Anthropologists tell us that the healer is one of the most important and revered roles of any culture. While the warriors, producers and merchants all have their uses and value, a functioning and thriving society always needs individuals with the proper training, wisdom and compassion to help their fellow men, women and children with any physical or mental condition, whether they practice in a tiny jungle hut or a cutting-edge medical clinic in a major modern city.

Today’s healthcare providers and administrators shoulder the responsibility of continually advancing the quality of care made available in our communities all while overcoming more than their share of obstacles and challenges. Yet, many of them extend themselves even further to go above and beyond in an effort to help us all become better humans. They research, they teach, they serve, and they look for other ways to give back to their professions and their communities to inspire future generations and future healers.

Some leaders in the healthcare community don’t even have to work directly with patients to have vital roles. They could make sure an office, medical center or health exchange runs optimally; training and placing the right people in the best position for them to prosper; ensuring that employees enjoy where they work even when under stressful conditions; and establishing processes that are patient-focused, efficient and fiscally sound. Others focus on making sure access to quality healthcare is available to all segments of our population, striving to leave no one behind.

OurHealth Magazine for Richmond recently invited community members to nominate online who they think best represents the Richmond area’s ideal healthcare leaders. We received many worthy suggestions, and we also learned that there’s a lot going on behind the scenes not everyone knows about. Colleagues shared “secret” details about after-hours activities some perform like helping kids at schools, coaching sports teams, volunteering at community clinics, or going on church medical mission trips to help others in need around the world.

We were encouraged to learn that all of these leaders are unified in thinking that giving back, performing community service and building relationships all are the things they don’t just do because it’s a part of a job description, but because they genuinely believe it’s the right thing to do.

In that spirit, we invite you to learn more about 16 of the brightest members of our local medical community who make up our list of 2019 Richmond Leaders in Local Healthcare.
As Vice President and Strategic Human Resource Partner at Bon Secours Mercy Health, Paul Junod has an important role in making sure 9,000 employees are properly supported. He also is part of the Bon Secours Richmond market’s leadership team focusing on retention, recruiting and relations, along with operations of the Bon Secours Child Care Centers. Junod has built positive relationships with the local military and veteran communities and has been commended for his efforts helping active and reserve members, their families and veterans become aware of healthcare resources and employment opportunities. These efforts have resulted in Bon Secours hiring more than 650 veterans since 2012. Junod also encourages collaboration with other private and public entities, as well. Bon Secours was recognized for being part of the new Living Wage Certification program, created by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and the Richmond Office of Community Wealth Building. Junod is on the board of the Richmond chapter of the Society of Human Resources Managers, the Maymont Foundation and the Capital Region Workforce Development Board. He volunteers at a local elementary school and has been nominated for the annual Catholic Health Assembly Tomorrow’s Leader award.

Karen Legato takes her role as Executive Director of Health Brigade seriously, which consists of making sure underserved, underinsured and uninsured members of the Richmond community can access healthcare services. This makes it vital to create partnerships and perform ongoing fundraising to support the organization’s programs that help populations who need it the most. Health Brigade, formerly Fan Free Clinic, has an operating budget of $2.2 million and delivers services to more than 10,000 people annually. Legato has been referred to as a ‘bridge builder’ and is as comfortable talking with anyone, from lawmakers to clients, and always addresses the need for communities that need their voices heard, including African-American, Latino and LGBTQ populations. Her past roles have included the Leadership and Training Coordinator for the Friends Association for Children; Director of Medical Social Work Services at Brookside Home Health Care and Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at St. Mary Catholic Church in Richmond. Legato is part of VCU’s Health Equity Planning Steering Committee and spent two years at Virginia Commonwealth University’s School of Social Work.

Karen Legato, MSW, MPS
RICHMOND
Executive Director
Health Brigade
(formerly Fan Free Clinic)
www.healthbrigade.org
VCU Health Equity Planning Steering Committee

To Olivia Jones, it’s all part of doing a job she loves so dearly the right way and by treating others the way she would like to be treated – standards that have and continue to serve her and others so well.