



YOU
are the reason...

2024 GIFT REPORT

 **Gaylord**
Specialty Healthcare



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and admiration for the incredible community that surrounds Gaylord. Your unwavering support has enabled us to continue providing exceptional care, advance groundbreaking research and ensure that every patient who walks through our doors receives the compassion and expertise they deserve.

This Annual Gift Report is a testament to the generosity of individuals, families, businesses and organizations who share in our commitment to enhancing health, maximizing function and transforming lives for every patient. Every gift, no matter the size, has made a meaningful impact—from funding state-of-the-art medical equipment, like the EksoNR exoskeleton to supporting vital patient assistance programs, like Traurig House. You inspire us to continue to exceed the limits of what is possible.

In these pages, you will find the stories of David, Evan, John, Tara, and Terry whose hope and resilience highlight the profound difference your contributions have made. You will read about lives saved, comfort provided during difficult times and new opportunities made possible because of you. These stories are a powerful reminder of what we can achieve together.

As we look to the future, your continued partnership will be more important than ever. With your help, we will push the boundaries of rehabilitative medicine, expand access to care and build a healthier community for generations to come. Together, we are shaping a future where everyone has the opportunity to live their healthiest life.

On behalf of our entire team—our physicians, nurses, researchers, and staff—thank you for your generosity, trust and belief in our mission. You inspire us every day to Think Possible in all that we do.

With heartfelt gratitude,

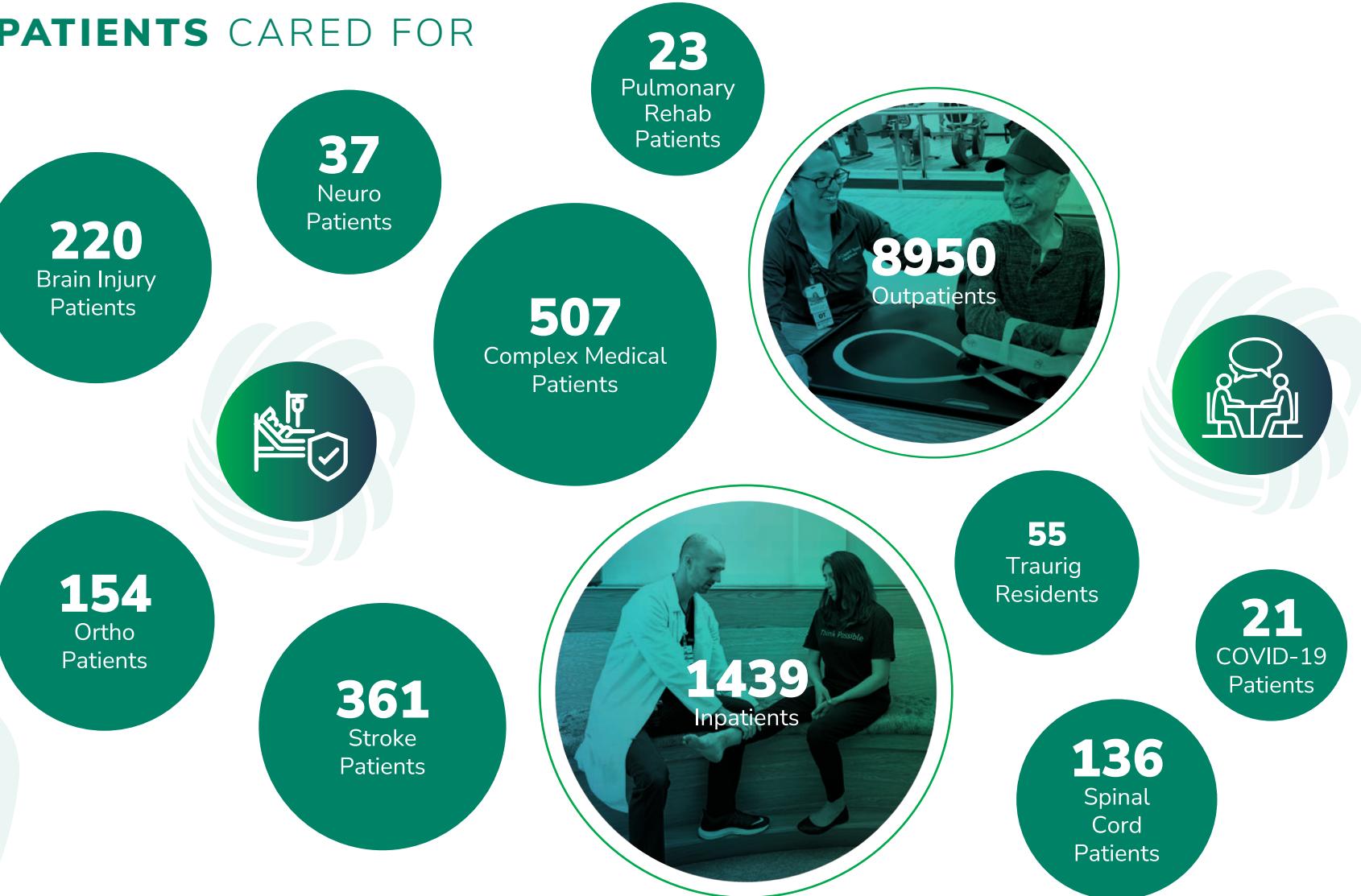
Sonja A. LaBarbera, MSOL, MS CCC/SLP
President & CEO



