

GBMC

FOR
THE **GREATER
GOOD**

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2026

CARE.
JUSTICE.
HOPE. 

A Special Edition for Sexual
Assault Awareness Month



Forensic nurses receive specialized training to collect and preserve evidence, ensuring it can be properly analyzed and used to support patients and investigations.

Leadership That Protects

Introducing the Circle of Advocates



Photo: Circle of Advocates Honorees, from left, Lisa Dever, Esq., The Honorable Shelly L. Hettelman, Rudiger Breiteneker, Jr., Sandra Caldwell, Detective Scott Kilpatrick, Sheryl Goldstein (representing The Hackerman Foundation), Major Brian Edwards, and Bill Bolander (representing Jerry's Auto Group)

When a patient arrives for care from GBMC's Sexual Assault Forensic Examination & Domestic Violence (SAFE & DV) and Child Protection team, they are met by a nurse prepared to treat their traumatic injuries at every level. The team is built on a foundation that runs deep and wide, supported not only by clinicians and leaders at GBMC, but also by state and local law enforcement, education and prevention programs that stretch across the country, and a compassionate community of philanthropists.

To honor these partners whose efforts have created a network of support for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and child abuse, GBMC has launched an annual recognition program called the Circle of Advocates. "This initiative shines a light on individuals whose leadership and quiet courage have changed lives," said Carville Collins, Esq., chair of the Circle of Advocates Committee. "Their efforts – through advocacy, philanthropy, or public service – remind us that healing is a community effort."

The first honoree was Lifetime Advocate Dr. Rudiger Breiteneker. Fifty years ago, when Dr. Breiteneker founded GBMC's Rape Care Center, it was Maryland's first hospital-based rape treatment program. Not only did his approach to sexual assault cases transform the treatment of victims, his preservation of forensic evidence – years before DNA was clearly understood – helped bring justice for survivors decades later. (More about Dr. Breiteneker on pg. 6)

Building a Network of Support for Survivors

Just as GBMC's SAFE & DV and Child Protection Program has quietly grown since those early days, a network of advocacy for survivors has expanded across the country. Today, thanks to these individuals, there are laws to protect victims' rights in court, and professional training in trauma-informed care for law enforcement and healthcare workers.

School resource officers are taught to recognize and respond to signs of child harm. The SAFE & DV and Child Protection team's partnership with law enforcement now serves as a national model for care and investigation centered on the victim and informed by the neurobiology of trauma.

With Gratitude for Thoughtful Advocacy

At the inaugural Circle of Advocates gathering, GBMC honored those who have been building a better future for survivors in all of these ways, beginning with Dr. Breitenecker, whose lifetime of advocacy revolutionized the field. The Friends of GBMC, an anonymous philanthropic group, was honored as Cornerstone Advocates for their transformational support that has expanded outreach, education, and comprehensive survivor care at no cost to victims.

Nine Community Advocates were also recognized for their impact across law enforcement, philanthropy, and public policy: Sandra Caldwell; Lisa Fox Dever, Esq.; Major Brian Edwards; Nancy Hackerman and The Hackerman Foundation; Maryland Senator Shelly Hettleman; Former Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates Adrienne Jones; Detective Scott Kilpatrick; Maryland Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller; and Jerry's Auto Group & the Stautberg Family. Each honoree has advanced Maryland's commitment to survivor-centered care, through legislation, innovation, and hands-on leadership.

Bearing Witness

Lieutenant Governor Miller said to those gathered, "As Co-Chair of the Governor's Family Violence Council, I've seen firsthand how collaboration across agencies from healthcare to law enforcement to advocacy saves lives.

"When survivors are believed, protected, and supported, we're not only providing care; we're restoring trust and hope," she added. "That's what this work is about."

Further, as GBMC President and CEO Paari Gopalakrishnan, MD, MBA, told the group, it is what GBMC is about. "What makes GBMC extraordinary isn't just our clinical excellence, it's our commitment to caring for the most vulnerable members of our community with dignity, compassion, and respect. The Circle of Advocates reflects our deep gratitude for the extraordinary individuals who share this mission."



