

GENESEE HEALTH PLAN

HEALTH CARE  
HALL *of* FAME

DINNER & AWARDS

*Ceremony*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025

Genesys Conference & Banquet Center



Genesee  
Health Plan

Our Plan for *Better Health*

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PEOPLE  
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THE BEST  
IN  
PEOPLE**

Congratulations to Genesee Health Plan and all the 2025 Health Care Heroes honorees. Hard work doesn't always get the recognition it deserves, so when it makes a community better, we take notice.

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Your efforts are inspirational.



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# PROGRAM

## WELCOME

Greg Viener, Mid-Michigan Regional President, Huntington Bank

## INVOCATION

Pastor Angel Garcia, Board Member, GHP

## OPENING REMARKS

Jim Milanowski, President & CEO, GHP

## GHP STAFF RECOGNITION

Presented by Jim Milanowski, President & CEO,  
and Dana Maxson, Director of Operations, GHP

## HEALTH CAREER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

*Sponsored by Sovita Credit Union*

Presented by Julie Forbush, Business Development Representative, Sovita Credit Union,  
and Jim Milanowski, President & CEO, GHP

## IN MEMORIAM

Jim Milanowski, President & CEO, GHP

## VOLUNTEER AWARD

Presented by Jasmine Johnson, Community Outreach Representative, HAP CareSource

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Presented by Jim Milanowski, President & CEO, GHP, and  
Kay Doerr, Former Board Chair and 2022 GHP Health Care Hall of Fame Inductee

## VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Presented by Dr. Lisa Hearn Shumpert, Chief Compliance  
and Privacy Officer, Genesee Health System

## 2025 HEALTH CARE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Presented by Jim Milanowski, President & CEO; Linda Hamacher, President Emeritus, GHP;  
and Jamie Gaskin, CEO, United Way of Genesee County and 2023 GHP Health Care  
Hall of Fame Inductee

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# Thank you, to our healthcare heroes.

## The Hurley Foundation is Proud to Sponsor the 2025 Genesee Health Plan Health Care Hall of Fame Awards.

As Genesee County's premier public teaching hospital, Hurley Medical Center strives to transform health through academic and clinical excellence. Just as the inductees being honored today strive to create a healthier future for our community.



Congratulations to the 2025

GENESEE HEALTH PLAN

HEALTH CARE  
HALL of FAME

Health Care Heroes Honorees

From the Board & Staff at:



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# HEALTH CAREER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## PRISCILLA JOHNSON-BASHOR

FENTON HIGH SCHOOL

Priscilla Johnson-Bashor graduated from Fenton High School and will be attending Michigan State University to study nursing as she pursues a career as a nurse anesthetist, specializing in anesthesia and pain relief. In her essay, Priscilla wrote “As a nurse, I will treat not only bodies but also people. I know that sometimes, what a patient needs most isn’t just medicine; it’s reassurance, patience, and someone who genuinely cares about their well-being. I will dedicate my career to carrying that impact forward. I know that nursing isn’t just about treating illness — it’s about treating people. I will never stop fighting to give every individual the care they deserve.”



## EMERSYN SPRAGUE

FENTON HIGH SCHOOL

Emersyn Sprague graduated from Fenton High School and will be attending Saginaw Valley State University to study nursing as she pursues a career in Pediatric ICU and NICU nursing. In her essay, Emersyn wrote “I am excited to continue my journey toward becoming a nurse and am fully committed to making a difference in healthcare. Nursing combines my passion for science and medicine with my desire to help others, and I look forward to growing, learning, and contributing to the well-being of future patients. I hope to make an impact in the nursing field by contributing to both patient care and the development of more compassionate healthcare systems.”



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## IN MEMORIAM

*GHP would like to recognize those we've lost in the last year who were instrumental in partnering with GHP in some capacity to help increase access to health services and other vital resources for our community.*



**ARCHIE HALL  
BAILEY**



**FLOYD CLACK**



**ANITA  
HENDERSON**



**PASTOR DWAYNE  
CLEMONS**

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# 2025 AWARDS

**The Volunteer Award** is given in gratitude to those that have dedicated their time and efforts in making sure those within their communities have access to quality and affordable health care and resources in Genesee County through their work with Genesee Health Plan.

## BARB SMITH

For nearly 50 years, Barb Smith has been a fixture in the Grand Blanc community; feeding and providing other necessities for those facing tough times through her volunteerism, love for helping others and her work at FISH, Inc. of Grand Blanc.