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from our President & CEO	3
A Year of Care	5
Thank You to Our Generous Community of Supporters	8
Honor Roll of Donors	8
Gifts in Honor	32
Gifts in Memory	32
Gifts in Kind	34
Employee Giving	36
Recognize a Star	40
30 years of the Gaylord Sports Association	42
Gaylord Golf Classic	44
Gaylord Gauntlet	46
Corks and Forks	48
Leadership	50
Ways to Give	51

PATIENTS CARED FOR





“I love Gaylord because of the exceptional, caring staff members and their unmatched professionalism. They gave me my life back.”

-John M.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE | John M.

John M., a resilient Vietnam veteran, has triumphed over numerous health battles, including cancer, a blood clot, sepsis, and most recently, a stroke. Despite these challenges, his commitment to helping others is unwavering.

Known for his long tenure at esteemed organizations like the Travelers Foundation and the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, John is a revered leader in Greater Hartford, recognized for his extensive service on non-profit boards.

At 81 and after retiring from fundraising, John continues to dedicate himself to volunteer work and mentoring, guided by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “What are you doing for others?”

Joining the Board of Directors at Gaylord Specialty Healthcare post-stroke in early 2024, John praises the exceptional staff for restoring his life. It wasn’t just the front-line medical staff and therapists who made a difference in his recovery. He remembers one housekeeper whose kindness, respect, and obvious pride in her work deeply resonated with him.

“I worked as a janitor in college, and I understand the pride that comes with doing your job well, and her care, like everyone else at Gaylord, reflected the heart of this place,” he says.

“I love Gaylord because of the exceptional, caring staff members and their unmatched professionalism. They gave me my life back.”

Receiving weekly therapy at Gaylord, John witnesses remarkable progress, sharing, “The changes I see in some of my fellow patients are nothing short of amazing!”

Stories like John’s are only possible because of you. Your generosity has helped Gaylord to not only become an extraordinary institution where miracles happen but to become a part of our patients’ lives.

John arrived at Gaylord Hospital three days after his stroke. He was in poor shape with memory loss and couldn’t walk farther than 30 yards.





YOU
are the reason...

Your unwavering commitment fuels our journey of patient recovery, shaping futures with compassion and innovation.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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“Gaylord was the turning point...Their care, expertise, and compassion made all the difference.”

-Diana V.

BEGINNING AGAIN | Evan V.

Days before Christmas 2023, Evan, a 29-year-old professional baker was engulfed in flames when a hollow, sap-filled log exploded in his backyard fire pit. With 75% of his body covered in third-degree burns, he fought for survival at the Connecticut Burn Center at Bridgeport Hospital, undergoing 38 surgeries and battling life-threatening complications.

Evan's journey at Gaylord was daunting as he struggled with mobility and daily tasks due to his injuries. With the unwavering support of his therapy team, led by occupational therapist Marcia, Evan embarked on a path to recovery driven by determination and compassion.

The collaborative efforts of Gaylord's wound care team facilitated Evan's successful transition from Bridgeport Hospital through advanced techniques and personalized care plans. Tracy, head of Wound Care at Gaylord, credited Evan's commitment as the key to his rapid progress and return home.

During his rehab, Evan's mother, Diana, found solace at MoraLee Cottages, Gaylord's on-campus housing for families. “Being just steps away from Evan's room was restorative for me,” she says. “I could see his window from my suite, and the beautiful campus gave us a sense of peace after months in a hospital setting.”

