



**Sun River Health**  
Foundation



**WINTER  
2024**

Newsletter



A holistic  
approach  
to women's  
health

Breaking down  
barriers to care

The Struggle  
Can Be  
Overcome

# The Struggle Can Be Overcome

In September, we shared a tribute to our late Founding Mother, The Reverend Jeannette J. Phillips, a powerful force for change in community health care. A visionary leader, pastor, Community Health Center network founder, and the matriarch of a large and growing family, Reverend Phillips helped guide the emergence of patient-led community health care in New York State from its roots in the civil rights movement into the modern era. Her extraordinary life and tireless work to ensure the health of our communities set the standard for our continued work in her stead. We persist in honoring Reverend Phillips' work and legacy by sharing with you a video made to highlight her extraordinary journey, and a chance to hear from her directly.

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**“Health care is a right for all, not a privilege for some.”**

- Rev. Jeannette J. Phillips



Read our complete Tribute at <https://www.sunriver.org/foundation/Newsletter/> or scan



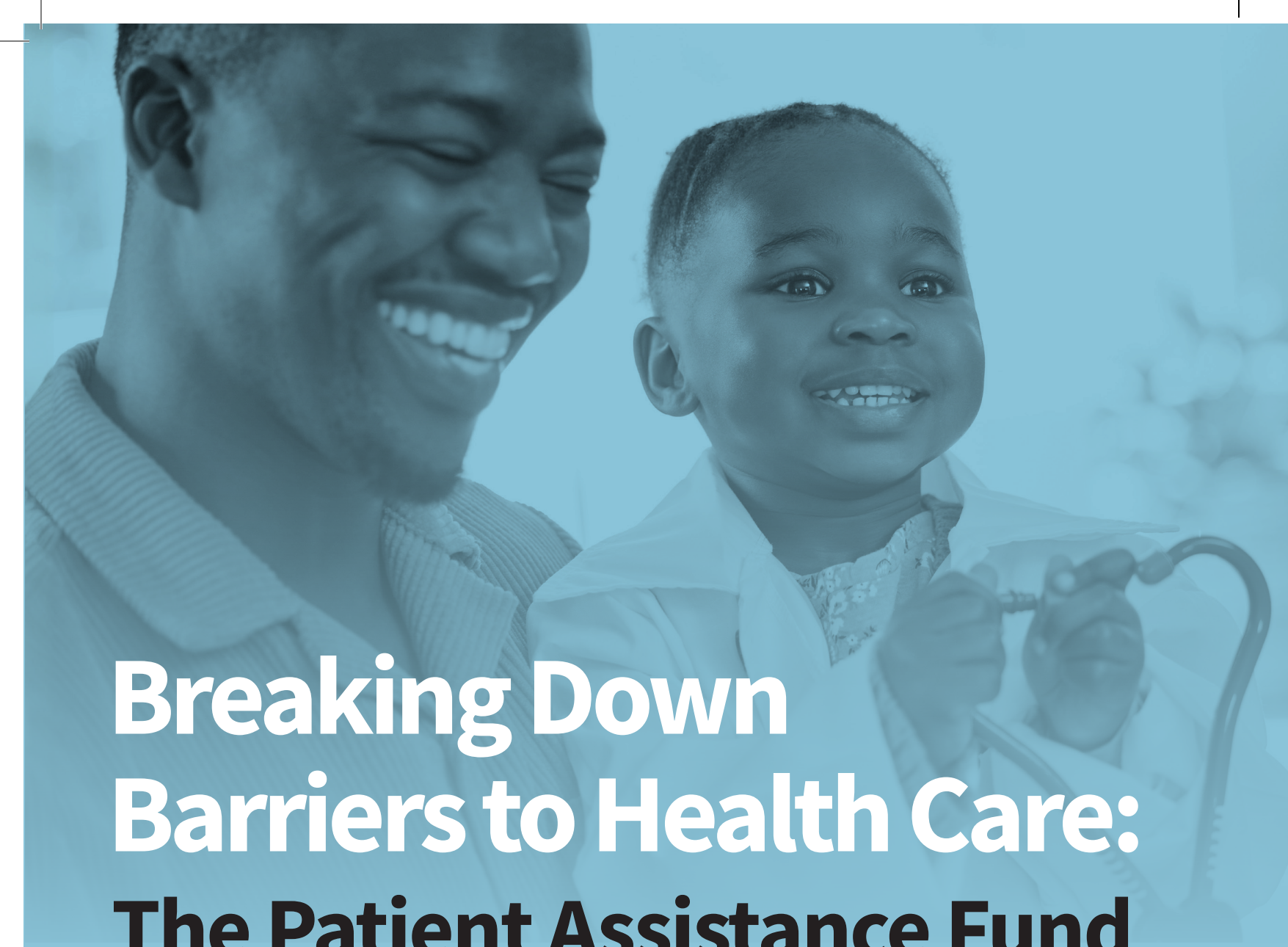
**View** The Struggle Can Be Overcome video here.

