50 Years of Leadership

Thundermist’s evolution from a one-room clinic to a federally qualified health center serving nearly 50,000 patients in three communities is due to the vision and tireless dedication of staff and the Board of Directors. These are only a few of those committed individuals.

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50 YEARS!

The celebration of our golden anniversary is remarkable. It is incredible to think one out of every 20 Rhode Islanders counts on Thundermist for their care. Patients have placed their trust in us over the past five decades. The community turns to Thundermist Health Center when they need care and we will never take this confidence for granted.

Thundermist is a mission-driven organization with an exceptional history. We often reflect on our roots and the vision of a few dedicated health care professionals who wanted to improve the access to and quality of care in northern Rhode Island. The passion and commitment that drove the establishment of a one-room clinic in Woonsocket is still evident today.

More than 550 employees work at Thundermist and we all come to work each day with our patients top of mind. We work at Thundermist because we want to have an impact in our community. We want to help those who need care and assist them in improving their health and wellbeing. I am often in awe of the impact we make and so grateful to be part of a team that consistently goes above and beyond to fulfill an important mission.

People often stop me at a restaurant or store when they realize I work at Thundermist. The stories they share are inspiring. They tell of incredible employees who have made a real difference in their lives. Examples of getting needed health care for their children. Tales of new dentures so they can obtain employment. Celebrations after gaining control of their diabetes. Stories of counseling after trauma. Gratefulness after entering recovery from a substance use disorder. Success in finding housing, clothing, and food.

Thundermist has evolved from a one-room clinic to a health center providing integrated medical, dental, and behavioral health care to patients throughout the state. But, the passion to deliver high-quality care to those who need it most remains.

Best regards,

Jeanne LaChance
President/Chief Executive Officer
‘Making Everything Better’

More than three decades ago, Pauline Ridlon was a new mother trying to navigate the health care system and get care for her newborn son. Without health insurance, she didn’t know what to do. The baby needed his immunizations and Pauline was unsure where she could get the care he needed.

Thundermist helped Pauline when she didn’t know where to turn. This started a more than 30-year relationship that has helped Pauline improve her health and life.

“I come to Thundermist for primary care, but a whole group of people help,” explains Pauline. “They help me with my diabetes, my mental state of mind, my depression, access to special doctors. Thundermist helps me with all of my care.”

Pauline attends Thundermist’s diabetic support group. It has made all the difference in helping her get her chronic condition in control. The monthly group allows patients to learn from each other and know there are others in the same situation. Thundermist staff leads the group and shares ideas of how patients can help control their diabetes.

It is not just the services that have a made an impact for Pauline. It is the staff who show her they really care about her health and well-being.

“Thundermist made it so I can be comfortable in my health care. They have my back,” says Pauline. “They answer my questions and address my problems. They make my life a little easier.”

Pauline participated in the ribbon-cutting for the expanded Woonsocket medical and behavioral health facility. She said the building is a tremendous asset to the community.

“When I first started going to Thundermist in Woonsocket it was just one room. Now it’s a humongous facility that has everything I need. It’s modernized and up to date. But, despite the size, you feel comfortable. They help you feel at home.”

“I come to Thundermist for primary care, but a whole group of people help,” explains Pauline. “They help me with my diabetes, my mental state of mind, my depression, access to special doctors. Thundermist helps me with all of my care.”

The story Pauline tells about Thundermist is one of confidence. She is grateful for the care she receives and the staff whom she trusts.

“Thundermist brought me through some tough times. I put my life in their hands, and I know they are going to make everything better.”

2018 Financial Highlights
Sources of Revenue

- Federal Community Health Center Funding: $5,677,020
- Medicaid, Medicare, Insurances, Patient Payments: $45,442,686
- Grants and Contracts: $3,339,080
- Rental Income, Fundraising, Other: $630,806
- TOTAL AMOUNT: $55,082,592

2017 Annual Report: Thundermist Health Center
Thundermist By the Numbers: 2018

Thundermist Health Center cares for **one out of every 20** Rhode Islanders.

