children ages 3 and up get the rest they need for healthy growth, learning, and development.

"Sleep medicine is an important service line to offer our community because poor sleep impacts so many systems in the body," says Jennifer S. Pesce, PT, DPT, Administrative Director of Rehabilitation, Sleep Lab and Cardiopulmonary Rehab. "It affects your heart, lungs, and brain. If you're not sleeping well, your health suffers in ways you might not even realize."

Children with untreated sleep disorders are at risk for serious issues, including poor academic performance, weight gain, behavioral challenges, and developmental delays. But with accurate diagnosis and treatment,

often beginning with a sleep study, those outcomes can dramatically improve. One recent success story at Shore involved an 8-year-old whose chronic sleep disruptions were caused by sleep apnea due to enlarged tonsils and adenoids. After they were removed, "he's now thriving," Pesce shares.

Advantage Sleep Centers brings expertise in pediatric sleep medicine, making them the ideal partner for Shore. "Up to 50 percent of kids experience sleep problems—things like daytime sleepiness, irritability, learning difficulties," Pesce explains. "It's important to identify and treat these issues early before they start affecting a child's development and quality of life."

With board-certified sleep technicians and advanced in-lab monitoring at 710 Centre Street in Somers Point, the program ensures patients of all ages receive accurate diagnoses. "When you do an in-lab study, you're monitored visually as well as electronically," Pesce says. "The techs can see restlessness,

abnormal movements—things that aren't always captured at home."

Since launching the new partnership March 3, Shore has seen a dramatic increase in demand. "We've had over 320 referrals and doubled the number of studies we typically do each month. That tells you there's been a big education shift among physicians and more awareness among patients."

The Center for Sleep Medicine at Shore supports patients not just through diagnosis but throughout treatment and follow-up care. If a CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) machine is needed, patients are personally fitted and trained—not just sent a box.

"There's a real difference in quality of care," Pesce says. "They're with you from start to finish."

Pesce says CPAP machines have come a long way—they're quieter, smaller, more comfortable, and deliver gentle, warm, moist air that helps users breathe through the night.

"We've had patients tell us, 'I didn't know how badly I was sleeping until I started using the CPAP. Now I wake up energized.' They become the biggest advocates."

Sleep medicine isn't just reactive—it's preventative. Catching and treating sleep issues early can help prevent long-term damage to the heart, brain, and other organs. It's one more way Shore Medical Center, with the help of donors, is working to keep our community well. If you think a sleep study is right for you, talk to your doctor.

# Donor Support Delivers Advanced Urology & Robotic Surgery to Shore

Thanks to the generosity of Shore Medical Center's donors, a vision years in the making is now enhancing urologic care in our community. In late 2023, donor funding made it possible for Shore to acquire the state-of-the-art da Vinci Xi surgical robot, laying the foundation for our Advanced Urologic & Robotic Surgery Program, launched in the fall.

This robot investment did more than add cutting-edge technology—it helped bring nationally recognized talent to Shore.

"Having the robot was instrumental in recruiting two world-class urologists, Carl K. Gjertson, MD, and Erica H. Lambert, MD," said Leonard Galler, MD, FACS, Chief Medical Officer. "They bring university-level expertise, and we're fortunate to now offer that level of care right here in our community."

In partnership with Jersey Urology Group and Shore Physicians Group, the program focuses on treating complex urologic conditions—especially cancers of the prostate, kidney, and bladder that previously required patients to travel to larger academic centers. Drs. Gjertson and Lambert now see patients at Shore Cancer Center in Somers Point.

"The robot is a powerful tool, but the real story is that we can now treat advanced urologic conditions locally," said Dr. Gjertson. "From prostate and kidney cancers to large kidney stones, we're helping patients right here at home."

He added that Shore now offers advanced procedures such as transperineal prostate biopsies—a safer, more precise technique not widely available in the region—as well as percutaneous nephrolithotomy (PCNL)



Urologists Carl K. Gjertson, MD, and Erica H. Lambert, MD, lead Shore's Advanced Urology & Robotic Surgery Program, bringing university-level expertise and life-changing care to patients right here in our community.

for large kidney stones, which was previously referred out.

Dr. Lambert emphasized the program's multidisciplinary approach, working closely with Shore Cancer Center's oncology teams. "We're creating personalized, comprehensive care plans that allow patients to stay close to home while receiving the full spectrum of treatment and support."

Local access to this level of care matters.

"Many urologic conditions, especially cancers, require ongoing management," said Dr. Gjertson. "When patients can return to their surgeon for follow-up care, it improves both continuity and outcomes."

Dr. Lambert added, "And because we're local, we easily collaborate with patients' primary care providers and other specialists. It's a true team effort—that's what sets Shore apart."

Recruiting top-tier urologists like Drs. Gjertson and Lambert is no small feat. "There are only so many board-certified urologists coming out of fellowship programs, and recruitment is challenging," said Dr. Galler. "But Shore had what mattered most—a top-tier surgical robot, a real community need, and donor support that made it all possible."

Drs. Gjertson and Lambert, who are partners in life and in work, have started similar programs before, but say this one is especially meaningful.

"We're here to build something lasting," said Dr. Gjertson. "We've had great support from Shore and its surgical team. It's exciting to bring this program to the community and take care of patients safely, close to home."

To learn more or schedule an appointment, call the Shore Physicians Group Surgical Division at 609-365-6239.