

November 18, 2022

Dear VCU Health Supporter,

On May 20, 2023, the VCU Health trauma center will host our 14<sup>th</sup> Shining Knight Gala. Our plan (if COVID cooperates), is to return to our tradition of hosting this as an inspiring, in-person event. We hope that you will join us to recognize and celebrate the heroic measures of our "Shining Knights," Virginia's front-line health care providers. Our Shining Knights work as one team to respond, resuscitate and transport trauma victims. They are found all along the continuum of care, from the scene of injury, to the ER and within the trauma teams who meet trauma victims in the hospital, the skilled surgical teams who put broken bodies back together, and the compassionate nurses, rehab experts, therapist and others who support patients and their families through the healing process.

Each year, VCU Health's team of trauma experts treat more than 4,500 central Virginians who sustain major traumatic injuries. As central Virginia's only American College of Surgeons-verified Level I comprehensive adult, pediatric and burn trauma center, VCU Health supports 24-hour, on-site emergency staff, surgical staff, dedicated operating rooms, expert nurses, and 24/7 access to laboratory services and subspecialties including: neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, plastic surgery, cardiac surgery and anesthesia/critical care. In addition to being the longest established and largest trauma center in Virginia, VCU Health's nationally renowned trauma center is designated by the Commonwealth as meeting the highest standard for trauma care. When you need us most, we are here for you!

As always, at the annual Shining Knight Gala, you will learn our teams not only provide the best possible care; they are passionate about *preventing* trauma as well. Funds raised at this event will support several community-facing initiatives including our injury and violence prevention programs. Through programs like these, we work locally and regionally in partnership with organizations to make Richmond and the surrounding region a safer place. These efforts extend beyond the walls of the trauma center and the roles of doctor and patient. We rely on the generosity of supporters like you to help sustain these impactful programs that benefit our communities.

Please join us in 2023! As we return to an in-person format, we will work with our public health experts to ensure our guests' health and safety. It will be a wonderful and inspiring evening for honorees and attendees alike. We encourage you to support us through a sponsorship, by purchasing a table, or recognizing a loved one as your "Personal Shining Knight." The enclosed informational sheet outlines our opportunities for support. Please contact Amanda Van Thunen at [Amanda.Vanthunen@vcuhealth.org](mailto:Amanda.Vanthunen@vcuhealth.org) with any questions.

Thank you for your consideration and your continuing support. We look forward to engaging with you, hopefully in person, on May 20, 2023, at the VCU Health Shining Knight Gala. We can't wait to celebrate together and recognize our Shining Knights for their courage, dedication and life-saving care!

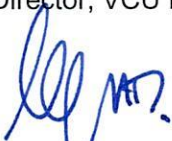
Sincerely,



Michel Aboutanos, MD, MPH  
Chair, VCU Division of Acute Care Surgical Services  
Medical Director, VCU Level I Trauma Center



Michael Roussos  
President, VCU Medical Center



Marlon Levy, MD, FACS  
Interim Senior Vice President, VCU Health Sciences and  
Interim CEO, VCU Health System

Please call 1-844-445-9126 or email [OptOut@vcuhealth.org](mailto:OptOut@vcuhealth.org) if you wish to have your name removed from mailings for future fundraising efforts.