The logo for Roper St. Francis Foundation, featuring a white stylized circular emblem on a purple background with a pattern of light purple circles.

ROPER ST. FRANCIS FOUNDATION

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2023



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION



Through this 2023 Impact Report, we are glad to share that, thanks to you, 2023 was the best year yet for the Roper St. Francis Foundation. Through your generosity, we received nearly \$25 million in private philanthropic funding to support Roper St. Francis's longstanding mission of healing all people with compassion, faith, and excellence.

Your generosity made a significant difference in our not-for-profit healthcare system's ability to consistently deliver quality care for the patients we serve.

For example, your support helps us to provide best-in-class care for our community. You do this by helping us expand our life-changing programs and upgrade our equipment and facilities. Thanks to your gifts and advocacy Roper St. Francis can provide the most modern and advanced tools to immediately help our patients.

In this Impact Report, you'll read about some of our most inspiring patient stories from the past year. I hope you'll feel proud of your own contributions to the lives of these courageous patients, as well as to the physicians and teammates who serve them.

First, on page 8, you'll read about Jessica and Baby Luke, whose surprisingly early arrival was a safe and happy one for him and his mother, thanks to the expert care they received at Bon Secours St. Francis.

Next, on page 4, you'll learn about Amber's fight against a rare form of breast cancer with a new, cutting-edge medicine prescribed by one of our physicians — and with amazingly positive results three years later.

In Curry's inspiring story on page 2, you'll see how Roper St. Francis teammates and physicians enabled her to work through her longtime doubts

regarding medical diagnoses. Because of this, she had the courage to have a successful surgery to heal her mitral valve heart condition.

And on page 6, you'll read two stories from community members who credit teammates at our Greer Transitions Clinic for being there for them when they needed them the most and for changing their lives.

Finally, on page 10, we'll look at how a nursing scholarship, funded through your philanthropy, is strengthening our caregiving and is adding value to one nurse's work with her patients for years to come.

Each of these stories has a strong connection back to individual donors like you. I know our physicians and healthcare teammates join me in thanking you for believing in our mission. When I see the extraordinary care given to our patients, I always remember the other teammate whose vital participation is in every patient's room: **You.**

Thank you for choosing to invest in Roper St. Francis. By doing so, you are helping to continue a tradition of high-quality, compassionate healthcare that started back in 1858. We are sincerely grateful for your robust support and hope you will enjoy reading about just a few of the lives you have touched.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy".

Stacy L. Waters, MBA

President, Roper St. Francis Foundation
Vice President, Roper St. Francis Healthcare

YOUR IMPACT ON CARDIOLOGY



Curry and her husband, Brendan

Her Trust in Medical Care Restored

Curry is a proud and positive mom and wife in her early 40s who lives on Johns Island with her husband, Brendan, and their children, Penny and Mylo. According to Curry, her heart issues began in her childhood in the San Francisco area when her pediatrician discovered a heart murmur.

“After extensive testing, I was diagnosed with mitral valve prolapse,” Curry explains. “It was determined that the course of action was annual monitoring, and while it was likely I would go through the majority of life without issue, surgery might be required.”

Her parents made sure she was closely monitored yet kept her condition from her, allowing her to live a carefree childhood.

“When I entered young adulthood, I began seeking care on my own,” she notes. “I moved several times and was bounced around from cardiologist to cardiologist. I found a great deal of frustration in the journey.”

Diverging Diagnoses

For example, sometimes Curry was told that her mitral valve issue was significant enough that she needed to

be cautious in her approach to certain aspects of life. Yet other doctors had no such concern.

Her trust in medical diagnoses went down further when she had multiple experiences during an annual check-up, whereby she would meet a new doctor, who made a diagnosis without even looking at her chart.

“They would say that I don’t have it because it was over diagnosed in my age group,” says Curry. “This inconsistency in care led to self-doubt and I questioned the importance of annual care. Despite being symptomatic, I stopped making appointments and was only checked from time to time. I went nearly ten years without oversight.”

Taking Charge of Her Heart Health

At the end of 2021, after a difficult bout with COVID-19, Curry’s symptoms became intensified and consistent. She developed some new symptoms, too.

