

Sibley Memorial Hospital Foundation

# YOUR IMPACT

*Philanthropy In Action*

May 2026



**A month of gathering (left to right):** YPB Ladies Luncheon, YPB Guys Night, Sibley's annual Legacy Society Luncheon, and the Nursing 5K.

Dear Friends,

It has been a busy month full of vibrant reminders of the community that sustains Sibley's mission.

Our **Young Professionals Board** hosted a sold-out **Ladies Luncheon** and our most successful **Guys Night** yet, raising more than \$129,000 combined to benefit the **Maternal Health Access Program**. We also gathered our **Legacy Society** members to honor those securing Sibley's future, and held our **Nursing 5K** with a fantastic 100-person turnout.

Medical innovation remained center stage during our **Coffee & Conversation sessions** on pancreatic and prostate cancer. Throughout May's **Nurses' Week** and **National Hospital Week**, we leaned into the theme "*Healing Happens Here*," pausing to celebrate the incredible team members who care for our community every day.

Medicine is constantly evolving, and your partnership ensures we remain at the forefront of this progress. Your philanthropy bolsters transformation and fuels compassionate patient care on our campus.

With gratitude,



**Kristen Pruski, C.F.R.E**

Vice President, Foundation  
Sibley Memorial Hospital  
[kpruski@jhmi.edu](mailto:kpruski@jhmi.edu)

P.S. In case you missed it - we are still thrilled from the news of simultaneously holding a **CMS 5-Star rating**, a **Leapfrog "A,"** and **Magnet® designation!** This is a feat shared by only 2% of hospitals in the country! We are excited for what this means for our staff, patients, and the community we serve.

**Congratulations to**

# Sibley Memorial Hospital

*Among 82 hospitals nationwide to achieve all three distinctions simultaneously – a testament to our exceptional performance in quality, safety and nursing excellence.*



### Peace of Mind: A Health Directives Workshop

On May 7th, Sibley's Palliative Care team hosted its first **Health Directives Workshop**, a vital initiative made possible through philanthropy.

Navigating future healthcare decisions can feel overwhelming. The session's goal was to provide clear information and compassionate support to help participants document their wishes. Attendees also learned how advance directives guide medical care during emergencies and serious illness.

By demystifying complex treatment choices, the workshop empowered our community members to gain peace of mind and ensure their personal values are honored.



### A Legacy in Motion: Celebrating 15,000 Hours of Service

Since 1997, **Mariana "Mimi" Mihalchik** has been a constant, compassionate presence at Sibley.

From her early days at the information desk to her current role with the Foundation team, Mimi has touched nearly every corner of the hospital.

During **National Volunteer Week**, we celebrated her incredible milestone of **15,000 volunteer hours** alongside Dr. Zia, Kristen Pruski, and the Foundation and Volunteer Services teams (*pictured above*).

Beyond her volunteering, Mimi's legacy continues through her generous philanthropy and

We hope to host another session again. If you're interested in attending or learning more about Palliative Care at Sibley, please contact: **Liz Levine**.

[Learn More About Palliative Care at Sibley](#)

membership in the **Sibley Legacy Society**.

To learn more about the Sibley Legacy Society and making a planned gift, please contact: **Kristen Pruski**.

[Read More About Mimi's Personal Journey and Philanthropic Commitment](#)



### **Destigmatizing Mental Health: From a Day of Action to a Month of Impact**

To honor **Mental Health Awareness Month** Sibley's Psychiatry and Behavioral Health team has been hosting a number of community events to spread awareness and share resources. This included a **Mental Health Day of Action** on May 15th, where Chrissy Fennell, RN, and Karly Funk, MSN, RN (*pictured above*), tabled in Sibley's main lobby offering resources and an opportunity to make a pledge for one's own mental health.

The month-long initiative will conclude with a staff **Lunch & Learn**, allowing for open communication with peers and an opportunity to gain valuable resources for both themselves and their patients. Philanthropy is supporting a number of these efforts - alongside departmental space upgrades and transportation and parking assistance for patients in financial need - and we are grateful.

To learn more about supporting the Psychiatry and Behavioral Health



### **Reset & Recharged: Sibley Nurses Return from Canyon Ranch Retreat**

Our nurses are the backbone of Sibley. Thanks to generous philanthropic support, several of our frontline heroes recently attended a transformative healthcare worker focused retreat at **Canyon Ranch** to reset and recharge through yoga, spiritual wellness, and team bonding.

*"Canyon Ranch didn't just give me a break; it gave me a new foundation to build from."* - **Ivy Hunt, MSN, PMH-BC, RN,** (*pictured above, left*) shared the impact of the experience.

