

CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK & HOSPITAL WEEK 2025

This year, we recognized National Nurses Week (May 6 - 12) and National Hospital Week (May 11 - May 17) with back-to-back, week-long celebrations and daily events to recognize those who make a difference in the lives of so many.

Montefiore Nyack recognized “The Power of Nurses” on May 8th with an outdoor awards ceremony. Our extraordinary nurses consistently demonstrate exceptional expertise, compassion, and dedication to patient care. Their commitment elevates Montefiore Nyack’s standard of care and strengthens our entire healthcare community. We salute our nurses for their incomparable compassion and care and hope they enjoyed their special celebrations! We congratulate the winners who display excellence in nursing and patient care, not only during Nurses Week but every shift throughout the year.

2025 NURSING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Ancillary Support Staff Excellence

Steve Sordelline, Facilities

Rising Star

Danielle Gillespie, RN

Nursing Mentor

Kimberly Stephenson, RN

Nurse Practitioner Excellence

Katie Howell, NP

Friend of Nursing

Mary Ellen Spohn, PA

Nursing Practice Excellence

Sabrina Schenone, RN

Nursing Professional

Development Excellence

Kristen Weeks, RN

Sue Stone, RN

Nursing Leadership Excellence

Lisa Silverman, RN

Transformational Leadership

Sarah Niosi, RN

Above and Beyond Excellence

Melissa McKevitt, RN

Eneas Soares, RN

Team Excellence

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VOICE OF OUR PATIENTS

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following employees who celebrated a milestone work anniversary this month. We applaud their dedication and thank them for their care and service to the Hospital!

5 YEARS

Robert Andreassen
Tackees Blaise
Jillian Kelly
Daniela Llanos
Eronel Mondestin
Jennifer Vargas Gomez

15 YEARS

Trevor Mais

20 YEARS

Jenny Gonzalez
Niamh Hargaden
Alicia Milton

10 YEARS

Amanda Banks
Robert Figura
Sarah Galloway
Francine Scott
Rixi Thomas
LuAnn Weis

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

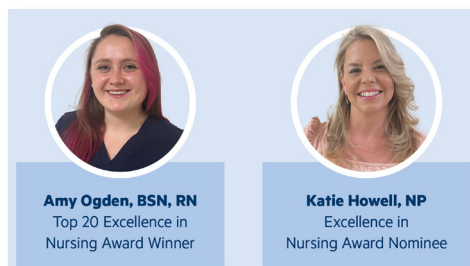
We welcome Montefiore Nyack's newest employees!

- **Joel Babu**, Respiratory Therapist, Respiratory Therapy
- **Shelldy Beltre**, Patient Transporter, Patient Transportation
- **Marcia Berean-Dolan**, Sales Associate, Gift Shop
- **Kamron Bevel**, Patient Access Coordinator, Patient Access
- **Ayanna Blyden**, Patient Access Coordinator, Patient Access
- **Virginia Cook**, RN, Same Day Surgery
- **Sheyla Clemente**, Surgery Center Coordinator, West Nyack Ambulatory Surgery Center
- **Leana Estevez**, Patient Transporter, Patient Transportation
- **Jessica Fantasia, RN**, Care Manager, Care Management
- **Delores Hakikson**, PCA, 6 Doctors
- **Michelle Havrilla**, Materials Management Specialist, Operating Room
- **Susan Hertzberg**, Ortho Care Coordinator, Care Management
- **Loutchiana Jn Jacques**, PCA, 6 Doctors
- **Joanne Kessler**, RN, PACU
- **Rex Magdadaro**, RN, Emergency Department
- **Henry Martinez**, Environmental Services Aide, Environmental Services
- **Francois McLean**, OR Facilitator/Biller, Operating Room
- **Luckens Noisette**, Security Officer, Safety & Security
- **Crystal Peltz**, Administrative Nursing Supervisor, Nursing Administration
- **Carolyn Porpiglia**, RN, 5 Doctors
- **Idalkis Ramos-Bendayan**, RN, 6 Doctors
- **Kendra Remarais**, RN, Labor & Delivery
- **Omar Salas**, Security Officer, Safety & Security
- **Khalil Samuels**, Security Officer, Safety & Security
- **Justin Schoene**, Environmental Services Aide, Environmental Services
- **Valrie Simpson**, Respiratory Therapist, Respiratory Therapy
- **Yvone Siu**, Administrative Nursing Supervisor, Nursing Administration
- **Michelle Soltz**, RN, Medical ICU
- **Romeo Stivaletti**, Executive Chef, Food & Nutrition Services
- **Nayeli Valarezo**, Behavioral Health Counselor, Behavioral Health
- **Marion VanWoudenberg**, Clinical Research Coordinator, Hematology Oncology Center
- **Alec Valery**, Host/Hostess, Food & Nutrition Services
- **Raquel Vasquez**, RN, Pediatrics
- **Shadira Vega Guaman**, Clinical Care Partner, Rheumatology Clinic
- **Dedrae Williamson**, EEG Tech, Electroencephalography

STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND AWARDS

On May 7th, Hudson Valley Magazine hosted its 2025 Excellence in Nursing Awards dinner, celebrating the region's most dedicated and compassionate nursing professionals. Top nurses and nursing administrators—nominated by their peers and selected by a distinguished panel of judges—were honored in the May issue of Hudson Valley Magazine and at this special awards dinner that recognized the extraordinary impact these healthcare professionals have on our community.

Congratulations to **Amy Ogden, RN, Surgical ICU**, on being named a Top 20 Excellence in Nursing award winner, and **Katie Howell, NP, Palliative Care**, on her Excellence in Nursing Award nomination by Hudson Valley Magazine.



Congratulations to **Caitlyn Waletzky, PCA** on 4 Doctors who received the Montefiore Nyack Hospital's "Excellence in Nursing Practice Award" for her clinical training at the Nursing Pinning ceremony at Dominican University.

STAFF PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENTS

Congratulations to the following employees who were promoted to new positions within Montefiore Nyack Hospital.

Karina Garcia was promoted to Practice Manager of Highland Medical Rheumatology from Administrative Coordinator of Credentialing.

Jacqueline A. Daniel was promoted to Registered Nurse from Clinical Care Partner.

Congratulations to the following retirees who worked at the hospital for 10+ years. We thank them for their service and wish them happiness in their retirement.

Katherine Still, Administrative Associate, retired on April 24, 2025, after 36 years of service in the Obstetrics Mother/Baby Unit.

Maureen Verwoert, Registered Nurse in Pre-Admission Testing, retired on April 18, 2025, after 44 years of working at Montefiore Nyack Hospital.

ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE SERVICE AWARD

In celebration of National Nurses Month, Rockland County Legislature Vice Chair Dr. Aney Paul, a longtime nurse herself, presented the Distinguished Service Award—the Legislature's highest honor—to **Glenn Albin, RN**, for his professional excellence in nursing and dedicated community service. Glenn began his career in accounting before switching to healthcare. He has worked as a paramedic for the South Orangetown Ambulance Corps and has been a highly respected emergency room nurse at Montefiore Nyack Hospital for over four decades. Additionally, Glenn serves as a mentor to new nurses and teaches advanced life support, while actively participating in the Knights of Columbus.



PATIENT EXPERIENCE WEEK

All care team members, both clinical and non-clinical, play a role in ensuring our patients and families have an exceptional experience in the hospital. In recognition of those who go above and beyond, patients were invited to submit a Golden Ticket acknowledging the outstanding care received during their hospital stay.

Two staff members received multiple Golden Tickets from patients during Patient Experience Week (April 28 to May 2, 2025). We congratulate **Faith Simmons, PCA** on 6 Doctors, and **Darlyne Pierre, PCA** on 5 Doctors. Congratulations and gratitude to Faith and Darlyne for this well-deserved recognition!



Patient Experience Team

39TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

The 39th Annual Northeastern Anesthesia and Montefiore Nyack Hospital Medical Staff Golf Classic was held on Monday, May 5th at Rockland Country Club in Sparkill. Despite the rainy weather, our determined golfers played 10 holes before calling it a day. This year's outing was a sold-out success raising more than \$370,000! All net proceeds will go towards Montefiore Nyack Hospital's Transformation Project.

Thank you to all our event sponsors, auction donors and bidders, journal and raffle supporters, volunteers, and everyone who participated in this important fundraising effort. Special thanks to Northeastern Anesthesia and Montefiore Nyack Medical & Dental Staff for their continued leadership and for being the lead sponsors of this event year after year. To view the photo gallery, visit <https://bit.ly/3Hm9QdO>.