“Being in my 40s, I was becoming more attuned to my body and learning to advocate for myself,” Curry says. “In May 2022, this led me to a referral to Dr. James Smith at Roper St. Francis. I have never been met with more sincerity and intellectual curiosity. Not only did he affirm my concerns, he was also extremely proactive in



wanting to find a solution.”

Throughout her adult life and her many diverging diagnoses, Curry had become accustomed to not feeling 100% well. A Roper St. Francis physician gave her a better prospect for her health journey and life.

“Dr. Smith assured me we were going to explore, find an answer, and get me back to optimal health,” Curry recalls. “Anything short of that simply wasn’t an option. I have never felt more cared for than I did at Roper St. Francis. I suddenly had a team of medical professionals devoted to my care. Not only was the staff knowledgeable and professional, but their care and concern were genuine.”

Communication and Rebuilt Trust: The Keys to Her Improved Health

One aspect of her care at Roper St. Francis was the constant communication she received from the staff – a true team of professionals. They regularly kept her in the loop, checking in with her after their weekly meetings to let her know what was discussed and to clearly define what the next step would be.

“Kelly Guerrero at the Roper Heart and Vascular Center is an earth angel and fights for each of her patients to receive the highest level of care,” says Curry. “She is responsive, caring, and thorough. Once you are in her orbit, you know nothing will be missed. There were several occasions when Kelly took the initiative to reach out to me to make sure I was following the necessary

steps and that other offices were getting back to me promptly. I felt like I truly mattered and that I would not fall through the cracks.”

After about a year of testing and close monitoring, surgery was deemed necessary. Despite Curry’s years of distrust due to inconsistent care, the team at Roper St. Francis helped her develop confidence in the process. That trust and certainty made the process much more palatable.

“My surgeon, Dr. Scott Ross, had been a part of my team over the last year, so I had established a relationship with him,” says Curry. “He, too, exceeded my expectations. Dr. Ross was patient, understood the importance of building trust, and was engaged and sincere. His grounded presence and expertise left me feeling confident about what was ahead. Dr. Ross repaired the mitral valve with minimally invasive repair in September of 2023.

A key part of Curry’s healing has been utilizing the Roper St. Francis Cardiac Wellness and Rehabilitation Center, a program made possible by generous donors like you. “The rehab center was so important to me, and I witnessed how critical it is to others,” says Curry.

Curry’s successful surgery, aftercare, and rehab were made possible by her renewed faith in medicine at Roper St. Francis. Though the going was tough at times, Curry knew she had a caring, competent team to support her. They helped her fight for a healthy heart and a full life, surrounded by her husband and children.

YOUR IMPACT ON ONCOLOGY



Amber and her husband, Kevin

Surviving the Pandemic in More Than One Way

“Learning that I had breast cancer was absolutely a total surprise,” says Amber Roberson, who has had no evidence of disease for 3+ years.

“It started when I discovered the lump. I didn’t know anything about any family history of breast cancer,” says Amber. “It was perhaps a taboo subject for past generations to talk about, so I only found out about my family history after the diagnosis.”

“Since I was young and unaware of breast cancer in my family, I decided to have genetic testing, which revealed that I had the BRCA1 gene as well,” Amber recounts. “Knowing about my genetics was a helpful tool for preventing other cancers in the future, not only for me but for my family. I was found to have Triple-negative breast cancer.”

Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Triple-negative breast Cancer (TNBC) is a fast-growing cancer that requires aggressive treatment.

“My cancer isn’t estrogen positive—it’s not hormone-related,” Amber explains. “The definition is a breast cancer that tests negative for estrogen receptors, progesterone receptors, and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2.”

Researchers have developed drug treatments that can

block these three proteins, preventing cancer cells from growing, and eventually killing the cells. Since TNBC cells don’t rely on these proteins to grow, they don’t respond to drugs that block these proteins. As a result, Triple-negative breast cancer is harder to treat than other types of breast cancer.

Fighting Cancer During the Pandemic

After diagnosis, Amber met with her surgeon, Dr. Megan Baker, who referred her to Dr. David Ellison as her oncologist.

“I first met Dr. Ellison in December 2019 as a 36-year-old woman who had just been diagnosed with Triple-negative breast cancer,” recounts Amber. “Upon meeting him, I felt that he truly had my well-being in mind when explaining what my diagnosis meant for not only myself but for my husband, Kevin. Dr. Ellison took the time to answer all our questions and to explain the treatment plan to us in terms we understood.”

