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## Parrish Healthcare Fulfills Cancer Patient's Wish with Wedding Celebration

Parrish Medical Center transformed its chapel into a wedding venue to honor the heartfelt wish of a patient facing a stage four cancer diagnosis.



When James, a patient in his 40s, learned he had stage four colon cancer, he and his longtime partner, Melissa, shared a dream with Parrish's care team: they wanted to be married. Within a week, Parrish employees and community supporters turned that dream into a reality, arranging an intimate ceremony and reception filled with love, compassion and community spirit.

The celebration included a licensed officiant, floral arrangements, music, photography, marriage license, wedding cake in James' favorite flavor and more. Decorations transformed the Jerald Smith All Faiths Chapel at Parrish Medical Center, while the fifth floor nurses' break room became a reception space where family, friends and hospital staff joined the couple to celebrate.

Community partners—including Floral Creations by Dawn, R.L. Photography, Titusville Firehouse Subs, Parties by Krystal and Sprengergarten Event Venue—generously donated or discounted services to make the day possible.

"Witnessing the love James and Melissa have for one another, during likely one of the most challenging times in their lives, is both humbling and encouraging," said Parrish Healthcare's urologist Justo González, MD, who served on James' care team. "I am grateful for the relationship I developed with them both, and hope their story serves as a reminder of how delicate and fragile our lives are. As their story demonstrates, our lives can change at any second." Dr. González continued.

Following the ceremony, more than 100 Parrish Care Partners lined the hallway for a celebratory clap-out, applauding and cheering as James and Melissa exited the chapel as husband and wife.

"This was more than an act of service—it was an act of humanity," said George Mikitarian, President and CEO of Parrish Healthcare. "Our Care Partners demonstrated the very best of who we are: people who care deeply, who go beyond titles and tasks and who understand that healing takes many forms."

"Our wedding day was nothing short of magical," said Melissa. "We couldn't have done it without the love and support of the hospital staff. Thank you to everyone who made this memory possible—we will treasure it forever."



# LifeTimes

A Season of Care, A Lifetime of Health FALL 2025

PARRISH HEALTHCARE CANCER PROGRAM



## REDEFINING CANCER CARE ONE PATIENT AT A TIME

Right here, close to home.

At Parrish Healthcare, we've redefined cancer care with a focus on individual needs. By combining leading-edge treatments with personalized care, we'll build a care plan tailored just for you.

Visit [parrishhealthcare.com/oncology](https://parrishhealthcare.com/oncology)



Healing Families—Healing Communities®



# Chairman of the Board

Greetings from the

As we reflect on the recent months at Parrish Healthcare, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the extraordinary progress and dedication of our team of Care Partners (providers, employees and volunteers). Together, we continue to fulfill our mission of providing *Healing Experiences for Everyone All the Time®*.

We were honored to celebrate our President and CEO, Dr. George Mikitarian, for once again being nationally recognized by Becker’s Hospital Review among the “207 Community Hospital Presidents and CEOs to Know” for 2025. His visionary leadership has guided Parrish Healthcare to become a model of clinical excellence and compassionate care.

Equally inspiring was the opening of our new North Titusville location. This facility now serves as the home of Parrish Healthcare’s oncology program and brings vital outpatient services closer to the community. A heartfelt story shared at the ribbon cutting ceremony by a current cancer patient, reminded us all of the true purpose behind our work—healing through both medicine and human connection.

We completed 260 youth sports physicals to support the health and safety of young athletes in our North Brevard community. In partnership with Who We Play For, 191 electrocardiogram screenings were completed.

Robert L. Jordan Jr., Chairman of the Board



We’ve strengthened our commitment to safety with enhanced security measures at Parrish Medical Center, advanced our emergency preparedness through intensive mass casualty response training and continue to offer a wide range of community support groups to meet people where they are in their health journey.

Looking ahead, we are excited to once again host our cherished *Gift of Light* celebration this December—a tradition that brings together our community in joy, remembrance and holiday spirit.

Lastly, I want to commend all whose generosity supported our *Circle of Giving* campaign, which raised \$65,000 in support of life-changing programs and services.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your continued trust and support. Together, we are building a healthier, stronger Brevard.



