New Partnership to Expand Mental Health Services

Hundreds of thousands of adults and children in South Carolina suffer from mental illness but do not have access to critical services that could make a real difference in their lives. A new partnership that would not have been possible before the new governance structure aims to change that situation.

On November 15, GHS and Acadia Healthcare announced a unique joint venture to enhance and expand behavioral health services in the Upstate. The partnership pairs GHS’ experience as a leading healthcare provider with Acadia’s expertise and successful track record operating high-quality inpatient behavioral health facilities.

GHS would not have this opportunity to increase access to vital mental health services without the new governance structure. This structure allows us to partner with a wide range of organizations to continue our mission and help ensure that healthcare decisions stay local.

GHS and Acadia will jointly invest approximately $64 million in an 80,000-square-foot inpatient behavioral health hospital. The new hospital, slated to open March 2018, will be built on Greenville Memorial Medical Campus and replace the aging Marshall I. Pickens Hospital (MIPH). It will feature 120 inpatient beds—52 more than currently available at MIPH—and a number of services, including alcohol and substance abuse inpatient services, geriatric psychiatry, adolescent psychiatry, children’s residential treatment, intensive outpatient therapy and partial hospitalization.

“We have made significant investments in our psychiatric department over the past several years, including hiring more providers, expanding outpatient services, more closely coordinating care with non-psychiatric providers and establishing a residency program,” said Mike Riordan, CEO of the Strategic Coordinating Organization for GHS.

Riordan added, “As we continue to move toward a population health-based model of care, however, we need to do more to ensure the health and well-being of those we serve. This partnership, which would not have been possible under our previous governance structure, allows us to maximize our resources to enhance and expand much-needed behavioral health services in our community.”

Mental illness is a major public health issue for both the Upstate and nation. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in four adults experiences mental illness in a given year, and one in 17 live with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder.

Expanded Access, Greater Choices for Patients

“By working with Acadia to expand our behavioral health services, we can reduce the need for related emergency room visits and give our patients greater choice in where they turn for care,” noted Ken Rogers, MD, associate chief clinical officer, Central Region; medical director of Behavioral Health Services; and chair of the Department of Psychiatry. “We also can better address conditions that often accompany behavioral health needs, such as compliance with care plans, sedentary lifestyles, smoking and other dependencies.”

In the coming months, GHS and Acadia will prepare and submit a Certificate of Need (CON) application for the hospital. Once the CON is approved, the joint venture will assume management of day-to-day operations at MIPH (including approximately 150 clinical and support staff members) and, eventually, operations of the new hospital. GHS will retain clinical oversight over all clinical programs at MIPH and the new hospital.

Based in Franklin, Tennessee, Acadia operates a network of 587 behavioral health facilities with approximately 17,400 beds in 39 states, the United Kingdom and Puerto Rico.
President’s Report

At GHS, we are committed to improving the quality of life for everyone entering our doors—no matter case complexity or ability to pay. This commitment is possible because, as GHS employees, you live our mission every day. You are highly motivated and well-trained, and your skills are in demand everywhere. I am thankful you have chosen to serve our community and deliver patient-centered, game-changing care each day.

Together, we create unique care and treatment opportunities, such as the nation’s first Rare Tumor Center. We develop innovative technologies and programs that make care more effective, efficient and affordable. We support innovative community partnerships, like Exercise is Medicine and the GHS Swamp Rabbit Trail.

Each year, we educate thousands of students in academic programs, including 15 residencies and fellowships, University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville and the soon-to-be constructed Clemson School of Nursing in Greenville. Our facilities are clinical training sites for a range of allied health programs. We not only are training the future of health care, but we are setting the standard of care as well.