2025 HONOREES

Lifetime Advocate

Dr. Rudiger Breitenecker, *Founder,
GBMC's Rape Care Center*

Cornerstone Advocates

Friends of GBMC

Community Advocates

Sandra Caldwell, *School Safety Analyst,
Maryland Center for School Safety*

Lisa Dever, Esq., *Deputy State's Attorney,
Baltimore County*

Major Brian Edwards, *Baltimore County
Police Department*

Nancy Hackerman, *President,
The Hackerman Foundation*

The Honorable Shelly L. Hettleman,
Maryland State Senate

The Honorable Adrienne Jones,
*Former Speaker of the Maryland
House of Delegates*

Detective Scott Kilpatrick, *Crimes Against
Children Unit, Baltimore County
Police Department*

The Honorable Aruna Miller,
Lieutenant Governor of Maryland

Jerry's Auto Group &
The Stautberg Family

Photo: Rudiger Breitenecker, Jr., left, accepts the Lifetime Advocate award on behalf of his late father from GBMC HealthCare Board President Jerry Focas, Esq., and Circle of Advocates Committee Chair Carville Collins, Esq.

Partnership That Strengthens

Building a Network of Support for Survivors



Photos (left): GBMC HealthCare Board member and Executive Director of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Michelle D. Siri, Esq. addresses the Circle of Advocates gathering; (right): Members of the SAFE & DV and Child Protection Program team, Laura Clary, Pam Gillin, Ashley McAree, Danielle “Dani” Imbragulio, and Kelly Truax.

Honoring Fellow Advocates

The Circle of Advocates program began with the goal of honoring those whose work on behalf of survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence is rarely, if ever, heralded. As Chair of GBMC’s Philanthropy Committee, Heidi Kenny-Berman, Esq. was an early volunteer on the Circle of Advocates committee. She is keenly aware of the fact that, at every stage, advocating for survivors is work that is fueled by philanthropy. Supporting this program is “not just an act of generosity — it is a statement of shared responsibility,” she says.

Kenny-Berman volunteered as a member of the Circle of Advocates Committee, reflecting on the extraordinary team whose expertise and compassion create a lifeline for survivors at their most vulnerable moments — and emphasized that their work is sustained by a community willing to stand behind them. “Safety, dignity, and healing,” she noted, “Should never depend on chance. They depend on philanthropy.

In its truest sense, philanthropy means a ‘love of humankind.’ Through their generosity, donors ensure this essential program remains strong, accessible, and always here for those who need it most. “



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COMMITTEE

Heidi Kenny-Berman, Esq., *Chair of GBMC's Philanthropy Committee, GBMC HealthCare Board member*

Fred Chan, MD, *Chief Medical Information Officer, Walk A Mile in Their Shoes, Co-Chair*

Carville Collins, Esq., *GBMC Philanthropy Committee*

Alexis "Lucky" Thompson, *Walk A Mile in Their Shoes, Co-Chair, GBMC HealthCare Board member*

Kate Flowers, *Walk A Mile in Their Shoes Committee*

Laura Clary, MSN, RN, FNE-A/P, SANE-A, SANE-P, *Sexual Assault Forensic Examination and Domestic Violence (SAFE & DV) and Child Protection Program Director*

Jenny Coldiron, *Senior Vice President of Philanthropy and Marketing*

Kim Davenport, *Senior Director of Community Engagement*

Greg Shaffer, *Chief Marketing Officer*

Kate Thorne, *Senior Director of Philanthropic Engagement*

Morgan Varley, *Director of Annual Funding*



Photo: Congratulating Circle of Advocates honoree Lisa Dever, Esq. (second from right) are, from left: Baltimore County State's Attorney Scott D. Shellenberger; Maryland District Court Judge Michael D. Siri; Maryland District Court Judge Susan Hazlett; and Executive Director of the Women's Law Center of Maryland Katie O'Malley.