Robert L. Jordan, Jr.

## Parrish Medical Group Completes 260 Youth Sports Physicals to Support Local Student Athletes



Parrish Medical Group completed 260 youth sports physicals during their two pre-participation sports physicals events, continuing their strong commitment to the health and safety of young athletes in the North Brevard community. The events were designed to help ensure athletes are in peak health before hitting the field, court or track.

In partnership with Who We Play For, a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating preventable sudden cardiac death in high school athletes, students also had the option to receive an electrocardiogram (EKG) screening. This simple, noninvasive test records the heart’s electrical activity and can help identify irregular heart rhythms and other potentially life-threatening conditions. Who We Play For completed electrocardiogram screenings for 191 students.

All proceeds from the \$10 per student sports physical fee, totaling \$2,600, will be donated to the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation. The funds will help sustain athletic training services and support future scholarships for graduating high school students pursuing careers in the medical field.

“We are proud to have completed 260 youth sports physicals ahead of the school year,” said Dr. Anthony Allotta, a sports medicine physician at Parrish Healthcare. “These screenings give parents and athletes peace of mind, ensuring they’re ready to play safely. It’s also an honor to give back to our community through the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation, which shares our passion for health, wellness and supporting students.”

The following providers helped complete the sports physicals and made it a successful opportunity for our community: Dr. Anthony Allotta; Dr. Bryan Parry; Rebecca Fagan, APRN; Andreanna Leggett, APRN and Katie Pate, PA-C. This initiative reflects Parrish Healthcare’s ongoing dedication to community health, youth wellness and educational opportunity.

For information about youth sports physicals or Jess Parrish Medical Foundation, visit [parrishhealthcare.com](http://parrishhealthcare.com)

## Parrish Medical Center Enhances Safety with New Metal Detector at Main Entrance

To further ensure the safety and well-being of our patients, visitors and staff members, anyone entering Parrish Medical Center’s main entrance is now required to walk through a metal detector or be scanned with a handheld device. This added layer of protection will enhance the security of the hospital and uphold Parrish Healthcare’s mission of providing a safe and healing environment for all.

As a reminder, weapons of any kind are not permitted on the premises. All bags (purses, backpacks, briefcases, etc.) will be checked upon entry. Prohibited items must be returned to a person’s car or will be confiscated.

For additional information regarding security practices, including prohibited items, please visit [parrishhealthcare.com/security](http://parrishhealthcare.com/security)

## Board Members

- Robert L. Jordan, Jr., CM, Chairman
- Stanley Retz, CPA, Vice Chairman
- Herman A. Cole, Jr., Col., USAF (Ret.), Treasurer
- Elizabeth T. Galfo, MD, Secretary
- Maureen E. Rupe, Member-at-Large
- Dan Aton, Board Member
- Billie Fitzgerald, Board Member
- Ashok C. Shah, MD, Board Member
- Billy Specht, Board Member

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- George Mikitarian, President/CEO
- Natalie Sellers, Sr. Vice President, Communications, Community & Corporate Services
- Samantha Decker, Director of Communications
- Jessica Manning, Sr. Communications Specialist
- Anna Pitstick, Communications Specialist
- Christie Rimsky, Sr. Communications Specialist
- Susan Norman, Art Director

Gift of Light

A Healing Community Celebration  
for More Than Three Decades

Thursday, December 4<sup>TH</sup>  
5:00 – 7:30 PM

Join us for our annual holiday community celebration, a festive evening filled with lights, laughter, entertainment, and tradition! Honor a loved one by placing a light on the holiday tree.

Free admission, everyone is welcome!

- ★ Spectacular Tree Lighting Ceremony
- ★ Stunning Fireworks
- ★ Live Holiday Entertainment
- ★ Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus
- ★ Face Painting and Holiday Crafts
- ★ Hot Chocolate and Baked Goods
- ★ Food Trucks (Open at 4:30 PM)



To purchase a light, please call 321-269-4066 or visit [parrishmedfoundation.com/donate](http://parrishmedfoundation.com/donate)





# Parrish Healthcare Celebrated a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to Commemorate Parrish Healthcare Center in North Titusville



In partnership with the Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce, Parrish Healthcare proudly hosted a successful ribbon cutting ceremony to officially commemorate the opening of their new center, located at 490 North Washington Avenue in Titusville.