After just one month at Gaylord, Evan achieved remarkable milestones, reclaiming his strength and independence after a significant period away from home. “Gaylord was the turning point,” Diana reflects. “They weren't just there for Evan; they were there for me, too. Their care, expertise, and compassion made all the difference.”

Stories like Evan's are only possible because of you. Your generosity ensures that Gaylord can continue to provide the specialized care, rehabilitation, and hope that patients and their families need during life's most challenging moments.

When Evan, a professional baker first arrived, he couldn't walk or feed himself due to extensive damage to his skin and limited range of motion.



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YOU
are the reason...

“You’re surrounded by people who believe in you and others working just as hard to get better. It’s inspiring.”

-David H.

REBUILDING A FULL LIFE | David H.

While working on a project in Niantic, CT, David stepped on a loose joist and fell 16 feet, landing face-first on a concrete slab. The impact left him with broken bones around his eye, a severe head injury and internal bleeding in his brain.

After emergency intervention stabilized his condition, David faced an uncertain future. That's when he came to Gaylord Specialty Healthcare. "When I got to Gaylord, I was in a wheelchair, unsure of what the rest of my life would look like," David said. "But from day one, the team gave me hope."

David began intensive therapy to rebuild his strength, regain his independence and relearn the skills he thought he might never get back. Every step forward was fueled by the expertise, compassion and care offered at Gaylord.

"You're forced to interact with people again. You're forced to get up and not feel sorry for yourself," David said. "You're surrounded by people who believe in you and others working just as hard to get better. It's inspiring."

Over time, David made incredible progress. From memory exercises to physical therapy sessions, Gaylord's personalized approach helped him achieve what once seemed impossible. Today, despite a titanium plate in his head and the loss of his sense of smell, David is back to living a full life, spending time with his wife and two daughters, and on the job.

Stories like David's are only possible because of you. Your generosity ensures that patients like David receive the specialized care they need to heal, rebuild and thrive.

As a contractor for over 20 years, David never imagined that one moment on the job could change his life forever.



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YOU
are the reason...

“Gaylord not only saved my life but restored a wonderful quality of life to me.”

-Terry H.

RECLAIMING A LIFE | Terry H.

Terry fondly recalls the moment his wife, Laura, wheeled him into Gaylord Hospital's Japanese Garden after a lengthy hospital stay. For Terry, an antiquarian book dealer with a passion for literary treasures, the garden's fresh mulch and fragrant flowers marked a profound shift in his recovery journey.

“Quite literally a breath of fresh air. What a way to re-enter the world!” Terry reflects, savoring the sensory experience that brought him solace.

Facing a health crisis in March 2017, Terry's battle against a life-threatening pneumonia led him to Gaylord Hospital for specialized care. He arrived too weak to walk or sit independently, and unable to swallow or speak – a complication from the ventilator that saved his life.

During his three-week inpatient stay, he received intensive speech, physical, occupational, and aquatic therapies. He remembers how Burt, a physical therapy aide, pushed him to work hard.

“Even after our scheduled sessions, Burt would stop by my room to do extra exercises with me,” Terry recalls.

Reflecting on his journey, Terry emphasizes the importance of creating healing environments, like on-campus gardens, for patients to find solace in nature. His profound recovery echoes the sentiment, “You are the reason. Gaylord not only saved my life but restored a wonderful quality of life to me.”

“Being able to go outdoors and feel the sun on my face during my hospitalization was such an important part of my recovery,” he explains. “I felt human again. It's so important for people facing similar situations to have that opportunity as well.”

Stories like Terry's are only possible because of you. Your generosity had helped Gaylord's commitment to advanced rehabilitation and serve as a beacon of hope for those seeking to reclaim their lives.

Terry, along with his wife, Laura now support the hospital as monthly donors, ensuring others can access the transformative care they received.



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...a testament to
the strength and
resilience of our
patients, families
and staff...

PARTNERING FOR HOPE | Amazon

During the 2024 holiday season, Amazon and Gaylord came together to brighten spirits and spread hope. The first annual Lighting Hope event transformed the Japanese and Rutledge Family Gardens into a stunning display of light, symbolizing the hope, connection and compassion at the heart of our community. The glowing gardens are more than a visual spectacle—they are a testament to the strength and resilience of our patients, families and staff.

