



# **Celebrating Rhode Island's Community Health Centers Beacon Award Winners 2025**



Thursday, August 7, 2025  
Roger Williams Casino  
1000 Elmwood Avenue  
Providence

# **Rhode Island's Community Health Centers**

Blackstone Valley Community Health Care  
Comprehensive Community Action Program  
East Bay Community Action Program  
Thundermist Health Center  
Providence Community Health Centers  
Tri-County Community Action Agency  
WellOne Primary Medical & Dental Care  
Wood River Health

# National Health Center Week

During National Health Center Week, we celebrate the commitment and passion of Community Health Center staff, board members, and supporters who make it possible to provide quality, comprehensive healthcare services to more than 210,000 Rhode Islanders, regardless of their ability to pay.



## Beacon Award

Each year, the Rhode Island Health Center Association honors employees who exemplify the health center mission.

These employees serve as beacons of strength, service, and care in the workplace and in their communities.



**5:30 pm Greetings**

Elena Nicoella, CEO & President  
*Rhode Island Health Center Association*

**5:35 pm Welcoming Remarks**

Speaker of the House K. Joseph Shekarchi  
*Rhode Island House of Representatives*

**5:40 pm Rhode Island Delegate Remarks**

Senator Jack Reed  
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse  
Representative Gabe Amo  
*United States Congress*

**5:55 pm Presentation of  
Health Center Beacon Awards**

**6:25 pm Closing Remarks**

# MEET THE 2025 AWARDEES



**Tracey Ravello, CPC**  
**Director of Revenue Cycle Operations**



Tracey exemplifies the collaborative spirit we are building at Blackstone, working with employees of all disciplines to reach a common goal. I consistently hear feedback from across the organization that they appreciate her willingness to work together and learn from each other. This collaborative spirit extends to our patients as well. Tracey exhibits a unique sensitivity to the needs of our most vulnerable patients, working to find a path. She is a true leader who inspires her team to follow her vision.



**Nicole Robitaille**  
**Referral Coordinator**

*In CCAP's Warwick Health Center on Buttonwoods Avenue, the most important lever that is activated for your benefit is Nicole Robitaille. She will work relentlessly to make sure you get the care you need while also being mindful of your insurance coverage and any other special accommodations you may need. However, Nicole doesn't just worry about the one patient in front of her and ensures they get what they need; she worries about the entire process of referrals and all the patients that may come after or all the patients that are getting care in CCAP's entire system.*



**east bay community  
action program**

**Janine Petracca Fonseca**  
**Assistant Program Manager (IHH), Behavioral Health**



*Janine Petracca Fonseca has been a hospital liaison and assistant manager on EBCAP's IHH Behavioral Health Team for 6 years. During a staffing shortage, Janine continued doing her own job and took on the interim manager role for a year and a half. Serving our more acute serious mentally ill population and working long hours, Janine did both jobs with a positive attitude and a smile, never complaining. Not only did she continue to provide excellent care to our clients, she held her team together and was a consummate leader during the toughest of times.*



**Lonice Thomas, MD**  
**Pediatrician**

*For 40 years, Dr. Lonice Thomas has devoted her life to the children of South Providence. From the days of navigating through endless stacks of paper charts with unwavering dedication to treating multiple generations of patients, her keen clinical eye has saved countless lives, and her compassion has brought healing and hope to the community. Her commitment to community health is truly transformative. It is with heartfelt admiration that we nominate Dr. Thomas for this well-deserved award.*



**James Tringale**  
**Manager of Healthcare Data Analytics**

*James is the quiet force behind so much of Thundermist's success. With care, integrity, and innovation, he turns complex data into clear, actionable tools that elevate our work. His steady support reflects our highest values—helping our teams thrive and our patients flourish, always with humility and excellence.*



**Amanda DeSimone**  
**Registered Nurse, Health Information Technology**

*Amanda exemplifies the spirit of the Beacon Award through her unwavering commitment to our mission and the communities we serve. With years of dedicated service as both a Registered Nurse and a Health Information Technology professional, Amanda brings a unique perspective that bridges clinical care and data-driven decision-making. Her dual expertise not only enhances patient outcomes but also supports and empowers her colleagues. Amanda's contributions are unmatched, and we are honored to celebrate her as our beacon of excellence.*



**Patty Kelly-Flis, RN**  
**Director of Quality**



*Patty embodies a passion for quality improvement that is both inspiring and deeply impactful. What sets Patty apart is her relentless drive to see meaningful improvements in the day-to-day experiences of our patients as well as the overall outcome. Her curiosity and commitment to learning are matched only by her dedication to actionable change. From identifying opportunities for enhancement to implementing data-informed strategies, Patty performs her work with heart and passion. We are proud to have Patty as part of the WellOne team and grateful for the integrity and passion she brings to everything she does.*



**WOOD RIVER HEALTH**  
Caring for Our Community Since 1976

**Katherine Miller**  
**Director, Care Coordination**

*Kat Miller joined the Wood River team in June of 2017 initially as a community resource specialist. She became trained as an insurance navigator and a community health worker. In 2021, she was promoted to the role she has today, Director of Care Coordination. She oversees all programs that address social determinants of health, including WIC and home stabilization, and manages the sliding fee scale program. She is a strong advocate for our patients and for integrated care. She is a compassionate leader who embraces the health center's mission to serve our broader community.*



[www.rihca.org](http://www.rihca.org)