Justice That Endures

*The Legacy of
Dr. Rudiger
Breitenecker*



In December, as GBMC HealthCare gathered community leaders, advocates, clinicians, and public servants for its inaugural Circle of Advocates breakfast, one honoree's presence was felt deeply despite his absence from the room.

Dr. Rudiger Breitenecker, a pioneering forensic pathologist and the founder of GBMC's Rape Care Center, was honored posthumously as a Lifetime Advocate. His legacy — uncompromising and profoundly humane — stood at the heart of the celebration.

Nearly 50 years after he founded Maryland's first hospital-based rape treatment program, Dr. Breitenecker's influence continues to shape the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination and Domestic Violence (SAFE & DV) and Child Protection Program at GBMC. His work transformed how survivors were treated in their moments of crisis. It also created a foundation that continues to deliver healing, accountability, and hope decades later.

A Physician Who Refused to Look Away

When Dr. Breitenecker arrived at GBMC in 1967, he brought with him a background as Maryland's Assistant State Medical Examiner and a deep understanding of forensic science. What he encountered when it came to sexual assault care, however, was unacceptable. And not unusual in hospital emergency rooms.

"At the time, survivors were often made to wait eight, 10, sometimes 12 hours for an exam," he once recalled in an interview. "I thought this was atrocious. Women deserved better care than that."

In 1975, driven by outrage and empathy, Dr. Breitenecker founded GBMC's Rape Care Center—an unprecedented initiative in Maryland and a precursor to today's SAFE Program. At a time when sexual assault was rarely discussed openly and victims were frequently dismissed or blamed, he insisted on a radically different approach: trauma-informed, victim-centered, and rooted in dignity.

Over the course of his career at GBMC, Dr. Breiteneker performed more than 2,000 sexual assault examinations. Often, he was the only physician willing to testify in court on behalf of survivors. He listened carefully. He documented meticulously. And he believed survivors deserved to be believed.

Foresight That Changed the Future

Dr. Breiteneker's most extraordinary contribution unfolded quietly, almost invisibly, over decades.

Trained as a forensic pathologist, he understood the evidentiary value of biological samples long before DNA testing became commonplace. Beginning in the 1970s, he preserved forensic evidence on microscope slides—carefully labeling, cataloging, and storing them for a future he believed would arrive.

At the time, few understood what he was doing. Some colleagues were unaware of the scope of his effort. But Dr. Breiteneker persisted, guided by a conviction that science would one day catch up to survivors' need for justice.

It did.

Decades later, when DNA analysis became widely available, those preserved slides proved invaluable. According to reporting by ProPublica, Dr. Breiteneker's foresight helped law enforcement solve more than 100 cold cases—some dating back more than 30 years. In Baltimore County alone, DNA evidence preserved at GBMC led to dozens of arrests and convictions, including sentences ranging from 20 years to life.

As one police official told ProPublica, "We would not have these cases without him. His foresight changed everything."

At the Circle of Advocates event, members of the Breiteneker family joined GBMC leaders to honor his legacy. For his son, Rudiger L. Breiteneker Jr., the meaning of his father's work has only deepened with time.

"My father's work means more to me now than ever," he shared. "Seeing how his determination to treat survivors with dignity and preserve evidence continues to bring justice and healing decades later fills me with profound pride and gratitude."

Quiet Leadership, Lasting Impact

What began as a single physician's refusal to accept the status quo has grown into a nationally recognized model of care.

Today, GBMC's SAFE & DV and Child Protection Program provides 24/7 trauma-informed care to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and child abuse. Multidisciplinary teams of specially trained forensic nurses, advocates, and community partners work together to ensure survivors receive comprehensive medical care, emotional support, and access to justice — at no cost.

"This program exists because Dr. Breiteneker believed victims had to come first," Dr. Gopalakrishnan told attendees. "That belief continues to guide everything we do."

Dr. Breiteneker's story also embodies the spirit of the Circle of Advocates.

The Circle of Advocates was created to honor individuals whose leadership often happens behind the scenes — those whose work unfolds over time yet leaves an indelible mark on systems of care and justice.

