

## Joseph Chirichella: 2024 Red Tie Gala Honoree



Joseph Chirichella, President Emeritus of Deborah Heart and Lung Center, is the 2024 Red Tie Gala Honoree for his nearly 50-year career of leadership, dedication, and commitment to healthcare throughout South Jersey.

Joe's journey at Deborah began 46 years ago as an administrative intern. Over the decades, he served in numerous roles including Director of Materials Management, Assistant Administrator, Vice-President of Operations, and eventually President and CEO. His leadership and forward-thinking ideas

helped shape the future of Deborah, but Joe consistently credits the success of these initiatives to the teams he worked with.

During his tenure, Joe's vision contributed to the expansion of Deborah's campus, which included the construction of a Medical Office Building housing community-based services such as urgent care, pharmacy, and various provider offices. He also oversaw a \$108 million expansion of the hospital, introducing state-of-the-art critical care rooms and a respite space for staff—improvements driven by his desire to create an environment focused on the well-being of both patients and employees.

Collaboration and partnership have been key themes throughout Joe's career. Under his guidance, Deborah formed an alliance with Cleveland Clinic's Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute, one of the nation's leading heart care institutions. Joe also played a pivotal role in developing the HeroCare Connect™ program in partnership with Cooper University Health Care, providing healthcare navigation for active-duty military personnel, veterans, and their families. His leadership helped bring emergency services to Deborah's campus, ensuring a broader scope of care for the local community.

Joe's approach has always been grounded in humility. He provided the vision and direction, but he has always been quick to highlight the dedication and expertise of the teams that brought those ideas to life. Throughout his career, he remained focused on fulfilling Deborah's mission of delivering top-tier heart and lung care to all, regardless of their ability to pay.

As Joe Chirichella is honored as the 2024 Red Tie Gala Honoree, we celebrate not only his remarkable career but also his legacy of leadership and service, which will continue to inspire others for years to come.