FISH, Inc. of Grand Blanc is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization which helps less fortunate students and residents of the Grand Blanc School District by providing and distributing food, clothing, and other services on a temporary and emergency basis. The organization has been helping community members since 1974 and is comprised solely of volunteers, like Barb, dedicated to expressing love and concern for fellow neighbors and students.

Recently, Barb and FISH, Inc. partnered with GHP to allow a GHP Community Health Worker to be onsite during the pantry's food distribution. Barb had wanted a GHP worker onsite for years, and through grant funding from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, this has become a reality. The Community Health Worker assists those who come for food in connecting them with other needed resources in the community.

In 2005, while working part-time and volunteering at her grandchildren's school and at other community organizations, her health rapidly went downhill due to being diagnosed with peripheral artery disease; she was without health insurance. Barb found out about Genesee Health Plan (GHP), enrolled, and was able to see a doctor, receive testing, prescriptions, and physical therapy. When testing revealed her carotid artery was 95% blocked and she needed an aorta/femoral bypass, GHP staff helped her find and apply for other assistance that did not cover the surgery and hospitalizations that she needed.

Barb has been a fierce advocate of GHP, crediting the health plan with saving her life. She has actively supported the passage of the Health Care Services Millage which directly funds the services that GHP provides. In 2019, one year after the last millage passed, Barb Smith and other individuals and community organizations were recognized at the Health Care Hall of Fame Awards for their support, partnership and volunteering of their time and talent to the Health Care Service Millage campaign.

Barb has participated in community presentations, discussions, and a WNEM TV 5 News Interview alongside GHP President and CEO, Jim Milanowski, telling her story about how GHP helped her establish a medical home, get treatment, and become healthier. Because of GHP, Barb was able to recover from her illness and return to what she loves, volunteering. She is a shining example of selflessness and what the true heart of volunteering is all about.

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# 2025 AWARDS

*The Community Partnership Award is given in gratitude to the person or organizations that have partnered with Genesee Health Plan to ensure that community members have access to quality, affordable health care.*

## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

### COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE

Michigan State University (MSU) has been a vital community partner, particularly through the groundbreaking efforts of the MSU



Charles Stewart Mott  
Department of Public Health  
College of Human Medicine

College of Human Medicine (CHM) Flint campus and its Charles Stewart Mott Department of Public Health. MSU's long-standing presence in Flint, educating physicians since 1971, laid the foundation for a truly visionary approach to community-driven public health. In partnership with the Mott Foundation, MSU CHM embarked on an innovative journey to build a public health enterprise that deeply integrates medicine and public health by actively listening to and collaborating with the community. The Charles Stewart Mott Department of Public Health, established with MSU Board of Trustees approval in December 2022, stands as a testament to this commitment, being one of the only academic units globally conceptualized and designed in partnership with the very community it serves. It is also one of the few national academic units that involves community members directly in its day-to-day operations and projects.

In her role as the founding Chair, Dr. Jennifer Johnson has been pivotal in guiding public health researchers like Dr. Dick Sadler and Dr. Heatherlun Uphold and Dr. Kent Key to conduct vital work with significant community impact. For instance, Dr. Sadler led a GeoMapping project (2018) that utilized census, municipal, and historical Genesee Health Plan (GHP) data to track member migration and highlight connections between GHP membership, health outcomes, and low-income housing, providing crucial support for the Health Care Services Millage. Dr. Uphold, alongside Dr. Kent Key, co-chaired the Flint Center for Health Equity Solutions (FCHES) Community Consortium, which engages community members in discussions on health disparities, particularly following the Flint Water Crisis.

Complementing this, Dr. Jennifer Edwards-Johnson, as Community Assistant Dean, has championed medical student success through partnerships that facilitate opportunities to develop an understanding of the needs of the community while serving the community collaboratively. Medical students in Flint, collaborating with community and public health researchers, have achieved the goal of direct community engagement while also being equipped with the tools and resources to work alongside residents in solving community-identified problems. GHP and MSU medical students collaborated on research projects concerning cancer treatment resources and the lack of pharmacies in the city of Flint.