“

“This tremendous woman’s love, compassion, and grace were a blessing to us all for ninety beautiful years. She fed our spirits when we were down and provided joy and hope when we needed to be revitalized. With God’s help, we will continue on our journey with Jeannette as our guide.”

Anne Kauffman Nolon, MPH  
Sun River Health Chief Executive Officer





# Breaking Down Barriers to Health Care: The Patient Assistance Fund

Sun River Health Foundation supports services beyond healthcare. We are committed to prioritizing our patients' needs and experiences in addition to providing excellent care at individual appointments. That's why we created our Patient Assistance Fund to help eliminate barriers to care, often called the social determinants of health.

These barriers may appear harmless, but can have long-term negative outcomes for a person's health. The Fund, with support from our generous donors, aids with travel to and from appointments, provides access to food and basic hygiene products, and so much more. These are things that many of us take for granted every day.

Your continued support will ensure our holistic approach to care – and will give our patients the tools they need to take control of their health, providing a brighter future for them and their families.



**“Coming here, we had nothing. The kits my family were provided with made us feel cared for and less alone – thank you Sun River Health.”**

Susanna, asylum seeker

## How the Sun River Health Patient Assistance Fund is transforming lives:

- Arranged **5,000 rides** to and from our health centers each year through the Uber Health Program
- Educated community members on early detection and provided **1,500 Colorectal Cancer Screening Kits** to encourage community members to schedule screenings
- Provided **3,600 Hygiene Kits** to juvenile and adult asylum seekers
- Ensured that **1,600 patients** every month could get to vital appointments by giving them access to our Patient Shuttle Services
- Distributed fresh produce and **shelf-stable food to thousands of patients** in partnership with Feeding Westchester

Here's what our patients have to say about the help we provide:



**“I am so thankful that Sun River Health provides the shuttle – I don't know how I would get to my appointments if it wasn't there for me to use.”**

Miguel, Patient Shuttle user



**“It's convenient, it's right outside the door and I don't have to go and catch public transportation to get my health care needs fulfilled.”**

Shauntice, Mobile Health Center user



# Providing Vital Support

Did you know Sun River Health is the largest provider of Obstetrics services of all the Federally Qualified Health Centers in New York State?

Each year, our obstetrics staff, in collaboration with partner hospitals throughout the state, welcome over 3,500 babies into the world. And, thanks to funding from the State of New York, we provide family planning services to more than 20,000 patients in our health centers.

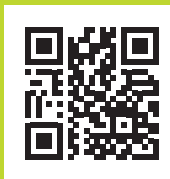
Caring for new and expectant moms involves everyone on our Women's Health team - from physicians, midwives, and nurse practitioners to patient navigators, social workers, and nutritionists. These dedicated professionals work together to ensure our moms are healthy, educated, and prepared to deliver and care for their new babies.

To that end, the team has developed a warm and welcoming suite of items to help guide and encourage our new and expectant moms, including: a bodysuit, pacifier clip, hat, and baby blanket, along with a folder of valuable information to help our new moms become confident caregivers for their new babies and return to the trusted care Sun River Health Pediatrics provides. Our Developmental Milestones material, available in both English and Spanish, is specially designed to support clinicians' conversations with women who are expecting or have just delivered. It also lays the foundation for understanding the need for

clinical support after the child is born, and throughout early childhood.

We had an enthusiastic response to a special appeal for our Women's Health Initiative. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we were able to purchase and distribute 400 gift baskets to new moms last year in addition to supporting our broader Women's Health programs. We are grateful for donor support of these initiatives, which help new moms feel appreciated and more confident in caring for their babies. You can help change lives with your support.