Right when Amber was ready to start the aggressive treatment needed to fight her TNBC, the global pandemic hit with full force.

“...I can’t thank Dr. Ellison and his team enough for all that they did for me and my family.”

“I had no idea that the world would shut down in just a few short months,” says Amber. “What already felt like a lonely time was magnified by COVID-19. For example, because of COVID-19 preventive measures, my husband couldn’t join me for treatments, but my nurses stayed with me and were wonderful.”

Cutting Edge Treatment and Three Years Cancer Free

A ray of hope for Amber’s difficult diagnosis was when Dr. Ellison told her that she was a candidate for an oral chemotherapy treatment, Lynparza, a new medication that had just been used in a clinical trial for her specific type of breast cancer.

“Dr. Ellison was able to start me on this medication which resulted in a pathological complete response!” says Amber. “I responded well to it, and it shrunk the tumor. Later, following my bilateral double mastectomy in April 2020, I underwent 4 rounds of follow-up chemotherapy and reconstruction surgery. I have gone more than three years with no evidence of disease, and I can’t thank Dr. Ellison and his team enough for all that they did for me and my family.”

Thanks to your generosity as a Roper St. Francis donor, women like Amber, even with a difficult diagnosis, can get the most advanced treatment to fight breast cancer. Thanks to philanthropic support, we can invest in clinical trials, cutting-edge technology, and treatments that make lifesaving care a reality for many others like Amber.

With regular checkups, Amber is working to remain cancer-free and can look forward to living life fully again with her husband and stepsons.



Dr. David Ellison and Amber during treatment



CANCER PATIENTS WHOSE LIVES YOU’VE TOUCHED

These are more than stories of help. They are stories of strength and dignity.

These are just a few of the many people your generosity has helped. As our community continues to grow, your gifts will continue to positively impact the lives of more cancer patients as they walk into any of our facilities. There are not enough words to express our appreciation.

- A 60-year-old patient with head and neck cancer, who needed financial assistance with dental care to allow for timely radiation treatment to begin.
- A 63-year-old patient with lung cancer was unable to pay her electric bill in the heat of the summer, was provided financial assistance to keep her house cool.
- A 54-year-old patient with esophageal cancer needed assistance to pay her phone bill. This allowed her to communicate any needs or concerns with her healthcare team.
- A 69-year-old patient with colon cancer was assisted with Carta On-Demand cards to help with transportation to and from treatment.

YOUR IMPACT ON COMMUNITY HEALTH

A Stabilizing Effect from Greer Transitions Clinic

For a man who has gone through so much with his health over the past ten years, John Hutson's voice is surprisingly strong and clear. John has been a patient at Roper St. Francis Greer Transitions Clinic since May 2022, receiving care for his diabetes, which began in his mid-40s and has continued now into his mid-50s.

"I first began to notice that my eyesight was getting fuzzy," John recounts. After being diagnosed with diabetes, John started taking insulin and Metformin to control the amount of glucose in his blood. "It was up and down for years," John notes.

John's diabetes had led to other medical complications, which caused him to lose his full-time job at a nearby store. The lack of steady income was a significant hardship for John and his family. Without health insurance, he went to the Greer Transitions Clinic for help.

The Greer Transitions Clinic has provided him with resource assistance, including access to medication programs, financial assistance programs, and the clinic's food pantry.

"I received great care from the Greer Clinic physicians and staff," says John. "They gave me medicine I couldn't afford and regularly monitored my insulin levels. I am doing a lot better."

Brighter Prospects Ahead

Greer Transitions Clinic Outpatient Care Manager Mary

VanSickle-Bonney, notes that John has declined the need for the food pantry, hoping it will help others in greater need. "He recently got word that, 15 months after applying, he has been approved for disability from Social Security," says Mary. "He hopes to give back to the clinic to repay what he has received, thanks to the generous donors to Roper St. Francis Healthcare."

John hopes his story will encourage others to reach out for the care he received at the Greer Transitions Clinic.



John and his primary care provider, Loree Parker, Nurse Practitioner



Jerry at the Greer Transitions Clinic food pantry

Getting Back to Painting After a Stroke

Jerry is a painter by trade and lives not far from Roper St. Francis's Greer Transitions Clinic. This proximity proved fortunate for him after he suffered a significant stroke in November 2022.