Congratulations to **Donna Boerke, RN**, Nurse Manager of Wound Care, who was the winner of this year's Bundle of Big Bucks!

CELEBRATING EMS WEEK

National EMS Week (May 18-24, 2025) is a time to show gratitude toward EMTs and paramedics who provide lifesaving care across the United States. This year's theme is "We Care. For Everyone."

Rockland County EMS providers respond to more than 60,000 calls a year for emergency response service, 24 hours a day 365 days a year, to Rockland's 300,000 residents and visitors. With the assistance of the local police department's dispatch system, these EMS professionals—many volunteers—are the unsung heroes who respond to our calls for help during an emergency.

They truly care for everyone—for that, we offer our heartfelt thanks!



EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the 2025 Employee Engagement survey. Entries will be accepted through May 30th. All participants who opted in are eligible for prizes. Winners will be selected at the end of the survey time frame for the Grand Prizes and Overall Participation Incentives.



*Leonora Villamor,
OR Clinical Nurse Educator*

STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

There are two types of strokes. The most common type involves a clot that impedes blood flow to the brain, known as an ischemic stroke. The other type is a hemorrhagic stroke, involving bleeding in the brain.

When it comes to stroke, remember to B.E. F.A.S.T. in getting medical treatment if you have any of the following symptoms:

- B** Balance is off
- E** Eyes – change in vision
- F** Face drooping
- A** Arm – no control /numb
- S** Speech – change in speech and ability to talk clearly
- T** Time is brain

Remember these signs and symptoms of a stroke and call 9-1-1 right away if you think you or someone might be having a stroke. Getting fast treatment is important to preventing death and disability.

Montefiore Nyack Hospital is designated a Primary Stroke Center by the New York State Department of Health and a recipient of the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval.

V-FIB COFFEE



V-Fib Coffee, owned and operated by a retired paramedic, serves lattes, coffee, tea, cold brew and iced beverages. Weather permitting, his silver Airstream trailer will be parked outside the Emergency Department entrance off Midland Avenue, Monday through Friday, from 2:30 until late evening. A 10% discount is available for all staff. Follow him on Instagram at [v_fib_coffee](https://www.instagram.com/v_fib_coffee) for updates.

TRAUMA AWARENESS MONTH

May is National Trauma Awareness Month, a time dedicated to education, prevention, and advocacy for those affected by traumatic injuries. The American Trauma Society (ATS) and The Society of Trauma Nurses (STN) have joined forces to develop this year's theme, "*Model Safety Every Day: For A Stronger Tomorrow*," emphasizing how everyday choices and actions can protect lives and strengthen communities.

By making safe choices daily, whether on the road, at home, or in the workplace, we create lasting habits that protect ourselves and influence those around us. Small actions, like wearing a seatbelt, using protective gear, or eliminating distractions, can inspire others and build a culture of safety.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Approximately 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. experiences a mental illness each year. Almost 20% of adults suffer from anxiety and more than 8% from major depression, the two most common mental illnesses. Mental illness can lead to substance use disorders, eating disturbances, and sometimes suicide.

Mental illness affects everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, gender, or sexual orientation. And like medical illness, it does not just affect the individual with the diagnosis. Family members, friends, and the workplace are also impacted. Feelings of stress, resentment, frustration, anxiety, and depression are common, especially for immediate family members. Often, it is the silence from shame and embarrassment that prevents a person (and family members) from getting the help they need. By focusing awareness on these issues, we can help reduce the stigma and the silence of those suffering from these illnesses.

If you or a loved one is concerned about a mental health issue, consider contacting the EAP for confidential assistance at **845-638-8880** or MNH-EAP@montefiorenyack.org.



SAVE THE DATES

Spring Hours for Mary's Garden

7 AM to 7 PM

Entrance accessible from Stairwell #5 between the Ground and First Floors near the Cafeteria. Mary's Garden is a tranquil space for Hospital employees and volunteers to sit and relax during break time and one-on-one meetings. There are no trash receptacles in Mary's Garden. Please kindly take out what you bring with you.

