

I'm Norman Worth, President and General Manager of WRNJ Radio and a longtime member of the Hackettstown Regional Medical Center and HRMC Foundation Boards.

As a Board member, I've chaired HRMC's Professional Practice and Strategic Planning Committees, and I have been an active member of the Foundation Golf Classic Committee for as long as I can recall. I currently serve on the Centenary College Board of Trustees and am active with a number of other area clubs and organizations.

In my profession, I meet many people from all walks of life, many who have received health care from HRMC, Newton Medical Center and Morristown Medical Center. As a Board member, I have visited HRMC patients to learn directly about the quality of care they were getting. Rarely would I hear an unkind word and, far more often than not, patients would go on at length about the staff's competence and compassion.

I've lived in this community since 1977, and I've seen the growth of HRMC from a small, local hospital with "stylish" turquoise front panels, to an expansive medical center that has not only grown in terms of the size of the facility, but also in the range of the services being offered. All by a caring staff who never allows an elderly patient without family to be alone near their end of life.

Over the years, I've seen the growth of HRMC's Center for Healthier Living. In the beginning, only a few screenings, programs and vaccination initiatives were offered – now, they offer a multitude of choices, including corporate health programs, special programs for seniors, childbirth education classes, outreach services via health fairs, flu clinics, and a full slate of CPR classes for all ages and abilities. How fitting it is that Atlantic Health System's vision statement is (quote) "Empowering our communities to be the healthiest in the nation." (end quote)

I have no doubt that Atlantic Health System can support and fortify HRMC in the continued mission of healing and leading the way to a healthier community.