

GBMC

FOR
THE

**GREATER
GOOD**

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024



*Celebrating a Landmark Moment: Dr. Paul
Celano, Sandra R. Berman, Malcolm Berman,
and Dr. John B. Chessare in the new Sandra
R. Berman Pavilion.*

SANDRA R. BERMAN PAVILION

GBMC Celebrates Sandra R. Berman Pavilion with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony



The Sandra R. Berman Pavilion is more than just a new building; it embodies GBMC’s unwavering commitment to health, healing, and hope. Designed to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care, the pavilion consolidates cancer services under one roof, creating a seamless and compassionate experience for patients and their families. It features a state-of-the-art infusion center to support patients throughout their treatment journey, comprehensive breast care services including advanced imaging for early detection and diagnosis, symptom management and oncology support services tailored to patient needs, and integrative wellness programs that address the whole person, promoting healing and well-being.

On a crisp morning filled with excitement and gratitude, GBMC HealthCare welcomed leaders, donors, caregivers, and community members to the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Sandra R. Berman Pavilion. The event marked a pivotal moment in GBMC’s commitment to patient-centered care, bringing a vision years in the making to life.

Sandra Berman, whose name graces the pavilion, shared her deeply personal motivation for supporting this transformative project: “Helping families facing cancer by bringing them the care they need in one place is our way of fulfilling Tzedakah, the Jewish obligation to give back.” Her remarks captured the essence of the day—a celebration of generosity, resilience, and community.

Jason Michael Berman, the eldest grandson of Sandra and Malcolm, added a heartfelt perspective to the event, sharing how his grandparents’ values shaped their family’s commitment to service and giving: “Family comes first. My grandparents instilled that value in us from a young age, and their advocacy and philanthropy inspire all of us to give back in meaningful ways.” His

Photo:
During a tour of the Berman Pavilion on Oct. 31, 2024, the Berman brothers described the building as “bright,” “beautiful,” and filled with “sunshine” – a fitting tribute to their parents’ legacy.

Pictured from left to right: Richard Berman and his wife, Jennifer Berman, Steve Berman and his wife, Heidi Kenny-Berman, and Gary Berman gather around the plaque dedicated to their parents, Sandra and Malcolm Berman.

remarks highlighted the lasting impact of the Bermans’ legacy on both their family and the wider community. Adding to this, Heidi Kenny-Berman, Chair of the GBMC Philanthropy Committee and daughter-in-law to Sandra and Malcolm, reflected on the significance of the pavilion. “This building is more than bricks and mortar—it’s a promise to every patient and family that they will receive the care, compassion, and hope they deserve,” she shared.

“The Hebrew word, Tzedakah, is the Jewish obligation to give back.”

Sandra R. Berman



“To our community, thank you for your support and commitment to this cause. Together, we can create a legacy of hope that extends far beyond this place.”

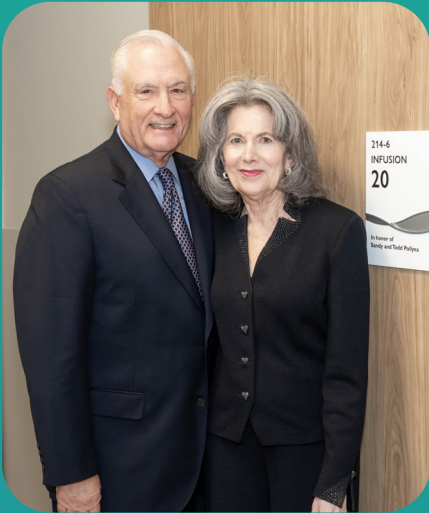
Heidi Kenny-Berman

“Family comes first. My grandparents instilled that value in us, inspiring us to give back in meaningful ways.”

Jason Michael Berman



SANDRA R. BERMAN PAVILION



Photos (left to right):
Drs. Paul and Shivaun Celano in front of their plaque in the Sandra R. Berman Pavilion.

Phyllis and Louis Friedman pictured in front of their plaque for the Samuelson Infusion Therapy Center within the Sandra R. Berman Pavilion.

GBMC donors and volunteers Bonnie and Ken Kaplan in front of the bell located in the Sandra R. Berman Pavilion.

GBMC donors and volunteers Arnie Honkofsky, Owen Ashbrook, Karol Ashbrook, Dr. George Bedon, Suzanne Bedon, Marcella “Marcy” Campbell, Frank Pidcock, and Anne Pidcock

Greg Kahlert, President of the Kahlert Foundation, pictured in front of the Kahlert Foundation Research Center.

