



**Committed TO**  
*Community*

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REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2023

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Beaufort Memorial



## A Letter from the CEO

# Walking OUR Bold Path Forward

In 2023, South Carolina became the fastest-growing state in the nation. And the Lowcountry was one of the fastest-growing parts of our state. As we welcome so many new residents into our beautiful community, Beaufort Memorial recognizes that we cannot rest on our laurels. We must take bold steps to grow as well if we are to succeed in our mission of enhancing quality of life in the Lowcountry through improved health, innovative partnerships and superior care.

And in 2023, we made great strides.

In September, we held a ceremonial “wallbreaking” to kick off construction of a multimillion-dollar renovation of the hospital’s Surgical Pavilion in Beaufort. When completed, we’ll have two additional surgical suites and ample space for new, state-of-the-art equipment, including the latest in robotic surgery technologies.

We opened our first facility on Hilton Head Island in October with the acquisition of Island Imaging, and plan to continue improving our imaging services on the Island in 2024 with the installation of a new, cutting-edge MRI machine.

And we continued to bolster investments in our staff. We have long recognized that to meet our commitments to the community beyond our walls, we must first meet the needs of the community within our walls. Among those needs are ample professional development opportunities, affordable housing and childcare.

So, in 2023, we laid the groundwork for a new professional education center to house our fast-growing People

Achieving Their Highest (PATH) program and a satellite location for the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) Nursing Program. In the 6,340 square-foot facility, Beaufort Memorial and USCB staff will provide hands on training and classroom education for hundreds of current and future health care professionals annually. Amazingly, our partnership is projected to double the number of nurses graduating from USCB each year.

We’re also working diligently on the new location for The Learning Center on our Beaufort campus. The center will help meet the significant need among our staff for high-quality childcare, and it will do so within feet of where many work. And finally, we are partnering with community leaders to find innovative ways to provide affordable housing for our employees. In addition to the \$10,000 in homebuyer assistance we offer team members, we are working with local officials on affordable housing developments both north and south of the Broad River.

It may seem like we had a lot going on in 2023, and we did. But rest assured, we are only getting started. We are walking a bold path forward to meet the needs of our community.

**Russell Baxley, MHA**  
President & CEO, Beaufort Memorial

# Finding the Past ON THE WAY TO THE

# Future

In 2018, Beaufort Memorial leadership began planning a multimillion-dollar renovation of the hospital's Surgical Pavilion. The project, one of the largest to take place on the main hospital campus in years, will ensure that the health system can accommodate increasing demand for advanced procedures.



Posing together at the Surgical Pavilion "wallbreaking" ceremony are then-Board Chair Dave House, President & CEO Russell Baxley and S.C. Senator Lindsey Graham.

In 2023, plans became reality. The community came together to celebrate the beginning of construction with a "wallbreaking" ceremony on Sept. 26. But as the hospital began this bold step forward with demolition of some existing interior walls, construction workers came across a reason to stop. They unveiled part of the original exterior of the hospital with a fully intact window. The discovery offered a unique opportunity to pause and consider how far the organization has come.

The hospital opened in May 1944 as a one-story brick building with 25 beds and four physicians. In the 80 years since, it has grown to span 15 facilities from the city of Beaufort to Hilton Head Island, employ more than 1,800 providers and team members, and have more than 600,000 patient encounters per year.

"It was extraordinary to see and touch a part of something that has benefited generations of people and that remains intact today," President and CEO Russell Baxley said. "It certainly underscores the importance of continuing to support the longstanding mission and vision of Beaufort Memorial."

And that's exactly what the newly renovated surgical pavilion will do. The project will include the addition of two state-of-the-art surgical suites and an enlargement of existing suites to optimize the surgical process and

give ample room for the new surgical technology that we have invested in. The hospital purchased the latest da Vinci® Xi Surgical System, which maximizes precision when performing minimally invasive surgical procedures. It also added a second cutting-edge Mako SmartRobotics™ Surgery System and its first DePuy VELYS™ Robotic-Assisted System for joint replacement.

To make this essential renovation project happen, the Beaufort Memorial Foundation, the fundraising arm of the not-for-profit hospital, raised \$4.3 million from private donors. South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, meanwhile, secured \$18 million in federal funds for construction through the 2022 Omnibus Bill.

The original hospital exterior wall and window exposed during the demolition phase of the Surgical Pavilion renovation project.



# Pedaling AFTER Pain



Epic cross-country ride was possible for a patient who'd hardly been able to walk, thanks to her successful spine surgery.

**C**heryl Ruff knows a thing or two about going the extra mile. The 66-year-old Sun City resident spent more than 26 years serving as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) in the United States Navy, including tours in Baghdad and several years aboard Naval war ships.

Not one to sit around, she's also completed 25 marathons and logged thousands of miles cycling across large swaths of the U.S. and Canada.

But all of that stopped in July 2021 when progressive hip and back pain sent Cheryl to her primary care doctor for help. An X-ray and MRI scan (magnetic resonance imaging) would reveal five bulging discs in Cheryl's back, and result in a referral to a pain specialist.

"I had always had hip pain, but this was something different," she says. "I got to the point where I had to lean on the cart at the grocery store to prevent the pain caused by walking."

At that time, Cheryl was still riding her bike which, ironically, provided more relief than anything.

"I realized that arching my back to reach my bike handles

relieved the compression from the bulging discs on my nerves," she said.

As a highly trained health professional, she also knew that continued wear and tear could lead to permanent nerve damage or worse. Cheryl had other plans.

"I had a trip scheduled to cycle across Prince Edward Island in July 2022, plus a 3,100-mile ride from San Diego, Calif. to St. Augustine, Fla. in March 2023, to celebrate my 65th birthday," she said. "I had to get moving."

After six months of epidural steroids and physical therapy that failed to resolve her symptoms, Cheryl was referred to Dr. Scott Strohmeyer, a board-certified spine surgeon with Beaufort Memorial's Advanced Orthopedics & Spine Program.

## Bumps in the Road: When Conservative Treatments Failed

On March 8, 2022, Cheryl limped into Dr. Strohmeyer's office, hunched over and fighting back tears from the excruciating pain.

"Cheryl was barely able to walk when she came to my office," Dr. Strohmeyer said. "She had advanced lumbar scoliosis and was experiencing a tremendous amount of pain. I knew we needed to correct the problem as soon as possible."

Dr. Strohmeyer acted quickly, scheduling Cheryl for a multi-level lumbar laminectomy and lateral fusion at Beaufort Memorial the following week.

"Cheryl had a three-level decompression of L3-5 and a two-level lateral fusion with reconstruction," Dr. Strohmeyer said. "We essentially straightened the compressed, lower levels of her lumbar spine to relieve the pressure on her nerves."

Among the most common spine procedures, lumbar laminectomy is a minimally invasive surgery to relieve compression on the spine. It is performed under general anesthesia and is a first-line treatment for spinal stenosis. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, more than 500,000 laminectomies are performed in the U.S. annually.

Two days after surgery, Cheryl left the hospital with a walker, then began six weeks of physical therapy.

## Uphill Grind and Hard-Fought Victory

"I wanted to be well, so I pushed myself to do PT on my own time in between appointments," she said.

