

CARING TOGETHER

Fall 2025 Edition

What's Inside?

Get to know our amazing
pet therapy volunteers
pages 1 & 2



New volunteer initiative
supports ER patients
page 3



A new treatment for arthritis,
plus *Your Gifts in Action*
page 4



Lightkeeper's Society Donors
page 5



Stainton Society Donors
page 6



The Healing Power of Pet Therapy

It often begins with a gentle tap of paws in the hallway, or the lift of a head from a patient's pillow. The room softens, and someone smiles - maybe for the first time that day.

At Shore, healing isn't only about medicine and machines. Sometimes, comfort arrives on four legs, wearing a harness and offering nothing more than presence, warmth, and a quiet reminder that *you're not alone*. Shore's volunteer pet therapy teams - five dogs and the dedicated handlers who love them - give so much of themselves to bring joy to patients, families, and staff throughout the hospital.

Wendy and Dietz have volunteered at Shore for more than a decade. Dietz, a 13½-year-old border collie with a calm demeanor, brings smiles and perfect high-fives wherever he goes. "It's amazing to watch Dietz work his magic," Wendy says. "He spent the

first three years of his life as a herding dog on an Oregon ranch, sleeping in a barn without toys or humans. His life has changed so much, and now he's the one changing lives." From soothing a woman in labor to helping pediatric patients forget they're sick while walking him down the hallway, Dietz lifts spirits on every floor. As a reward, he enjoys red peppers and apples, which help him stay slim and healthy.

Bruce and Skye have been part of Shore's program for five years. This outgoing eight-year-old border collie greets everyone she meets. "It's so nice to see the smiles when staff and patients see us coming," Bruce says. "Many patients miss their pets at home, and a visit from Skye comforts them until they can return to theirs." One of Bruce's favorite memories is when a young patient invited Skye to her birthday party, a testament to the bonds

Photo: Shore's pet therapy teams include, left to right, Bruce and Skye; Teresa and Sylvie Mae; Vince and Rocco; Marc and Bella, and Wendy and Dietz.

(continued inside)

The Best in Quality & Safety

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

A

FALL 2025

LEAPFROG
HOSPITAL
SAFETY
GRADE

Shore Medical Center is proud
to have earned an A rating
for patient safety for the 2nd
consecutive rating period!



(continued from page 1)

she forms with patients of all ages. She's also beloved by staff, who keep treats for the therapy dogs, and Skye knows exactly where to find them. Outside of Shore, she enjoys watching children walk home along the bike path and swimming in her pool.

Marc is a retired pharmacist who now divides his time between Newtown Square, PA, and Margate, NJ. For the past three years, he and his 7-year-old goldendoodle, **Bella**, have made regular visits to hospitals, libraries, and college campuses where they bring comfort to patients and staff, help children gain confidence as readers, and offer students a much-needed mental break. When Marc rescued Bella from a Florida breeding dog farm, she was shy and easily startled. Marc carefully trained her to be the calm, gentle therapy dog she is today.

At Shore, Marc and Bella often spend more time with doctors and nurses than patients. "Healthcare can be stressful, but after a couple minutes with Bella, you can see their stress melt away," Marc says.



Shore radiologist Dr. Randall Snyder takes a quick work break to pet Bella. The smile says it all!



At Shore Cancer Center, medical oncologist Dr. Vijay Sandilya watches as Vince and Rocco spend some time with a patient.

Bella also helps at the Cancer Center infusion units, where a quiet moment can make treatment days feel more manageable for patients. Volunteering continues Marc's pharmacy legacy of going above and beyond for his patients. "Pet therapy is the same—it's about giving back and doing what it takes to make people's lives a little better."

Vince and Rocco are one of Shore's newest teams. Vince is Shore's VP of Human Resources who adopted Rocco, a tiny 11-year-old papillon/chihuahua mix, when he needed a companion after moving from Western Pennsylvania to work at Shore. "He's lovable, very chill, and loves attention," Vince says. In just four months, Rocco has already made a mark. "A patient who was in pain and waiting for her next medication immediately brightened when she saw Rocco. She spent about ten minutes playing with him, forgetting her discomfort. For a little while, she wasn't a patient - she just felt normal again," Vince shares. Rocco also helps staff decompress, breaking tension during busy shifts. After a day volunteering at Shore, Rocco is usually exhausted from missing his daily nap, and sleeps from dinner time until the next morning.