This celebration was made possible through the generosity of Amazon. Inspired by a patient's 2022 request to brighten the holidays for others, this partnership has blossomed into a lasting connection. In addition to illuminating our gardens, Amazon donated 140 mini Christmas trees and menorahs to ensure that patients spending the holidays at Gaylord felt the warmth and joy of the season. A dedicated team of nurses, doctors, physical therapists, volunteers and administrators personally delivered these gifts, bringing cheer to patients throughout the hospital.

Partnerships like Amazon's are only possible because of you. As we look ahead to the new year, we remain inspired by the light we create together—a light that symbolizes resilience, progress and community.

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Amazon donated 140 mini Christmas trees and menorahs to ensure that patients spending the holidays at Gaylord felt the warmth and joy of the season.



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“I’m an athlete.
Just being able to
say that puts a
smile on my face.”

-Tara M.

CONQUERING A DREAM | Tara M.

From battling arthrogryposis, a rare condition that caused her feet to turn nearly backward, since infancy to enduring numerous corrective surgeries throughout her childhood, pain had become Tara’s constant companion.

As her fused ankles deteriorated over the years, she was in constant pain, and made a life-changing decision at 39 to undergo bilateral below the knee amputations to reclaim her quality of life, despite initial doubts from her family.

“My family was skeptical,” Tara recalls. “So I found Gaylord’s amputee support group online and took my parents and kids to a meeting. I wanted them to see that amputees could live full and active lives.”

Empowered by the support of the group, Tara embraced a newfound world of possibilities, delving into adaptive sports like archery, cycling, skiing, and snowboarding. She even participated in the Gaylord Gauntlet 5k Trail and Obstacle Run—twice. Her resilience shone brightest when she conquered the challenges of the 2023 Madison Triathlon alongside the Gaylord Sports Association paratriathlon team. Tara’s triumphant finish moved her to tears, not of defeat but of pure joy.

Reflecting on her transformative journey, Tara proudly declares, “I’m an athlete. Just being able to say that puts a smile on my face.” Tara encourages others navigating similar paths, reminding them, “There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Be patient with yourself and your healing, and consider adaptive sports. It’s therapeutic, it’s fun, and with Gaylord’s unwavering commitment, any dream is within reach.”

Stories like Tara’s are only possible because of you. Your generosity ensures that Gaylord continues to provide a sense of community through adaptive sports and recreation.

For Tara,
crossing that
finish line was a
monumental
achievement that
once seemed out
of reach.



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Donors to the Cottage Garden Project break ground on a beautiful future.

EMPLOYEE GIVING

Our team gives generously of their time and talents every day to make a difference in the lives of our patients. Our dedicated employees are the key to the Think Possible mindset that runs through the entire organization.

GaylordGives, Gaylord's annual Employee Giving Campaign is an opportunity for our team to make a difference in the lives of our patients and their families, and demonstrates their individual belief in Gaylord's mission and impact. Employees can designate their donation as they wish, selecting from a variety of initiatives, from patient-focused funds, to specific service lines, or to support the ongoing need for advanced technology.

GaylordGives
Building the Future **Together**

IN 2024:

448 Employees
donated over
\$103,000



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Roslyn Gilhuly

Priti Kapoor

Kaitlyn Koch

Georgette MacQuarrie

Katelyn Muolo

Krystle Smith

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Chris Hayes

Jon Mace

Finance

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Respiratory Therapy



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RECOGNIZE A STAR

Gaylord patients, families and friends have the opportunity to celebrate the team member who made an impact on their recovery through our grateful patient program – **Recognize a Star**. Patients who show their gratitude demonstrate their belief in Gaylord's work as a leader in medical rehabilitation.

This gratitude is displayed on our 'Wall of Stars' in the hospital and at each outpatient clinical site. Funds raised through the Recognize a Star program help continue our mission of providing exceptional care.