The extra effort paid off. Four months later, Cheryl was on Prince Edward Island completing her first post-op ride and looking ahead to the cross-country event in March 2023.

Then in October 2022, just five months before the big event, Cheryl was riding her bike when she was struck by a golf cart clocking 20 miles per hour. The accident left her with stitches, soreness and another six-week stint in PT.

"The accident was a big blow," she said. "I really questioned whether I should do the cross-country trip at all. I remember wondering if these obstacles were a sign."

Fortunately, the accident did not require surgery, nor did it cause new problems with her back.

One year and one day after the fateful meeting with Dr. Strohmeyer, Cheryl mounted her road bike in San Diego and began the nearly two-month trek across the country, just as she'd planned.

Her advice to anyone experiencing chronic back and hip pain is simple: 'talk to your doctor and advocate for yourself.'

"Start with your primary care doctor, find out the problem, and follow (their) protocols to the letter," Cheryl recommends. "If you get to the point that nothing is working, do not hesitate to take the next step until you find a solution."



"In many cases, the patient drives the outcome for this type of surgery, and that was certainly true with Cheryl. She had goals to continue her active lifestyle and bike across the country, and she put in the work to recover and regain her strength and mobility."

Scott Strohmeyer, M.D.

"If it wasn't for Dr. Strohmeyer I would not be standing right now," Cheryl said. "As a former CRNA, I've worked with a lot of surgeons, and he is the best I've ever seen."



**51.89%**  
of spine surgeries  
are now done  
**OUTPATIENT**

More than  
half of  
patients go  
home the  
same day as  
their surgery

**1.56**  
**DAYS**

Average length  
of time spent in  
the hospital for  
spine surgery

# Taking on Food Insecurity

Families throughout our community suddenly found themselves struggling to put healthy food on the table when the COVID-19 pandemic swept the Lowcountry in the spring of 2020. Despite the hospital managing a surge of COVID patients and making changes to its daily operations to continue serving the broader health care needs of the community, Beaufort Memorial leadership recognized the need to help alleviate this burgeoning food insecurity crisis.

In October 2020, Beaufort Memorial forged a partnership with Marshview Community Organic Farm, Inc., and New Life Deliverance Temple Food Bank Ministry, two St. Helena Island-based institutions with first-hand knowledge in getting nutritious food to those in need. The hospital began donating 250 meals per week, and the two organizations found volunteers and organized meal delivery to elderly residents unable to easily access healthy food.

While the program proved to be a much-needed service during the pandemic, we were reminded in 2022 that food insecurity is a persistent problem for many members of our community whether there is a pandemic or not. That year, Beaufort Memorial conducted its regular Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)

to gather information about what members of our community see as their most significant health care barriers. Based on the responses from 1,173 individuals, hospital leadership determined that access to healthy food continued to be one of those problems.

So, we maintained our partnership with Marshview and New Life. And the program has now provided \$195,000 worth of nutritious meals to those in need.

“Our community is excited about our partnership and sees the importance of maintaining this dearly-needed outreach to the elderly population,” said Sara Reynolds Green, owner of Marshview Community Organic Farm. “We are grateful for the vision of David House and Russell Baxley for implementing this program.”

Going forward, Beaufort Memorial seeks to build on this success by working directly with patients who indicate a need while in our care.



Fredrica Ferguson and Sharon White, Meal Delivery volunteers on St. Helena

Beaufort Memorial donates 250 meals per week for those in need totaling \$195,000 in donated food since the program began in October 2020.

## Community Benefit Stats

As part of the partnership with **Good Neighbor Medical Clinic**, in FY23 Beaufort Memorial provided:

**IN-KIND RENTAL**  
OF 3,025 SQUARE-FEET  
OF CLINIC SPACE  
Valued at \$88,935

**295**  
IMAGING  
PROCEDURES  
Valued at \$391,224

**2,398**  
LABORATORY  
TESTS  
Valued at \$346,392

**OTHER SPECIALTY,  
SURGICAL AND  
HOSPITAL SERVICES**  
Valued at \$50,320

# ADDRESSING NEEDS FOR Substance Abuse Treatment

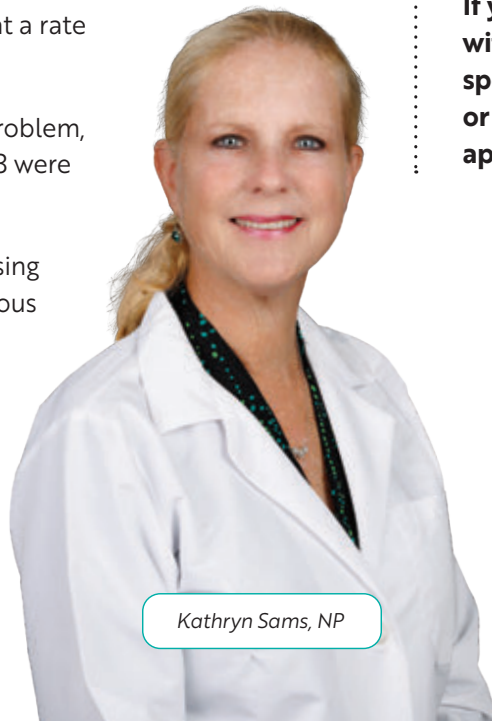
**B**eaufort Memorial launched its Medical Assisted Therapy (MAT) Clinic in 2021 to address the addiction crisis facing the Lowcountry. In 2023, the clinic took significant strides in expanding access to care, with a 52 percent increase in patients served year over year.

Much of that growth came from primary care providers referring patients struggling with Alcohol Use Disorder. According to the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Beaufort County is the third heaviest drinking county in the state. This has led to the county having alcohol-related driving deaths at a rate 8 percent above the national average.

As Beaufort Memorial has sought to address this problem, 27 percent of services provided by the clinic in 2023 were for alcohol, compared to 15 percent in 2022.

The clinic also continues to make strides in addressing opioid misuse in the area by partnering with numerous local agencies, including Beaufort County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Department; Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton Comprehensive Health; Beaufort County EMS and Good Neighbor Free Medical Clinic, to identify and treat individuals who are appropriate for treatment with medications. The patients have a variety of backgrounds and include many pregnant mothers.

Key to the clinic's expansion was the addition of board-certified nurse practitioner Kathryn Sams, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CNE. Kathryn engages patients in addressing physical, behavioral and social issues related to substance abuse and evaluates the appropriateness of combining MAT with other therapies. A strong believer in patients taking ownership of their situation, she works with them to develop a treatment plan that considers all areas of their lives and connects them to available recovery resources and support services.