**Donor support makes the difference!**



**You can still donate to our Women's Health initiatives**

**“They treat you like a family member, like someone who cares about what is going on with your health... they also worry about what is going on with you outside the visit. It's a blessing.”** – Macio, Sun River Health Patient

**to New Moms and Babies**



# Saluting Our Community Partnerships

## Blackstone, Hamptons United, and Fishkill Farms Give Back

Back-to-school preparation took a delightful turn for some lucky area children this fall thanks to Blackstone Inc. Employees at the private investment banking company raised funds to purchase school supplies and then personally assembled 350 backpacks for distribution in an all-hands-on event. The program, now in its third year, has grown immensely, and we are so grateful for help ensuring that these boys and girls have what they need to feel confident at school. Contents included essentials like pens, pencils, a pencil case, notebooks, folders, hand sanitizer, and toothbrushes.

Blackstone employees also hosted a drive for children served by Sun River Health. Participants contributed their most loved stories, childhood favorites, classic books, and those that spark a love

of reading in children. More than 200 books were donated through this outreach.

The backpacks and books were distributed during National Health Center Week in August at Sun River Health events in Peekskill, The Bronx, and Patchogue. We're happy to report that our young recipients were thrilled with the gifts!

The backpack and book drive were coordinated by **Ebony Livingston, a Sun River Health Ambassador** and Director of Application Training and Adoption at Blackstone Group. Ebony has been instrumental in securing financial and ancillary support to further our mission and help those we serve.

# Acts of Kindness from Hamptons United

Each week, Hamptons United performs an “act of kindness” for “Thoughtful Thursdays” by helping to support an organization or someone in the local community. On Thursday, November 2, Hamptons United generously donated four New Mother Backpacks filled with essential items for new moms visiting our Southampton Health Center. Everything in the backpack was chosen to help the women transition into motherhood, and to ease the burden of purchasing some of the most - used necessities. Our thanks to Hamptons United for thinking of our new moms, and for their support of Sun River Health.



“The staff who assist me are always very kind, from the moment I walk in for my appointment, to the last person who assists me. I feel very well taken care of; when I have needed help, they have always helped me, and I would not change my doctor for anything - she understands me, listens to me, and is someone I can trust.” - Estella, Sun River Health Patient



# Corn Maze for a Cause

Each weekend in the fall, Fishkill Farms hosts their Corn Maze for a Cause a one acre corn field maze designed and cut for the occasion by members of the team. It's a labor of love, and 30% of every ticket sold goes to a different local charity each week. Sun River Health was the lucky recipient of donations for the long weekend of October 7 - 9. Over 1,000 people visited the incredible corn maze, generating a donation of \$1,575 from Fishkill Farms! Sun River Health is grateful for the generous gift in support of our mission and for our partnership with Fishkill Farms, whom we honored at our Cornucopia gala last fall.



# Healthier Communities Start at the Local Level

Every August, the **National Association of Community Health Centers** celebrates America's 1,400 Community Health Centers (CHCs). This year's theme, "The Roadmap to a Stronger America," underscored the important role CHCs like Sun River Health play in providing quality, comprehensive health care services to more than 30 million patients across 14,500 communities annually.

Since 1975, Sun River Health has been a part of communities throughout the Hudson Valley, New York City, and Suffolk County, and we are proud to provide high-quality care, improve health outcomes, and narrow health disparities in these neighborhoods.

To celebrate and raise awareness of our services, we hosted three community events in Peekskill, The Bronx, and Patchogue.

The events featured live music, bounce houses, vaccination offerings and screenings, petting zoos, food trucks, back-to-school backpacks, free books for children, information and resources for support services, and so much more. Events like these are a reminder of the holistic approach we take, stepping outside the clinic, to address the social determinants of health – and help community members gain access to healthcare.

We are always very excited to see so many community members come out in support of the festivities. We are grateful for our staff, patients, elected officials, partners, supporters, and donors for helping Sun River Health host three wonderful and successful events to benefit our community.