Since 2018, MSU has collaborated with GHP to provide research support, deliver health care services, and share health-related information with community members. This partnership has played an essential role in enhancing GHP's initiatives and expanding their impact within the community through various collaborative projects. The Flint Center for Health Equity

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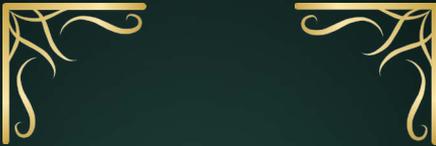


# 2025 AWARDS

Solutions (FCHES) Community Consortium, spearheaded by Michigan State University, was established in 2018 to engage community members and partner organizations in discussions related to health disparities within the community, with particular attention to circumstances following the Flint Water Crisis. Jim Milanowski, GHP and Drs. Kent Key and Heatherlun Uphold served as Consortium Co-chairs.

In response to COVID-19, the Healthy Flint Research Coordinating Center and Michigan State University launched a weekly webinar for local updates. Running for 195 weeks, it now covers a range of health topics. GHP staff, including Jim Milanowski and E. Yvonne Lewis, regularly participate. In March 2023, GHP team members discussed their community programs, healthcare updates, and Medicaid Unwinding.

Additionally, the partnership has created opportunities to bring trusted, credible messengers to the community. On March 26, 2023, GHP, alongside Dr. Kaitlin Liroff and Dr. Jennifer Edwards-Johnson, participated in a health segment on NBC 25 focused on adult and adolescent vaccinations, with particular emphasis on HPV and the significance of immunization. That same year, the MSU Charles Stewart Mott Department of Public Health “Difference Makers Award” was presented to Jim Milanowski, President & CEO of GHP, in recognition of GHP’s contributions to advancing community health and increasing access to high-quality, affordable care.



*Congratulations,*  
Award Recipients!



Charles Stewart Mott  
Department of Public Health  
College of Human Medicine  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