Kathryn Sams, NP

**If you or a loved one has issues with alcohol, tobacco or drugs, speak with a primary care provider or call 843-522-7290 to make an appointment with Mrs. Sams.**



**AccessHealth Lowcountry** also serves chronically ill, low-income, uninsured individuals. For the 882 patients enrolled, in FY23 Beaufort Memorial provided:

<p><b>580</b> PRIMARY CARE VISITS Valued at \$60,317</p>	<p><b>1,289</b> SPECIALTY CARE VISITS Valued at \$294,257</p>	<p><b>147</b> IMAGING PROCEDURES Valued at \$206,155</p>	<p><b>1,105</b> LABORATORY TESTS Valued at \$151,423</p>
<p><b>185</b> SURGICAL PROCEDURES Valued at \$143,533</p>	<p><b>OTHER HOSPITAL SERVICES</b> Valued at \$176,522</p>	<p><b>20%</b> reduction in avoidable <b>EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS</b></p>	<p><b>36%</b> reduction in avoidable <b>INPATIENT ADMISSIONS</b> in the 12 months following enrollment</p>

**Volunteers in Medicine**  
As part of the acquisition of Island Imaging, Beaufort Memorial will provide 250 free mammograms per year to both the Hilton Head Island and the Greater Bluffton Jasper County VIM clinics.

# Putting Down *Roots*

The Beaufort Memorial Homebuyer Assistance Program helped Clinical Nutrition Manager Roxanne Davis purchase a house she loves in the community she calls home.



When Roxanne Davis, registered dietitian and clinical nutrition manager at Beaufort Memorial, first heard about the Homebuyer Assistance Program two years ago, she wasn't sure it was a benefit she could use.

"I wasn't in the season of life where I was looking into buying a home," she said. "But when I decided later on to look into putting in a contract for a new build, I knew the program might be an option that could help."

Roxanne did her research, working with program coordinators to learn more. She was thrilled when she found out that not only was she approved, but she qualified for more than she expected. She put the additional funds toward a down payment on her home, avoiding the need for private mortgage insurance (PMI) and reducing her monthly payments substantially.

"It was a huge relief because when you're closing on a house, the closing costs can be really expensive," Roxanne said. "I also didn't want PMI, because I had it in the past and it was a burden. So, it was a huge blessing to not have to worry about that piece."

## Support Every Step of the Way

Beaufort Memorial offers the Homebuyer Assistance Program through a partnership with CommunityWorks. Qualified Beaufort Memorial team members can receive forgivable loans of up to \$10,000 to be used on down payments or closing costs. Team members must be current full-time employees who have worked at Beaufort Memorial for at least six months and meet certain financial requirements. Homes must be located within a 15-mile radius of a designated Beaufort Memorial campus.

"This type of program is important because we live in Beaufort County, one of the richest counties in the state," Roxanne said. "There's an assumption that people who live here can afford to buy their own home or rent expensive apartments, but the cost of everything is going up, including housing. For me, an affordable home is one that I can live in and not feel like I'm living paycheck to paycheck."

Beaufort Memorial offers additional programs to help employees realize their goals and achieve a healthy work-life balance. Roxanne also used the tuition reimbursement



program to get her master's degree in public health in 2008. "Beaufort Memorial feels like a family," she says. "I feel like I'm cared for here. I love that the CEO knows all the employees' names. I think that says a lot about how the organization cares about people."

## The Place That Feels Like Home

The Homebuyer Assistance Program has eased Roxanne's financial burden and ensured her new home would be in the community she has come to love. When she first came here nearly 20 years ago, she wasn't sure it would be a permanent move. But now, she can't imagine being anywhere else.

"I have grown to love the community here. I really enjoy the culture, and I love the small-town feel of Beaufort," she says. "And it's just beautiful. The bay is just lovely, and I like the birds and the dolphins and the bridges."

Even more than that, Roxanne appreciates that the Homebuyer Assistance Program made it possible for her to live in a neighborhood suited to her and her family.

"The neighbors are very friendly, and it's a safe place for my son," she says. "I love that it's not too far from the hospital and it's by the water, which I thrive on."

Roxanne is grateful to work for an organization that puts the needs of its employees and community members at the top of their priority list.

"In order to be healthy overall, we need a safe and comfortable place to live that we can afford," she says. "There's a lot of stress that goes into not being able to afford housing. I love the ways that Beaufort Memorial is finding solutions, not only for members of the community, but also for employees."

"The Homebuyer Assistance Program took away a lot of the financial pressure and stress about buying a home. I love the community that I live in."



– Roxanne Davis, RD

## Turning Lives Around

Tiffany Caldwell, an OBGYN practice clerical specialist, says that Beaufort Memorial's affordable housing efforts have turned her life around.

## One House at a Time

In 2019, she was in a terrible car accident. Unable to work full-time, she lost her primary job and then her apartment.

"My dog, son and I were homeless," she said. "We lived in my truck behind the pizza restaurant where I worked part-time." After finding an apartment she could afford, her mother moved in due to health issues.

"We were crawling on top of each other," she said. "My mother's COPD was worsening due to mold in the apartment, and my son was aggravated and starting to act out in school."

Tiffany found work at BMH in 2020, and finally things began to get a bit better. She loves the people she works with and being "the first voice moms hear when they call the OBGYN."

Things really turned around, though, when BMH was able to offer a below-market rental through a partnership with Beaufort County and her application was drawn in the lottery. "BMH probably doesn't realize how much they've changed my life," Tiffany said. "My mother's breathing is so much better that her nurse went from coming twice a week to every three weeks. And one of my son's teachers said he's done a 180."

Soon Tiffany won't be the only employee to benefit. BMH leadership has made affordable housing for employees a priority with multiple developments in various stages of planning.



# Jaysun Puryear

## Learning —AND— Growing



At just 19 years old, Jaysun Puryear achieved his dream of working in health care. Now, his goals are growing, and so is he.

**I**t's not common for a high school graduate to have already figured out what they hope to accomplish in life, but Jaysun Puryear is an uncommon young man. Being extraordinarily industrious, he worked multiple jobs throughout high school while taking college-level science classes in preparation for a health care career. And with a bit of assistance through Beaufort Memorial programs aimed at involving and inspiring local students, he has succeeded.

"I've wanted to work in the hospital since I was 13," he said. "Now, I go through the hallways, thinking 'Dang, I'm really in the hospital.'"

### Starting Off as a Rising Star

Jaysun's first on-the-job experience here was in 2022 through our Rising Star Youth Volunteer Program. The two-week summer program enables high school students to volunteer in clinical and nonclinical settings and, hopefully, inspires them to pursue health care careers.

For Jaysun, the program succeeded. Not only did he make himself valuable, but his interest was piqued when he volunteered in the lab with pathologists and got exposure

to cardiac imaging. "I asked as many questions as I could," he said. "I made sure everyone knew my name and remembered me. I really enjoyed it."

And if that wasn't enough, he came back in 2023 to volunteer again and to mentor other students new to the program.

### Finding a Place in Patient Transport

That effort earned Jaysun his first job in the hospital as a patient transporter. In that role, he carried out the essential, though behind-the-scenes, responsibility of moving patients between units within the hospital. Some days were crazy, he said, but seeing the many departments in the hospital furthered his interests in the medical field.

But while fulfilling this role, he never let go of his interest in cardiac imaging and has since found a job working in the Cochrane Heart Center as a cardiopulmonary assistant. He has also found time to earn an emergency medical technician (EMT) certificate and is currently working on an associate degree in radiologic technology from the Technical College of the Lowcountry.

