

HACKENSACK MERIDIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & PSYCHIATRY

FUNDRAISING PRIORITIES



Hackensack Meridian *Health* provides every level of care that behavioral health and psychiatry patients may need for mental health and substance use disorder treatment. Our mission is to inspire hope and recovery through expert treatment, education and integration of services at every level of care. It is our objective to raise necessary funds to enhance and expand current behavioral health facilities, improve access to care and develop innovative and life-sustaining programs and services for the residents of New Jersey. Philanthropic support has been critical in assisting the mental health crisis that has emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, and will allow Hackensack Meridian *Health* to assist an even greater number of individuals and their families.

ACCESS TO CARE AT CARRIER CLINIC

Hackensack Meridian Carrier Clinic is the largest private, not-for-profit provider of behavioral health care in the State of New Jersey and the fourth largest in the country. We are committed to serving our communities by providing transformational behavioral health services and treating all types of mental illness and substance use disorders.

Carrier Clinic's lush 100-acre campus in Belle Mead, NJ, is unique, offering four distinct programs:

- specialized inpatient psychiatric services for adolescents, adults and older adults;
- inpatient and outpatient addiction detox and rehabilitation, a residential program for teens with psychiatric and/or emotional difficulties and trauma; and
- a private not-for-profit alternative school for adolescents who need specialized support and services.

Our goal is to modernize the Carrier Clinic campus, which includes the Blake Recovery Center, and provide financial support to expand and enhance the many types of integrative medicine programs we offer, including equine, art and music therapies.

ADVANCING ADOLESCENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FOR CHILDREN AGES 8 AND UP

As adolescents have continued to grapple with ongoing pandemic-related trauma, including social isolation and the loss of loved ones, New Jersey's pediatric behavioral health system has become overburdened. Often, adolescent patients regularly wait five days or more in an acute care hospital emergency department for placement in one of the state's limited private pediatric behavioral health hospitals.



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Even once the pandemic aftereffects subside, adolescents will still face the unprecedented pressures of social media, cyberbullying and other drivers of adolescent anxiety and depression. This only increases the need for more inpatient pediatric behavioral health treatment.

Carrier Clinic will soon be embarking on a multi-million dollar, 40,000-square-foot expansion of its adolescent inpatient unit to improve access to inpatient behavioral health care for children ages 8 and up across the state. Currently, Carrier Clinic does not have an adequate number of pediatric inpatient beds/rooms to meet the needs of the increasing number of children who require hospitalization. This expansion will add 12 to 16 beds in a new, state-of-the-art unit that will feature a Family Resource Center, new gymnasium and clinical features to ensure the safety of our patients and clinicians. It will also improve access for adolescent patients requiring inpatient treatment who are waiting in Hackensack Meridian *Health* emergency departments across the state, crisis centers, partner hospitals and county screening centers, helping to reduce patient turnaway.

This critical expansion also includes construction of a resource and learning center which will be valuable to our clinicians, patients and their families as well as members of the community. The resource and learning center seeks to improve the well-being of the community by providing programs that will raise awareness of mental health and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

EXPANDED CARE AT THE RETREAT & RECOVERY AT RAMAPO VALLEY

The Retreat & Recovery At Ramapo Valley in Mahwah, NJ, is a new substance use disorder treatment facility and division of Carrier Clinic. Phase One of The Retreat & Recovery At Ramapo Valley, which included renovation of the Carriage House, recently opened and now provides outpatient and intensive outpatient services. Phase Two, which is in the design and planning stage, includes the renovation and expansion of the larger historic Manor House. When complete, this phase will feature a 48-bed inpatient detox and rehabilitation center. We seek philanthropic support to aid in the capital costs affiliated with the renovation and redevelopment of the 34-acre campus.

FUNDING ENDOWMENTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND EDUCATION

Recruiting, training and retaining the best behavioral health and psychiatry clinicians is a priority and challenge considering the national shortage of psychiatrists. Endowed chairs, fellowships and other graduate medical education programs will help us attract and retain the finest professionals and trainees.

THE EXPANSION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & PSYCHIATRY SERVICES

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to expand behavioral health programs and psychiatry services to meet the current and future needs of all members of the community, with a focus on both public and private grants.

Hackensack Meridian *Health* understands the critical need to invest in the behavioral health infrastructure of the community. In February 2022, Hackensack Meridian Raritan Bay Medical Center began construction on its multimillion dollar behavioral health expansion, which will feature a new, modern design that adds warmth and more natural light. The Raritan Bay Medical Center Behavioral Health and Psychiatry Unit will become a certified inpatient Behavioral Health Center of Excellence® that will serve adults, providing both Geriatric Psychiatric care and Dual Diagnosis (psychiatry/addiction) services.

In addition, other specialty care programs will be added to the unit that will allow for patients and the community to receive comprehensive behavioral health and psychiatry services within a seamless continuum of care, close to home.

The opening of the first phase of the behavioral health expansion project and the full completion of the project is anticipated for summer 2023.

To learn about how you can support behavioral health and psychiatry at Hackensack Meridian *Health*, please contact:

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