"People like my father didn't seek the spotlight," his son reflected. "But their actions ripple outward for generations. Honoring them matters because it reminds us that real progress often comes from persistent, humble dedication."

In 2015, GBMC recognized Dr. Breiteneker as a Physician Titan of Care — one of a select group of physicians whose contributions helped shape the institution. His posthumous recognition as a Lifetime Advocate builds on that honor, placing his legacy within a community of leaders committed to protecting the most vulnerable.

Justice That Endures

Strengthening Laws. Protecting Survivors.

For many survivors, trauma-informed care at GBMC's Sexual Assault Forensic Examination and Domestic Violence (SAFE & DV) and Child Protection Program is a first step toward healing. Those who opt to hold their offenders accountable may never see the powerful network of leaders working to ensure that care leads to justice and accountability.

Survivor care does not begin and end in an exam room. It is strengthened — or weakened — by the laws that govern evidence collection, the policies that shape investigations, and the prosecutors who bring cases to court.

GBMC's SAFE nurses provide compassionate medical care while carefully documenting and preserving forensic evidence. They understand that healing requires dignity, validation, and access to trusted community partners. As Katie O'Malley, Executive Director of the Women's Law Center of Maryland has shared, the SAFE Program ensures that seeking care after an assault does not cause further harm. Many of the Women's Law Center's clients have been served by this unit, and the program plays a vital role in helping survivors move forward with support and strength.



In accepting recognition among the inaugural Circle of Advocates, Maryland State Senator Shelly Hettleman (D-11) praised those who work directly with victims. “It’s only through letting survivors know that they have a safe space to come to, like here,” she said, “where their choices will be respected and where they can get the support they need that more folks will become comfortable reporting this horrific crime.”

Lawmakers like Sen. Hettleman have worked to remove systemic barriers that once prevented survivors from pursuing justice. Sen. Hettleman has led landmark reforms to standardize how rape kits are handled across Maryland, extend evidence retention requirements to 75 years, and secure funding to ensure kits are tested. These changes mean that a survivor’s ability to seek justice no longer depends on geography or outdated policies.

Former Speaker of the House of Delegates Adrienne Jones (D-10), also an inaugural Circle of Advocates honoree, has advanced critical legislation to strengthen the infrastructure supporting survivors, including improvements to sexual assault evidence kit preservation and establishing a statewide funding stream for comprehensive domestic violence programs. These reforms reinforce consistent, trauma-informed responses across jurisdictions.

And when cases move forward, prosecutors like Deputy State’s Attorney Lisa Fox Dever ensure that the evidence is used effectively in court. With more than three decades dedicated to prosecuting sexual violence, child abuse, and domestic violence cases, Dever has worked closely with SAFE nurses and Sexual Assault Response Teams to strengthen investigations and improve outcomes for victims. Her victim-centered work reinforces collaboration between medical and criminal justice professionals and is one reason GBMC honored her as a member of the inaugural Circle of Advocates.

As attorney, advocate, and GBMC HealthCare Board member Michelle Siri has said, systems change when those with power, resources, and expertise choose to use them on behalf of survivors. When laws are strengthened, when evidence is preserved, and when professionals are trained to respond with skill and compassion, the impact is profound: more survivors come forward, more cases are resolved, and more families find protection.

GBMC is proud to stand at the intersection of care and justice. The SAFE & DV and Child Protection program will continue to serve as both a place of healing and a critical link in a system working behind the scenes to protect survivors across Maryland.

Training That Prevents

Preparing Those First to See the Signs

GBMC HealthCare's Sexual Assault and Forensic Examination and Domestic Violence (SAFE & DV) and Child Protection Program is staffed and prepared – around the clock, 7 days a week – to care and advocate for their patients. Part of this work is counseling survivors to prevent further harm from coming to them. But the most effective prevention happens earlier—through education, awareness, and the ability to recognize risk before it becomes crisis.