## Where Credit is Due

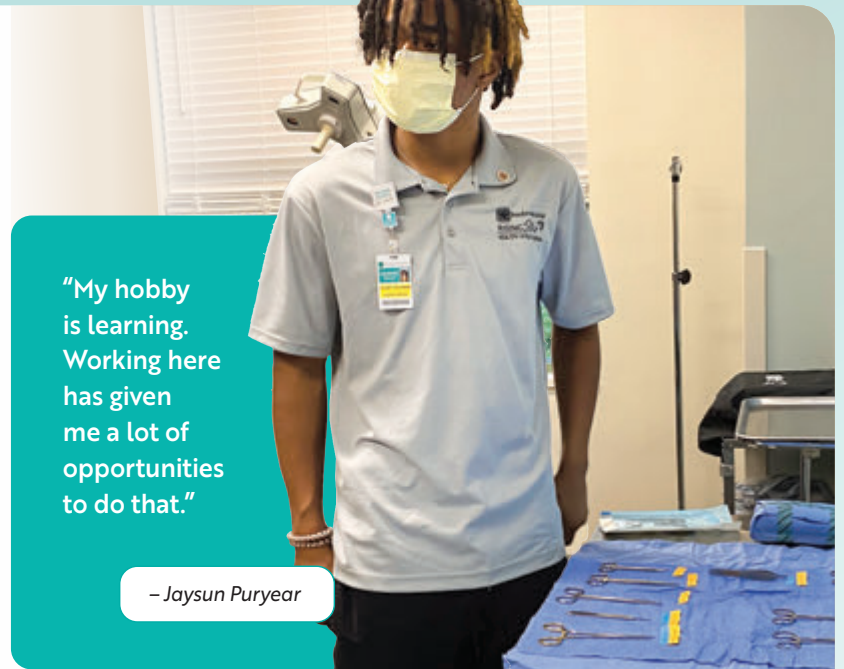
On top of being hardworking, Jaysun is humble and quick to give credit, starting with his family for his strong work ethic.

"There was a time when my mom was working two or three jobs and taking care of her family," Jaysun said. "My stepdad has three or four jobs at any given time." He also credits his mentors at Beaufort Memorial for inspiring him.

Deb Cofer, cath lab technician in the Beaufort Memorial Cochrane Heart Center, took Jaysun under her wing as soon as he started, showing him the ropes, and introducing him to the fields of imaging and emergency medical care.

"One of the first things she told me when I started working here was, 'You remind me of my son,'" Jaysun recalls. "She's always tried to help me out in any way she can.

There are a lot of possibilities out there. I have a lot of ideas of what I could do," he said.



"My hobby is learning. Working here has given me a lot of opportunities to do that."

- Jaysun Puryear

Eager to put your skills and passion to work in your community? Visit [BeaufortMemorial.org/Careers](https://BeaufortMemorial.org/Careers) to browse current job openings or scan the QR code.



# The PATH TO Growth

The Rising Star Youth Volunteer Program is one of many examples of how Beaufort Memorial invests in employees as they grow their careers.

The People Achieving Their Highest (PATH) program enables current employees to grow their knowledge and skills in five different career clusters:

BUSINESS

DIAGNOSTICS/THERAPEUTICS

DIRECT PATIENT CARE

HOSPITALITY

SUPPORT SERVICES

The program reached a major milestone in 2023 as the first cohorts of PATH graduates took their national certification exams through the National Healthcareer Association (NHA) and the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). Notably, 95 percent of the graduates who took the NHA exam passed, 18 percent higher than the national average.

Throughout each 6- to 24-week program, participants receive career counseling and other support as they attend classes. In addition to adjusting work schedules so employees can still maintain their income while they're furthering their education, a variety of scholarship opportunities are available to help offset living expenses while in class, as well as education/tuition, and dependent care. All with the goal of eliminating common obstacles to achieving career goals.

Visit [BeaufortMemorial.org/PATH](https://BeaufortMemorial.org/PATH) or scan the QR code to learn more about the program.



## PATH Graduates in First Five Cohorts

14

Clinical medical assistants

24

Patient care technicians

8

NURSING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

23

Program graduates who earned certifications

3

EKG Technicians

\$135,990

IN SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTED

6

Medical Coders

# Where We're Headed *Commitments*

TO THE HEALTH OF  
OUR COMMUNITY

Beaufort Memorial has struck a bold path to ensure access to high-quality care. These multi-year investments in workforce development programs, state-of-the-art technologies and facility upgrades, in addition to plans for new location and community partnerships, demonstrate the long-term commitment to meeting the healthcare needs of Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton Counties.