Teresa and Sylvie Mae joined Shore in August 2025, though they did therapy work together in Florida prior. Sylvie Mae, a 3½-year-old labradoodle, loves being with people, especially children and the elderly, and senses who needs her most. Teresa recalls some of their most touching moments together. "Sylvie Mae and I visited a very sick elderly man. She brushed against his hand and crawled onto his chest, giving gentle kisses. The man smiled, and his family was moved to tears. Another time, at a grief camp for children, a nonverbal boy held Sylvie Mae all weekend, receiving comfort each time." When not visiting patients, she enjoys watching YouTube videos of birds and other dogs.

From the tiniest lap dog to the most intuitive herder, Shore's therapy dogs bring something unique to every visit. They may not wear scrubs, but they play an essential role in the healing environment. We're grateful for our pet therapy volunteers who give something priceless - their time, their presence, and their hearts. Together, they embody what it means to be *Caring Together* for the Shore community. 🐾

Volunteer Navigators: A New Chapter for Retired Professionals



Retired surgeon Dr. Gary Feinberg and retired labor & delivery nurse Giselle Knoblauch are two of Shore's new Professional Navigators, volunteers who provide support to ER patients and families while they wait to be admitted.

When a patient in the Emergency Department is waiting to be admitted to the hospital, the minutes can feel long and uncertain. Patients and families are often anxious, unsure of what comes next, and full of questions: “Can I go home to get clothes first?” “What will happen while I’m here?” “When will my room be ready?” It’s in these in-between moments that a reassuring presence can make a meaningful difference.

To support patients and families during this transition, Shore launched its volunteer Professional Navigator Program in May, likely the first program of its kind.

Professional navigators are often retired healthcare professionals or former leaders in their fields who bring years of insight and compassion to the role. They answer questions about

hospital processes, offer comforting gestures like warm blankets or drinks, and simply sit and listen, helping people feel less alone. The program enhances the patient experience by offering connection, guidance, and a calming presence when it’s needed most.

“We had an ER patient in cardiac distress whose spouse didn’t want to leave their side,” recalls retired labor and delivery nurse and professional navigator volunteer Giselle Knoblauch. “I gently encouraged her to step back so the care team could work, and when she was ready, I walked her to the family room and talked through what was happening until the cardiologist could speak with her. I could see her anxiety ease.”


Dr. Gary Feinberg, a retired general surgeon who was one of the first to join the program, says, “I can tell

when a patient or family member has a question just by the look on their face. Where a nurse with multiple patients may not be able to stop every time, I can. We had one patient waiting for surgery who didn’t know if it would be today or tomorrow. From my time in the OR, I knew who to call to find out. When I could tell them the surgery was happening that night, you could see their relief.”

Giselle was inspired to volunteer after her husband had a positive experience in Shore’s ER last winter. “I was really impressed with Shore and realized I missed being in the hospital,” she says. Now, she loves focusing solely on the human side of care. “I enjoy giving back in a compassionate, non-clinical way, without the paperwork and pressure of nursing.”

The program was developed by Shore Chief Medical Officer Dr. Leonard Galler and Shore Director of Volunteers Lisa DiTroia, who ensures each navigator is oriented, supported, and positioned for meaningful impact. “Lisa’s leadership has been key in creating a program that is both valuable for patients and deeply rewarding for volunteers,” says Dr. Galler.

Navigators also mentor third-year medical students and share observations that help improve the patient experience throughout the ER. When time allows, some even follow up with patients on the nursing units—closing the loop with a familiar, reassuring presence.

By centering human connection, the Professional Navigator Program reflects Shore Medical Center’s commitment to compassionate, patient-focused care, making the journey from the ER to a hospital room feel smoother, clearer, and more comforting for patients and families alike. 

New Option for Patients with Persistent Arthritis Pain

Imagine living with stubborn joint pain from osteoarthritis that never eases. You've tried medications, injections, physical therapy, and lifestyle changes, but daily activities remain a struggle. Surgery feels like the only remaining option, but what if there was one more non-invasive solution?