More than 100 community members, state and local leaders and health care professionals attended the event, which included remarks from several dignitaries, leadership from Parrish Healthcare and a heartfelt speech from a current cancer patient receiving treatment at the new facility.

Parrish Healthcare was honored to welcome State Representative Chase Tramont, County Commissioner Katie Delaney and Mayor Andrew Connors, whose presence and support underscore the importance of this new resource in our community. Their thoughtful words, alongside remarks from Robert Jordan, Chairman of Parrish Medical Center’s Board of Directors, and George Mikitarian,

President and CEO of Parrish Healthcare, highlighted the vision, collaboration and commitment to bringing the new health care center to life.

One of the most moving moments of the evening came when a current cancer patient and native Titusville resident, Wanda Knight, courageously shared her personal cancer journey with everyone in attendance. Ms. Knight was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1989, then again at the end of 2023. She is currently receiving treatment for her second diagnosis of breast cancer through Parrish Healthcare’s oncology program.

“Cancer changes everything,” shared Ms. Knight. “It challenges your body, your mind and your spirit. But it also reveals how resilient we are—and how powerful support can be. This new space represents healing—not just through medicine, but through kindness and human connection. This place isn’t just a health care center, it’s a symbol of courage, compassion and possibility for those battling cancer.”

Ms. Knight’s story of strength and resilience throughout her cancer treatment moved many to tears and reminded everyone of the true purpose behind the center—providing compassionate, person-centered care close to home.

Parrish Healthcare Center in North Titusville, formerly the Health First Cancer Institute, serves as the new home of Parrish Healthcare’s oncology program and offers a full suite of outpatient services including diagnostic testing, infusion services, medical offices, and more. After the ribbon cutting ceremony, guests toured the newly renovated facility and enjoyed light refreshments while connecting with physicians at the new location.

*For more information, including services and hours, please visit [parrishhealthcare.com/northtitusville](https://parrishhealthcare.com/northtitusville)*

# Parrish Healthcare Team Completes Advanced Mass Casualty Emergency Response Training

As a designated hospital receiving facility for Kennedy Space Center launch operations, Parrish Healthcare ensures that its facilities and teams remain ready to respond to all types of emergency events.

This is accomplished, in part, through strict and stringent emergency response protocols. Parrish Healthcare leaders also require specific teams to complete regular advanced training, including intensive simulation training.

In June, Parrish Healthcare team members successfully completed a rigorous Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for Mass Casualty Incidents. The training was conducted by the nationally acclaimed Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama.



“An event in which many people are hurt and require decontamination because of exposure to hazardous chemicals is something we hope never happens,” said George Mikitarian, Parrish Healthcare President and CEO. “But if, or when it does, our Parrish Healthcare staff, who we call Care Partners, are prepared to respond to protect the men, women, and children, of our community.”

This most recent 3-day intensive training included full-scale simulation of activating a community-wide response to an all-hazards mass casualty incident. In this scenario-based exercise, responders practiced functioning within the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS), from initial call-out to scene assessment, rescue, decontamination, crime scene management, hospital response and more. At the conclusion of their training, each earned a Hospital Emergency Response Training Trainer certification.

This certification places the Parrish Healthcare team at the forefront of hospital-based emergency response and reinforces our role as a trusted health care leader on Florida’s Space Coast.

“My recent HERT training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness was an exceptional experience,” said Jeremy Austin, Emergency Medical Technician. “As the saying goes, ‘We don’t rise to the occasion; we fall to our highest level of training.’ It was a true honor to acquire new skills that will significantly enhance our ability to better serve the citizens of North Brevard.”

“We are incredibly proud of our team’s continued commitment to advancing their emergency response skills on behalf of the patients and community we have the honor to serve,” added George Mikitarian.