For GBMC's SAFE & DV and Child Protection Program, prevention through education is a cornerstone of survivor-centered care. Central to that work is a deep partnership with Sandra Caldwell, School Safety Analyst at the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) and a 2025 Circle of Advocates honoree.

Together, GBMC and the MCSS are changing how Maryland protects its youth.

Training Those Who Are First to See the Signs

School resource officers are often among the first adults to notice when something is wrong. They see students every day. They hear disclosures — sometimes direct, often hesitant. They can intervene when a child may be experiencing sexual assault, dating violence, trafficking, or abuse.

Through a statewide partnership begun in 2018 and led by Ms. Caldwell, Laura Clary, MSN, RN, FNE-A/P, SANE-A, SANE-P, Program Director, and GBMC's SAFE & DV and Child Protection team serve as the official trainers for the MCSS, delivering comprehensive education on "Victimization of Youth." The program ensures that responses are aligned with best practices in survivor-centered care.

Already, this effort has reached every school resource officer working in Maryland schools.

Caldwell's work is practical, evidence-based, and grounded in decades of clinical expertise from GBMC's SAFE & DV and Child Protection Program. The training equips officers to identify signs of victimization, respond in trauma-informed ways, and connect students with appropriate medical, advocacy, and community resources. It emphasizes that how an adult responds in the first moments after disclosure can shape whether a young survivor feels believed, supported, and safe.

A Shared Commitment to Prevention

"In today's world, those who work with students are expected to do so much more than their intended position. Having GBMC SAFE & DV and Child Protection Program as a resource removes some of the stress of knowing what to do and who to contact in those difficult situations. I know that when someone reaches out to the wonderful SAFE & DV and Child Protection team, they will get the assistance needed in a kind, compassionate, and knowledgeable manner, regardless of where the person is from. Having this powerhouse organization here in our state is such an advantage to our communities," said Caldwell.

Sandra Caldwell has spent her career focused on school safety, youth protection, and systems-level prevention, in Maryland and across the country. She knows prevention requires preparation, partnership, and consistency.

The collaboration between the MCSS and GBMC brings together public safety, healthcare, advocacy, and education -- ensuring that prevention is not siloed but embedded across systems that touch young lives.

It also sends a powerful message: protecting children requires more than enforcement. It requires understanding trauma, recognizing vulnerability, and responding with care.



Care That Restores *Advancing Trauma-Informed Investigation & Care*

When a survivor of sexual assault, domestic violence, or child abuse arrives at GBMC's SAFE & DV Program, trauma-informed care begins immediately. Specially trained forensic nurses provide expert medical treatment while restoring a sense of safety and control—explaining each step, seeking consent throughout the examination, and moving at the survivor's pace. Every interaction is grounded in dignity, compassion, and respect.

But trauma-informed care does not end in the exam room. True survivor-centered response requires alignment across healthcare, law enforcement, prosecution, policy, and philanthropy. Over the past decade, GBMC's Sexual Assault Forensic Examination, Domestic Violence (SAFE & DV) and Child Protection Program has strengthened that alignment — building a coordinated system designed to minimize re-traumatization while maximizing both healing and accountability.

"Trauma-informed care means recognizing how violence impacts memory, trust, and decision-making," said Laura Clary, MSN, RN, FNE-A/P, SANE-A, SANE-P, Program Director. "Our partnerships with law enforcement are intentionally

*Trauma-informed
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Photo: On October 6, the SAFE & DV Program participated in and presented at "Purple Table Talk Session Two-Bystander Engagement and Domestic Violence" at Lincoln University - a public state-related historically black university in Lower Oxford Township, Pennsylvania. Participants learned strategies for stepping up, speaking up, and supporting their peers through increased awareness of domestic violence. The "L" sign each participant is making celebrates Lincoln University.

structured to ensure survivors experience compassionate, trauma-informed support at every stage, from the moment they arrive at GBMC, through the investigation and legal process, and ultimately to the point of offender accountability in court.”

