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NEWS & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

NOVEMBER 25, 2026

'Hackensack Meridian Health Foundation raises $10M at gala, pays tribute to retiring CEO Garrett

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ROI-NJ.com | Staff | November 25, 2026

The Hackensack Meridian Health Foundation hosted a celebration at the Waldorf Astoria on Nov. 21, raising $10 million to benefit healthcare initiatives across New Jersey. The evening marked the 10th anniversary of Hackensack Meridian Health's formation, brought the network closer to announcing the completion of the historic $1 billion Be The Difference campaign, and paid special tribute to retiring CEO Bob Garrett and his family.

Garrett plans to retire effective June 30, 2027. He became CEO of Hackensack Meridian Health in 2018.

"My family and I are profoundly moved by the warmth, love and support we felt throughout this wonderful evening," said Garrett. "Celebrating HMH's 10th anniversary in such a joyous setting, surrounded by the friends and partners who have made our success possible, was a remarkable experience. We are so grateful for the incredible generosity in this groundbreaking Be The Difference campaign."

The gala brought together philanthropists, community leaders and healthcare advocates. The event provided an opportunity to celebrate Bob Garrett and his family in light of Hackensack Meridian Health's 10th anniversary.

NFIB urges support for New Jersey small businesses on Small Business Saturday

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The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), New Jersey's small business advocacy organization, encourages Garden State residents to shop local this Small Business Saturday, Nov. 28.

Launched by American Express in 2010, Small Business Saturday was created to encourage consumers to shop at locally owned businesses during the holiday season. Since then, the event has become a nationwide tradition that highlights the important role small businesses play in local communities.

"Small Business Saturday is an opportunity to celebrate and support the local businesses that make New Jersey's communities strong," said Eileen Kean, NFIB New Jersey state director. "Whether you are holiday shopping, dining at a neighborhood restaurant, or hiring a local service provider, every purchase makes a difference. New Jersey's small businesses create jobs, give back to their communities, and strengthen our economy.

"We encourage everyone to make Main Street their first stop this Small Business Saturday and throughout the holiday season." According to American Express, shoppers reported spending an estimated $18 billion at small businesses during last year's event.

Who's better equipped to lead Trenton, New Jersey? Public safety is a major focus of the runoff election in early December

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WHYY | David Matthau | November 18, 2026

From Camden and Cherry Hill to Trenton and the Jersey Shore, what about life in New Jersey do you want WHYY News to cover? Let us know.

Public safety is front and center in New Jersey in the Dec. 8th runoff election for Trenton mayor between incumbent Reed Gusciora and challenger Corey McNair.

Neither candidate secured a majority in the six-person mayoral race on Nov. 3, triggering the runoff. McNair, a Trenton police detective and political newcomer, was the top vote-getter, receiving 37% of those cast. Gusciora finished second with about 23% of the vote.

Both candidates are touting themselves as the best choice to make Trenton safer.But data shows that crime has actually been falling. The most recent CitiStat crime data for the state's capital city shows homicides down 57% for the first five months of this year compared to the same time last year. Robberies have dropped 58%, and overall reported crime has dipped 20%.

But according to FBI data, Trenton remains more dangerous than most other cities in New Jersey and across the nation.

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