# Healing Experiences

## Our Deepest Gratitude to Dr. Bucolo Physician Presence: Impact on Patient Care

My husband Jeffrey and I have been patients with your Family Practice group since moving to Titusville in 2005. Dr. Paul Bucolo has been our physician since he arrived, and he has become an invaluable presence in our lives—not just as our doctor, but as someone who quite literally saved my husband’s life. We will never be able to fully express our gratitude to Dr. Bucolo.

## Overcoming the Unexpected While Expecting Exceptional Care from Start to Finish

My hospital experience with Parrish Medical Center was outstanding. Every person I interacted with was friendly, professional and attentive. My Labor and Delivery nurses and team were AMAZING. Jodi, Leigh Ann, Lorraine, Heather and others made me feel at home and safe during such an important time. Thank you all for your compassion, expertise, and care. I would choose Parrish Medical Center all over again. THANK YOU!

## A Night I Will Never Forget Patient-Centered Care in the Emergency Department

My healthy, active daughter suddenly got a headache and, without warning, passed out in my arms. Her lips turned blue. I truly didn’t know what was happening. By the time the EMTs arrived, she regained consciousness, but we still rushed to Parrish Medical Center Emergency Department to have her evaluated.

From the moment we arrived, the care we received was nothing short of exceptional. The Emergency Department staff went above and beyond to make a frightening situation more bearable. What could have been a traumatic night was made much easier thanks to the incredible team at Parrish Medical Center.

*Real patient stories. View the videos and read more Healing Experiences by visiting [parrishhealthcare.com/experiences](https://parrishhealthcare.com/experiences)*

Parrish Medical Center  
is proud to be  
nationally certified as a  
Primary Stroke Center  
since 2004.



The Joint  
Commission



American Heart  
Association  
American Stroke  
Association

CERTIFICATION  
Meets standards for  
Primary Stroke Center



News & Notes



SAVE THE DATE

Next Year's  
Golf Classic will  
be April 10, 2026!

Funds raised from the event will benefit The Children's Center, a service of Parrish Healthcare, and a one-stop resource center dedicated to childhood development.

Last year's tournament was sold out months in advance! Space and sponsorships are limited. Course selection is first come, first choice. Reserve your preferred course today with your paid registration.

To secure your 2026 event partnership, please contact the Foundation at 321-269-4066 or visit [parrishmedfoundation.com/golf](http://parrishmedfoundation.com/golf)



The tournament is named in honor of Fran Gerrett, who always said "It's all about the kids!"



SUSTAIN OUR MISSION  
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
IN OUR COMMUNITY!

To learn how, contact Jess Parrish Medical Foundation at 321-269-4066 or visit [parrishmedfoundation.com](http://parrishmedfoundation.com)

Parrish Healthcare Employee Giving Campaign Raises \$65,000

Funds will further advance Parrish Healthcare's healing mission

Parrish Healthcare and the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation (JPMF) are pleased to announce that their 2025 annual employee-giving program, Circle of Giving, has raised \$65,000, exceeding the initial goal by \$10,000.

Since 2006, Parrish Healthcare providers, employees and volunteers have not only organized the two-week fundraising campaign, but have personally contributed their own money to support Circle of Giving and the advancement of Parrish Healthcare's mission to provide Healing Experiences for Everyone All the Time®.

This year's Wizard of Oz-themed campaign, was called There's No Place Like Parrish. Since its inception, Circle of Giving has inspired generous giving. Care Partners have pledged more than \$1,300,000 for lifesaving and life-changing programs and services throughout the community and within Parrish Healthcare, helping to make North Brevard a healthier, more vibrant place to live, work and receive care.

Circle of Giving proceeds directly benefit patients, families and the community and have funded programs and services such as:

- **Digital Stereotactic Breast Biopsy Technology:** Advancing early diagnosis of breast cancer;
- **Tourniquet Kits and Training (Stop the Bleed) for Titusville Police Department Officers:** To provide officers with critical rescue training and resources until help arrives. A total of 23 lives have been saved since 2015;
- **Healing in Motion Vans:** Medical transportation program for patients in need;
- **The Children's Center Playground Renovation and Expansion:** Providing a safe and healthy environment accessible to all children, regardless of physical ability;
- **Facility Improvements:** Including new equipment and renovations to patient waiting rooms, individual televisions for dialysis patient beds, telehealth monitoring system, lift equipment, and more;
- **Care Partner Hardship Fund:** A confidential program available to assist eligible employees who are experiencing a financial emergency.