One of the most transformative partnerships has been with the Baltimore County Police Department. Major Brian Edwards helped reform investigative practices that historically discouraged survivor participation. Under his leadership, outdated “victim waiver” forms were eliminated and a 75-year evidence retention policy was implemented—ensuring that sexual assault evidence, including decades-old forensic materials, is preserved for future testing rather than discarded prematurely.

That preservation has proven critical. Through collaboration between GBMC clinicians and law enforcement, archived forensic evidence has been reexamined using advanced DNA technology — identifying serial offenders, linking cases across jurisdictions, and delivering long-delayed justice to survivors.

“Our responsibility extends beyond solving cases,” said Major Edwards. “By responding with a ‘Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered, Offender-Focused’ philosophy, we can ensure investigations are conducted in a way that also empowers victims during their post-crime recovery. This builds trust and inserts accountability into the investigative process.”

Detective Scott Kilpatrick, a member of the Baltimore County Police Department’s Crimes Against Children Unit, represents the next evolution of trauma-informed investigation. Nationally recognized for his expertise in trauma-informed interviewing, Kilpatrick partners with GBMC to train multidisciplinary professionals across the country — emphasizing how trauma affects memory recall, communication, and survivor behavior.

“Understanding trauma changes how you conduct an interview,” said Detective Kilpatrick. “When law enforcement shifts from an interrogation mindset to a collaborative, trauma-informed approach, we create a safe environment for everyone. This safe environment allows for uninterrupted narratives that focus on all of the details, both strengthening the quality of the evidence and ensuring the interview itself does not deepen the victim’s harm.”

Embedding trauma-informed principles into law enforcement strengthens survivor trust and improves investigative outcomes. Within GBMC’s hospital-based model, survivors may speak confidentially with a trained Law Enforcement Liaison before deciding whether to pursue a formal report. This coordinated approach reduces barriers, protects survivor autonomy, and reframes law enforcement as a collaborative partner in care.

Philanthropic leadership has accelerated this systemic progress. Under the leadership of Nancy Hackerman, The Hackerman Foundation has invested significantly in advancing DNA testing of archived sexual assault evidence—supporting cold-case investigations and reinforcing Maryland’s commitment to preserving and testing forensic materials. That investment has strengthened statewide coordination among healthcare providers, investigators, prosecutors, and policymakers, demonstrating how targeted philanthropy can catalyze structural change.

Together, these partnerships form what GBMC now recognizes as its Circle of Advocates — a network of professionals and leaders whose collective efforts have transformed how survivors are supported across Maryland. Detectives who refine investigative practices. Legislators who strengthen evidence-retention laws. Philanthropists who fund testing and training. Healthcare providers who deliver compassionate, expert care at the point of crisis.

Trauma-informed investigation and trauma-informed care are no longer parallel efforts. At GBMC, they are integrated — guided by science, sustained by partnership, and strengthened by shared accountability.

When systems align, survivors encounter more than a hospital or a detective. They encounter a coordinated response rooted in dignity, evidence, and justice—a circle ready to listen, ready to act, and ready to stand beside them for as long as it takes.

Philanthropy That Sustains

Quiet Leadership. Lasting Impact.

While thousands of individuals, foundations, and organizations make the work of the SAFE & DV Program at GBMC possible, there is one extraordinary Baltimore philanthropist whose visionary generosity has shaped the program in profound and lasting ways. Without this transformational support, the SAFE & DV Program would not be possible today. To protect the donor's anonymity, we recognize this leadership support collectively as The Friends of GBMC.

Through a fund established by this philanthropist, a dedicated group of directors continues to honor that legacy with purpose and compassion. Guided by the founder's original vision, these directors have challenged GBMC's leaders to make the SAFE & DV Program a national model of care — a goal realized through their enduring partnership. Their leadership and commitment have strengthened every aspect of the program: expanding community outreach, advancing professional education, and ensuring victims receive comprehensive, compassionate care at no cost in moments of profound vulnerability.