In FY2016, we as a team accomplished many goals. Here are a few:

- Received outstanding ratings in the most recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services star ranking. GHS had the only two 5-star facilities in the Upstate—Greenville Memorial Hospital earned 4 stars—only 8 percent of major teaching hospitals exceed more than 3 stars!
- Produced $17 million in Medicare savings through our innovative population health initiatives—improving the health and wellness of our community while reducing the cost of care.
- Worked with 130+ businesses to improve the health and wellness of employees and families.
- Established the Bradshaw Institute for Community Child Health & Advocacy—one of just a few statewide efforts dedicated to national changes in pediatric health.
- Reduced A1c and LDL levels (“bad” cholesterol) in employees who participated in wellness programs.
- Launched the Bradshaw Institute for Community Child Health & Advocacy—one of just a few statewide efforts dedicated to national changes in pediatric health.
- Developed relationships is important,” he explained. “We can facilitate partnerships between community organizations and GHS providers to improve the health of people in their communities. Our goal is to learn the community, see how we can pool resources and fill gaps in that community’s health care.”

Dr. Williams has a long history of providing radiology services for GHS and the Upstate. He joined Greenville Radiology in 1985 and became its president in 1992. Since the group joined GHS in 2009, he has been chair for the Department of Radiology and will continue to serve in that position.

While his responsibilities are not yet fully defined, Dr. Williams sees his role and that of the regional team as advocates for the community and the providers who serve that community.

Leadership Profile

C. David Williams III, MD, Chief Clinical Officer, Southern Region; Chair, GHS Department of Radiology

This fall, GHS announced a new regional model that will help us better meet population health goals and improve access and the patient experience in the communities we serve. There are four regions: Central, Eastern, Southern and Western. Each is led by a chief clinical officer (CCO) and a chief operations officer (COO). Together, they are responsible for understanding the clinical needs of their region and managing GHS resources effectively and efficiently.

“The regional structure creates a shift from a hospital-centric focus to a community focus,” said C. David Williams III, MD, chief clinical officer for the Southern Region, which serves Laurens County Medical Campus and all GHS practices in Laurens County.

“In this new structure, hospitals, physician practices and community organizations work to meet the healthcare needs of their geographic population,” added Dr. Williams. “This is the future of managing healthcare delivery, enhancing patient experience and containing costs.”

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“Developing relationships is important,” he explained. “We can facilitate partnerships between community organizations and GHS providers to improve the health of people in their communities. Our goal is to learn the community, see how we can pool resources and fill gaps in that community’s health care.”

Through the regional structure, the CCO and COO can more effectively advocate for physicians. “There never has been a greater opportunity for engaging physicians,” Dr. Williams emphasized.

Nationwide, nearly half of all physicians suffer burnout because of their growing responsibilities. For instance, some GHS doctors find it challenging to incorporate Epic into their workflow. Many report less meaningful time with their patients and often work late to complete documentation.

“Tools like Epic are necessary to meet today’s healthcare challenges,” Dr. Williams pointed out. “However, we need to find a way to evaluate and design workflows so that physicians can focus on their patients.”

He continued, “The clinical/administrative dyad model combines the physician’s focus on the patient with the administrator’s expertise in running efficient operations. Working together, we can help them use these tools more efficiently and effectively.”

“There never has been a greater opportunity for engaging physicians.”

— Dr. Williams
Exercise IS Medicine

GHS has begun an innovative partnership with the University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Greenville, YMCA of Greenville and American College of Sports Medicine.

This first-in-nation coalition brings together medical school-based research with doctors, community resources and exercise professionals to slow the progress of chronic disease.

The American College of Sports Medicine launched the Exercise is Medicine Solution and the professional credential, which medical school researchers then augmented for Greenville with in-depth training ranging from behavioral health support to detailed analyses on the cumulative effect of chronic diseases on the body.

Exercise is Medicine Greenville goes beyond prescribing exercise. It also tracks exercise as part of the patient’s electronic medical record—a vital sign like blood pressure or cholesterol—giving the clinician and fitness team nearly real-time access to exercise progress. That way, they can intervene as needed to help the patient get back on track quickly.

“We’re trying to change the culture of not only how healthcare professionals view exercise but also how they can use it as a first line of prevention and treatment,” said Jennifer Trilk, PhD, director of the Human Performance Lab at the USC School of Medicine Greenville and a national leader in exercise and lifestyle medicine.