Dr. Francis “Bing” Grumbine, retired Chairman of the Department of Gynecology, in front of his plaque located in the Gynecologic Oncology office.

Todd and Sandy Pollyea pictured in front of one of the four infusion rooms they supported in the Sandra R. Berman Pavilion.



Photos (left to right):
The Berman Family (first row) Malcolm and Sandra R. Berman, (second row, left to right) Richard Berman, his wife Jennifer Berman, Heidi Kenny-Berman, and Marilyn Berman (third row, left to right) Steve Berman, Gary Berman, and Robert Berman.

Left to right: Mike Stein, Senior Vice President of Clinical and Support Operations, Kathryn Fletcher, Executive Assistant, Walter Benton, Executive Director of Oncology Services, Connie Herbold, Ambulatory Practice Administrator, Brandon Costantino, Administrative Director Dance Center, Laura Morse Cucci, Research Nurse Manager, and Shannon Reynolds, Radiation Oncology Manager.

Ira Booker and GBMC HealthCare Board member Monique Booker.

Dr. Geoffrey Neuner, Chair, Department of Radiation Oncology, Dr. Farzad Masroor, Head and Neck Surgeon, Ana Minisci, Speech Pathology Coordinator.

Karol and Owen Ashbrook at the Sandra R. Berman Pavilion celebration event.

GBMC donor and volunteer Ethel Zelenske shares her gratitude for the new Sandra R. Berman Pavilion.

Suki Parks, PA-C, PhD, Advanced Oncology Practitioner shares a heartfelt hug at the Sandra R. Berman Pavilion celebration event.

SANDRA R. BERMAN PAVILION

A Career of Giving Comes Full Circle



The Boutique in the Sandra. R. Berman Pavilion often plays a meaningful role in a cancer patient's recovery by helping to restore their sense of normalcy. Well-chosen clothes and accessories can aid them in looking their best, which, in turn, helps them feel better. It is something Marion Thompson has long understood firsthand and is one reason her contribution to the Berman Pavilion is funding the Boutique.

Thompson began her career in fashion; however, when she was transferred to Albany, she moved into a new position in personnel, marking the start of a long career in what is now called human resources. Over the years, Thompson has served on the boards of numerous organizations, including GBMC HealthCare, where she has often held leadership positions.

"Marion Thompson has been an outstanding member of the GBMC Board, and she is a dear friend," GBMC President and CEO Dr. John B. Chessare attests. "She has used her wealth of experience and knowledge – particularly in Human Resources – to help guide GBMC through the years."

Twenty-four years ago, shortly after joining the GBMC Foundation board, Thompson was diagnosed with breast cancer. Though her physician recommended an oncologist in Howard County, she chose GBMC, where she found care from Dr. Lauren Schnaper, Dr. Sheri Slezak, and their team at the Sandra & Malcolm Berman Comprehensive Breast Care Center. "GBMC has been very good to me," she says. "I'm grateful for the care, the compassion and the expertise of the doctors who have looked after me. By funding this cancer Boutique, I aim to pay tribute to the exceptional care I received and to support the hospital's mission to provide ongoing top-notch cancer care. I also hope that this space will serve as a haven for patients and families, offering comfort, resources and hope during challenging times."

Her thoughtful contribution has inspired GBMC to name the Marion G. Thompson Boutique in her honor.

Photo: Marion G. Thompson, pictured in front of the new Marion G. Thompson Boutique named in her honor.

Hudson Family Gift Funds Bell in Sandra R. Berman Pavilion



Former GBMC HealthCare Board of Directors Chair Frederick M. Hudson and his family have made a gift to fund the bell that stands in the atrium of the Sandra R. Berman Pavilion. This bell symbolizes hope and achievement, as each patient who completes treatment rings it to celebrate a significant milestone in their recovery journey. Each patient

who completes treatment will ring this new bell to celebrate their recovery milestone.

Hudson has been an advocate for the Berman Pavilion project since its inception in April 2021. In 2022, his son, Matt Hudson, also a generous contributor to

this gift, became a patient of the Sandra & Malcolm Berman Cancer Institute. When Matt completed his radiation oncology treatment, he rang the bell to mark the end of his journey—an emotional moment that reinforced the family's commitment to giving back.

Through their generosity, the Hudson family ensures that future patients will have this same opportunity to celebrate their strength and perseverance in the heart of the Pavilion.

Photo: Nancy Hudson (left) pictured next to Fred Hudson and other members of the Hudson family.