Jerry's stroke left him with very few options to earn a living. He came to the clinic for food. He also received physical therapy to strengthen and improve his mobility.

During discussions with his community health advocate, Jerry would talk about his family. He mentioned that his daughter in Florida wanted him to visit. His advocate encouraged him to build on that relationship.

"I don't know if all healthcare workers are that caring, but the ones at Greer Transitions Clinic are the best."

Ultimately, Jerry went to see his daughter at Christmas and was so happy that he called his advocate just to say, "Thank You." He is now in the process of moving to Florida to be with his daughter and her family.

Gratitude for Listening and Caring

"Being able to use the food pantry has been a big help to me," he notes. "I appreciate the healthy food that is given, as it's nutritious. I love the salads!"

Everyone at the clinic, particularly my nurse practitioner and my community health advocate, was so helpful," says Jerry. "If I could help out the staff in any way, maybe by painting, I would. They all know me by name. I love them. I don't know if all healthcare workers are that caring, but the ones at Greer Transitions Clinic are the best."

YOUR IMPACT ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

Surprise Delivery Has Gentle Landing at Roper St. Francis

Jessica Kuraska had been feeling a bit under the weather, but this was nothing remarkable as she was 31 weeks pregnant. She had four successful pregnancies before, and each had their better and worse days. Still, she believed in taking precautions and looked forward to her next checkup with her OB.

Her doctor examined her and wanted her to go to the Bon Secours St. Francis Emergency Department in West Ashley for further monitoring but nothing more. "I was hungry," said Jessica. "So, my teenage daughter and I went for lunch at Chick-fil-A on the way there."

When she arrived later that morning at the Emergency Department, her blood pressure check was high. Then the High-Risk Pregnancy Specialist gave her the shocking news that they were going to have to deliver her baby early—indeed that same day.

"Today?!" exclaimed Jessica. She hadn't planned on giving birth to her fifth child for at least another month. None of her other children had been premature, so this part of the process was a new development for her. "It was very unexpected," she says now with a laugh.

But it was quite a serious matter at the time.

Jessica had a ruptured placenta later in the day, causing some bleeding and requiring an emergency C-section. Jessica remembers having serious contractions and then getting an epidural.

When they took Jessica into surgery at 10:00 p.m. that evening, Dr. Lauren Hartwell took charge of the situation. Within just 17 minutes, baby Luke was born.

"My nurse was great," recounts Jessica. "She sat by my side the whole time, even after surgery, telling me how things would happen, how the baby was doing." Luke and Jessica stayed at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital from May 9th to June 2nd, 2023. Thanks to the generous support of donors like you, we were able to give Jessica a room at no cost next to where Luke was recovering in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

"That way, I could check on him frequently and updates to his condition were immediate, as opposed to me

being over an hour away in Moncks Corner," she explains. "They let me stay there until he was out of NICU. It was calming and alleviated my stress. I think to any parent, staying with your child during their first days is crucial."

As for Luke, he is doing very well with no major issues. "His pediatrician couldn't believe he was premature," laughs Jessica. "He got such good care in the NICU unit. Nurse Andrea and the others were all so great to him. She even brought Luke a going away gift on his day of departure."

Jessica and her supportive husband, Matthew, along with their four older children, have enjoyed bonding with Luke, relieved that mom and baby have both been made whole. The compassionate and excellent medical care they received at Roper St. Francis has given them a happy ending, one that wasn't always assured.

"We are incredibly thankful that Luke is doing so well," says Jessica. "We are forever grateful for all the nurses and doctors at the St. Francis Women and Children's Center for ultimately saving my life and Luke's."

Because of your support, Jessica was able to stay with Luke during his entire stay in the NICU — an opportunity that would not have been feasible for Jessica without your philanthropic support.



Baby Luke headed home



"We are forever grateful for all the nurses and doctors at the Roper St. Francis Women and Children's Center for ultimately saving my life and Luke's."

Jessica with her husband, Matthew, and son, Luke

YOUR IMPACT ON OUR NURSES



Every day, our nurses go above and beyond to deliver care with compassion, faith and excellence to our patients. They are the beating heart of our hospitals. And we know that no matter the challenges ahead, they'll be an essential part of the solution, helping to provide the best patient experience possible.