**PATH Career Development Center & Clinical Sim Labs**

**\$0.8M** Beaufort Memorial investment

**\$1.5M** partner investments



**Future Bluffton Locations**



**Imaging Center Acquisition, Upgrades & Addition of MRI**

**\$4M** investment





### Surgical Pavilion Renovation

**\$25M**  
investment



### Catheterization Lab Upgrade

**\$1.3M**  
investment



### Childcare Center

**\$1.5M**  
investment



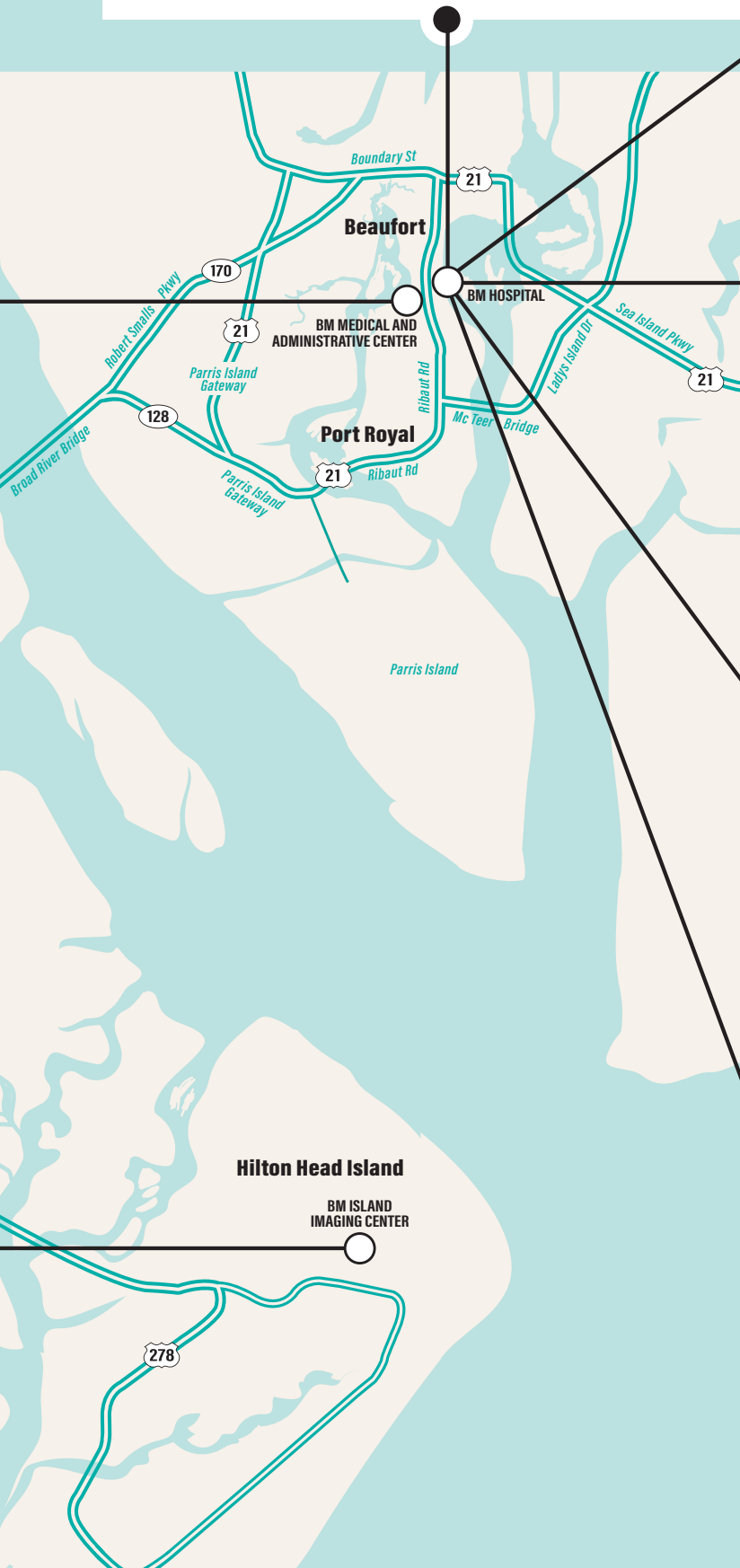
### Hospital Patient Room Renovations

**\$2.2M**  
investment



### MRI Upgrade

**\$2.3M**  
investment



# STATE-OF-THE-ART Cardiac Catheterization *Lab Upgrade*



Dr. Stuart Smalheiser cutting the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the new cath lab.



One of the nation's first labs to feature the next generation of cardiac catheterization imaging.

The 20th anniversary of the Cochrane Heart Center was marked with a ribbon-cutting for the newly renovated cardiac catheterization lab (cath lab) outfitted with the most advanced technology in the nation. As part of expanding the interventional cardiology program, the nearly \$1.3 million investment will help provide rapid and comprehensive care to hundreds of heart patients every year for life-threatening emergencies and scheduled cardiac procedures.

"The image quality of the advanced digital angiography system will help improve decision-making while reducing the radiation exposure and improving patient comfort," said Stuart Smalheiser, M.D., interventional cardiologist and medical director of the Beaufort Memorial Cardiac Catheterization program. "We were very excited to work with Shimadzu as a model for their technology in the U.S. and to be on the cutting edge with their advanced cath lab imaging technology."

Among the critical conditions treated in a cath lab are heart attacks when an artery suddenly becomes blocked, leading to loss of blood flow in the heart muscle. These patients require an urgent, minimally invasive stenting procedure called percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) that is performed in the cath lab. The stent serves as a scaffold to open the blocked artery and restores blood flow to preserve heart muscle function; otherwise, the heart may be permanently damaged. The life-saving and usually painless stenting procedure offers a quick recovery and return home, and improves a patient's quality of life.

In addition to treating emergencies, there are a variety of elective procedures and diagnostic tests performed in the cath lab

including angiograms to show how blood is flowing through arteries or veins, angioplasty to open a narrowed or blocked artery and implantation of pacemakers and cardioverter defibrillators (ICD). In total, there are approximately 650 heart procedures performed each year in the cath lab at Beaufort Memorial.

**"Investing in this upgraded technology is one more way for Beaufort Memorial to continue to provide the highest-quality care available in the Lowcountry. As noted by numerous certifications and awards by accrediting bodies, we are committed to providing safe, high quality, patient-centered cardiac care to our community."**

– Russell Baxley, President & CEO

Beaufort Memorial is home to nationally recognized heart and vascular care, including being named one of only 262 hospitals nationwide to receive the 2023 Platinum Performance Achievement Award from the American College of Cardiology's National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR) for Chest Pain - Myocardial Infarction (MI) and receiving advanced certification from The Joint Commission for Chest Pain and Stroke.

**Visit [BeaufortMemorial.org/HeartCare](https://www.beaufortmemorial.org/HeartCare) or scan the QR code to learn more about heart and vascular care.**



# Emergency Service *Milestones*



January 2023 marked the expanded Pratt Emergency Center's 10th year of operation, and the center treated its 500,000th patient the following month. Each year, the facility treats approximately 50,000 patients.

The 20,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art center includes 26 private rooms, two triage rooms, two trauma rooms, recliner bays for patients awaiting discharge and another five for patients requiring extra monitoring, infusions or additional space and privacy. In 2013, the renovation and expansion to the hospital was made possible by generous community donations and nearly \$1 million contributed by Beaufort Memorial employees. The catalyst for the project however, was a large gift from Dr. Bruce Pratt in honor of his parents, Sarah Meyer Pratt and George Nathaniel Pratt.

Other features include two enclosed decontamination areas for patients exposed to toxins, three outdoor decontamination showers for non-toxic exposures and two isolation rooms for patients with communicable diseases like tuberculosis, chicken pox or measles.

## Renovations to Begin

In late 2024, renovations will begin on the addition of a mental health crisis stabilization unit located inside the Pratt Emergency Center. Beaufort Memorial was one of 13 South Carolina hospitals selected by the state's Department of Health and Human Services to receive a behavioral health crisis stabilization grant. The state's \$1.2 million grant will cover the construction and equipment costs. The project includes a new, two-room and two recliner-bay closed unit to allow for a quiet environment separated from the busy ER atmosphere. Psychiatric-trained nurses, doctors and staff will provide care to patients while in the unit.

"The new facility improvements are part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that we are providing the highest level of quality care and patient safety possible, while serving a growing number of patients with mental health concerns," said Beaufort Memorial President and CEO Russell Baxley.

## Welcoming New Providers

Fiscal year 2023 was another busy year for introducing new providers to the area, including five in primary care practices.

- **Kate D'Orazio, PA-C** – Wound Care (January 2023)
- **Katie Hall, MSN, AGPCNP-BC** – Primary Care (May 2023)
- **Michael Kaup, M.D.** – Express Care (April 2023)
- **Nikki Keisler, M.D.** – Primary Care (April 2023)
- **Darren Mullins, M.D.** – Medical Oncology (July 2023)
- **Nikki Newman, PA-C** – Primary Care (August 2023)

- **Amanda Piolata, PA-C** – Express Care (October 2022)
- **Kathryn Sams, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CNE** – Addiction Medicine (Aug. 2023)
- **Michael Sciarra, D.O.** – Gastroenterology (June 2023)
- **Robert Smith, M.D., FAAP** – Primary Care (October 2022)
- **Marie Wilkinson, FNP-BC** – Gastroenterology (June 2023)
- **Russell Williams, M.D.** – Primary Care (September 2023)



The surgical team gathered with Dr. Kevin Jones and William Schreffler, NP, to celebrate the milestone surgery.

## Robotic-Assisted Joint Replacement Milestone for Orthopedic Surgeon

**B**oard-certified orthopedic surgeon H. Kevin Jones, M.D., and his surgical team celebrated their 500th robot-assisted joint replacement surgery in May 2023 at Beaufort Memorial.