PEETCH Supports the Sandra R. Berman Pavilion



The Presbyterian Eye, Ear, and Throat Charity Hospital Board of Governors (PEETCH) pledged \$1 million to *The Promise Project* in 2021. As one of the founders of GBMC, they were honored to contribute to the construction of The Sandra R. Berman Pavilion, now the home of the nationally recognized Sandra and Malcolm Berman Cancer Institute.

Photo: Presbyterian Eye, Ear, and Throat Charity Hospital Board of Governors members at the opening of the Sandra R. Berman Pavilion (left to right): Ms. Amy Wells; Stephen Plano, President; James K. Porterfield, MD, FACC, GBMC HealthCare Board member; Chip Hurley, Finance Chair.

Celebrating 60 Years of Caring for the Community

On October 2, 2025, GBMC celebrates its 60th anniversary of caring for the community. As we approach this milestone, we’re excited to honor our legacy while also looking to the future. Central to this celebration is the Founders Pavilion Project, which aims to rename Physicians Pavilion West the “Founders Pavilion” as a tribute to the institutions and individuals who laid the foundation for GBMC’s enduring mission, such as the Presbyterian Eye, Ear & Throat Charity Hospital and The Hospital for the Women of Maryland, of Baltimore City (Women’s Hospital). This initiative will involve renaming, relocating, and modernizing our ophthalmology department to a new floor within the building to better accommodate the growing practice and enhance patient experience. Also included is a renovation of the third-floor main lobby with an interactive historical timeline that pays tribute to GBMC’s founders and key moments in GBMC’s history.

Also, during our 60th year, we aim to develop a one-time recognition honoring 60 women who have been influential in shaping GBMC. A committee is being formed to define the criteria and selection process for this prestigious recognition. We will engage employees in sharing stories and participating in activities to build pride throughout the year, and we are excited to announce a new group of Physician Titans of Care inductees.

To bring this ambitious vision to life, we’re inviting community members to participate in subcommittees. Whether through contributing to fundraising efforts or participating in the 60-women selection committee, your involvement will help make celebrations truly meaningful. For those interested in playing a role, please reach out to Gwen Schoolcraft at gschoolcraft@gbmc.org. Together, we can honor the past and build a vibrant future.

John B. Chessare, MD, MPH, Announces Intent to Retire as GBMC HealthCare President and CEO on June 30, 2025

After 15 years of transformative leadership, Dr. John B. Chessare will retire as President and CEO of GBMC HealthCare on June 30, 2025. Since joining in 2010, Dr. Chessare has positioned GBMC as a leader in patient-centered care, achieving national recognition, including the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award in 2020.

Dr. Chessare championed the shift to advanced primary care and emphasized preventive health, chronic disease management, and quality improvement. During his tenure, the health system successfully completed visionary initiatives, including The Promise Project, which brought the Louis and Phyllis Friedman Building and the soon-to-open Sandra R. Berman Pavilion, ensuring comprehensive, seamless cancer care.

Under his leadership, GBMC expanded its continuum of care with Gilchrist hospice services and returned to Baltimore City with GBMC Health Partners

Primary Care – Jonestown, focusing on prevention and addressing health barriers in underserved areas.

Dr. Chessare’s calm guidance during COVID-19 earned him the community’s trust. He leaves a legacy of collaboration and patient-centered innovation. Faith Thomas, Chair of GBMC HealthCare’s Board of Directors, commended his dedication, particularly during the pandemic. Dr. Chessare will remain in his role throughout the national search for his successor until his retirement date, or later, if needed.

Events and opportunities to celebrate Dr. Chessare’s well-deserved retirement will be announced in the coming months.

To read the full press release announcing his impending retirement and highlighting his many contributions to GBMC HealthCare and the healthcare industry as a whole, visit gbmc.org/chessare.

Jerry’s Toyota Golf Tournament Raises \$160,000 for GBMC SAFE & DV Program



The 10th annual Jerry’s Toyota Golf Tournament was held on October 14 to benefit the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) and Domestic Violence (DV) Program at GBMC. This year marked the fourth year that GBMC has been the grateful beneficiary of the event. The SAFE & DV Program provides confidential services to victims of child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking, at no cost to the patient.

We are incredibly grateful for the partnership that was formed between GBMC and Jerry’s Toyota through former GBMC HealthCare Board Member and loyal donor Delbert Adams.