**“My doctor, his nurse and the person at the front explained very well about the visit and the center. I felt confident that I was under the care of excellent providers. They were very attentive, provided me with details about my visit, and gave me the interventions I needed with my oral hygiene.”**

**– Rafael, Sun River Health Patient**

## Meet Our Immunization Champion! Honoring Extraordinary Care: Rasheed Ali, RN

Congratulations to Rasheed Ali, RN, Nurse Manager for our vaccine programs, who received the CDC's 2023 Immunization Champion Award for New York! Rasheed was selected out of 25 nominations submitted, including applications submitted for CEOs, Physicians, Nurses, and Program Directors. The award recognizes individuals who are doing an exemplary job or going above and beyond to promote or foster immunizations in their communities.

Rasheed aided in the implementation of Sun River Health's COVID-19 vaccination

program, helping to provide services to over 90,000 individuals, and administering 200,000 vaccines. His rapid responses to public health emergencies helped us quickly reach communities needing COVID-19, polio, and Mpox vaccinations, while implementing harm - reduction strategies to ensure public safety.

Along with promoting community outreach and engagement, his program incorporates education, counseling, vaccinations, and related health care services for those in need.

In addition to Rasheed's award, Sun River Health also received significant praise from the Board of Immunizations for our work and partnerships in the administration of vaccinations, as well as for other noteworthy efforts, like our Asylum Seeker Initiatives.



## Donate Your Car

Ready to donate an unwanted car, but don't know where to start? Sun River Health accepts car donations through CarEasy.org. Pat Thompson, longtime supporter of The Sun River Health Foundation, donated his car and said, "The car donation process itself was very simple and quick. I received a receipt for my donation and should expect to receive documentation of the value of the car for tax purposes in a few weeks."

If you'd like to donate a vehicle, please go to <http://www.careasy.org> and

search for Sun River Health. The process is quick and easy — and best of all, the proceeds will support the patients we serve.



## Create A Lasting Legacy

By including The Sun River Health Foundation in your estate planning, you can ensure that our mission to provide healthcare for all continues on in your legacy for future generations. Plan your gift today.

The Sun River Health Foundation offers various types of bequest options that ensure your wishes are upheld, while securing an estate-tax charitable deduction for the value of the gift. if you have already included The Sun River Health

Foundation in your estate plans, please let us know. We'd like to celebrate your generosity as little or as much as you like — even if you wish for your gift to remain anonymous.

To inquire about planned giving options, please contact Foundation Executive Director **Jeramie Barber** at **914-425-0891** or [jbarber@sunriver.org](mailto:jbarber@sunriver.org).



Access our printable checklist and learn how to start planning your legacy



## Out And About With Sun River Health

We send a hearty thank you to everyone who joined us at Cornucopia on Thursday, November 2 at Ziegfeld Ballroom to help us celebrate and honor Webster Bank and Wölffer Estate Vineyard for their incredible support of Sun River Health and their commitment to the health of our communities.

The gala theme was "a night under the stars," and guests were greeted with a full-on red-carpet treatment including our very own paparazzi line! Jazz music set a lively tone for the night, full of glamour and fantastic support for Sun River Health's mission.



Cornucopia raised \$550,000 to help fund the comprehensive primary and preventive quality health care services that Sun River Health provides to more than 250,000 people in need throughout the Hudson Valley, New York City, and Long Island. The evening included a special event-night appeal to support our Patient Assistance Fund, which helps our patients overcome barriers to care, and provides additional support services to community members. Take a look at our photo album from the night!

We were also proud to award our first Jeannette J. Phillips Community Impact award to WIN Waste Innovations for their long-standing partnership and support.

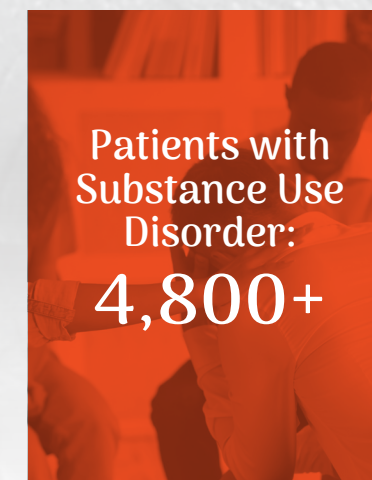
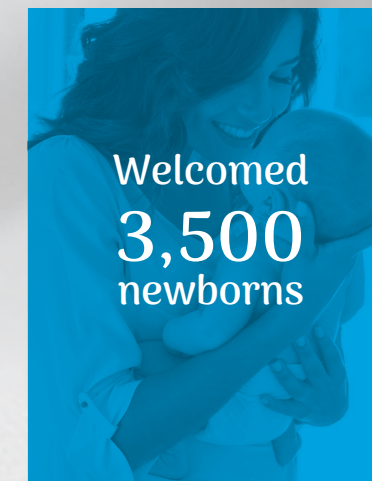