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Shore now offers low-dose radiation therapy for osteoarthritis, providing a safe, noninvasive option for adults 40 and older with arthritis in joints such as the knees, hips, shoulders, hands, wrists or feet. Using very low doses of targeted radiation, this therapy helps reduce joint inflammation, relieve pain, and improve mobility, giving patients the chance to get back to the activities they love.

Treatment is quick, painless, and delivered twice a week for three weeks.

About two-thirds of patients experience meaningful pain relief and improved mobility, with minimal side effects. Relief may last a year or longer, and treatments can be repeated if symptoms recur.

The therapy is administered by Penn Medicine Radiation Oncologist Dr. John Wilson at Shore Cancer Center using our Varian TrueBeam Linear Accelerator, state-of-the-art technology that ensures precise, safe delivery. Patients are encouraged to ask their healthcare provider if this therapy is right for them.

Programs like this one reflect Shore's commitment to advanced, patient-centered care, and are made possible by people like you. Thank you for helping us continue to provide new treatment possibilities, close to home.



A patient receives radiation therapy for persistent knee arthritis at Shore Cancer Center

To learn more about radiation therapy for osteoarthritis or to schedule an appointment, call 609-653-3200. 📞

Your Gifts in Action



When our previous mammography machine broke this fall, your generosity allowed us to respond quickly and purchase a brand-new GE 3D Sonographer Pristina™, bringing the most advanced 3D imaging for mammograms and stereotactic biopsies to Shore. Mammography Technologist Marian Martello, pictured with the new system, says, "It offers a better experience for everyone. It's more comfortable for our patients, it offers better imaging and precision for our radiologists and surgeons, and it allows mammography techs like me to know I'm providing patients with the very best care."



Since introducing our first da Vinci Xi surgical robot in late 2023, demand for robot-assisted surgical procedures at Shore has grown rapidly. To meet this need and continue providing advanced care close to home, it became imperative to add a second robot.

Thanks to donor support, we were able to move forward with this important purchase in October. Many gifts have helped us get to this point, but we are still seeking a major donation to offset the full cost of this technology. Gifts of all sizes make a difference, and a naming opportunity is available for a major contributor. To support this project, please call Mary McGuckin at 609-653-4657.

LIGHTKEEPER'S SOCIETY DONORS

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.*

Anonymous
 Adams-Perfect Funeral Homes, Inc.
 Anna J. Articolo-Raab in memory of
 Dr. Richard L. Raab
 Kathy & Michael Azeez
 Vincent & Kimberly Azzarello
 David & Cheryl Bacharach
 Dr. Robert M. Bassman / Eilene
 Bassman
 Gail & Steve Batzer
 Debbie Beck*
 Mark Benevento
 Lee & Catherine Bergen*
 The Family of Joseph V. Curcio
 David & Michelle Beyel
 David & Sandra Beyel
 Charles & Susan Bisciegia*
 Steve Brady
 The Broadley Family
 Maripeg Bruder
 Marlene & Bob Buckley
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Cacossa
 Anthony & Virginia Cannata*
 Ernest & Carol Casaccio
 Tyler & Darcy Casaccio
 Robert & Pamela Chandler
 Cherryl Christensen, DO &
 Walter Hulon, MD
 Mr. & Mrs. Agostino Cipollini
 Circle Liquor Store
 Mr. Ralph Clayton
 Brian & Kerri Coggins
 Tripp & Arleen Coggins
 Barbara Cohen in memory of
 David Cohen
 The Crooks Family
 John & Dian Dabek
 Dr. & Mrs. Fernando Delasotta
 Tony & Tina DeSantis
 The Desiderio Family
 Dietz & Watson Inc.
 John & Kathleen Donnelly
 William & Maryann Duffy
 Cyndy & Allan Edmund
 Dan & Anita Fisher
 Jill & Mark Fishman
 Nancy Fissel
 David & Elizabeth Frank
 Tony & Cricket Frank
 Paulajane & William Frankel
 Mr. James Fraser*
 Tony & Janet Galante
 Dr. Leonard & Judith Galler
 Mary Garrett*