Transamerica Retirement Session (Virtual only)

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

8 AM to 4 PM

Transamerica is currently handling retirement education via phone appointments only. To schedule a one-on-one consultation, please check your email for a link from Human Resources or call 319-355-3534. As a reminder, you can access your Transamerica retirement plan account at transamerica.com.

Blood Drive at Montefiore Nyack Hospital

Friday, June 20, 2025

10 AM to 4 PM

The New York Blood Center will host a blood drive in the Cafeteria Conference Room to offset a critical blood supply shortage in the summer months. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. One pint of donated blood can save up to three lives!

Schedule a whole blood appointment and ask our staff when you arrive if you qualify for an auto-red procedure, which takes a bit longer. Visit [Donor Portal - New York Blood Center \(nybc.org\)](https://donorportal.nybc.org) to access the registry online or call 1-800-933-2566. Eligible donors will receive a voucher for two tickets to a New York Mets home game.



Montefiore Nyack Job Fair

Thursday, June 12, 2025

1 PM to 4 PM

MNH Cafeteria Conference Room

On Thursday, June 12th, Human Resources will host a Job Fair in the CCR. Job opportunities in different fields, including Nursing, Radiology, Food & Nutrition Services, Surgical techs, Central Sterile techs, Respiratory Therapists, EVS, and Administrative. If you know of anyone interested in a new career opportunity, please encourage them to visit the Hospital's Careers page at www.montefiorenyackcareers.org for a full list of current job openings.

Women's Distance Festival

Sunday, July 13, 2025

Rockland Lake State Park

8:00 AM

Montefiore Nyack Hospital is a proud sponsor of the Rockland Road Runners Women's Distance Festival benefiting Centers for Safety and Change. Enter for a chance to win one of six free spots to participate. To enter the random drawing, email publicrelations@montefiorenyack.org by Friday, June 6th. Winners will be notified and given a registration code to sign up. Find event information at runsignup.com/Race/NY/Congers/WomensDistanceFestival5KRunWalk.

4th Annual Rides & Strides

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Rockland Lake State Park

8:30 AM – 12 PM

Rides & Strides is a fundraising event hosted by the Montefiore Nyack Hospital Foundation at Rockland Lake State Park in Congers, NY. Event proceeds will benefit The Breast Center at Montefiore Nyack Hospital. This event will offer participants from the Rockland County community and beyond the opportunity to come together for a great cause while enjoying exclusive access to a family run/walk and cycling event in one of the most beautiful areas of the Hudson Valley. For more information, call 845-348-2770 or register online at Rides & Strides 2025 (montefiorenyackfoundation.org).

CELEBRATING HOSPITAL WEEK

Thank you to the Montefiore Nyack Foundation with support from Centers Healthcare for sponsoring the Mister Softie truck on Monday, May 12th and providing our employees and volunteers with a delicious ice cream treat for the start of Hospital Week (May 11-17, 2025). Mondays are always better with ice cream!



NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

The Power of Nurses can never be overstated or underestimated. Thank you to our nurses for their strength, compassion, and the powerful impact they have on our patients every day.

To the Nurses:

The ones who hold our hands
during the worst days of our lives
The ones who remember
the details we forget
The ones who chart, advocate, listen,
sprint
And somehow still offer kindness
like it's an endless resource
You carry the weight of our bodies
and our fears.
You translate medical jargon and
human panic.
You see the things we try to hide-
and you stay anyway.
You are steady in chaos.
Tender in crisis.
Thank you.
For the work.
The grace.
The miracles that don't make the
headlines.

~ Author, by Kate Bowler



WOMEN'S HEALTH MONTH

At Montefiore Nyack Hospital, one of our priorities is to ensure that women, who care for themselves and their families, are well-informed. We created a guide, "A Lifetime of Better Health," for women of all ages. Please bookmark this link and share it with the women in your life.

<https://bit.ly/4kakF1m>



FREE CANCER SCREENING

On May 9th, The Breast Center at Montefiore Nyack Hospital provided free breast exams and mammography for uninsured or underinsured women, in Rockland County. Refreshments were generously provided by New York State Senator Bill Weber.



Thank you to our dedicated team at The Breast Center at Montefiore Nyack Hospital for welcoming these women and supporting them in their breast health journey.