IN 2024:

461 Stars Purchased

234 Donors

598 Team Members recognized

2 Star Receptions Hosted

Alexa Adams*	Madison Correa	Stefanie B. Gaidos*	Ellen Isaacson*	Dr. Aaditya Kiri*	Jaime Maddalena	Josephine Oliano*	Tyler Rogers	Andrew Thane*
Ashley Aleia-Onofrio	Karen Corriveau	Maggie Gainer*	Dr. Michael Ivy	Jennifer Kleinschmidt*	Jaclyn Magnuszewski	Mohandas Orenica	Robert Roles	Melvin Triplett
Dr. Alan Alex*	Hannah Cox*	Shane Gallagher	Sonya James	Tara A. Knapp	Chris P. Mallinson	Dorothy Orlowski*	Dr. David S. Rosenblum*	Kayla Trobec*
Marcia Annunziata*	Kimberly Crawford	Muriel Garvey	Barbara Janicki	Katherine Konishesky	Facility Dog Mandy	Yazmin Ortiz*	Kaitlyn Rudolf*	Abigail Tubis
Alexa Apotria*	Jessica Crespo	Gaylord Admissions	Jhoselyn Jara	Randy Kopylec	Alexandra Maneen*	Gabriel Pacheco*	Cornelia Russell*	Kimberly Tuccitto*
Monica Arencibia-Fernandez	Jorge Cuatlatoa Martinez	Department	Katie Joly*	Sonja A. LaBarbera	Ellen Maron	Anne Pacileo	William Russo*	Tina Marie Ufferfilge
Dr. Seppo Aro*	Erica Cutler*	Gaylord DEBI Committee	Danielle Joy*	David LaFrance	Aubrey Marotta*	Taylor Pagnam	Ryan Rustek	Edna Vasquez
Jonathan Ayitey	Mario D'Amore*	Gaylord Food & Nutrition	Dr. Luci Juvan*	Eric Lagoy*	Ingrid Marschner*	BJ Palumbo*	Jacqueline Rutherford	Diana Vazquez-Mercado*
Michelle Bailey	Latoya Dale	Department*	Lisa Kalafus	Finn LaPierre*	Walter Martinez	Brenda Paluszewski	Christine Rutigliano	Rose Vazquez-Santiago*
Mary Kate Barron	Michael Dalmau*	Gaylord Hospital*	Rebecca Kalber	Christy-Ann Lauber	Shannon K. Masella*	Dr. Megan Panico*	Katherine Saia	Rosie Vecchitto-Baez*
Amber Beaty	Monica Dalton	Gaylord Hospital Security*	Dr. Sujata Kale	Jaclyn Lavigne	Shari Mayerson	Kristina Paolino*	Eric Santos	Anabela Vendinha
Heidi Becker*	Victoria De La Rosa*	Gaylord Inpatient Therapy*	Dr. Jerry L. Kaplan*	Roslyn Lester	Kamyra McGraw	Amy Parker	Mary Ellen Santucci	Jil Venetianer*
Christine Bednarz	Marena DeSimone	Gaylord Respiratory	Priti Kapoor*	Garrett Linske	Andrew McIsaac*	Colin Parker*	Michelle Saunders*	Janine Volpati
James Bennett	Taylor Devine	Department*	Diane Kealey	Gladis Lopez	Emily Meise*	Dawn Peck	Paula A. Savino*	Dr. Hongmei Wang
Kimberley Bennett*	Janet DiBasio	Gaylord's Doctors & Nurses	Erin Keef	Louis D. Traurig House Staff*	Syreena Melendez	Joy Savulak	Allison Weisberger	Matthew Scavo*
Susanna Bennett*	Melissa Dietz	Joseph Giannelli, Jr.	Jada Kelly	Lindsey Lucas	Susan Meyer*	Caisea Phillips	Kevin Winters	Mark Wojda*
Amy Benoit*	Halina Domitz*	Deborah Gibilaro	Jantra Ketvichit	Michele Lutz	Carrie Micker	Matthew Scavo*	Hailee Schmidt	Cezary Wroblewski*
Daniel Bergeron*	Katelyn Donohue*	Chaplain Vincent Gierer	Kacey Gifford*	Kristin Kiczuk*	Marielle Mikos	Laura Phipps	Maha Serrakh	Daisy Yepez*
Caitlin Boland*	Kara Dorsey	Rosa Bella Dos Reis*	Liza Gimongala*	Lyman 2 Staff*	Milne 1 Staff*	Donna Piercy*	Patricia Shara*	David Zaborowski
Jaymelee Boucher	Bradley Douglas*	Bradley Godbout	Devin Godbout	Milne 2 Nursing and Staff*	Milne 2 Staff*	Dr. Courtney Pinto	Corey Podbielski*	Stephanie Zanvettor*
Donald Briggs	Karen Doukas*	Susan Goldstein*	Susan Goldstein*	Karen L. Moore	Milne 2 Staff*	Ivy Plont	Tim Polaske	Bernaldo Zayas
Richard Bromley	Olga Dryfoos	Gracey Gonzalez	Gracey Gonzalez	Laura Moran*	Kerry Morgan	Mark Powers*	Phil Silverio	Katherine Zimmerli*
Kaitlin Brosnihan*	Cat Dubail	Allison Greco*	Allison Greco*	Kaila Morin	Mildred Pridgen	Lori Simon	Jaclyn Skirkanich	Emily Zuckerman
Sasha Brown*	Hayley Dudley*	James Greene*	James Greene*	Teresa Moryl	Kristine K. Provost*	Stephanie Skitromo	Stephanie Skitromo	Qin Zuo
Susan Burke	Gabriella Dyer	Sarah Griffin	Sarah Griffin	Michael Moscato*	Brianna Puccino*	Gina Smith*	John Smith*	*
Kathryn Butler	Heather Erichetti	Amy Grindle*	Amy Grindle*	Stephanie Muraski*	Dr. John Pulaski	Eric Sokolowski	Eric Sokolowski	
Aurelia Calancea	Caitlyn Esposito	Jonathan Guest	James Harkin	Maddy Murgatroyd*	Mia Pulisciano*	Yi Qiu*	Madelyn Sola	
Paula Cappola*	Maureen Fabiani	James Harkin	William Harpin*	Dea Muslli	Andrew Rae	Andrew Rae	Amanda Sollenne	
Sarah Carpenter*	Heidi Fagan*	Heidi Fagan*	Patricia Haskell	Brandon Musto*	Rosy Ramos	Rosy Ramos	Dr. Leomerto Somera*	
Christy Carrano	Andrea Fairchild	Brandon Feero	Margaret Hayes	William Neidel*	Morgan Raymond	Morgan Raymond	Tammy Spurgeon*	
Jaime Cassidy*	Jill Hellstrand*	Annette Flores	Jill Hellstrand*	Jennifer Nelson*	Brian Reis*	Brian Reis*	Maryann St. Martin	
Dr. David Chen*	Priscilla Flores*	Priscilla Flores*	Mary Hickey	Alexxandra Niss	Lauren Rescanski*	Lauren Rescanski*	Kellie Stewart	
Meghan Chiaraluce*	Dymond Florestal	Dymond Florestal	Jadean Hoff	Rachel Noia*	Kimberly Reutenuauer*	Kimberly Reutenuauer*	Jurita Strazda	
Janine Clarkson*	Donna Fonteyn*	Nicoasha Frazier*	Dr. Stephen Holland*	Stephanie Norman*	Amber Norris	Amber Norris	Jasmine Taddigs	
Emily Clifford*	Nicoasha Frazier*	Nicoasha Frazier*	Hooker 1 Staff*	Amber Norris	Susana Nunes*	Susana Nunes*	Cheryl A. Tansley*	
Kristina Clodfelter*	Kimberly Fredsall*	Kimberly Fredsall*	Hooker 2 Staff*	Susana Nunes*	Madison O'Flynn	Madison O'Flynn	Bianca Tata*	
Kelsey Cognetta	Nicole Frey*	Nicole Frey*	Kimberly Hopkins	April O'Neill	April O'Neill	April O'Neill	Jessie Taylor	
Marylou Colangelo	Blake Gagliardi	Blake Gagliardi	Danielle Inorio	Jessica Obey*	Jessica Obey*	Jessica Obey*	Beverly A. Teixeira	