Guy & Carol Giordano
 The Glenn Family
 Andi Goldberg
 Daniel Goldberg
 Eric & Claudia Goldberg
 Howard & Margaret Goldberg
 Richard Graham
 Leon Grisbaum in memory
 of Elizabeth Grisbaum
 Michael & Susan Gross*
 Mr. Ronald Gross
 Ed Gurwicz
 Joe & Kathy Gurwicz
 Mitchell Gurwicz
 Mr. & Mrs. Al Gutierrez
 Janie & Scott Halliday
 Patrick & Alicia Halliday
 Viking / Healey Family
 Rick & Nancy Heichemer
 Thomas & Corinne Heist
 Douglas Heun in memory of June Heun
 Jim & Linda Houck
 Mr. & Mrs. David R. Hughes
 Fox Real Estate-Gary & Denise Jessel
 Ron Johnson
 Sandra Kahn
 Russ & Barbara Kelly
 Eleanor Kennedy
 Aileen & Frank Kevane
 Jean Kirchhoff in loving memory
 of Bill Kirchhoff
 Dr. & Mrs. Edmund J. Koenke
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Kohler
 Ken & Shelley Koreyva
 Di & Dallas Krapf
 Ed & Linda Kuehnle
 Mrs. Mary Anne Kull
 Morris S. and Florence H. Bender Foundation
 Mr. & Mrs. Francis Lamb
 Donald & Elvira Laricks
 Lawrence K. Leonard
 Linda & Keith Leonard
 Mark J. Lippman
 Pete Madden
 Gregory M. Matuson
 Thomas McGowan & Family
 Lynn McIntyre & Stephen Flanagan
 Frank & Nancy McKeaney
 In memory of Michael & Letty McKenna
 McMahan Family
 William & Jeanne Mentzer
 Laura Messner
 The Messner Foundation
 Milton Schamach Foundation, Inc.

Christopher & Andrea Monihan
 Holly Monihan
 The Morello Family
 Terrence Much in honor & memory of son
 Mark Much*
 Mr. Karl Multhaup*
 Mac & Ginny Peter
 Mr. & Mrs. David M. Phillips Sr. and Family
 Matthew Piskun
 K. Ronald & Eileen Pitel*
 Caroline & Richard Pitman*
 Dr. Constance Jenkins Pritchard*
 Laura L. Pritchard*
 Leslie Pritchard Ward*
 John & Marty Quinn
 Jane Rakestraw
 Dave & Sandy Reif
 Barbara & Michael Ridge, Sr.
 Beau & Alyson Ridge
 Thomas & Lisa Ritter
 Jean D. Robinson*
 Linda S. Rothermel
 Linda Scarborough
 Drs. Raymond & Nancy Schreyer
 Jonathan Shiekman
 Jill & Kyle Shultz
 George & Patricia Siganos
 Jack M. Soble Family Foundation
 Dr. Angelo & JoAnne Sparagna
 Ronald & Kathleen Stablini
 In memory of Harold & Arlene Sukonik *
 In memory of Dr. Robin Carter, Obstetrics
 Brenda & Terry Thomas
 George & Sandy Tzaferos
 Bernice vanSteyn-Weiss*
 The Vaughns
 Theresa Welsh*
 Burt & Susan Wilkins
 Dr. John Wilson and Family
 Robert & Elizabeth Wood
 Keith & Karen Zaid

Welcome to our Newest Members

Paul Koelling
 William G. McCullough
 Rob & Kim Mericle
 Mary M. Millar
 Barbara Mintz
 The Sidewater Family Foundation



STANTON SOCIETY DONORS

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

Bolded names reflect generous donors who recently increased their giving levels. To join, visit www.GivetoShore.org or call Mary McGuckin at 609-653-3800.