We are grateful for this investment in our staff, ensuring our teams have the emotional and professional support they need to continue providing world-class care to our community.

To learn more about supporting our nurses at Sibley, please contact: **Andrea Travis**.

department at Sibley, please  
contact: [Andrea Travis](#).

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## Charting the Path to Healing Through Specialized Navigation

*Powered exclusively by philanthropy, these new Navigator roles provide a vital compass for patients facing GI and Urologic cancers.*

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### The GI Clinical Trial Navigator



In the fight against gastrointestinal (GI) cancers, timing and precision are everything. Under the leadership of **Dr. Michael Pishvaian** (*pictured left*), Director of GI, Developmental Therapeutics and Clinical Research Programs, Sibley is launching a pivotal new position: the **GI Oncology Clinical Trial Patient Navigator**.

#### Why This Position is Essential

For many patients, the most promising treatment lies within a clinical trial. However, the path to enrollment—including complex molecular testing and time-sensitive logistics—can be overwhelming. This navigator acts as a dedicated expert, ensuring patients can access the latest advances in precision medicine without delay.

#### The Impact of Your Support

Exclusively funded by philanthropy, this role strengthens both patient care and medical research by connecting patients to innovation, streamlining care, and expanding research capacity.

To learn more about Dr. Pishvaian's work and this impactful opportunity, please contact: [SJ Keegan](#).

[Support the GI Oncology Navigator Fund](#)

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### The Urology Nurse Navigator

Nurse Navigators have proven invaluable in healthcare, helping patients navigate their treatment journeys with expert knowledge and compassion. We are seeking to bring this essential support to our urology patients by introducing a Urology Nurse Navigator that will partner with **Dr. Armine Smith** (*pictured right*) and the entire team at the Brady Urological Institute at Sibley.



#### Why This Position is Essential

This 3-year pilot program will ensure that every urology patient has a dedicated advocate to demystify and coordinate their care plan, reduce anxiety, provide vital clinical education, and improve clinical outcomes through seamless communication.

## Your Impact, Doubled

In appreciation for the excellent care provided by the Sibley Urology team, the **Judy and Peter Blum Kovler Foundation** will match contributions to the Urology Nurse Navigator Fund dollar for dollar up to \$100,000!



Judy (pictured left with husband Peter), who is a member of the Sibley Memorial Hospital Foundation Board and the Brady Urological Institute Advisory Board, says: "We are so fortunate to have the urology expertise of **Dr. Thomas Jarrett, Dr. Armine Smith, Dr. Patrick Mufarrij, Dr. Christian Pavlovich, and Dr. Justin Benabdallah** here at Sibley. Adding a Urology Nurse Navigator to the team will further enhance their patients' care and experience."

To learn more about how you can double your impact and support this important initiative, please contact: [Liza Boyd](#).

[Support the Urology Nurse Navigator Fund](#)

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## Upcoming Community Events

**Free Webinar: The Use of AI in Breast Imaging**  
**Wednesday, June 10 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

**Location: Zoom**

Breast imaging continues to advance with tools that support earlier and more accurate cancer detection. Join Dr. Pouneh Razavi for a patient-focused discussion on how AI is enhancing breast imaging and supporting earlier and more accurate diagnosis.

To learn more and register, [click here](#).

**Free Skin Screenings**  
**Wednesday, June 10 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Location: Johns Hopkins Helath Care & Surgery Center**  
**6420 Rockledge Dr., Bethesda, MD**

Open to community members 18+ who have not had a skin screening in the past year or do not have a dermatologist.

*Full, but waitlist open*

To learn more and register, [click here](#).

**Eating Well Through Cancer Care and Beyond\***  
**Wednesday, July 8 | 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Location: Zoom**

Registered Dietician, Isabella Neslson, will focus on simple nutrition strategies, the importance of hydrating, and realistic ways to support your body day to day.

To learn more and register, [click here](#).

**Additional Ongoing Cancer Support Programs\***

For questions and more information please contact: [Margo Calkin](#), National Capital Region Oncology Coordinator.

*\*Cancer support groups are for Sibley / Johns Hopkins Medicine cancer patients and caregivers only, and are free of charge thanks to generous support from our donors.*

[View Additional Sibley Memorial Hospital Classes and Events](#)

**In Case You Missed It...**

You can now find the Foundation's monthly donor e-news archived here:

[Sibley Foundation Donor E-news Library | Sibley](#)

**Support Sibley Today!**

*Sibley Memorial Hospital Foundation provides philanthropic support for the mission and vision of Sibley Memorial Hospital. We invite you to join us on our journey to shape the future of care.*



**SIBLEY MEMORIAL  
HOSPITAL**  
JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE

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