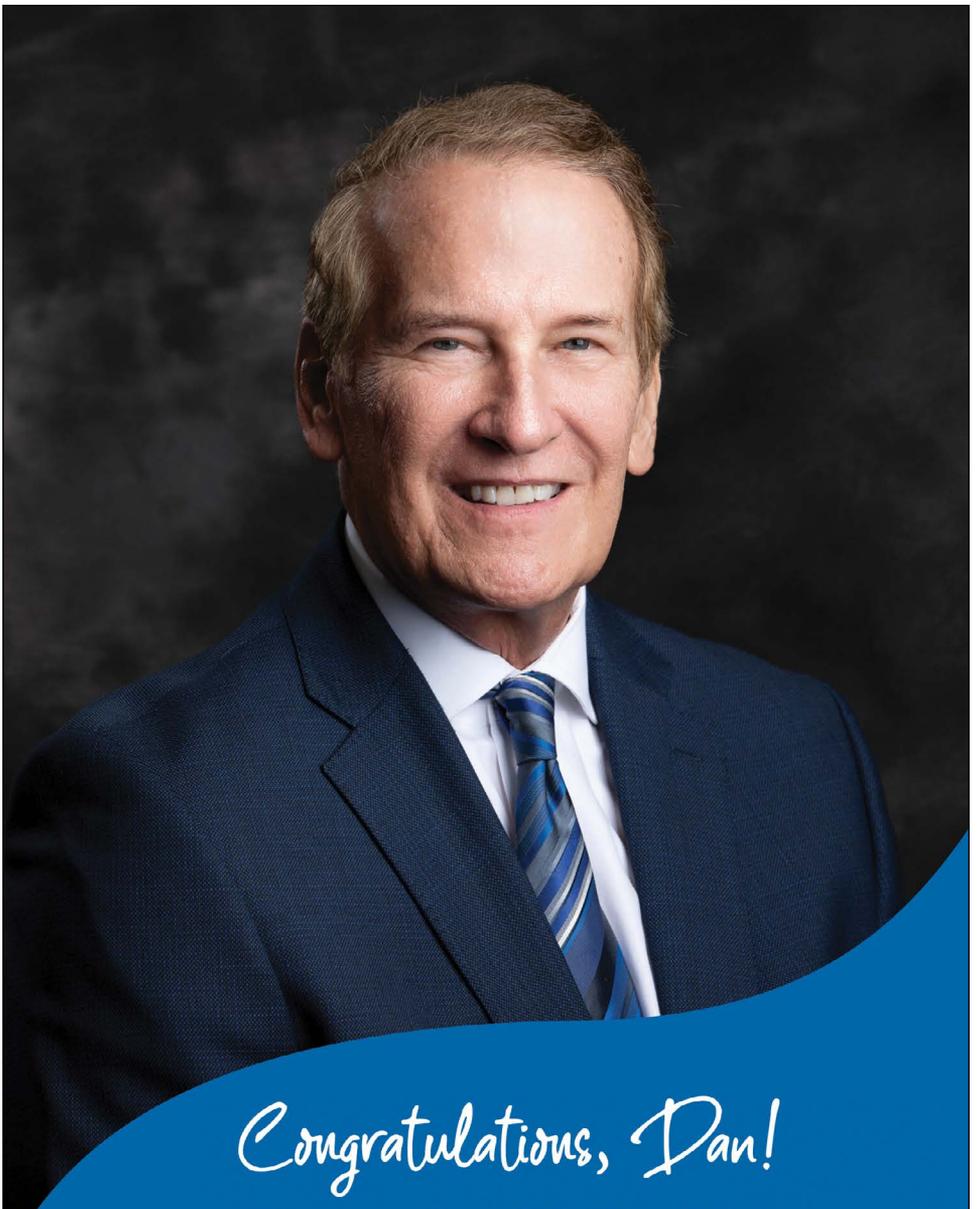


## Patient Care Second to None

Insight Health Systems extends a heartfelt congratulations to all the honorees. We appreciate your unwavering commitment to enhancing the health and well-being of our community.

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*Congratulations, Dan!*

**2025 Genesee Health Plan Visionary  
Leadership Award Recipient**

**GHS** Genesee  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**  
*Hope and health in the community*



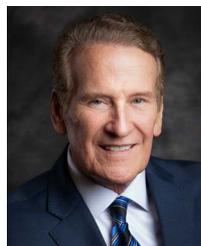
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# 2025 AWARDS

**The Visionary Leadership Award** *is given in gratitude to the people and organizations that have provided leadership for creative solutions to accessible, quality, and affordable health care in Genesee County.*

## DANIS RUSSELL

Danis Russell has been the Chief Executive Officer of Genesee Health System (GHS) since 1999. Prior to leading GHS, he held similar positions in Ohio and New Jersey. He has over 50 years' experience in behavioral health as a clinician, supervisor, and executive.



Danis is no stranger to Genesee Health Plan (GHP). Since 2006, he has been involved in visualizing access to mental health services in Genesee County and partnering with GHP on how to provide outpatient mental health counseling and psychiatric services to community members who did not meet the GHS criteria of severely and persistently mentally ill. In 2007, GHP added limited mental health counseling service benefits with an annual grant from GHS (then known as Genesee County Community Mental Health). Although the plan covered medicines like antidepressants, lack of outpatient mental health therapy was considered a gap in coverage and care. This partnership was so unique that it was a featured presentation at a Medicaid conference.

Jim Milanowski, GHP President & CEO, and Danis have continued to discuss mental health access and funding in our community throughout the years. When the Medicaid expansion in 2014 decreased the amount of general fund dollars for GHS, GHP agreed to give GHS funding to help cover the growing need in Genesee County for mental health counseling. Knowing that more mental health funding was needed, Danis envisioned a mental health millage like the Health Care Services Millage that the voters of Genesee County first approved in 2006 which supports the coverage that GHP provides. Jim was able to share with Danis lessons learned from previous campaigns he was involved in, and on May 4, 2021, the GHS Mental Health Millage passed at 54.79% approval. Genesee County is the sixth county in Michigan to provide millage support for mental health services.

Danis also realized that the GHS buildings in Flint could no longer continue to adequately locate all the expanded services needed. He developed plans to expand and now the GHS campus is located at the former Baker College campus. Families and children can access mental health services at the state-of-the-art Center for Children's Integrated Services.

In 2017, the National Council on Behavioral Health awarded him their highest honor of Excellence in Leadership for his decades of service and his GHS' work during the Flint Water Crisis. He received the Flint NAACP's Humanitarian Award in 2023 and was named Crain's Business HealthCare Hero in 2024. Danis has been a leader in shaping access to mental health services in Genesee County, fulfilling a vision for increased access.

