



NEWSLETTER

EDITION
FALL 2026



West Middlesex Youth Run Club at the Annual Foundations 5k (pg 2)

Letter from our Director...

Dear Friends,

With its crisp mornings and colorful leaves, Fall has officially arrived. And while it's a beautiful time of year, I'm reminded that the next few months can be especially difficult for many. Added holiday expenses, winter weather and shorter days can all create challenges for those who need a little extra help this time of year.

We're doing everything we can to care for our neighbors. As you'll see in the pages ahead, we're putting your generosity to good work. Thanks for being a part of our team.

Adam Nowland, *Director*

UPMC Horizon Community Health Foundation
UPMC Jameson Health Care Foundation

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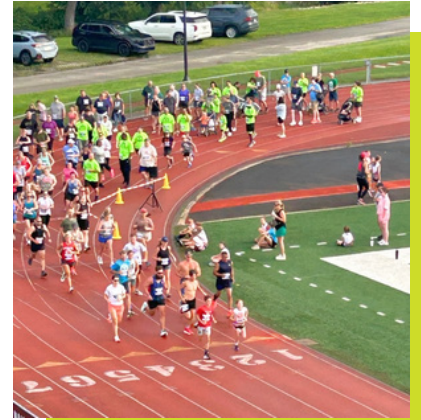


Community Comes Together

for the 2026 UPMC Horizon & Jameson Foundations 5K

More than 150 runners and walkers came together on Saturday, August 8, for the 2026 UPMC Horizon and Jameson Foundations 5K Run, 1 Mile Walk and Kid's Run at Westminster College in New Wilmington. **This year's event raised more than \$12,000 to support the work of the UPMC Horizon and Jameson Foundations.**

With perfect weather and plenty of family members, friends and supporters cheering from the sidelines, the event brought the community together for a morning of healthy activity and fun.



We congratulate all of this year's participants and recognize the following race winners:

- **Overall Winner:**
 - Dylan Dudash, 20:52
- **Men's Division:**
 - Wyatt Albaugh, 21:13
 - John Erdesky, 21:17
 - Cody Tompac, 26:00
- **Women's Division:**
 - Nicolette Thomas, 23:06
 - Raeann Erdesky, 23:40
 - Carmen Catale, 24:14

Events like this are made possible by a strong community effort. We are grateful to the volunteers who helped throughout the morning, our generous sponsors who supported the event, and the family members, friends and supporters who came out to cheer on the participants.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's 5K a success. We're proud to see the community come together in support of health, wellness and the work of the UPMC Horizon and Jameson Foundations, and we look forward to doing it all again next year!



Congratulations to 2026 **Scholarship Recipients**

The UPMC Horizon Community Health Foundation and the UPMC Jameson Health Care Foundation recently awarded nearly \$40,000 in community scholarships to local students pursuing careers in health care.

Dr. Edgardo Lob Memorial Cancer Care Fund Scholarship

Named in honor of an accomplished oncologist who lived and cared for patients in Greenville for many years, the Dr. Edgardo Lob Memorial Cancer Care Fund

Scholarship provides a renewable \$2,000 scholarship for up to four years to new graduates of Mercer County high schools pursuing an education in a health care-related field.



The 2026 recipients are Arianna Enoch, a graduate of Hickory High School, and Lydia Wig, a graduate of Greenville High School. Previous Lob Scholarship recipients Abigail Gardner, a 2024 graduate of Hickory High School, and Kyndra Seddon, a 2025 graduate of Lakeview Area High School, were awarded renewed \$2,000 scholarships.

Kirk L. Works, M.D. Memorial Scholarship

The Kirk L. Works, M.D. Memorial Scholarship honors the legacy of a longtime gastroenterologist who served the Shenango Valley and Greenville regions for many years and cared deeply about education.

The scholarship supports new Mercer County high school graduates pursuing higher education in a health care-related field. This year's \$1,000 scholarship recipients are Jordan Prelerson of Sharon High School, John Rumelfanger and Arianna Enoch of Hickory High School, and Kiara Wilson of Farrell High School.





2026 Scholarships – continued

UPMC Jameson School of Nursing Scholarships

The Jameson Foundation also works with donors to provide scholarships to students studying at the UPMC Jameson School of Nursing in New Castle.