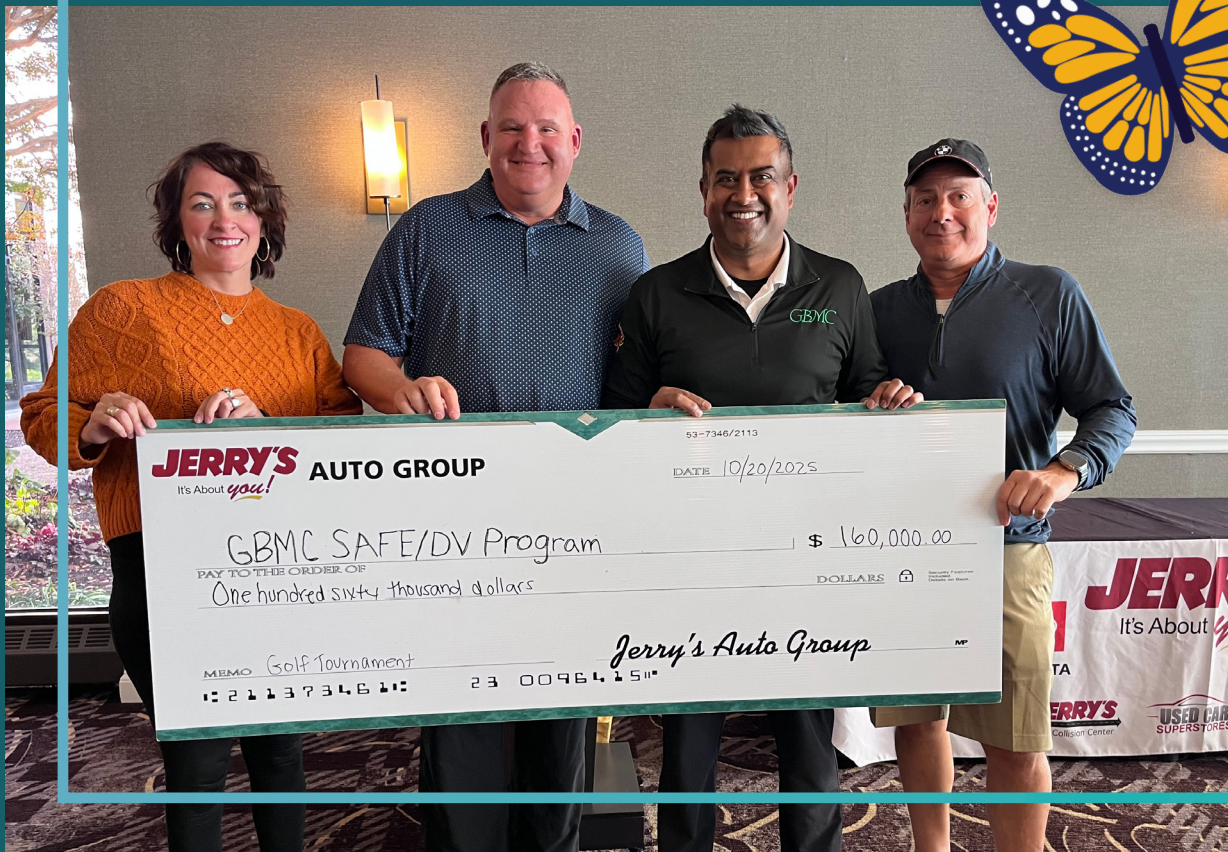
Today, the SAFE & DV Program stands as a national exemplar — its model of care recognized across the country. With encouragement and support from the fund's directors, GBMC has launched an accessible online platform that extends the program's reach far beyond the hospital walls; developed a one-stop hub of resources for victims and providers; created a state-of-the-art, patient-centered suite; and advanced the training and professional development of forensic nurses and first responders.

Reflecting on this enduring partnership, the Fund President shared: "It has been enormously gratifying to see work that began as a locally focused effort blossom into a national model for SAFE & DV programs. The Fund has been honored to support GBMC's multifaceted program that brings health, healing, and hope to victims. GBMC deserves tremendous credit for its thoughtful stewardship of these gifts."

This quiet yet transformational philanthropy continues to change lives, embodying the belief that health, healing, and hope are the greatest gifts we can give one another.