How the Program Works

Through Epic, GHS clinicians are prompted to ask patients how much they exercise a week. Anyone with less than U.S. Physical Activity Guidelines recommendations for 1.5 hours of moderate-intensity exercise may receive physician-based counseling and health tutorials. Patients at-risk or with chronic conditions (such as diabetes or obesity) or chronic musculoskeletal issues (like low back pain) are referred into the 12-week exercise and support program.

At the GHS Life Center® and any YMCA of Greenville site, specially trained fitness professionals tailor exercise plans that target issues unique to chronic conditions. For example, a patient with high blood pressure might focus on aerobic exercise while one with chronic back pain may work on strength and mobility.

“Exercise is Medicine Greenville has been one of the best programs I have had patients participate in,” said Bobby Masocol, MD, Center for Family Medicine. “Exercise is better than any medication that I can prescribe. A sustainable program that helps patients long term and supports physicians is something that health care needs.”


Inactivity often is a direct contributor to chronic diseases that kill over 1.7 million people in the U.S. a year and cost $24+ billion in healthcare spending.

LEADING THE WAY

Quality Circle

GHS Hospitals Earn “A” for Patient Safety

Greenville Memorial Hospital, Greer Memorial Hospital and Hillcrest Memorial Hospital earned “A” rankings from the Leapfrog Group. Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades are assigned to more than 2,600 general acute-care hospitals across the nation twice a year.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses national performance measures from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Leapfrog Hospital Survey, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Hospital

Association’s Annual Survey and Health Information Technology Supplement.

Taken together, those performance measures produce a single letter grade representing a hospital’s overall performance in keeping patients safe from preventable harm and medical errors.

In addition, GHS hospitals have retained their CMS Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings.
Stellar Service

November Stellar Stars

Cyndi Gaugler, practice manager, Neuroscience Associates, was described as an “angel” by a patient’s spouse. Gaugler was always available to answer questions and provided thorough information. From diagnosis of the patient’s cancer, to surgery and recovery at home, Gaugler provided guidance and support. On her own time, she frequently checked in with the family.

Pat Jenkins, EVS technician, GHS Cottingham Hospital House, often stops what she is doing to help patients and staff. Recently, she provided comfort during a patient’s last hours. Jenkins sat and held the patient’s hand between visits from the patient’s sons. She didn't want to leave the patient alone. Jenkins’ compassion helped this patient feel cared for and loved.

Christina Terry, Radiology/GMH, was recognized for her concern for pediatric patients during imaging exams. Image receptors can be cold to the touch, so before she brings the patient to her room, she takes a blanket from the warmer and places it on the image receptor. When the patient arrives, she removes the blanket, leaving a warm surface for the patient.

December Stellar Stars

Sabrina Scott, RN, JCG/GMH, knew something was wrong with one of her patients. The patient had shortness of breath that was not usual. Scott sought out Megan Kemp, MD, and urged Dr. Kemp to order a pulmonary consult. Dr. Kemp trusted Scott’s instincts and ordered the consult. The pulmonary team obtained a CT scan and found a large mass in the patient’s airway.

Cissy Reid, admissions counselor, Cancer Institute, was cited as “a true example of compassion” by a patient. His appointment with his doctor was two weeks out, but he stopped by the Cancer Institute because he was concerned about the soft tissue sarcoma in his cheek. Reid immediately saw the threat and arranged for him to see his doctor the next day. Reid’s compassion helped save the patient’s life.

Thelma Irby, EVS technician, EVS/GMH, prevented a patient from a possible fall and injury in a caring, professional manner. As part of the patient’s care team, Irby noticed that the call light alerting “bed exit” was on. While nurses and PCTs were busy with other patients, Irby gently guided the patient back to bed and stayed with him until his nurse arrived to assist him.

