

The Next Century of Care
Keeping Our
promise



Northern LightSM
Blue Hill Hospital

The Astbury Family
Penobscot, ME



It began with a

promise

In 1922, Mrs. F.B. Richards donated the original Blue Hill Hospital in honor of her daughter Katherine. At the heart of her gift was a promise to care for the sick and vulnerable close to home, where friends and family could always be nearby. This promise has driven our work for a century as we've grown to become a recognized top rural hospital that provides safe, high-quality emergency, inpatient, and specialty care in Blue Hill and primary care in Blue Hill, Castine, and Stonington.

We are reimagining this promise as we approach 2022, our centennial year. We're preparing for the healthcare of tomorrow, with a focus on access, convenience, and bringing the latest advancements in healthcare to our rural community. It's no secret that our current hospital building needs to be replaced. But the future of healthcare in our region is not just about new bricks and mortar. An updated facility will serve as a hub for healthcare in our community, preserving vital healthcare

services while opening the doors to new ways to access healing care.

Keeping our promise requires a bold new vision for the people of the Blue Hill Peninsula. A lot has changed in the past 100 years, but one thing hasn't: our promise to put patients first with care close to home.

Now we set a course for our second century, and we invite you to be a part of what comes next.

“Blue Hill Hospital was born with a promise to provide patient and family-centered care close to home. Now, as we look toward our centennial year, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to protect this promise for the future in a hospital that will serve our community’s needs for the next 100 years.”



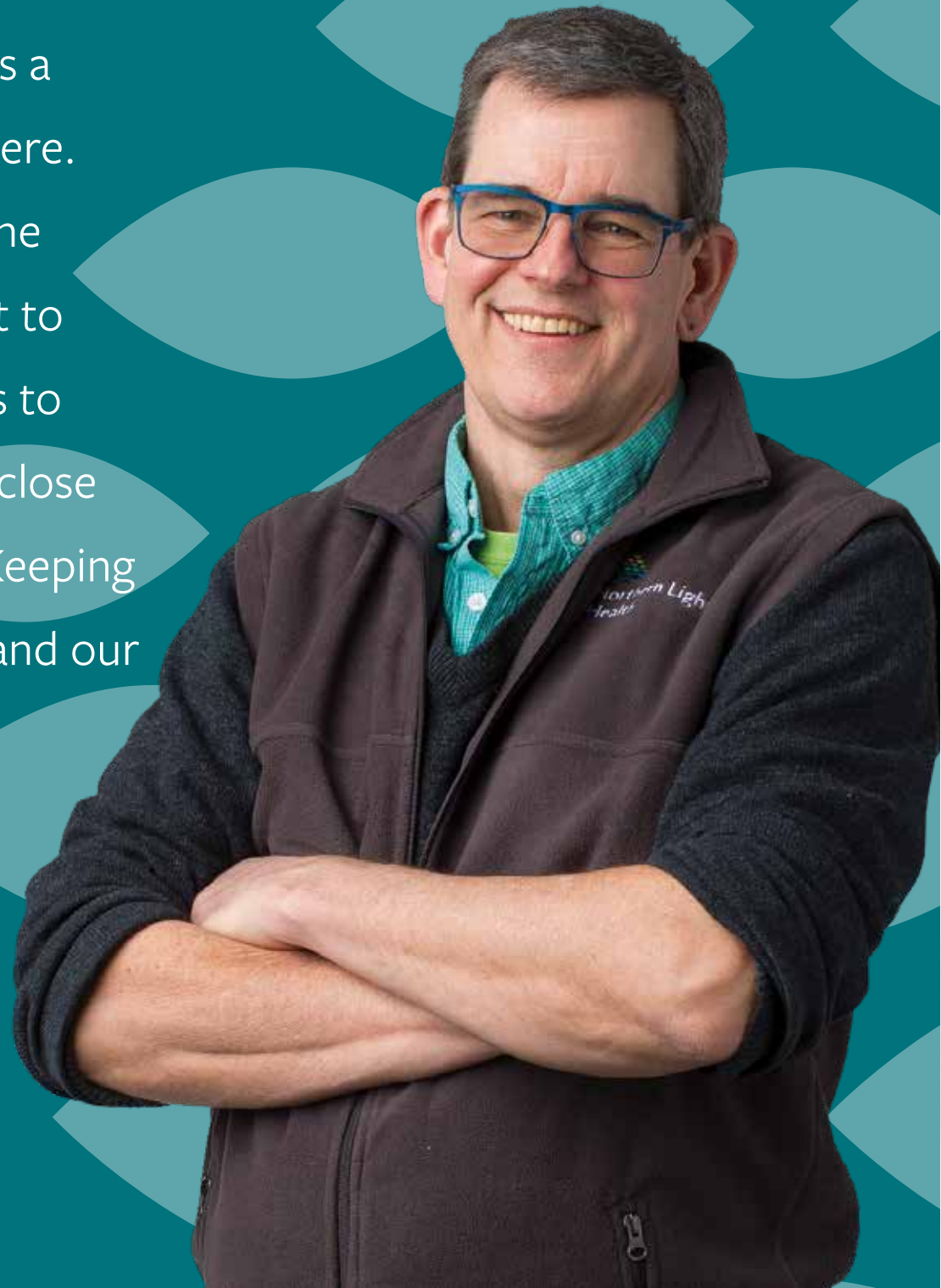
John Ronan, FACHE

President, Northern Light Blue Hill and Maine Coast Hospitals
Senior Vice President, Northern Light Health