During a ceremony in July, several scholarships were awarded to School of Nursing students, including:

- Victoria N. Price Memorial Scholarship: Dakota Obermiyer
- Marg Pommersheim Memorial Nursing Scholarship: Joshua Toma
- Joan Higgins Memorial Nursing Scholarship: Kassidy Hassan
- Friends of Hospice Nursing Scholarship: Rachel Tanner
- UPMC Horizon and UPMC Jameson Foundation Scholarship: Olivia Morrow



In addition, three scholarships established by the Jameson-Shenango Alumni Association were awarded:

- Laurabell Eakin and Henrietta Eakin McClure Scholarship: Jenny Minchoff
- H. Elizabeth Taylor Scholarship: Christopher Kale
- Jameson-Shenango Alumni Association Scholarship: Darian Cook

UPMC Horizon and Jameson Medical Staff Scholarship

Established and sustained through the generosity of local physicians, the UPMC Horizon and Jameson Medical Staff Scholarship benefits medical students from the region and those completing residencies at a local UPMC hospital.

This year, \$3,000 scholarships were awarded to:

- Lydia Liszewski, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
- Dustin Moffett, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Madelyn Scarmack, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Joshua Stephenson, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Emily Wood, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

Congratulations to all of our 2026 scholarship recipients as they continue their education and prepare for the next chapter of their journeys in health care!



MERP's Wheelchair Wash Brings Community Connection

The Medical Equipment Recycling Program (MERP), an initiative of the UPMC Horizon Community Health Foundation, hosted its annual Wheelchair Wash on September 15, 2026, at MERP's Farrell location.



The free event gave wheelchair users the opportunity to have their equipment washed and safety checked. Attendees also had access to free health screenings through the UPMC Health Plan, giveaways and informational resources from UPMC.

The event brought together members of the MERP team and UPMC Horizon and Jameson leadership, including UPMC Horizon/Jameson Director of Operations Michelle Lum, UPMC Horizon and Jameson Foundations Director Adam Nowland, and MERP Team Member Joni Kappler. UPMC mascots Will and Gabby also joined the event.

The annual Wheelchair Wash is an opportunity for MERP to connect with community members, provide care for their medical equipment and share information about the resources available through UPMC and the Foundation.



Penn State Shenango Volunteers Make an Impact at MERP

Students and faculty from Penn State Shenango's Physical Therapist Assistant program recently volunteered their time at MERP, helping to clean and organize medical equipment and assist with wheelchair maintenance. Their time and effort help MERP prepare equipment for reuse and continue its work serving the community. The Foundations appreciate the partnership with Penn State Shenango and the opportunity to engage future health care professionals in this community resource.



A memorable afternoon at the 2026 **Cancer Survivor's Celebration**

The UPMC Horizon Foundation and its Dr. Edgardo Lob Memorial Cancer Care Fund welcomed nearly 175 survivors, guests, and volunteers to its annual Cancer Survivor's Celebration on October 25th. Held at the Hickory VFW, the event gathered survivors from across the region for an afternoon of food, fellowship and activities made possible by the generous donations of those who support the Fund.



The event was staffed by a team of volunteers primarily made up of UPMC Horizon – Hillman Cancer Center team members, many of whom had personal relationships with or had treated the survivors who attended. A welcome was offered by Dr. Uzoma K. Iheagwara, radiation oncologist at UPMC Hillman, who spoke about his passion for caring for his patients and the dedication of the many health care professionals who strive to provide comfort and treatment to local patients.

This year's special guest speaker was Ross Bernstein, a best-selling author and award-winning speaker who has written nearly 50 sports books and presents to audiences around the world. A cancer survivor himself, Ross drew on his own personal experience as a survivor as well as the journeys of the many athletes that he has interviewed to share a powerful story about resilience, perseverance and overcoming adversity.

In addition, representatives from Eli Lilly, Blood Cancer United, Maple Tree Cancer Alliance and the UPMC Jameson School of Nursing met with patients to provide information and giveaways. Live entertainment was provided by Jack Lindy as well as the Greenville High School Steel Drum Band. Several therapy dogs coordinated by UPMC Volunteer Services were also in attendance to mingle with survivors. Special thanks is given for the more than 35 baskets and gift items donated by local organizations and community members.