Our nurses aren't just our frontline caregivers – they are a lifeline in our community of care. And it's their compassion that sets them apart, treating every patient like a member of their own family. Now more than ever, our nurses are the future of healthcare.

Donating to the Roper St. Francis Foundation's Nursing Scholarship Program is a tangible way to maximize your impact on both an individual nurse's career and our organization as a whole.

Kristena and Sara are two nurses whose careers have been positively developed because of their nursing scholarships made possible by your generosity.

Scholarship helps her obtain her graduate degree

After graduating from nursing school, Kristena didn't see herself going back to school again. However, her thoughts began to change during a medical conference she attended in 2021. Despite being in the midst of a pandemic, there was so much positivity at the conference about the future of nursing that Kristena started thinking how an advanced degree could help her make an impact on the quality of care for our patients.

"When I got back from the conference, I investigated going back to school, but I was discouraged by the costs of graduate school," she says.

Her nursing scholarship was the key.

"Without my nursing scholarship, I don't think I could have done it," said Kristena. "The financial support from the scholarship and emotional support from my family helped me to succeed."

Kristena now serves in the Quality Department at Roper St. Francis, working towards improving the care for all our patients. In her role, she supports our safety initiatives that work to reduce preventable medical errors and harm to patients and teammates. Her work saves lives every day and is a good example of how one nursing scholarship can positively impact our entire system at Roper St. Francis.

Opening doors by pursuing her BSN

Sara works in the recovery room of Roper St. Francis Mount Pleasant Hospital. She provides direct patient care to patients who have undergone surgeries or procedures that require anesthesia. Additionally, Sara acts as a charge nurse on her unit and as a preceptor to newly hired nurses.

Sara's scholarship has provided her with the opportunity of returning to school to obtain her BSN which, in turn, will open many other doors for her nursing career, allowing her to better care for our patients.

"This scholarship has offered me a range of benefits that extend beyond financial support, including granting me access to education, career advancement, and professional development," Sara says. "It will play a crucial role in helping me achieve my career goals and I'm incredibly grateful."

2023 AREA OF GREATEST NEED IMPACT

Your gifts to the Roper St. Francis Foundation have touched the lives of countless community members. These stories of nursing, oncology, cardiology, and community health are just a few examples. If you donated to the Roper St. Francis Foundation's Area of Greatest Need fund in 2023, we want to thank you for your generous support. Your gifts play an integral role within Roper St. Francis Healthcare and our ability to continue our mission of healing all people with compassion, faith and excellence.

Your Impact

Your unrestricted donation helps Roper St. Francis Healthcare meet the immediate needs of our patients, teammates, and community.

We have designated over \$2M in unrestricted funds to the areas of innovative technology at Berkeley Hospital and a much-needed improvement in our Women's and Children's Services at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital. Thanks to your generous support, we are investing in these two important initiatives:



Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital Mother-Baby Unit Renovation, Phase 1

The 1st Floor Birthing Unit at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital was completed in 2022. The newly updated Birthing Unit drew a stark contrast to the old and outdated Mother-Baby Unit recovery space on the 2nd floor.

The Mother-Baby Unit renovation will happen in three phases. Phase 1 includes DHEC plan reviewing, BAR filings, and construction design.

Phase 1 also includes relocating the current mother-baby unit to the 4th floor during construction. Your support is enabling us to move forward with Phase 1 which will ultimately lead to the new Mother-Baby Unit opening sooner.

Radiation Oncology Vault at Berkeley Hospital

Roper St. Francis Oncology Department's new Radiation Oncology Vault at Berkeley Hospital will house a second Linear Accelerator (LINAC) for Berkeley County. LINACs work by speeding up electrons to deliver therapeutic treatments that can be designed in a way that they destroy the cancer cells while sparing nearby surrounding normal tissue. Due to the use of radiation, LINACs must be housed in a special vault.

The demand for treatment using LINAC has grown above what Berkeley Hospital's one machine can provide. The construction of a second LINAC vault will begin soon and will allow us to use federally appropriated funding to purchase the LINAC machine more quickly.