“This hospital lives up to its name. It’s a critical access hospital. It has to be here. If not, the people out at the end of the peninsula would not have time to get to emergency services. Our challenge is to preserve critical healthcare services close to home for our communities. The Keeping Our Promise campaign will do that, and our patients deserve nothing less.”

Michael Murnik, MD

Primary Care Physician
Vice President and Senior Physician Executive
Northern Light Blue Hill Hospital



Our Challenge

Backed by a generous community, Blue Hill Hospital continues to be the local healthcare provider that neighbors, friends, and families count on for exceptional care—just as they have for nearly 100 years. Recently, we've strengthened our primary care services, improved access to specialty care services, and maintained high quality inpatient and skilled nursing care within our hospital.



Today, our inpatient and support services are provided in an aging hospital where costly repairs are becoming more frequent. Heating and cooling, electrical, and plumbing systems are outdated and not energy efficient. Patient rooms are not configured for modern medical technology. The oldest parts of the hospital are 100 years old and cannot be used to provide patient care because they do not meet regulatory standards. Each year, it becomes more challenging to provide the highest level of care in our outdated hospital buildings.

Patient and family expectations have also changed in the past century. Comfortable

accommodations for visitors are now the standard of care. Patients also expect to be cared for in a healing space that has a warm, modern feel and lots of natural light. Our patients deserve to have this experience at Blue Hill Hospital.

Our skilled and compassionate team does a great job of providing care in a building that was not built for the kind of healthcare that we deliver today. A new hospital building with a design and layout that supports their work will make them even more effective in caring for our community. Increasingly, the doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals who we recruit to work in Blue Hill expect to work in an up-to-date facility.

Our hospital has been the foundation for healthcare in our community for a century, but it will not meet Blue Hill's needs in the future. Quality, compassionate care begins as soon as patients walk through the doors of Blue Hill Hospital. Together, we can keep this level of care for future generations.

Committed to our community's health and wellbeing



A nonprofit organization, Northern Light Blue Hill Hospital provides a wide range of free and reduced-cost programs to the underserved and the community as a whole as part of our charitable mission.

In 2020, Blue Hill Hospital provided nearly **\$1.8 million** in total community benefit programs and services to improve health and increase access.

Our community health priorities currently include screening and referral for health-related social needs, increasing access to opioid treatment, and improving access to care.

“Blue Hill Hospital is where my appendix was removed, my children were well cared for after snagging fish hooks, and my husband Charlie’s life was saved three times. It’s where I was born. That’s why I’m proud to be part of something that’s going to be great in the future. What it stands for is that we’re here to help people. That’s the only thing that matters.”

Nancy Hatfield
East Blue Hill
Capital Campaign Committee Chair



Our next century of care

Blue Hill Hospital is where every person is treated with compassion and respect. It's our region's largest employer, where providers, nurses, and staff put patients first every day. It's our community's trusted health partner, dedicated to improving lives. Our doors never close, and we never stop caring for patients. Our next 100 years will be built upon these same commitments.

Our vision for the future of healthcare in Blue Hill includes a new, modern, 10-bed acute care hospital and renovations to the Sussman Health Center. The new main hospital building, one of the most modern rural hospitals in Maine, will be a patient and family-focused environment for healing with views of the water from every patient room. An energy-efficient design will be less costly to operate and better for the environment. Smart technology

will provide the care team with the information they need to deliver the safest, most timely care.

Blue Hill's new hospital will serve as a hub for new approaches to accessing care. In our next century, telehealth will provide timely, convenient access to highly specialized services that have never been offered in Blue Hill. Care will be seamless between Blue Hill Hospital, Maine Coast Hospital in Ellsworth, and Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor to ensure the best patient experience. When medically appropriate, patients treated at Maine Coast Hospital or EMMC may be transferred to Blue Hill Hospital to continue their recovery, close to home.

A new hospital is how we make this vision a reality for our patients. It's the kind of healthcare that you, your family, and our communities deserve.

Our partner: **Northern Light Health**

Blue Hill Hospital is a part of Northern Light Health, a statewide healthcare system that exists to make healthcare work for the people and communities of Maine. Blue Hill Hospital is one of four critical access hospitals in the Northern Light system, a designation given to small hospitals that provide essential healthcare services in rural communities.