Stainton Leader (\$2500 - \$4999)

Arthur R. Henry, Inc.
Mr. Edward Brosnan
Bob & Martha Edmunds
Frank Shoemaker & Lori Datti

Stainton Advocate (\$1000 - \$2499)

Anonymous
Maryanne Adams
Anna J. Articolo-Raab in memory of
Dr. Richard L. Raab
Harry Brooks & Meredith Rapp
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Cahill
Steve & Lynn Coates
Nancy Copple
John & Susan Curry
Valerie M. DeJoseph
Chris Ferry
Mei Shan Gavrell
Dr. & Mrs. Michael J. Ginieczki
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gordon
John & Danielle Gosner
Richard & Christine Gray
Mr. Timothy Hanlon
Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Jacoby
Tom & Donna Major
Patrick & Cynthia O'Hara
Ms. Georgette Oliver
Ulises Perez, MD & Aixell Mercedes, MD
David & Andrea Perry
Diane Ramfil
John P. Ruiz
Ralph Schiavo
U.A. Local Union 322
Dante & MaryAnn Mazza Vergulti
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Weber
Adam & Megan Williamson

Stainton Supporter (\$500 - \$999)

Anonymous
1st Bank of Sea Isle City - Larry Schmidt
David & Kendra Allegretto
Robert & Christine Allen
Steven & Donna Ang
Tom & Sandy Aromando
Atlantic/Cape May Building Trades
Alexander J. Barrera
& Alexa D'Amato Barrera
Elliot & Adrienne Beinfest
Marilouise Berdow
Mr. Saeed Bhatti

Richard & Deborah Booth
Jim Bourgeois
Shannon Burke
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick J. Cantz
Paul & Jill Casaccio
Charles & Nancy Cristella
William & Alice Crockford
Patricia Crowley
Mr. Richard Daniels
Dennis DiOrio
F. Joseph & Stacey H. DiOrio
Lynda C. Donovan
William & Muriel Elliott - Hero Campaign
John & Julie Fenton
Fred & Nancy Fontana
**Richard & Stacy Ford in memory of
Arthur T. Ford III**
Dr. & Mrs. Brett Foxman
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Gardner
Jay & Angela Gerken
Gers Construction Corporation
Dr. & Mrs. Gary M. Glass
Robert & Marilyn Gray
Terri Horner
Ms. Courtney Humphrey
Mrs. Carole Hyman
Dawn Jarrin
Hazel S. Kayle
Dr. & Mrs. John Keating
Marie M. Knight
Lawrence K. Leonard
Mrs. Susan McAfee
Jeannette McAllister
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McGinty
Mary & Michael McGuckin
McKenna grandchildren in memory of
Mike & Letty McKenna
Drs. Brendan and Jennifer Donovan Meyer
Cindy Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Overlan
Mr. Jesus Pagan
Ken Page in memory of Fr. Don Page
Caroline & Richard Pitman
Victor & Marie Plumbo
Dr. & Mrs. James M. Pond
Howard & Betsy Reed
Joseph & Pam Rico
Mr. Robert Robertson
Jim & Diana Rutala
Robert Sabarre
Dr. Vinayak & Shilpa Sabnis

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Sampson
Kenneth Schwab, MD
Dr. Judith Schwartz
Marlene M. Sheppard
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Sniger
Lilia Sollish
Mimi Spitalnick
John & Rita Stauffer
John & Alice Stull
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Townsend
Rick & Millie Traa
Victor A. Urbon
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Uretsky
Ms. Calla Waldron-Buck
Eileen Wenzke
Robert Wisler
Mr. Theodore V. Wood
Dr. & Mrs. Patrick F. Zazzaro

Welcome to our Newest Members

Ron Beaver in memory of
Beth Beaver
Stainton Advocate
David L. Blecker, MD
Stainton Advocate
Scott & Susie Cable; in memory of
Arthur T. Ford III
Stainton Supporter
Clayton Companies
Stainton Supporter
Patricia Dougherty
Stainton Supporter
Nini Feldman
Stainton Supporter
Peter & Mary Goodwin
Stainton Advocate
Curtis & Linda Gronert
Stainton Supporter
Mr. & Mrs. Al Gutierrez
Stainton Supporter
Neil & Barbara McPeak
Stainton Supporter
John, Jennifer & Isabella Panico
Stainton Supporter
Abraham Schiff
Stainton Supporter
Morton & Barbara Spiegel
Stainton Supporter
Dr. & Mrs. William M. Wixted
Stainton Advocate