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# 2025 AWARDS

**The Health Care Hall of Fame Inductee Visionary Leadership Award** *honors visionary leaders who personally made a lasting impact on the community's health care landscape. Through dedication, advocacy, leadership and tenacity, the Health Care Hall of Fame inductees have helped to improve the health of the community.*

## DR. RAYMOND GIST

Dr. Raymond Gist has committed his career to enhancing access to oral health care and dental services in Genesee County as a general dentist, while also advocating for community water fluoridation at both state and national levels. Demonstrating visionary leadership, Dr. Gist served as president-elect of the American Dental Association (ADA) in 2009 and 2010, and subsequently as its first — and currently only — African American president from 2010 to 2011.



Dr. Gist served a four-year term as the ADA trustee from the 9th district (Michigan and Wisconsin) from 2005-2009. He also acted as a delegate to the ADA House of Delegates and participated in the Reference Committee on Dental Benefits, Practice, and Health. As ADA president, Dr. Gist gave the keynote address at the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, where he discussed the safety of community water fluoridation in Savannah, GA. He led the 70th and 75th anniversary events for community water fluoridation in Michigan and across the United States at the American Dental Association Headquarters in Chicago. Additionally, his efforts contributed to the Genesee County Board of Commissioners' decision to fluoridate the newly built pipeline serving Genesee County.

Dr. Gist has served as president of both the Michigan Dental Association and the Genesee District Dental Society. He has been recognized for his dedicated advocacy in the prevention and treatment of oral diseases, receiving the John G. Nolen Meritorious Award, the highest honor from the Michigan Dental Association. His additional accolades include the GHP Medical Leadership Award, the Volunteer Recognition Award, and Distinguished Service Awards from both the Genesee District Dental Society and the University of Michigan School of Dentistry.

Dr. Gist served on the GHP Board of Directors from 2016-2024, was elected and served as secretary and treasurer until his retirement in December of 2024. He also served on the Physician Advisory Committee and Adult Oral Health Coalition, both of which focus on providing health services to residents without access to care and helping them find a dental and medical home. Additionally, Dr. Gist has partnered with GHP to increase oral health awareness through participating in GHP's TV interviews and offering expertise for GHP's website articles, and as a guest panelist for the Flint Community Webinar series. His leadership, vision and advocacy have made a significant impact on the work of the Genesee Health Plan and its ability to develop programs to address the oral health needs of the community.

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# HEALTH CARE HALL OF FAME

## Past Health Care Hall of Fame Inductees



**Dr. Laura Carravallah**  
2024



**James W. Gaskin**  
2023



**Kay Doerr**  
2022



**Kathryn Boles**  
2021



**Joseph "Joe" Leonard**  
2020



**Peter Levine**  
2019



**Lawrence Reynolds, MD**  
2018



**Phil Phelps**  
2017



**Linda Hamacher**  
2016



**E. Yvonne Lewis**  
2015



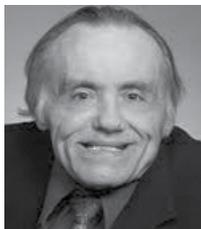
**F. Michael Jaggi, DO**  
2014



**Robert L. Emerson**  
2013



**Deborah Cherry**  
2012



**Jack Litzenberg**  
2012



**Robert M. Pestronk, MPH**  
2012



**Trissa Torres, MD**  
2012



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RAYMOND JAMES



# CONGRATULATIONS

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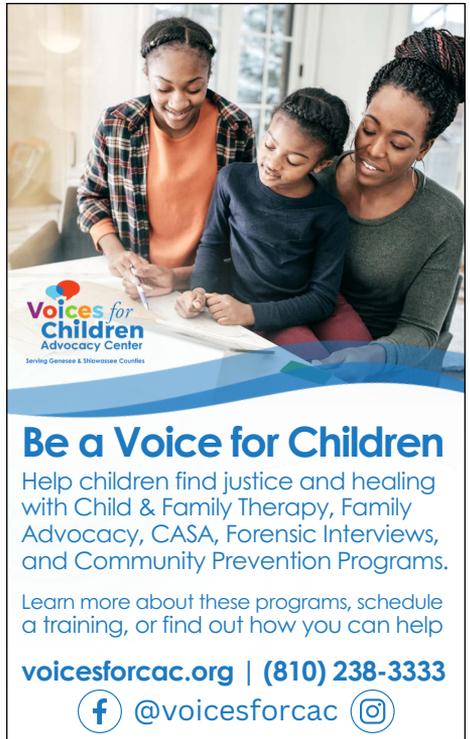
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