"The generosity shown by Parrish Care Partners is truly uplifting," said Melissa Lugo, Board Chair of the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation. "Thanks to their generous contributions, Parrish Healthcare continues to make meaningful differences in the lives of those we serve each day. Congratulations to all Parrish Care Partners, Circle of Giving planning committee, and our campaign co-chairs Kristina Crabtree, Director, People Development and Samantha Decker, Director, Communications, for their exceptional leadership and for making this year's campaign such an incredible success."

For more information about Circle of Giving, contact Jess Parrish Medical Foundation at 321-269-4066 or visit [parrishmedfoundation.com](http://parrishmedfoundation.com)



"There's no place like generosity!" Circle of Giving campaign co-chairs and team captains bring Oz to life in support of Parrish Healthcare's mission.

Open Interview Tuesdays  
EVERY TUESDAY 9 AM – 12 PM

Would you, or someone you know, make a great Care Partner at Parrish Healthcare? We're recruiting for several clinical and non-clinical positions.

Stop by Parrish Medical Center at 951 N. Washington Avenue in Titusville. We look forward to meeting you!

Visit [parrishhealthcare.com/careers](http://parrishhealthcare.com/careers) for additional information

BE  
Valued  
AND  
Appreciated



Be a Parrish Care Partner

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP SCHEDULE

A.W.A.K.E. Sleep Support Group

Meets the second Monday monthly, 6-7:30 PM  
Parrish Healthcare Center, Manatee Conference Room  
5005 Port St. John Parkway, Port St. John  
Contact our Sleep Support Team at 321-268-6408

Cancer and Survivors Support Group

Meets the third Wednesday monthly, 4-5:30 PM  
Parrish Healthcare Center, North Titusville  
490 North Washington Avenue, Titusville  
Contact Shannon Luker at 321-268-6111, ext. 3544

Caring for Caregivers Support Group

Second and fourth Thursday monthly, 9:30-11:30 AM  
Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village  
931 North Washington Avenue, Titusville  
Contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800

Early Steps Community Play Date

A special play date for children five and under and their parent(s)/guardian(s).  
Meets the fourth Wednesday monthly, 9-10:30 AM  
The Children's Center  
5650 South Washington Avenue, Titusville  
Contact Mary Cancel at 321-292-1370

Fearless Café

Presented by St. Francis Reflections Life Stages Care and Parrish Healthcare.  
Meets the first Wednesday monthly, 10-11 AM  
Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village  
931 North Washington Avenue, Titusville  
Contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800

Kidney Smart Class

Meets the last Thursday monthly, 1-2:30 PM  
Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village  
931 North Washington Avenue, Titusville  
Contact Jackie Torres at 321-383-1245

Mom's Support Group

A group for mothers with babies up to six months.  
Meets Mondays, 10-11 AM  
The Children's Center  
5650 South Washington Avenue, Titusville  
Contact Melinda at [melinda.hodges@parrishmed.com](mailto:melinda.hodges@parrishmed.com)

Parkinson's Support Group

Meets the second Tuesday monthly, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM  
Parrish Health & Wellness Center  
3065 Columbia Boulevard, C-104, Titusville  
Contact Barbara Fradkin 321-345-1031 or [BrevardParkinsons.org](http://BrevardParkinsons.org)

Stroke and Heart Failure Survivors Support Group

Meets the third Tuesday monthly, 2-4 PM  
Heritage Hall, Parrish Health Village  
931 North Washington Avenue, Titusville  
Contact Janet Rooks at 321-268-6800

Tools to Quit Smoking Now

Meets the last Tuesday monthly, 5:30-7:30 PM  
Parrish Medical Center, Conference Room 6  
951 North Washington Avenue, Titusville  
Facilitated by Jennifer Wolowitz, Tobacco Free Florida  
407-889-2292 ext. 102

For information and to register visit [parrishhealthcare.com/events](http://parrishhealthcare.com/events)