Ultimately, this will allow more cancer patients to receive life-saving treatment without having to travel outside of Berkeley County.



Thank You

Your unrestricted giving has been instrumental in helping us provide the high-quality care that our patients have come to expect from our caring and dedicated staff. We cannot thank you enough for supporting our vision and mission to Roper St. Francis Healthcare during the 2023 fiscal year. On behalf of our physicians, staff, and especially our patients, we are most grateful.

CELEBRATING OUR 2023 ROPER XAVIER SOCIETY

We hosted our 18th Annual Roper Xavier Society Gala, where we celebrated the generosity of our donors and reflected on the impact Roper St. Francis Healthcare is making on the community. Having the opportunity to recognize three individuals who are committed to advancing our mission of healing all people with compassion, faith and excellence, was the highlight of the evening.



Tim Kennedy and Dr. Robert Oliverio

Tim Kennedy, President of Trident Construction, presented the 2023 **Physician Champion Award** to **Dr. Robert Oliverio**. The Physician Champion Award honors a physician whose service goes above and beyond the excellent care they provide. Dr. Oliverio has inspired the community through his work at the Greer Transitions Clinic and being on the front line of Roper St. Francis' response to COVID-19.

Beyond his leadership and clinical roles, he is a devoted advocate for philanthropy and community health through his service to the Roper St. Francis Foundation. Dr. Oliverio's dedication to advancing the Foundation's mission has been instrumental in securing transformational philanthropic gifts, fostering meaningful relationships with donors, and guiding them through the complexities of the healthcare system.

"This honor means so much. The fact that prior honorees, people I admire and respect tremendously, help to decide who receives this award makes this so special," said Oliverio. He shared how the Greer Transitions Clinic came to be in large part due to philanthropy.

"Thus, the Greer Transitions Clinic was born!" he continued. "And because of that generous support, we expanded services, added mental health, paid for vital medical equipment, and now we are going to expand to Berkeley County, adding dental services, and on-site lab services. None of that would have been possible, and I wouldn't be standing here if I didn't have the privilege to talk to the Foundation that fall afternoon. Everything we did came through the generosity of folks – especially Hank and Laurel Greer – drawn to our mission: to heal all people with compassion, faith and excellence."

Stacy Waters, President of the Roper St. Francis Foundation and Vice President of Roper St. Francis Healthcare, had the privilege of announcing the recipient of the 2023 Roper St. Francis Foundation **Outstanding Philanthropist Award**. There was also a moment of recognition for the past winners, Tommy and Paige Hall; Scott and Dottie Farfone; Hank and Laurel Greer; and Ronald Fielding and Susan Lobell.

Mrs. Wendy C.H. Wellin was recognized for her unwavering philanthropic support of Roper St. Francis Healthcare. Her defining legacy with Roper St. Francis began when she and her late husband, Keith, established the Wendy and Keith Wellin Neuro Stroke Center at Roper Hospital. Since its opening in 2018, over 1,000 patients have undergone therapy and received life-changing care from the dedicated team at the center.

“Time and again, Wendy has met the call and has supported the biggest needs across our healthcare system, and it is what I like to call ‘The Wendy Effect,’” said Waters. Most recently, Mrs. Wellin’s generosity established the Wendy and Keith Wellin Lifetime Cancer Prevention and Wellness Program in 2023. Mrs. Wellin announced from the stage she will be making an additional gift of \$1 million to further support these programs.



Stacy Waters and Wendy C.H. Wellin



Dr. Megan Baker, Olivia Parker and Jerry Hurst

Dr. Megan Baker, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of Roper St. Francis Healthcare, and Olivia Parker from Parker’s presented the inaugural **Parker’s Community Fund Healthcare Hero Award to Jerry Hurst**. When the Parker’s Community Fund made their transformational \$5 million gift last year, they did so with our community and caregivers in mind, and that is how this award was born.

The Healthcare Hero Award recognizes a caregiver who provides exceptional care and devoted service above the call of duty. Jerry has been recognized countless times for his excellent care and has received endless praise from patients recognizing the care he provides.

One patient shared:

“After suffering from head trauma, which led to a lengthy hospital stay and various rounds of therapy, I was fortunate enough to meet Jerry. When reviewing my goals, I shared that I hoped to return to pre-injury status and Jerry optimistically assured me I would be better than I was before my injury. He gave me the determination to work hard and make that my reality. I am proud to say that, thanks to Jerry and his incredible team, he was correct. I am now physically and mentally better than I was before, and I will be forever grateful to Jerry and his team.”

