

# Thank You Notes

In 2025, Dr. Dhruv Chaudhary, an Interventional Gastroenterologist at Piedmont Columbus Regional's John B. Amos Cancer Center, was honored with the Jack A. Raines, M.D., Humanitarian Award by the Medical Association of Georgia.

Dr. Chaudhary established the region's first and only advanced endoscopy program, specializing in advanced Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS) procedures. He is proficient in various interventional endoscopic procedures, including Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), lap-assisted ERCP, Endoscopic Mucosal Resection (EMR), esophageal stenting, pseudocyst drainage with cystogastrostomy, and Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA) of Barrett's esophagus.

As the first provider to bring diagnostic and therapeutic EUS to the region, Dr. Chaudhary also performs Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD) and colorectal cancer screening colonoscopies. His interests lie in the prevention, staging, management, and palliative care of gastrointestinal malignancies.

Through his vision and leadership, patients now have access to life-saving endoscopic procedures that previously required patients to travel outside of Columbus. His efforts have significantly improved accessibility, patient outcomes, and the overall standard of gastrointestinal (GI) care in West Georgia and East Alabama.

Dr. Chaudhary grew up in Georgia and graduated with honors from the University of Georgia. "Dr. Chaudhary is a great asset to our community and the John B. Amos Cancer Center," said Sheree Tolbert, PharmD, Executive Director of Oncology Services.



# Physician Spotlight

## Dr. Andrew Stack



**Meet Dr. Andrew Stack, MD FAAP. Board-certified in General Pediatrics and Pediatric Critical Care Medicine by the American Board of Pediatrics, Dr. Stack has over 17 years of experience caring for children.**

He manages a diverse range of pediatric cases from routine admissions to complex, multidisciplinary care. Prior to joining the Bill and Olivia Amos Children's Hospital team, he served as the medical director for pediatric sedation and Department Chair for Pediatrics at the Dwaine and Cynthia Willett Children's Hospital of Savannah. Dr. Stack is actively involved in medical education and serves as an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Mercer University School of Medicine. He is committed to staying at the forefront of advancements in pediatric medicine, regularly participating in continuing education, quality improvement, and research opportunities. He looks forward to providing patient-centered, high-quality care at the Bill and Olivia Amos Children's Hospital, and is excited to help with the growth and development of pediatric services in the Columbus area. Dr. Stack moved to Columbus with his wife and 4 daughters (ages 6, 7, 10, and 12) in July 2025.

## 2025 Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon Featured Survivor: Barbara Gauthier

Barbara Gauthier, WTVM newscaster, served as the featured survivor at the 2025 Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon held on October 7, 2025. Guests were invited to reflect on her experience as she recounted her breast cancer journey—from early detection during a scheduled mammogram to her diagnosis, treatment, and meaningful moment when she rang the Hope Bell.

Ms. Gauthier expressed her appreciation for the care she received at the John B. Amos Cancer Center. She noted the reassurance of being able to remain within her community, undergo treatment in Columbus, and continue her professional responsibilities throughout her course of care.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Ms. Gauthier for sharing her personal story and for helping reinforce the importance of annual mammograms and other routine screenings. Early detection remains essential in the fight against breast cancer.

The 2025 Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon raised more than **\$113,000** for the Elena Amos Breast Care Center. These funds will support resources and services dedicated to breast care. We thank all who contributed to the success of this event.





## Col. Mike and Cathy Burns | Full Circle Moment of Giving

In March 2025, Kathy Burns was recognized during WRBL's Women's History Month for her leadership and commitment to mentoring young military families and strengthening the connection between Fort Benning and the Columbus community. As the winner, Kathy was able to designate a \$1,000 gift to a charity of her choice. She knew immediately where she wanted to donate the award.

Earlier in the year, Kathy and her husband, Mike, were excited to learn that there would be a children's hospital in Columbus, but she never expected that her family would need its services.

In April, Kathy's daughter-in-law, Jessica, received a call that her granddaughter, Finley was covered with hives. They immediately drove her to the Pediatric Emergency Department at Piedmont Columbus Regional. Upon arrival, her condition had worsened, and the hospital staff immediately administered an EpiPen. As moments ticked by, Finley's condition did not improve so they had to administer a second EpiPen.