The Fund has been honored to support GBMC's program that brings health, healing, and hope to victims.

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Supporter Spotlight: Jerry's Chevrolet

The SAFE & Domestic Violence Program is here for our community because of philanthropy. Private support sustains this critical work — ensuring services remain available 24/7 and accessible to every survivor who needs them. Simply put, donor generosity makes this program possible.

“Jerry's Chevrolet and GBMC share a deep, long-standing commitment to our community,” said owner James Stautberg. When his team learned more about the vital work of the SAFE & DV and Child Protection Program, the decision to partner was clear.

At their annual golf tournament this fall, attendees heard from a survivor whose story underscored the impact of sustained support. Her testimony about how long-term giving helped provide “a path toward healing and connection” was both sobering and inspiring — and a powerful reminder that this program changes lives every single day.

Jerry's ongoing generosity helps ensure that this essential mission continues for survivors across our region.

Community That Walks Together

Every Step Says: You Are Not Alone



Walk A Mile in Their Shoes is more than a symbolic walk—it transforms compassion into action. Each year, our community comes together to raise awareness and critical funding for GBMC’s Sexual Assault Forensic Examination and Domestic Violence (SAFE & DV) and Child Protection Program. This support ensures survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse receive confidential, compassionate, trauma-informed care at no cost.

For committee co-chair Alexis “Lucky” Thompson, the mission is deeply personal. “It brings our community together around a cause that demands both compassion and action,” she shares. As a mother, she adds, “Every child, every person, deserves to feel safe, supported, and believed.” Walk A Mile ensures survivors have access to critical medical care, forensic services, and advocacy when they need it most.

Walk A Mile co-chair Dr. Fred Chan sees the impact through a clinical lens. “As a physician, I see how important patient-centered care is to healing,” he explains. He emphasizes that SAFE is about far more than evidence collection — it provides trauma-informed care that supports both physical and emotional recovery and connects survivors to vital resources.

Committee member Kate Flowers has helped galvanize both the Walk A Mile committee and the broader community in support of this mission. “This program is an essential community resource—available 24/7 and completely free of charge,” she says. “Supporting Walk A Mile is one way we can give back and ensure this care is always there for those who need it.”

Yuliya Klopouh, Vice President of Pharmacy Services at GBMC and committee member, notes that the event raises awareness for an issue that often remains unseen and allows community members to bring visibility, compassion, and resources to survivors and families in need.



Photo (top): 11th Annual Walk a Mile in Their Shoes Committee: (from left) Carmen Zuniga, Vittoria Acevedo, Michele Siri, Kate Flowers, Felice Goldbloom, Lucky Thompson (co-chair), J. Christopher Greenawalt, MD, Kim Davenport, Yuliya Klopouh, PharmD, Jenny Coldiron, Kate Thorne, Greg Shaffer, Lindsay McGettigan, Morgan Varley, Kelly Truax.

Walk a Mile Committee Members not pictured: Fred Chan, MD (co-chair), GBMC Facility Dog Olivia (honorary chair), Alex Benitez, Kathy Blue, Laura Clary, Pam Gillin, MSN, RN, FNE-A/P, SANE-P, BG Groff, Larry Holmes, Scott Kilpatrick, Nikki Janian, Katie O'Malley, Stacey Murray, Tanvi Shah, MD, Ferrier Stillman, Esq., and Eddie Villamater.

Committee member and donor Larry Holmes underscores that funds raised help keep services confidential, compassionate, and free of charge. He encourages supporters to explore corporate matching gift opportunities to double their impact.

When our community walks together, we send a powerful message: survivors are believed, supported, and never alone.





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Benefiting GBMC's SAFE, Domestic Violence & Child Protection Program



HONORARY CHAIR
Olivia, GBMC Facility Dog



Friday
April 17, 2026
at 4 pm

**GBMC - South
Chapman Building**

Co-chairs: Lucky Thompson, GBMC
HealthCare Board Member & Fred Chan,
MD, GBMC Chief Medical Information Officer



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