In addition to the exceptional care he provides to his patients, he is a true champion of the Foundation’s fundraising efforts, helping others to realize that gifts of all sizes can make a major impact.

GRANTS IMPACT

VOICES CARRY

COMMUNITY HEALTH GRANTS GIVE VOICE TO THE UNDERSERVED

As part of the Roper St. Francis commitment to provide care for all people, grant-funded projects have a particular focus on helping the underserved find access to care. Through grant funded projects, teammates help medically disenfranchised, often unheard patients overcome barriers to receiving the medical care and supportive services they need.

In 2023, nearly \$2.5 million in grants went to support the outreach efforts of the Community Health department, helping to extend our mission into the greater Charleston community.

Funded projects included:

- Three federal awards totaling \$1.5 million for the Health Services Center to provide early intervention services, insurance coverage, and housing to patients living with HIV/AIDS.
- Year-three Community Health Workers Changing Outcomes Project funding for Diabetes and ED High Cost/High Utilization patients.
- A one-year funding learning collaborative initiative for cardiovascular patients.
- Renewed grant funding to support operations of the Greer Transitions Clinic in its work to help patients without insurance or a doctor find a medical home.

This continued focus on providing care navigation to the right services for patients resulted in high honors in 2023—and continues to demonstrate the impact of grants funding.

Members of the **Health Services Center team** were selected to present at the Fast Track Cities 2023

Conference in Amsterdam on Innovative Practices in Community Partnerships: A Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Intervention.

AccessHealth was recognized as the state's CHW Program of the Year and Kelly Duggins was awarded CHW of the Year in recognition of her work and dedication to the community.

The new **Mobile Health team** culminated a 2022 Boeing readiness grant with a Lowcountry Mobile Health Symposium, the first of its kind in the state.



CHW Tomica Staley was selected by Julie Smithwick, Executive Director of the Center of Community Health Alignment, to speak to the SC Legislature's Ways and Means Subcommittee Hearing on Healthcare about the impact of the Changing Health Outcomes program and what it means to be a community health worker.

"I never would have thought that anyone paid attention to my work enough to ask me to speak on it to our state representatives. Helping individuals receive the care they need is my passion, and this confirmed that I'm pushing in the right direction."

—Tomica Staley

TRUST IS KEY. WE HAVE TO BUILD TRUST IN OUR COMMUNITY TO EXPAND ACCESS AND OVERCOME BARRIERS TO CARE.

—Renee Linyard-Gary

A Life-changing Impact

“When it seemed as if all hope was lost, the care and compassion I received from Dr. Zacarias and Kelly restored my faith.”

Newly diagnosed with Type II diabetes at the age of 34, Kaylee* was finding it difficult to accept this life-changing diagnosis. Through her primary care provider Dr. Ashleigh Zacarias and the one-on-one support and education provided by Kelly Duggins, a Community Health Worker with special training in diabetes, she was able to make the transition to a healthier lifestyle.

Through Kelly, she got enrolled in AccessHealth, which helped her find insurance and Welvista prescription assistance. By her return diabetic visit, her A1C was lowered from 14.1% to 8.8%—below the 9% danger point.

Kaylee is now employed full time and continues to live a healthy lifestyle. At her most recent visit, her A1C was below 7. She was referred to Roper’s Diabetes Prevention Program for continued success on her journey.

**Anonymous*



Renee Linyard-Gary (l), Director of Diversity, Inclusion & Health Equity, leads the efforts of the Community Health Department to include Mobile Health, RSFH Health Services, Greer Transitions Clinic, Senior Services and support provided by the DIHE team.



WASHINGTON ADVOCACY LEADS TO IMPROVED LOWCOUNTRY CARE

Thanks to a bill championed by U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina), Roper St. Francis Healthcare will leverage \$10.25 million in federal appropriations to enhance access to care for radiation oncology patients and to design its new Roper Hospital Medical Campus in North Charleston.

Graham made these funding requests to the Senate Appropriations Committee, a committee on which he serves. These appropriations funds were secured as two construction grants awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Community Directed Spending/Community Project Spending Program.