AAPI HERITAGE MONTH



More than 23 million in number, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are now the fastest-growing racial group in the United States. Since 1979, May has been a dedicated time to celebrate Asian Pacific American heritage, but it wasn't until 1992 that May was officially designated Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI).

The theme for the May 2025 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, "A Legacy of Leadership and Resilience" honors the hard work of AANHPI leaders who established a foundation for future generations to thrive and adapt to change and adversity. The 2025 AANHPI Heritage Month poster features bamboo as a symbol of strength, endurance, and resilience for its ability to withstand the harshest conditions. Bamboo's solid foundation ensures it can bend with the wind and stand tall after the storm passes.

AAPI Heritage Month elevates the stories, contributions, and experiences of Asian and Asian American communities. It's a time to celebrate the diversity of cultures, breadth of achievement, and remarkable contributions of these communities.

HEALTH WORKS: SUMMER 2025

Montefiore Nyack's latest community magazine issue of Health Works is now available. Read the full issue here: <https://bit.ly/4kBl4KO>. If you want to receive the magazine at home, please email your name and postal address to MNH-PublicRelations@montefiorennyack.org.



THE VOICE OF OUR PATIENTS

The Patient Experience is about being a caregiver and ensuring patients and families feel safe and confident in the care provided. Everyone here at Montefiore Nyack Hospital contributes to patient experience in a meaningful way. Below are a few acknowledgments of gratitude received.

Congratulations to the units and departments they represent and the caregivers they work beside.

- “It all started with admitting. Our person was **Liji Padannamackal, Laboratory Aide**, who not only made the experience easy but also made us laugh and lightened our day! In no time, I was admitted with all the proper paperwork. The pre-op room was crowded, which made me nervous at first. However, the nurses and other support staff were on the ball! They had everything under control and collectively did what they needed to do. Everyone who helped me was wonderful, especially my nurse, whose name I believe is **Linda Lenahan, RN**. She made sure everything was taken care of properly including my blood pressure! The next thing I knew, I was waking up in the post-op. Someone was by my side asking me if I was in pain, which I was. She took care of the medication and proceeded to prop me up at my request. They brought me coffee and a roll, and I waited there until I completed my paperwork and was released. All in all, it was an easy experience that would lead me to recommend Montefiore Hospital to any of my friends. Coming up in age, I have a lot of friends who will need care!”
- “I had a second hip replacement at Montefiore Nyack Hospital and was very happy with the level of care received by the whole team.”
- “**Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Orthopedic and Spine Center** in West Nyack is an impressive facility. The staff is professional, courteous & compassionate. I felt comfortable, cared for, and safe at every step of the way.”
- “Flawless execution of my epidural. The results are a wait-and-see, but I was comfortable throughout the process. From check-in to nurse interactions and my procedure, the **Ambulatory Surgery Center** is an outstanding facility.”
- “I had to go to the **Breast Center** for an ultrasound. For ages, I went to another place. I left them only for my breast surgeon, **Dr. Sunny Mitchell** at Montefiore Nyack Hospital. Had I known the difference in the warmth and kindness here, I would have transferred a long time ago! Much like my Dr. Mitchell, the staff are not only kind, but they are also soothing and help to calm my fears, which are many! They are also very thorough. Thank God for **Maria Manfredonia, the Ultrasound Tech who encouraged me to think positively**. Once it was all over, she and I hugged! Can you imagine the empathy and love I received from a stranger? The best part is, they’re all like that there! Everyone is kind and patient. So, if you’re like me, terrified, or just desiring a warm face on the day of your mammogram, ultrasound, or doctor visit, you should go to Montefiore Nyack. I would give them more than 5 stars if I could!”
- “I needed a CT scan and the team walked me through the process seamlessly. **Christopher Jacob, CT Tech**, was very kind and understanding. He explained what I would experience and when. I recommend Montefiore Nyack for imaging.”
- “The **Labor and Delivery** unit and **Mother/Baby** unit were amazing. I received such great care; all the nurses were incredibly seasoned and made me feel comfortable. I would recommend other moms come here, especially as a first-time mother.”
- “Skilled, courteous, friendly, helpful, compassionate, efficient. ALL the professionals involved in my procedure: three nurses, one assistant, the medical provider, and the anesthesiologist. I recommend Montefiore Nyack Hospital’s **Endoscopy Department**.”