

Board of Trustees

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Michael J. Pratico, Jr.

**Director of Collateral Risk/Chief Appraiser
Columbia Bank**

Board Member: More Than 20 Years

Title: Chair, Board of Trustees, RWJUH Hamilton

Where did you go to school/college?

I received my Bachelor of Science in School of Hotel Administration from Cornell University, attended the ABA Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the University of Pennsylvania, and received my MBA with a focus in Financial Services Management from the Isenberg School at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

What inspires you and keeps you engaged/motivated to be a member?

Early on, my parents stressed the importance of giving back—the need, the duty—to make a commitment to the community you live in. Over the last 20 years, I have been able to watch my wife define what it means to truly be selfless through her continued work with several organizations and individuals. I have found that service often comes with its own reward. Throughout my time on the board, I was able to watch, with a front-row seat, some of the sharpest, most dedicated leaders in our community help to guide the organization. The truth is, I get so much more from my service than I give.

What personally are you most proud to share with folks about RWJUH Hamilton?

I am most proud of the local access to complex care as well as our holistic approach to care. Generally, patients visiting our hospital receive the care they need onsite, but in those cases where the need is more acute or the condition more specialized, access to one of the most robust and diverse systems in the country can literally mean the difference between a positive outcome and a devastating one.

What is even more remarkable is how hard the team works NOT to see you at our hospital. Restoration of health was always the hallmark of any good hospital, but RWJUH Hamilton was an early innovator in prevention (promote and restore). Whether it is our Farm to Family Community Garden, the ALPS Program which focuses on adults with developmental disabilities, or the monthly classes, programs and support groups sponsored by Community Education and the Better Health Program, they are all designed to keep our fellow community members in the community and out of the hospital.

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Several decades ago, Sister Generose Gervais, a founder of Mayo Clinic, coined the phrase 'No money, no mission'. While this remains as true today as when it was first said, the ability of RWJUH Hamilton to see the bottom line as something more than a financial measure is truly unique and something the community can be proud of.

What would your review for RWJUH Hamilton say?

5 Stars! I make a real effort to avoid mentioning my involvement in the hospital. In fact, many of my providers didn't realize I was involved for years later. It provided a chance for me to better understand the patient experience. And while we are far from perfect, I have been blessed to have very good care, but maybe just as important, I have experienced the compassion and kindness that the team brings.

Fun Fact:

My mother was a unit secretary at RWJUH Hamilton many years ago.