

HART receives \$25,000 grant from John R. Oishei Foundation to enhance services

The Home Assistance Referral Team has received a \$25,000 grant from The John R. Oishei Foundation to expand the services HART has been providing for over 40 years.

A press release noted, "The funding will build upon HART's mission of enabling the most vulnerable members of our community to maintain a quality of life and remain independent in their own homes by connecting them with qualified and affordable help.

Board Chairperson Patricia E. Berggren said, "For 40 years, HART has existed on a part-time

operation serving primarily Niagara County. In the past three years – specifically since the pandemic – we have seen the need for home care double, as well as the length of in-home care needed."

Executive Director Christine S. O'Hara, MS, said, "HART is extremely grateful to The Oishei Foundation to receive this grant that will allow us to not only move to a much-needed full-time operation – Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. – but to expand beyond Niagara County into parts of Erie County, to include Kenmore, Grand Island and Tonawanda. We see and hear

firsthand the needs of those in our communities who choose to remain independent in their own homes, and this generous funding allows us to continue to address those needs.

"If you need home care assistance, or are interested in enrolling as an aide, please call our office at 716-754-8313."

The John R. Oishei Foundation enhances the economic vitality and quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara Region through grant-making, leadership and network building. For more information, visit www.oishei.org.

NYS announces \$100 million to repave roads impacted by extreme weather

Investment funds repaving work at 64 project locations across state

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Wednesday announced \$100 million in state funding has been released to support the renewal of roadways impacted by extreme weather. The funding supports repaving projects at 64 locations, totaling almost 520 lane miles of pavement, and "complements the record level of investment in infrastructure across New York state."

"We are making historic investments in transportation infrastructure to create safer roads and smooth, hassle-free commutes for all travelers," Hochul said. "New York is home to extreme weather year-round, and this \$100 million in funding will be vital to helping ensure that our road conditions are safe for our hardest-hit communities."

Hochul's team said, "Through sustained investment in transportation infrastructure, New York

state is enhancing quality of life for all New Yorkers, making state highways safer and more efficient while encouraging local commerce and tourism. The current Department of Transportation five-year capital plan provides historic funding for road and bridge repair and modernization, and this critical infrastructure funding will help restore hundreds of lane miles of highway impacted by extreme weather."

New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez said, "Weather in New York is getting more intense more often, necessitating the need for vital and timely maintenance of our infrastructure. Gov. Hochul understands the critical need to keep our infrastructure in a state of good repair, and this funding will renew vital travel corridors across the state while re-

storing hundreds of miles of roads to help them better withstand Mother Nature's challenges."

In the Western New York Region, projects include:

- √ \$1.5 million to resurface Route 270 from Erie County line to Route 31 in the towns of Cambria, Pendleton and Lockport.

- √ \$2.2 million to resurface Route 5 (Buffalo Skyway) from Kane Street to the Buffalo Skyway bridge in the cities of Buffalo and Lackawanna.

- √ \$366,000 to resurface Route 18 from offramps at Route 104 to onramps at Route 104 in the Town and Village of Lewiston.

- √ \$841,000 to resurface Route 104 from Model City Road to Dickersonville Road in the Town of Lewiston.

- √ \$1.1 million to resurface Route 18 from Hess Road to Route 148 in Newfane and Somerset.

NFMCC's black-tie gala, The Premier, returns

For the 18th time, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center (NFMCC) will host its signature black-tie gala, The Premier, on April 29 at the Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino. The annual event, which traditionally attracts over 900 guests from Western New York, raises funds for NFMCC and its services. Proceeds from this year's event will support the construction of a state-of-the-art imaging center to benefit the Niagara Region, where cancer rates are among the highest in the state.

Every year, The Premier also honors individuals who have made a lasting impact and continue to make a difference in the Niagara community. 2023 awardees include:

Jeffrey O. Burnett, D.O., F.A.A.F.P., serves as NFMCC's program director for the family medicine residency program and has been part of NFMCC since 2012.

A graduate of the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, Burnett began teaching medical students right after residency and "has truly led the way in expanding NFMCC's residency program.

"Described as kind and compassionate about teaching, Dr. Burnett truly cares about the future physicians he puts into the world and works to instill knowledge and confidence into them."

Sam and Maralynn Giancola will receive this year's Nancy Gara Spirit Award. The accolade honors the memory of Gara, a banking executive and former NFMCC board member renowned for her positive attitude and personal commitment to serving the community.

A press release noted, "The Giancola/Leone family has built a legacy of bringing joy and smiles to the hallways of NFMCC. Going strong for nearly four decades, Sam and Marylynn and their families continue to serve the community as friends, educators, mentors and volunteers."

Co-chairing the 2023 event are Dr. Peter Muscarella II, M.D., and Sheryl Muscarella. He joined NFMCC as a general surgeon at NFMCC in 2021. Before joining NFMCC, Muscarella was an associate professor of surgery with tenure at The Ohio State University, and a professor of surgery at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medi-

cine. Muscarella has co-authored publications and maintains a busy general surgery practice while remaining active in medical student and PA education.

Sheryl is an RN and a valued member of the endoscopy and post-anesthesia care units at NFMCC. With an extensive background in clinical experience in perioperative care, she has worked at several prestigious hospitals, including The Ohio State University Medical Center, Montefiore Medical Center, and Yale University – Greenwich Hospital.

This year's event will once again be emceed by Maryalice Demler, WGRZ-TV anchor/reporter, and will feature headline entertainment Will & The Exclamation. The Atlanta-based 10-piece party band boasts a decade of experience in the events industry.

NFMCC stated, "Covering popular music that spans various styles and generations, guests should expect a night full of dancing, and dazzling, high-energy performances."

The Premier sells out early every year. For tickets and information on sponsorship and donation opportunities, call 716-278-4604 or email Cynthia.Hyde@nfmmc.org.



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