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

The **Gaylord Sports Association** is dedicated to improving the lives of persons with physical disabilities or visual impairment through adaptive sports, recreation, and fitness. For 30 years, the Sports Association has helped participants gain the confidence, independence, and skills to meet their adaptive sports goals through instruction, adaptive equipment, and an individualized approach for all participants.

IN 2024:

18 different adaptive sports

263 individual athletes served

242 Adaptive Sports Opportunities

540 Athletes served over the past 5 years

511 Hours of Adaptive Sports Programming

100+ New Participants

113 Veterans Served



SPORTS OFFERED

Archery

Boccia

Cycling

Golf

Kayaking

Paratriathlon

Pickleball

Rock Climbing

Skiing & Snowboarding

Sled Hockey

Strength Training

Veterans Bowling

Veterans Fishing

Virtual Boxing

Water Skiing

Wheelchair Rugby

Wheelchair Tennis

Yoga



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PMA Management Corp. of New England
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Wohlsen Construction



GOLF CLASSIC

The 35th annual **Gaylord Golf Classic**, hosted at Great River Golf Club, raised critical funds for Gaylord's Sports Association. The Sports Association is the region's largest and most diverse adaptive sports program for athletes with a physical disability or vision impairment. Offering 18 different activities – from introductory clinics to competitive teams – the Sports Association provides instruction, equipment and activity modification with an individualized approach to maximize independence for all participants.