## In 2023, your donations helped Sun River Health provide:

- More than 19,000 patients with access to care through our Patient Shuttle Program.
- 5,000 rides to/from our health centers through the Uber Health Program.
- 500 backpacks with school supplies for children in the Bronx, Peekskill, and Suffolk County.
- 400 New Mom Welcome Baskets with a suite of much-needed baby items.
- New Vamos Outreach program to expand delivery of services to farmworkers throughout NY.
- 100 Blood Pressure Monitors distributed throughout our network.
- 2,500 Hygiene Kits for asylum seekers in need.
- 1,500 Colorectal Screening Kits to connect new patients to proper care and early detection services.
- Medical Educational opportunities to our providers, so they can always deliver the best care.

And so much more.  
Your generosity makes our communities  
happier and healthier!

## In 2023, you helped us serve:





**Sun River Health** 

# CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE ARTS

**HOSTED BY: TOM RAY**  
Three times published author,  
Spoken word artist and community activist

**GUEST APPEARANCE BY:**  
"ANDRE" "NOODIE NOO" RAINEY  
Former Peekskill Mayor, Artist,  
and Youth Advocate

**LED BY: WILFREDO MOREL**  
Vice President of Immigrant Health

**THE ART OF**

**FEB. 24th, 2024**  
**2pm-5pm**

**Sun River Health**   
The Jeannette J. Phillips  
Community Health Center  
Peekskill

1037 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566

This year's event is dedicated to our Founding Mother Rev. Jeannette J. Phillips

**RESISTANCE**

# Ribbon Cutting At The New Health Center In New Rochelle

Sun River Health celebrated a joyous ribbon cutting at the new health center in New Rochelle on Friday, December 8, welcoming Congressman Jamaal Bowman, County Legislator George Latimer, City Councilmember Shane Osinloye, Dr. Corey Reynolds, the New Rochelle Superintendent of Schools, and representatives from many New Rochelle community organizations, including the Lexington Center for Recovery, the Mental Health Association, Neighbors Link, the New Rochelle Public Library, the Department of Labor, MVP, Health First, Fidelis, Choice Case Management, and Westchester Jewish Community Services. This site was many years in the making, with numerous teams working to bring the vision of a New Rochelle site to fruition. The ribbon cutting by Congressman Bowman was met by cheers and applause for the long-awaited site. Sun River Health looks forward to building the new practice in New Rochelle!



# Ride for Sun River Health in the 2024 TD Five Boro Bike Tour!

**When:** Sunday, May 5, 2024  
**Where:** New York City  
**Fundraising Goal:** Minimum of \$500

We have 10 spots open for bicyclists to enjoy a beautiful car free ride through all five boros of NYC and to raise critical funds for patients who turn to Sun River Health for their care.

For being a part of the Sun River Health team you'll receive:

- Tour Entry
- Sun River Health Riders Shirt
- Pre-tour Meet-up
- Personalized Fundraising Page
- Tips for Training

And most importantly, you'll be making a true difference in providing healthcare to those in need!

## Upcoming Events:

### Summer Starts Here

Thursday, May 23, 2024  
The Muses, 111 St Andrews Rd,  
Southampton, NY 11968



Learn More  
or text  
summer2024 to 56651

### Cornucopia

Wednesday, November 6, 2024  
Ziegfeld Ballroom,  
141 W 54th St, New York, NY 10019



Learn More  
or text  
summer2024 to 56651





We are grateful to everyone  
who supports our mission to ensure  
equal access to quality care for everyone  
in our communities.  
We could not do it without you!



**Commitment to Sustainability**

This newsletter was printed regionally at a family-owned and operated plant, which adheres to environmentally sustainable manufacturing practices. These include participation in one of the largest community solar projects in New York State, a closed-loop paper-recycling agreement with their largest supplier, and use of soy inks. All paper used at the press has a minimum of at least 20% recycled pulp. In addition, 70% of all short-run production uses a digital format which requires 90% less startup waste.