“This is an exciting milestone,” said Jones, who was an early proponent of the technology and performed the hospital’s first robot-assisted hip replacement in late 2021. “The Mako SmartRobotics™ technology has been a game changer for total joint replacement, and we are seeing great outcomes.” Jones, along with several other Beaufort Memorial surgeons, began using the Mako surgical system for knee replacements in February 2020 and added robot-assisted hip replacement the next year.

Clinical studies have shown this state-of-the-art technology improves outcomes by allowing the surgeon to customize the placement and alignment of the implant components to a patient’s unique anatomy, providing more natural movement of the joint and increasing its longevity.

Due to the added precision, most patients also experience less postoperative pain and a faster return to normal activities, with some going home the same day as their surgery. “This is a testament to the Beaufort Memorial total joint program, which includes a really talented office staff, dedicated professionals in the Joint Replacement Center and hospital leadership keeping our program on the cutting edge,” said Jones.

Learn more about joint replacement at [BeaufortMemorial.org/JointReplacement](https://BeaufortMemorial.org/JointReplacement) or scan the QR code.



## New Neck Procedure Option for Area Patients

**I**n early 2023, Beaufort Memorial began offering an outpatient procedure for a common problem addressed by orthopedic spine specialists – chronic neck and radiating nerve pain. Called cervical disc replacement surgery, this FDA-approved procedure provides better outcomes, less pain and shorter recovery times than traditional surgical treatment options.

“The result of stress, poor posture, increased screen time and other factors, cervical disc pain may begin in the neck, but can quickly radiate across the shoulders and down the arms,” said Dr. Andrew Castro, a board-certified and fellowship-trained spine surgeon in Beaufort Memorial’s Advanced Orthopedics and Spine program.

“The discs between your vertebrae – the structures that absorb all of that shock, strain and pain – often cause the problem.”

– Andrew Castro, M.D.



Inserted and anchored in place between two healthy vertebrae, the cervical disc prosthesis is precision engineered to give almost the full range of motion of a healthy disc. This is unlike the traditional fusion procedure which immobilizes the vertebrae with a plate and can result in diminished movement and four to six weeks of recovery in a hard plastic collar.

Beaufort Memorial is unique in our area for offering this procedure. To learn if cervical disc replacement is right for you, request an appointment at [BeaufortMemorial.org/Ortho](https://BeaufortMemorial.org/Ortho) or scan the QR code.







## Imaging Capabilities Expanded and Enhanced

**B**eaufort Memorial invested in significant screening and diagnostic imaging technology over the past year.

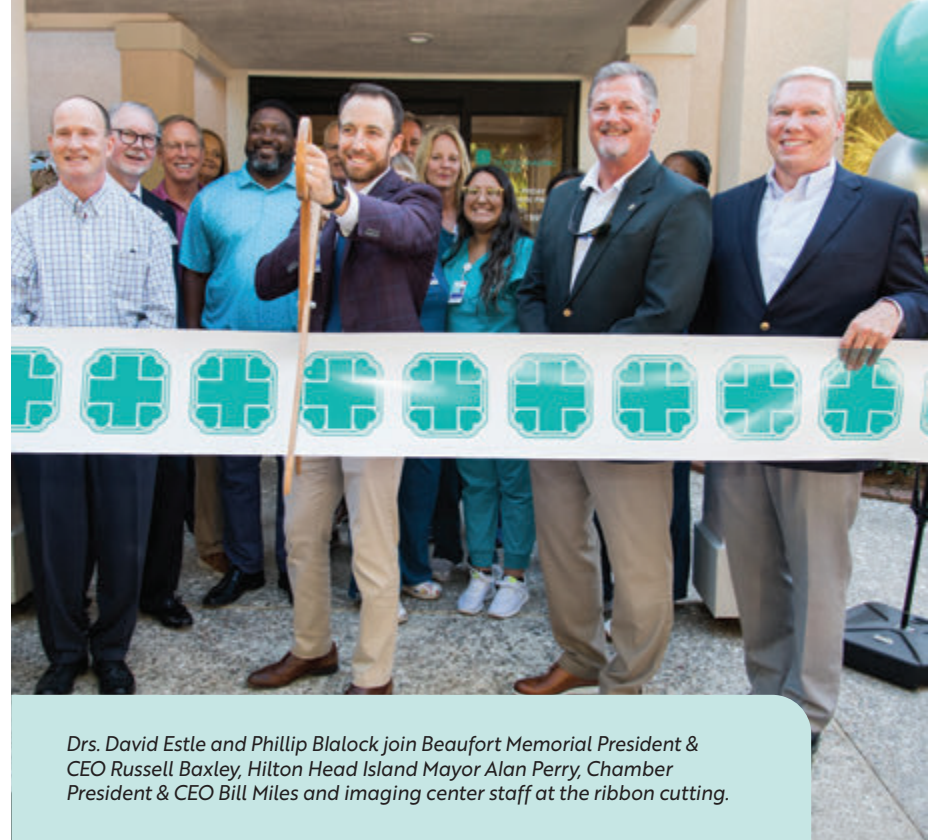
A cutting-edge MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) system was installed in the hospital, which offers faster scanning, reduced noise and an overall better patient experience while providing the most advanced high-resolution imaging to evaluate injuries, tumors, digestive disorders and soft tissue details of the brain and spinal cord.

Ultrasound-guided elastography uses painless, low-frequency vibrations to test the stiffness of organs which can be a sign of scar tissue or fibrosis caused by disease. Now, Beaufort Memorial Hospital and the newly acquired Island Imaging on Hilton Head Island are the only two locations in the area to offer this noninvasive screening for early liver disease and cirrhosis.

## First Hilton Head Island Facility Beaufort Memorial Island Imaging Center

**H**aving an aligned mission and values, including dedication to caring for existing staff and continuing community partnerships, Beaufort Memorial acquired Island Imaging at 40 Palmetto Parkway on Hilton Head Island in October 2023.

“Adding Island Imaging to the Beaufort Memorial family is another step toward our vision of transforming health care in the Lowcountry,” said Russell Baxley, president & CEO. “We recognize the unmet demand for quality health services on the Island and intend to work to meet those needs.”



*Drs. David Estle and Phillip Blalock join Beaufort Memorial President & CEO Russell Baxley, Hilton Head Island Mayor Alan Perry, Chamber President & CEO Bill Miles and imaging center staff at the ribbon cutting.*

Beaufort Memorial Island Imaging Center continues to provide state-of-the-art technology and services to meet the needs of the providers and residents of southern Beaufort County, offering a full range of screening and diagnostic imaging services, including 3D mammography, computed tomography (CT) for cardiac and lung screenings, Fluoroscopy to detect gastrointestinal diseases, and ultrasound-guided elastography to screen for early liver disease and cirrhosis. In addition, plans are underway to add magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for detailed scans showing the structure and condition of soft tissue, organs, nerves and blood vessels.

A long-standing relationship will continued with Volunteers in Medicine (VIM), a not-for-profit medical clinic that provides free and low-cost care to the community's most vulnerable patients, regardless of their ability to pay. Similar to the partnerships Beaufort Memorial has with Good Neighbor Medical Clinic and AccessHealth Lowcountry in Beaufort, Beaufort Memorial will provide 250 mammograms to patients from both the Hilton Head Island and Bluffton VIM clinic locations.



# Recognizing THE Best OF THE Best



Pharmacy Department representatives accepting the Department of the Year award.