The Foundation thanks everyone who helped make this event possible!



Caring for Children at UPMC Horizon & Jameson

The Foundations are grateful to Charli's Comfort Project for its continued care for local children receiving hospital care. In recent months, Charli, her mother Tammy, and board member Bree delivered care packages to the Emergency Departments at UPMC Horizon in Greenville and UPMC Jameson. Each package includes a stuffed animal and other toys and activities to help make a child's hospital visit less stressful.



Inspired by her own hospital experience, Charli wanted to help other children feel less afraid when they need medical care. Her generosity has reached young patients at both hospitals and demonstrates how even the youngest members of our community can make a difference.



The Emergency Department teams at Horizon and Jameson appreciate these gifts, which help ease children's worries while care teams focus on their medical needs. The Foundations thank Charli, Tammy, Bree and the entire Charli's Comfort Project team for their generosity and continued partnership.

AEDs Provided to UPMC Horizon Police Vehicles

The UPMC Horizon Foundation has purchased and donated two Automated External Defibrillators to the the UPMC Public Safety teams at UPMC Horizon – Shenango Valley and UPMC Horizon – Greenville.

The AEDs will be housed in the UPMC Public Safety vehicles on each campus and provide an additional tool with which the hospitals' police and security teams can respond quickly to a medical emergency. The Foundations offer their appreciation to the members of the UPMC Horizon and Jameson Public Safety Teams for helping keep our hospitals, patients and health care professionals safe and secure.





UPMC Jameson School of Nursing **Updates & Outreach**

UPMC Jameson School of Nursing achieved a 93.29% first-time NCLEX-RN pass rate for the 2025–2026 reporting period, exceeding the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing's 80% benchmark. This incredible outcome is the result of hard work and dedication of both students and faculty.

The school also welcomed more than 100 new nursing students this fall. Students have since begun their first clinical experiences at UPMC Horizon & UPMC Jameson hospitals, applying skills learned in the classroom and skills lab to patient care.

The school also introduced local students to careers in nursing at the Lawrence County Healthcare & Business Career Fair on October 7th and the Lawrence County Business & Industry Career Fair on October 8th. Organized by the Lawrence County School-to-Work program, the events reached more than 600 students from over 10 school districts, helping young people explore health care and other career paths.



T-shirt fundraiser supports **Care for Cancer Patients**

The Dr. Edgardo Lob Memorial Cancer Care Fund has completed its 2026 T-Shirt Fundraiser with more than 300 donations. This annual fundraiser has been a popular way for our community to support the Fund and the patients and survivors it assists.

After expenses, this year's fundraiser generated more than \$4,700 in proceeds. The UPMC Horizon Foundation uses these funds to provide care and comfort for local cancer patients, support education and care for the health care professionals who treat them, and fund community outreach. These efforts include the Fund's annual cancer survivor celebration each October and a scholarship for a Mercer County high school graduate pursuing higher education or training in a health care field.

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's fundraiser. The UPMC Horizon – Hillman Cancer Center at Greenville has approximately 35 shirts remaining, which can be received with a \$25 donation to the Fund while supplies last. To learn how to get one of these shirts, contact Kim See at seeka@upmc.edu.



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Support Nursing Students **With the 2026 Stethoscope Fundraiser**

A rite of passage for every nursing student is when they acquire their first stethoscope. Normally, students are required to obtain their own stethoscopes, but you can support the next generation of nursing students by providing one! For every \$50 donated, the UPMC Jameson Foundation purchases a stethoscope and presents it to a student during a ceremony at the beginning of their second semester.

Thanks to a very generous commitment by Frank & Judy Mindicino, every donation to this fundraiser will be matched, dollar for dollar, by a gift to the Foundation's School of Nursing Support Fund, doubling the impact of your gift!

Donations are being accepted through December 4th. To give via check or payroll deduction, please contact Kelly Haux at hauxkj@upmc.edu, or if you'd like to donate online, visit upmcjamesonfoundation.org/stethoscopes.

Please note that your donation cannot be directed to support a specific student at the School of Nursing. All contributions will benefit the UPMC Jameson Health Care Foundation's School of Nursing Support Fund.