When Finley's dad, John, arrived, he recounted, "I frantically ran past security to try to see my daughter." He continued, "Everyone was so kind and reassuring. They walked me back through security and took me to see my daughter and wife." Finley was ultimately diagnosed with a tree nut allergy. The staff decided it would be best to keep her overnight. John said, "They walked us over to the Bill and Olivia Amos Children's Hospital, and the nurses and doctors were waiting for us. We knew we were in a special place. They knew Finley by name and welcomed her as if she were a member of their family, showering her with toys and love." Finley was never scared; in fact, when she was ready to be discharged the next day, she asked, "Do we have to leave? I like it here."

Cary Burcham, Chief Nursing Officer, stated, "We know we have something special when our pediatric patients don't want to leave. There is no better feeling." Mike and Kathy Burns know that, too and are so proud to be part of the family of donors who are helping us make a positive difference in the lives of children throughout the region.

## Pink Partners | Pink had a Purpose

Each October, local companies and organizations support the Elena Amos Breast Care Center Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon by becoming a Pink Partner.

One of our popular, the Pink Partner sponsorship is designed especially for small and mid-sized businesses and organizations that want to make a meaningful impact during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Becoming a Pink Partner is easy. Simply pledge a minimum of \$500 during October. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways including donating a percentage of sales of a specific product or service; rounding-up customer receipts; hosting a special benefit day or third-party fundraising event; or, by making a direct contribution of \$500 or more.

As a Pink Partner, companies and organizations receive two (2) seats at the Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon, a table at the vendor expo with an opportunity to share marketing materials or product samples, company name listed on event banner and program, recognition on Foundation social media channels and a poster and window decal to display throughout October.

Some of this year's Pink Partners included: The Human Bean who hosted a Coffee for a Cure Day and donated a percentage of all sales, raising \$2,800; Chick-fil-A contributed a percentage of cookie sales throughout October, raising \$5,312.75; Texas Roadhouse hosted a benefit night, donating a percentage of sales, which raised \$588. In addition, members at Green Island Country Club held a Go Pink Golf Tournament, CORTA hosted a tennis tournament and a local restaurant that hosted events.



## Save the Date | 2026 Piedmont Classic

Make plans now to be part of the annual Piedmont Classic - Driven by Mercedes-Benz of Columbus. A celebration of health and wellness in our community, the tennis & golf events will be held on Monday, April 20th to benefit the John B. Amos Cancer Center. And, the Pickleball Tournament will be held on Tuesday, April 21st to benefit The Bill and Olivia Amos Children's Hospital. Both events will be held at the Country Club of Columbus.



**If you are interested in sponsoring this event or participating, please contact Stacy Bridges at [Stacy.Bridges@Piedmont.org](mailto:Stacy.Bridges@Piedmont.org).**

## Sims Vickers Memorial Let It Shine 5K

On November 1st, the Sims Vickers Memorial Let It Shine 5K, hosted by the First Baptist Church Youth Ministry, took place at Kinnett Stadium. The event welcomed 150 runners and raised \$30,000 for the NICU Fund of the Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation.

Sims and his sister, Maudie Lee, were born at Piedmont Columbus Regional and spent time being cared for by the NICU staff. Sims' life ended much too soon but his light continues to shine, and his memory inspires countless acts of love, generosity, and service within the community. The Let It Shine 5K stands as a testament to the impact of his life and the enduring hope carried forward in his name.



Save the Date for these upcoming events benefitting our local Children's Miracle Network Hospital:

### St. Luke Dance Marathon

Details on times and locations to come!  
Contact our office for additional information.



## How to Give

**To make a gift online, visit [give.piedmont.org/pcrf](http://give.piedmont.org/pcrf).**

Please mail checks to PO Box 790, Columbus, GA 31993-9547 and make payable to the Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation including your desired gift designation on the memo line.

**To learn more about the PCR Foundation or for questions, please call 706-660-6115.**

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