The funding designates \$6.475 million for facilities and equipment to include \$5.127 million for downtown Roper to retrofit a new linear accelerator to provide external beam radiation treatments for patients with cancer. The \$3.775 million award will be used for the design phase of Roper Hospital Medical Campus near Interstates 26 and 526.

The Office of Grants is working with teams from property management, construction, and oncology to implement these federal awards.

GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS

In 2023, the Office of Grants secured more than \$13.2 million in new awards, including \$10.25 million in appropriations funding, nearly \$3 million in government awards and contracts, and \$415,000 in foundation and corporate foundation grants.

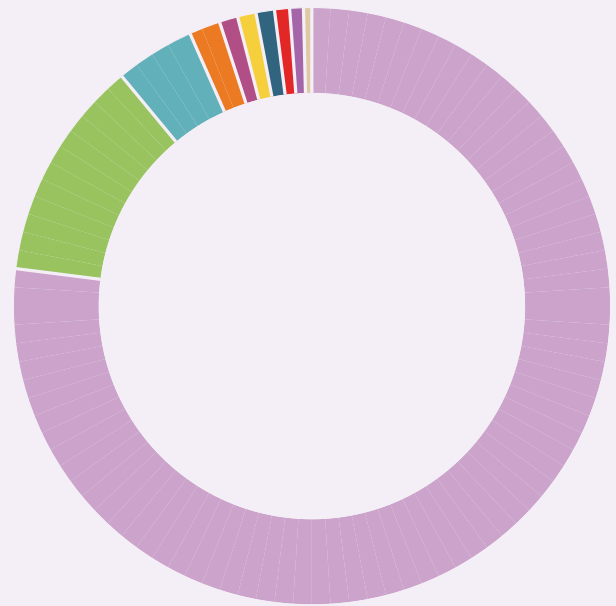
2023 Program Area Support – Grants Funding

Appropriations Grants	\$10,250,000
Health Services Center	\$1,580,259
AccessHealth Tri-county Network	\$562,415
Physician Partners	\$231,648
Nursing Education	\$145,000
Senior Services	\$126,811
Greer Transitions Clinic	\$125,000
Mobile Health	\$95,000
Roper Learning Center	\$81,773
Area of Greatest Need	\$50,000

The Office of Grants

Housed in the Foundation, the Office of Grants works with program staff throughout the health system to secure external grant funding to support projects that align with priority initiatives and help to improve the health and well-being of the patients we serve in the South Carolina Lowcountry.

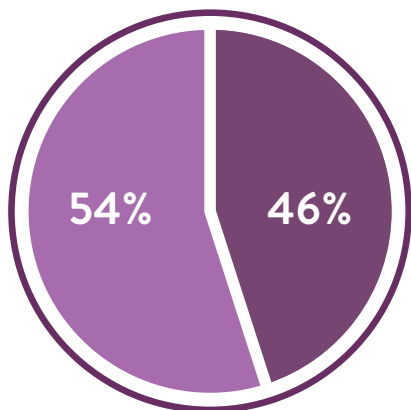
2023 GRANTS AWARDED DEPARTMENTS



Roper Plant Operations	HIV Program
AccessHealth Tri-county	Physician Partners
Nursing	Senior Services
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2023 DONATIONS



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TOP DONOR DESIGNATIONS IN 2023

- Area of Greatest Need
- Cancer Care and Prevention
- Cardiology
- Community Health Initiatives
- Emergency Services
- Greer Transitions Clinic
- Home Health and Hospice
- Mobile Health
- Nursing Excellence and Scholarship
- Rehabilitation
- Stroke Care
- Teammate Assistance
- Women's and Infant's Health

2023 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

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Left: Dr. David Ellison, Foundation Board Chair, and Dr. Megan Baker, Interim President and CEO, RSFH; Left Middle: Rx Society members mingle outside the Gaillard Center Performance Hall; Right Middle: Jane Krakowski performs at the Gaillard Center; Right: The audience watches Jane Krakowski perform.

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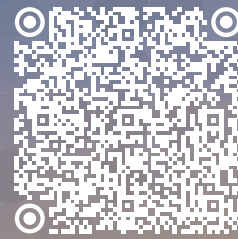
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