"As a loyal donor and past board member of GBMC, I am grateful to the Jerry's Toyota team and owner, James Stautberg, as well as all sponsors and participants from the annual golf tournament held in October to benefit the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) and Domestic Violence (DV) Program at GBMC. I participate in this event every year as a way to give back to a program that provides critical services to our community, at no cost to patients. It is a fun day on the golf course and supporting SAFE & DV is important to me and my family." Delbert Adams

The fundraising total for this year’s event was an astounding \$160,000, bringing the overall total from the past four years to \$560,000 donated from the Jerry’s Toyota golf tournament to the GBMC SAFE & DV Program. In addition to the incredible support through the annual golf tournament, Jerry’s has been a loyal sponsor for the Walk a Mile in Their Shoes event since its inception almost 10 years ago.

We cannot thank the team at Jerry’s enough for recognizing the importance of giving back to such a vital program for our community.

Photos (top to bottom): Dr. John B. Chessare (far left) and Laura Clary, SAFE & DV Clinical Program Manager, accept a check from Jerry’s Toyota leaders Matt Bukowski, General Manager, and James Stautberg, President, with Ava Stautberg.

From Left: Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski Jr., Baltimore County State’s Attorney Scott Schellenberger, GBMC President & CEO John Chessare, MD, GBMC HealthCare Board Member and Walk a Mile in Their Shoes Co-Chair Alexis “Lucky” Thompson, GBMC Executive Vice President & Chief Medical Officer, Jack Flowers, MD, First Lady of Maryland Dawn Moore, GBMC Chief Medical Information Officer Fred Chan, MD, and Ravens Head Coach John Harbaugh



The Countdown to Walk a Mile 2025 Begins!

We are thrilled to announce that Baltimore Ravens Coach John Harbaugh will serve as honorary co-chair for the 10th annual Walk a Mile in Their Shoes! Coach Harbaugh will serve alongside GBMC board member and event co-chair, Alexis “Lucky” Thompson and GBMC physician and event co-chair, Dr. Fred Chan.

We are deeply grateful to Coach Harbaugh for stepping into this role and supporting our milestone event. Walk a Mile will be held this spring and, as always, will benefit the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) and Domestic Violence (DV) Program at GBMC.

Register or donate at www.gbmc.org/walk

COMMUNITY

Sporting Clays Tournament Supports GBMC's Baetjer Center for Nursing Excellence



The seventh annual Samuel F. Heffner Jr. Sporting Clays Tournament was held on Thursday, October 17, to benefit the Baetjer Center for Nursing Excellence at GBMC. The Baetjer Center provides scholarship funding, student loan reimbursement, and additional training for GBMC nurses to stay up to date with their skills and certifications.

If you are interested in supporting

nursing at GBMC, please consider sponsoring or participating in the 8th Annual Samuel F. Heffner Jr. Memorial Sporting Clays Tournament in October 2025. This high-end, exclusive event, is an excellent opportunity to meet local leaders and business owners, while supporting an important cause, the Baetjer Center for Nursing Excellence at GBMC. For more information, visit www.gbmc.org/clayshoot.



Photos (left to right): Participants in the tournament finish their day with the “Long Bird Contest,” an additional fundraising element of the event.

Nurse Director for Perioperative, Interventional Radiology and Endoscopy, Claire Cafirma, DNP, RN, CNOR, volunteers at the GBMC Sporting Clays Tournament by greeting each team at her assigned station.

GBMC nurses volunteered at the event, meeting and mingling with participants to thank them for supporting the Baetjer Center.

From left: Christopher W. Keelty, Esq., event co-chair, Bernard Rhee, Esq., event co-chair and GBMC HealthCare Board Member, and Angie Fuerer, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, Senior Vice President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer, distribute awards to the tournament winners

The Atlantic Realty team poses between stations. From left to right: Mark Earisman, John Commerford, Jennifer Briemann, and Rick Briemann. Jennifer won the award for highest female score.



This page is dedicated to honoring our donors who have generously contributed to the Sandra R. Berman Pavilion.

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Padonia Plus is now open seven days a week to offer same-day visits for all GBMC Health Partners Primary Care patients, including on weekends, regardless of which practice you typically use!



Saturday hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for pediatric patients; ages vary per provider)

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To schedule a same-day appointment with Padonia Plus, scan the QR code on the left and log in to your MyChart account.

GBMC Health Partners – Orthopaedics is now offering weekend hours at Padonia Plus in addition to weekdays. No appointment is needed – walk-ins are welcome! The orthopaedic walk-in clinic hours of operation are:

Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (lunch taken between 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.)

Hours are subject to change.