As part of celebrating National Hospital Week 2023, Beaufort Memorial honored its finest with the

## SECOND ANNUAL Bemmy Awards

for exemplary performance. The awards specifically recognize those who went above and beyond their job duties over the past year to carry out the organization's mission, vision and values.

"We want our employees to know how much we value them and their service to our patients and our hospital," said Beaufort Memorial President and CEO Russell Baxley. "The people at Beaufort Memorial make a difference every day in patients' lives and we want to thank them – on behalf of the community, on behalf of our patients, on behalf of everyone here at Beaufort Memorial."

Among the top awards was **Innovator of the Year**, presented to **Joy Solomon, MSN, RN, NPD-BC**, for her leadership of PATH (People Achieving Their Highest), the hospital's groundbreaking career development program. The South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) has showcased the PATH program as an outstanding example of healthcare workforce development. The program, which welcomed its inaugural cohort in May 2022, is designed to help staff learn new skills, earn advanced certifications and grow their careers at the hospital, thus supporting a better healthcare network within the community.

The top honor for **Department of the Year** was awarded to the **Pharmacy Department**. "During this time of unprecedented shortages and supply chain issues, the Pharmacy team consistently looked for alternatives to keep our frontline staff able to provide the needed medications to treat our patients," said Baxley in presenting the award.



Joy Solomon, RN

**Had an above-and-beyond experience?** .....  
Help us recognize our shining stars with a You Shine Through Award nomination at [BeaufortMemorial.org/OurStars](https://BeaufortMemorial.org/OurStars) or scan the QR code. ....



**Bridget Blythe**, central sterile processing specialist, was named the Vaux Clinical **Employee of the Year**. “Bridget runs the Central Sterile Department with the utmost dedication and care, and never asks more from her employees than she is willing to do herself,” said Baxley. “Her attitude of caring and constant giving is at the root of the department’s success.”



Bridget Blythe

The **Nonclinical Employee of the Year** Award went to **Dean Adams**, transportation specialist, cited by Baxley for his huge heart. “He considers going above and beyond for patients to be just part of the job,” said Baxley, pointing out an example of Adams’ kindness. “He purchased a cake and card to celebrate the end of cancer treatments for a patient,” said Baxley. “While taking her to and from her oncology appointments, he had learned the patient didn’t have family in the area. His actions had the patient smiling from ear to ear and made that memorable day even more special.”



Dean & Shannon Adams, RN

Introduced as “one of the most humble, selfless, hardworking and dedicated providers,” **Nikki Newman, PA-C**, was named **Provider of the Year**. She is often given accolades by the patients she treats at Express Care & Occupational Health in addition to being known amongst her colleagues for the significant positive influence she has in the practice.



Nikki Newman, PA

**Lauren Rauscher, BSN, RN, CNOR, RNFA**, assistant director of the Peri-Operative Department, was named **Rookie of the Year**. Her nomination cited many operational improvements she made, her remarkable attention to detail and effort for the OR renovation project, and dedication to her team, the department and patient care.



Lauren Rauscher, RN

**Leader of the Year** was awarded to **Lisa Kramer**, revenue cycle director, for the positive impact she has had on customer satisfaction and workflow efficiencies, in addition to the way she resolves challenges and mentors her team.

**Community Champion of the Year** went to **Lisa Terwilliger, BSN, RN, CMSRN, CNML**, a clinical coordinator in the Medical/Surgical and Orthopedics Unit (4T), for helping a breast cancer patient and her family get reestablished after losing their home and organizing one of the most memorable Christmases the family had ever experienced.



Russell Baxley and Lisa Kramer

Three departments were cited as **Patient Experience Champions** based on their exceptional patient survey scores: **Medical/Surgical and Orthopedics Unit** (inpatient department category); **Outpatient Lab and Registration, Beaufort Medical Plaza** (outpatient department category); and **Express Care & Occupational Health** in Bluffton (Beaufort Memorial Physician Partners practice category).

Picked as **Zero Harm Patient Safety Champion of the year** for her potentially life-saving response to a patient who indicated possible self-harm was **Abby Lynch, RT**.

The 10 categories of Bemmy Award winners were picked from You Shine Through Award recipients who are selected each month based on nominations from patients, their families and coworkers. The staff members were also invited to nominate coworkers for the awards and, based on the number of nominations, were eager to recognize their colleagues for work that had gone, by any standard, above and beyond. The awards committee reviewed all nominations and submitted the top candidates from which senior leadership selected the winners.

“Each one of these employees really embodies our core values. They truly are the best of the best and have gone above and beyond – recognized by patients, by their peers, by leadership. We are incredibly proud of these employees for what they’ve done this year.”

– Russell Baxley



Lisa Terwilliger, RN, and Russell Baxley

# Dave House:

12 YEARS OF SERVICE TO BEAUFORT MEMORIAL

... AND *Counting!*



**W**hile Dave House was excited to step away from the burdens of executive leadership at three global companies to enjoy the Lowcountry lifestyle when he retired and moved to Spring Island in 2006, he knew that his sense of achievement would never subside. So, he made a plan: he'd spend a third of his time learning something new, a third doing something he likes, and a third giving back to his community.

## Something New

Despite practicing relentlessly, Dave laughingly admits that his golf handicap had gone from a 14 to 16. So, when a friend invited him to go fishing one day, he figured fishing might be his "something new." After a trip to the local outfitters store and a few fishing lessons, he was "hooked." He now enjoys bi-annual fly-fishing trips.

## Something You Like

Only 56 at the time of his retirement, Dave knew that continuing to work in some capacity would be important. Although, he wanted a retirement job that would leave ample time for family. As he and Jan, his wife and childhood sweetheart, considered their options, they decided that a family business would be the best option. They enlisted their two adult sons as business partners and launched a family funded private equity investment business right here in Beaufort County.

"It was important for Jan and I to have a project we could work together on," said Dave. "Being able to include our children in this business venture has allowed us to stay very close to our children and grandchildren over the years, which was a must for Jan."

## Commitment to Giving Back

The last third of Dave's retirement plan brought him to Beaufort Memorial. Given his ample business experience, he was offered a position as a trustee on the hospital's board in 2012. He has since volunteered countless hours over the last decade to improve the landscape of healthcare in the Lowcountry.

"When choosing a new community one of the first things people want to know is, will there be quality healthcare as they age," said Dave. "Ensuring our community has access to top-quality health care was my primary reason to join the board at Beaufort Memorial."

With 12 years of service to the board, including seven years as chairman, he said there is still much to learn. "This is one of the most intellectually stimulating boards I have ever served on," said Dave. "Due to the challenges in today's healthcare environment combined with the complexities of a not-for-profit community hospital, I find myself constantly reading professional publications to stay up to date."

During his tenure as chairman, Dave led the board and the health system through both immense challenges and significant growth. In 2016, Dave was on the committee that selected Russell Baxley as president and CEO. He was also an advocate for the many community and employee initiatives implemented in response to COVID-19.

"COVID-19 presented a challenge that none of us had ever experienced in our lifetime," said Dave. "Beaufort Memorial stepped up and did exactly what our mission as a non-profit community hospital charges us to do—we looked for innovative ways to ensure that our community had access to safe care. Beaufort Memorial rose to the occasion and I will always be proud of our team for their dedication to community."

