



gratitude (grat·i·tude)

noun

State of being grateful; thankfulness.

Local Lung Cancer Screening

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women in the US.

**Maine is the 6th highest in new lung cancer cases and
10th highest in death rates in all of the US. ***

Until 2021, if you lived in Knox and Waldo Counties and needed a lung screening, which is an annual five-minute appointment, you would have had to drive to Bangor or Portland. Many patients who were eligible for the screening were reluctant to travel the two hours to receive services. In 2020, we began to seek grant funding to make screenings available locally, knowing that early detection of lung cancer is critical to survivability. We already had the technical capability to perform the annual, Low-Dose Computer Tomography (LDCT) screenings, and the team members to perform the test. We just needed to create a new position, the Lung Cancer Screening Navigator (LCSN), to help support the program by coordinating and managing screening activities.

[Maine Cancer Foundation](#) generously provided the grant funding, and the position became a reality. Letitia Stover, RN, BSN, BCEN was hired as a Lung Cancer Screening Program Navigator in 2021. Letitia knew the community and the hospital well having worked in the Emergency Department at Waldo County General Hospital for 20 years. Preventing and detecting lung cancer early was also near to her heart having had several family members who experienced lung cancer.

Waldo began providing lung cancer screenings in December of 2021 and Pen Bay started in March of 2022. Since then, we have screened over 2,000 patients. The LCSN position seeded with grant funding, is now fully sustainable and is providing continued screening and support to our communities.



For more information, visit mainehealth.org/lungcancer, or contact Letitia at (207) 505-4712.

*[mainelungcancercoalition](#)

Pen Bay Medical Center and Waldo County General Hospital care team members pictured left to right: Letitia Stover RN, BSN, BCEN, lung cancer screening program navigator; Gregory Grotz, MD, radiologist; Seth Milton, RT(R)(CT)(ARRT), lead CT tech

*"Appreciation is a wonderful thing;
it makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well."
~ Voltaire*

Philanthropy Profile: Keri Cummings, leadership gift officer

We're so happy to welcome Keri Cummings, the philanthropy team's new leadership gift officer, who joined the team at the end of February. Keri comes to us from Jacksonville, FL where she was the associate director of development for Baptist Health. Keri's husband, Dylan, also joined the MaineHealth family as an outpatient therapist with Maine Behavioral Health in Rockland.



We asked Keri to share a little bit about herself in the interview below.

What made you decide to move from Florida to Maine in November?

Being born and raised in Florida, it was time to shake things up and go on our next adventure! Visiting Maine in the Fall of 2022 felt like a breath of fresh air, which was exactly what we were looking for. My husband, Dylan, was born and raised in Florida as well, and we were both seeking a completely different atmosphere. While neither of us have experienced a true winter, in late 2023 we embraced the change, went in with open minds, and purchased winter attire as soon as we arrived! People in Maine have been so welcoming and warm with infectious smiles and kind gestures. We feel like this is exactly where we need to be!

What is it that drew you to a career in philanthropy?

After working in social work for a few years and witnessing firsthand the benefit fundraising dollars had on programs that substantially impacted a family's life, I decided I could have more impact by working in fundraising. For the last seven years I've been helping the community by connecting with local donors, businesses, and seeking partnerships with corporations. Working in philanthropy has been extremely eye opening in terms of understanding the community needs and witnessing the generosity of donors who want to make a difference. I'm eager to learn about the Midcoast communities and help Pen Bay Medical Center and Waldo County General Hospital.

What makes you the most excited about your role as leadership gift officer?

Healthcare philanthropy not only benefits the community right away, but it also helps ensure a strong framework is there to continue sustaining future needs that may arise. I'm excited to meet our generous donors and partners and to hopefully make a positive impact on the community. Having access to healthcare in the Midcoast area was a must when moving my family here and I'm proud to have joined this dedicated team of individuals who have welcomed me with open arms.

What are you grateful for?

After a challenging year that involved a big life change (moving is never easy!), I am most grateful for things I might have taken for granted before: good health, meaningful relationships, and the chance to reconnect with nature! Also, for our sweet and loving dogs, Lola, and Levi!

Please join us in welcoming Keri!

*"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.
If you want to be happy, practice compassion."
~ Dalai Lama*



In her first week with us, Keri was already busy meeting with donors and local businesses. Keri visited the Camden Square branch of [Camden National Bank](#) on Wednesday, February 28 to accept a donation of over \$11,000.

Each October, in recognition of breast cancer awareness month, the Camden Square branch hosts a book sale to benefit cancer care in the Midcoast. This effort is headed up by Lori Meservey a senior operations specialist with Camden National Bank. Lori was especially excited by the donation they were able to make this year, a substantial portion of which was given by one bank customer. Thank you to Lori for spearheading this effort, and to all who donated. The funds raised will help provide free mammograms to qualified individuals during October at both Pen Bay Medical Center and Waldo County General Hospital.

Pictured Left to Right: Lori Meservey, senior operations specialist, Camden National Bank; Keri Cummings, leadership gift officer, Pen Bay Waldo Healthcare Foundation; Shawn Jacobs, vice president, Camden National Bank

*"Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give."
~ Unknown*

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Pen Bay Waldo
Healthcare Foundation
MaineHealth

The Pen Bay Waldo Healthcare Foundation provides support for Pen Bay Medical Center, Waldo County General Hospital and other Coastal Healthcare Alliance affiliates in Knox and Waldo counties. The Foundation also supports MaineHealth Care at Home services at the Sussman House. Our aim is to build lasting relationships with donors and engage the community in long-term support that will sustain the health care of our region for many years to come.



Please forward our newsletter to friends and neighbors who might like to hear what is happening in the community.

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