

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

## MaineHealth Hits a Home Run for the United Way Campaign



MaineHealth's United Way team won "Best in Show" in the food sculpture contest at the United Way of Greater Portland's 2019 campaign kickoff. The sculpture, made of donated food items, represented Hadlock Field, home of the Portland Sea Dogs.

The United Way of Greater Portland kicked off its 2019 campaign on Friday afternoon in the city's Monument Square, revealing its goal of raising \$8.4 million for our community this year. The following is a message from MaineHealth's 2019 United Way Co-Chairs Judith West and Jennifer McCarthy about how you can help.

Dear colleagues,

We are excited to begin the 2019 MaineHealth United Way giving campaign. Our long-standing partnership with the United Way provides us with a unique opportunity to support an organization doing incredible work directly impacting the communities where we live.

This year, the United Way of Greater Portland is celebrating 90 years of working

with organizations like MaineHealth to serve and support thriving, healthy communities. We are excited to enter this year's campaign united as one MaineHealth system and to serve as your corporate co-chairs.

The MaineHealth partnership with the United Way provides our local hospital systems with critical funding and programming support. In the coming year MaineHealth will receive \$388,241

in grant funding. These funds will enable MaineHealth programs aligned with the Thrive2027 campaign, such as Project BRACEs and The Children's Initiative, to continue to better the lives of individuals and families in our communities.

Look for the United Way icon on your desktop and click to give now.

We hope all employees at our locations serving the greater Portland region will help us reach our 2019 goal of \$350,000 to ensure programs like those mentioned above – and so many more – can continue their important work.

Thank you for supporting our neighbors, friends and families through your generous donation.

With gratitude,

Your 2019 United Way Co-Chairs,

Judith M. West  
Chief Human Resources Officer  
MaineHealth

Jennifer McCarthy  
Chief Operating Officer  
Maine Medical Center

# PEOPLE NEWS



**Vatche Tchekmedyan, MD, MEd**, has recently joined Maine Medical Partners – Medical Oncology in South Portland after completing a fellowship in medical oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York City. He earned his medical

degrees at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Harvard Graduate School of Education and completed his residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston.

Dr. Tchekmedyan has received several awards in leadership, research, and teaching. His Board certification is in internal medicine and he is pursuing hematology and medical oncology certifications.

He has a particular interest in the treatment of patients with head and neck cancers, including salivary, thyroid and lung cancers.



**Kristina Conner, MD**, has joined Maine Medical Center's Palliative Medicine Program. Dr. Conner joins MMC from Lawrence General Hospital in MA where she was Director, Palliative and Supportive Care Service.

After receiving her medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, Dr. Conner completed her residency at

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island/Brown University and fellowship at Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Rhode Island, affiliated with the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

She is Board certified in both Family Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Her clinical interests include medical education, shared decision-making, bioethics and pain management.

When not working, Dr. Conner enjoys hiking, cooking, yoga, spinning and spending time with her wonderful husband.

**Need a mammogram, but don't have insurance?**

MMC has 43 free appointments for mammograms during October, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The appointments are for those 40 years old and over, without active breast problems.

To register, call (207) 396-8443.

## Hoyt Therapy Dog Memorial Garden Dedicated



Volunteer services has dedicated the Hoyt Therapy Dog Memorial Garden at MMC.

The garden, adjacent to MMC's Dana Center parking circle, honors MMC therapy dogs who have passed away. Along with their handlers, these dogs brought tremendous joy and calm to so many patients, families and staff.



Maine Medical Center  
MaineHealth

WHAT'S HAPPENING IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT

Comments, questions, and story ideas:  
Caroline Cornish, Communications Manager  
mmcnews@mmc.org