Northern Light Health is committed to supporting Blue Hill Hospital's modernization every step of the way, including with financial support for the project. Strengthened by Northern Light Health's expertise and resources, Blue Hill's new hospital will become a model for preserving care in rural communities in Maine and beyond.



**Northern Light
Health**SM

View towards the water (conceptual rendering)



Building for our **second century**

The new Northern Light Blue Hill Hospital will be a destination for quality, compassionate, patient-centered care for the Blue Hill Peninsula and beyond. Our vision for healthcare in Blue Hill includes all of the services that our community depends on today, most of which will be provided in a new, state-of-the-art facility that will serve our region's healthcare needs far into the future:

- Private inpatient rooms for an improved patient and visitor experience with up-to-date technology, private bathrooms with showers, and plenty of space for patients, families, and the care team
- A full-service Emergency Department with 24/7 coverage focused on patient and family privacy and the highest quality care
- Primary care provided in three communities
- The most common specialty care services for the whole family
- Imaging and lab services
- Rehabilitation services, including cardiac rehab



Blue Hill's next hospital



View from Water Street (conceptual rendering)



Patient room view (conceptual rendering)

Pathway to a *promise*

Coinciding with our 100-year anniversary, construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2022.

Estimated project timeline

Planning and design	Spring 2021
Groundbreaking	Spring 2022
Grand opening	Summer 2023

The Keeping Our Promise Campaign

For 100 years, Blue Hill Hospital has been our community's healthcare provider for generations of families when it matters most. The Keeping Our Promise Campaign is how we will preserve this special resource for the next century. We've reached this exciting moment in our history thanks to the community's generous support over the years. An investment in the future of healthcare in our community will make this project a reality for our friends, loved ones, and neighbors.





“For nearly a century, our community has trusted Blue Hill Hospital to provide skilled care with compassion and respect. The hospital is a vital part of the community that continues to touch the lives of nearly every family on the Blue Hill Peninsula. We are proud to be among the supporters of this project and encourage others to join in preparing our community hospital for the next century of care.”

Scott and Ruth Miller, Blue Hill



“Having been born and raised in rural Maine, I’ve witnessed first-hand the importance of community-based healthcare. I firmly believe it’s our responsibility to help usher in the next generation of quality, accessible healthcare here on the Blue Hill Peninsula. This is why I’m supporting the Keeping Our Promise Campaign and would ask you to join in this effort with me.”

Edward Griffin
Blue Hill

“A strong hospital is a vital part of a vibrant community, and it’s hard to imagine this town without Blue Hill Hospital. It’s just that important. Now, we have an opportunity to build something special for the future.”

Karen Brandenburg
Owner, The Meadow of Blue Hill





“Every time I walk through the doors of Blue Hill Hospital, they see me as a person, not just a patient. I know that I will be treated with respect and compassion. This has been my hospital for the past 25 years, and I am passionate about doing whatever I can to help it succeed.”

Verena Stoll
Brooksville



“Having Blue Hill Hospital a 25 minute drive from us in Little Deer Isle is one of the reasons we can live in such a beautiful place. Replacing the hospital’s aging structures with a modern new facility means we can count on Blue Hill Hospital for many years to come.”

Ted and Sue Clayton
Little Deer Isle

“When I think of Blue Hill Hospital, what comes to mind is the special care that has taken place in that building over the years. As we close one chapter in our history, we open a new one with the opportunity to care for the future of this community.”

Chris Wanning
Blue Hill



The promise begins with you

As rural hospitals reduce services and close in many areas of the country, we invite you to join us in ensuring a strong future for Blue Hill's hospital.

Today, more than ever, we are reaching out to our friends and supporters who share our vision of enhancing access to high-quality care in our region. Naming opportunities are available to recognize the support of individuals, families, and businesses or can honor or remember a loved one. Every gift stays in our community to support the project.

On behalf of every patient and family that your generosity will touch, thank you for considering a philanthropic commitment to help us keep our promise to our communities for the next century and beyond.

To learn more and pledge your support, contact:

JoAnne Rodick

Philanthropy Officer

207.664.5548

jrodick@northernlight.org



For the latest developments on the project
and to show your support, please visit
northernlight.org/BlueHillPromise



“As board chair, and a lifelong Blue Hill resident, I know personally how important Blue Hill’s hospital is to this community. It’s vital that we move forward with plans to build a new, modern hospital to enhance the top quality healthcare we’ve all come to depend on. We cannot do this project without you. Please join me, your friends, your neighbors and all those to whom the hospital means so much in investing in the next 100 years of healthcare in Blue Hill.”

Scott Gray
Chair, Board of Trustees
Northern Light Blue Hill
and Maine Coast Hospitals



“Blue Hill Hospital is our hospital because we can get the care we need close to home, and we’re always treated like family from the moment that we enter the building.”

Tanya Astbury, RN, BSN
Penobscot
Nurse Manager - Blue Hill Specialty Care



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