While February of 2024 was Dave's last board meeting as a hospital trustee, Dave hasn't stopped serving the

organization. He started his first term on the Beaufort Memorial Foundation Board in March.

"Beaufort Memorial is a good hospital with good physicians, staff and a strong vision for the future," he said. "I am proud of how we handled the challenges put in our path over the last decade and are positioned to expand access to meet the growing needs of our community. I look forward to remaining engaged with Beaufort Memorial as a part of the Foundation's Board of Trustees."

## Leaving a Legacy

Through his involvement, Dave knows the impact philanthropy can have on a growing healthcare system. He and Jan have provided critical support to the Foundation, including support for the hospital's surgical pavilion renovation and new PATH Career Development Center.

While they plan to continue their generous involvement for years to come, they have also placed Beaufort Memorial Foundation as a beneficiary in their will, making them members of the Kate Gleason Society. The society is named after Ms. Kate Gleason, who bequeathed the land to build Beaufort County Memorial Hospital upon her death in 1933, to recognize those who have planned a legacy gift to support health care services at Beaufort Memorial.

Since its inception over 10 years ago, legacy gifts from donors like Jan and Dave have enabled the Foundation's endowment to flourish. It is consequently able to support more capital purchases and strategic projects, purchase new technology and equipment, and provide a larger contribution to the hospitals' annual operational needs.

"Our legacy gift to Kate Gleason helps assure that others will continue to benefit from excellent healthcare in the future. This gives us great piece of mind," said Dave.

Encouraging others, Dave continued, "Please consider joining us on this journey—we need you now more than ever."

**"Your support of the Beaufort Memorial Foundation is essential in creating a healthier Lowcountry. By contributing, you empower Beaufort Memorial to implement innovative programs and ensure that every Lowcountry resident has access to the healthcare they deserve. Join us in building a brighter tomorrow!"**

— Dave House



Visit [BeaufortMemorial.org/Give](https://BeaufortMemorial.org/Give) or scan the QR code to make your donation.

# 2023 Year in Review

## 2023 REVENUE

Total net patient revenue:	\$288.5 M
Other nonoperating revenue:	\$15.2 M
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$303.7 M</b>

## TOTAL UNCOMPENSATED CARE

Charity care and bad debt:	\$33.8 M
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## 2023 EXPENSES

Salaries, wages and benefits:	\$164.5 M
Supplies, utilities and other expenses:	\$121.0 M
Depreciation:	\$16.3 M
Interest:	\$1.6 M

*\*Not-yet-audited numbers for fiscal year 2023*

<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$303.5 M</b>
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<b>OPERATING INCOME:</b>	<b>\$0.252 M</b>
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## Helping When Transportation Is A Barrier To Care

PROVIDED  
RIDES FOR  
**1,417**  
PATIENTS

Representing  
at least  
**26**  
ZIP CODES

TO/FROM  
Beaufort Memorial  
facilities totaling  
**17,554**  
MILES

**DELIVERED MEDICATION TO NEARLY 50% OF HOSPITAL PATIENTS** with prescriptions before they were discharged to save patients a trip and increase the number who follow their provider's instructions for prescribed medications

## Beaufort Memorial Hospital by the Numbers

ADULT DISCHARGES: **8,787**

OUTPATIENT REGISTRATIONS: **221,058**

PHYSICIAN OFFICE VISITS: **276,042**

SURGERIES: **11,592**

NEWBORN DELIVERIES: **1,024**

EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS: **44,653**

## Beaufort Memorial Foundation FY23 Grants

**\$1,392,950 FUNDED**

- **Surgical Services**
  - Spine microscope • Sterilization equipment
  - Mobile C-arm • Blood warmers
  - Savi Scout biopsy equipment
- **Endoscopy**
  - Bronch scopes • Ultrasounds
- **Nuclear Medicine (AED)**
- **Nursing Units**
  - Blanket warmers • Renovations to the furniture and nurses stations
- **LifeFit Wellness Center**
  - Nusteps exercise equipment
- **HealthLink for Children**
  - Replacement of swing room mats
- **Birthing Center**
  - Nursery carts

**In addition, the Foundation provided \$903,221.37 from the endowment fund to support operations.**

# Community Health Outreach

Our community health team takes the mobile health unit out into the community to offer free screenings, as well as to businesses for employee events.

**86**  
HEALTH  
SCREENING  
EVENTS

Serving 1,670 people

**1,149**  
BLOOD  
PRESSURE

236 abnormal  
Valued at \$5,745

**1,060**  
BLOOD  
GLUCOSE

142 abnormal  
Valued at \$47,700

**651**  
LIPID

318 abnormal  
Valued at \$92,442

**224**  
PROSTATE

37 abnormal  
Valued at \$49,504

**29**  
SKIN  
EXAMS

3 abnormal  
Valued at \$2,320

**38**  
CLINICAL  
BREAST EXAMS

4 abnormal  
Valued at \$1,634

**128**  
WELL AT WORK  
EMPLOYER  
EVENTS

with  
4,438 participants

**1,002**  
FLU SHOTS

ADMINISTERED  
TO COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS



# Sickle Cell Clinic

**58**  
PATIENTS  
CURRENTLY  
BEING SERVED

**552**  
SICKLE CELL PATIENT  
ENCOUNTERS  
IN 2023

**IMPROVED PAIN  
MANAGEMENT  
TREATMENT  
PLANS**

have resulted in fewer  
clinic visits for IV  
treatments

Crisis-driven emergency  
room (ER) visits  
**REDUCED BY 45%**  
and resulting inpatient  
hospital stays

**DECREASED BY 60%**  
since program inception



# A HISTORY & FUTURE FILLED WITH Compassion and Focused on Growing to Meet *Community Needs*



Beaufort Memorial Hospital circa 1944

Now, as we celebrate the nonprofit organization's 80th anniversary, it spans 15 facilities from the city of Beaufort to Hilton Head Island, employs more than 1,800 providers and team members and has more than 600,000 patient encounters per year.

Eight decades ago, no one could have envisioned the robust and progressive, community-focused network that has expanded access and services throughout the county to meet the current and future health care needs of a swelling community.



Okatie Medical Pavilion

Join us in enhancing the quality of life in the Lowcountry and building the future of our community's health care.



Beaufort Memorial Hospital

On May 1, 1944, the Beaufort Memorial Hospital opened as a one-story brick building with just 25 beds and four physicians.

Established in 1984, the Beaufort Memorial Hospital Foundation was created to enhance the health and well-being of our community by financially supporting Beaufort Memorial Hospital. Since its inception, the Foundation has raised more than \$50 million through the generosity of Beaufort Memorial employees, community members, corporate partners and public and private grants. These funds have been instrumental in providing critical services, advanced technology and essential facility upgrades.



Bluffton Community Campus (Opening 2026)



Donate today at  
[BeaufortMemorial.org/Give](https://BeaufortMemorial.org/Give)  
or scan the QR code.



Find your path to career success by joining our compassionate team. Learn more and apply at  
[BeaufortMemorial.org/Careers](https://BeaufortMemorial.org/Careers) or scan the QR code.