IN 2024:
The Golf Classic
raised over
\$145,000
to support adaptive
sports and recreation.



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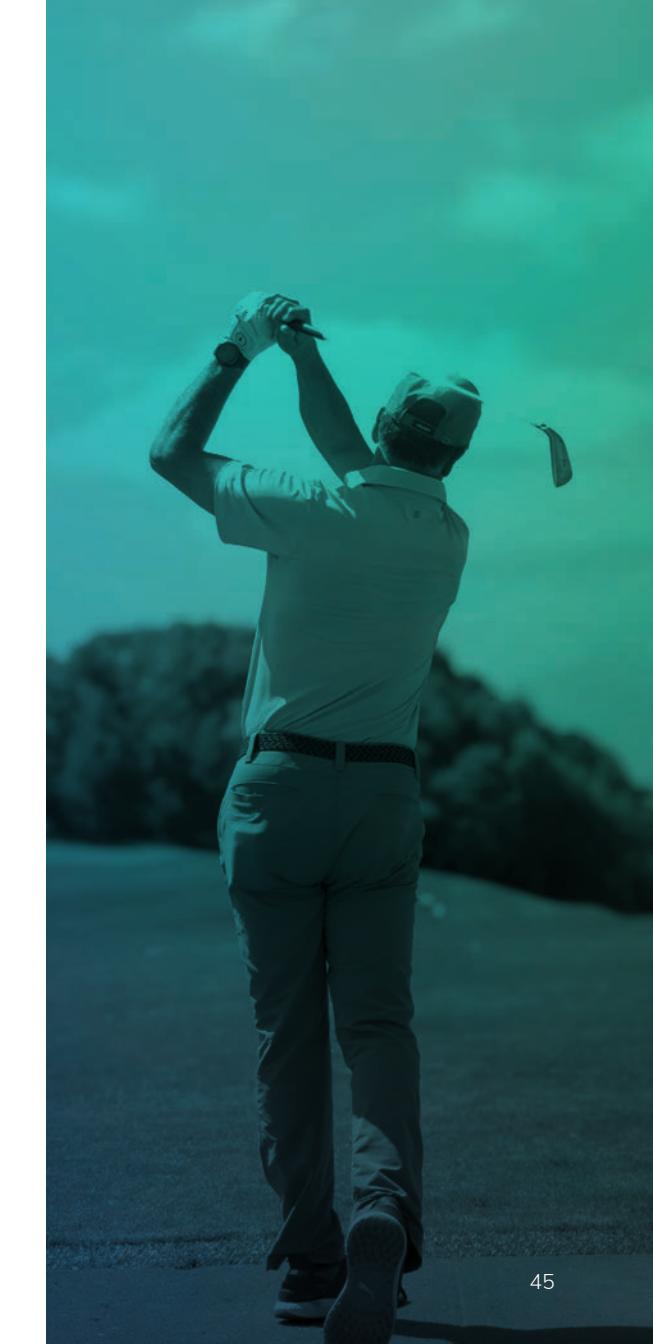
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Mr. Jeffrey Zuzolo



GAUNTLET

The 2024 **Gaylord Gauntlet 5k Trail & Obstacle Race** welcomed over 1,000 determined runners to navigate a fun and challenging course of 24 constructed and natural obstacles featuring water, mud, fire and more. In its 11th year, the Gauntlet is a truly inspirational experience. With 31 adaptive athletes on the course with their care teams to families including parents, grandparents and kids, the event represents the very heart and community of Gaylord.



IN 2024:
The Gaylord
Gauntlet raised
\$117,000 for
Gaylord's Sports
Association.



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CORKS & FORKS

The inaugural **Corks & Forks** event brought together over 250 guests for an evening of great food, drinks and community in support of Gaylord's mission. Corks & Forks exemplifies the power of coming together to support Gaylord's transformative work while celebrating with friends, family and colleagues.



IN 2024:
Cork & Forks
event raised
over **\$104,000**
to support
patient care.



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CBIZ
Connecticut Hospital Association
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