- **Unique Patients:** Increased 8% from 2017 to 2018
- **Patient Visits:** Increased 10% from 2017 to 2018

**Growth in Services**

- **Convenient Care**
  - 13,670 patients (12% increase 2017 - 2018)
  - 21,316 visits (13% increase 2017 - 2018)

- **Behavioral Health Services**
  - 5,928 patients (13% increase 2017 - 2018)
  - 31,137 visits (11% increase 2017 - 2018)

- **Community Health Team**
  - 5,381 patients (44% increase 2017 - 2018)
  - 12,855 visits (56% increase 2017 - 2018)

- **Trans* Health Access Team**
  - 749 patients (56% increase 2017 - 2018)

- **Medication-Assisted Treatment**
  - 523 patients (24% increase 2017 - 2018)

**Employee and Provider Growth**

- **Employees:** 560 in 2018 (43 additional employees in 2018; 8% increase 2017 - 2018)
- **Providers:** 148 in 2018 (18 additional providers in 2018; 14% increase in providers 2017 - 2018)

**2018 Annual Report: Thundermist Health Center**
In 2018, Thundermist Health Center made a pledge. We committed to train employees on how to administer naloxone, the life-saving medication that can reverse an overdose. We also went one step further. Thundermist provided naloxone to every employee who wished to have it – for free.

A trained individual knows how to recognize the signs of an overdose and how to respond. This training, combined with access to naloxone, can potentially save lives. In late 2018, Thundermist employees used this education to save the life of an individual overdosing.

“Our staff knew exactly what to do,” said Christopher Durigan, PharmD, BCPS, clinical pharmacist and one of the responders that day. “Staff knew the signs of an overdose which meant we were able to respond immediately and in the right way. We worked together as a team to help the patient.”

Opioid overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in Rhode Island. In fact, more Rhode Islanders die from overdose than murder, arson, and car accidents combined. The communities Thundermist serves the most are disproportionately impacted by the overdose crisis. In 2016, Woonsocket had the highest overdose death rate in the state, which was nearly twice the state average. West Warwick was also disproportionately impacted with the fifth highest rate in Rhode Island. In South County, more than 30 people died from overdose.

Thundermist recognizes our responsibility to make an impact inside and outside of the exam room. Increasing the availability of naloxone, and training individuals on appropriate administration, will help to save lives. We want to provide our employees – clinical and non-clinical staff – with the tools and education needed to act. Staff will use this knowledge throughout our community in their roles as health care professionals and neighbors.

In 2018, Thundermist trained nearly 400 employees. More than 150 Thundermist employees chose to receive naloxone. Trainings are ongoing and new staff are educated during orientation.

Medication-Assisted Treatment

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) uses medicine to fight urges, cravings, and impulsive use of substances. Medication is combined with counseling and behavioral therapy to treat substance use disorders. Access to medication-assisted treatment in a setting that also provides primary care, social services, and behavioral therapy helps patients move toward an improved health status, while reducing overdoses. Thundermist also offers MAT services to pregnant patients. Currently, Thundermist provides medication-assisted treatment to more than 500 patients.
Golf Club. On October 10, our last 80-degree day
North Point. The Dunes Club
Narragansett
Thundermist 2018 Events

THUNDERMIST GOLF TOURNAMENT
Sakonnet Golf Club
Little Compton
Thundermist mission. Following the tournament,
attendees enjoyed a cocktail reception and silent
auction. In total, the event raised more than $27,000!

Donors
January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018
THUNDERMIST IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS.
We have made every effort to correctly list and recognize our donors. We apologize if there are any inadvertent errors or omissions.

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This year, the date of our rain provided
spectacular weather for a round of golf at Sakonnet Golf Club. On October 10, our last 80-degree day
this year, 100 golfers came together to support the
Thundermist mission. Following the tournament,
attendees enjoyed a cocktail reception and silent
auction. In total, the event raised more than $27,000!