Volunteers of the Month

Grace Watkins is the Volunteer of the Month for November. Every Tuesday morning for the last six years, Watkins has volunteered at Greer Memorial Hospital’s front desk. With her welcoming smile, she often is the first person to greet patients and visitors. She is a bright spot for patients as she helps them check in and escorts them around the facility. Her sense of humor puts patients and families at ease, helping them feel more comfortable while in the hospital.

Bob Lippert is the Volunteer of the Month for December. Lippert has served in Children’s Hospital for over four years. But to patients, families and staff, he is known as “Dr. Upchuckles,” bringing smiles and laughter to each patient and family he visits. As Dr. Upchuckles, Lippert brightens their days with jokes and magic tricks. He even teaches patients how to perform his tricks so that they can amaze their families and friends. Everyone loves a visit from Dr. Upchuckles!

Standard of the Month

Protect Privacy and Confidentiality

Information that patients provide healthcare providers is deeply personal. Be it details of their medical condition or their Social Security number, patients need to trust us to not only provide excellent medical care, but also to safeguard personal information. We are bound by GHS policies, along with federal and state laws, to use that information only as needed to deliver care.

Even if you do not directly handle patient information or are not in contact with patients, you can help protect privacy and confidentiality. If you use a computer at work, log out when you leave your desk, even if briefly. Secure personal devices such as phones and tablets with a password, and make sure to log out of GHS applications such as Citrix and Webmail.

We also must be careful about information we post on social media. Examples of inappropriate use of social media that may violate patient privacy and/or GHS policy include the following:

• Posting pictures where patients or patient information on whiteboards may appear in the background
• Facebook postings or text messages that include patient or identifying information
• Entering comments to another person’s posted message that include patient information

Remember, standards of professionalism are the same online as in any other circumstance for all employees. Do not “like,” “share,” or post information or photos gained through work-related activities.

GHS policies on protection of patient information are available on Plexus in the Manual of Policy Directives under Corporate Compliance. If you have questions or concerns, call the GHS Privacy Line at (864) 797-7755.
Richard Hawkins, MD, GHS orthopaedic surgeon, and Bruce Snyder, MD, GHS vascular surgeon, have received the Order of the Palmetto—the highest civilian honor presented by the Governor of South Carolina. It recognizes lifetime achievements and contributions to the state.

In addition, Dr. Snyder was named Physician of the Year by the South Carolina Medical Association. This award is presented to a doctor who gives back to the community and serves the state in an exemplary manner.

Brenda Thames, EdD, vice president of Academic and Faculty Affairs at GHS, was elected chair of the Greenville Chamber Board of Directors for 2017. The board is the policy-making body of the Greenville Chamber. Its members represent the business and professional leadership of the community.

Amy Crockett, MD, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, received the prestigious John P. McNulty Prize for her leadership in reducing preterm births in South Carolina by expanding access to Centering Pregnancy group prenatal care. Dr. Crockett accepted the award, which comes with a $100,000 prize to further these efforts, during a November ceremony in New York.

John Stanfield, RT, NGH-LTAC, received Respiratory Therapist of the Year for GHS community hospitals from Respiratory Care Services at GMH. Stanfield was recognized for his personal attention to patients and families and for being a team player.

Anne Ellefson, deputy general counsel for GHS Academics and Community Affairs, has received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan award from the University of South Carolina. This award recognizes an outstanding alumna or alumnus who has given service to others beyond that required by his or her job. Ellefson also was named the 2016 Distinguished Honors Alumna for the South Carolina Honors College. This honor goes to a graduate who excels professionally or who has contributed time and effort to the betterment of the Honors College or to society.

Greenville Memorial Medical Campus was awarded a three-year accreditation in gynecologic, general and pediatric ultrasound following an extensive review by the American College of Radiology. This recognition represents the highest level of image quality and patient safety.

Shawna McMahan, RN, Center for Pediatric Medicine—West, and Nadine Mulligan, RN, Post-acute Services, NGH, have received the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. Nominators Dolores Mendelow, MD, and Stephanie Kruczkiewicz, RN, noted McMahan’s compassion, professionalism and positivity. “You are the glitter glue that holds us all together,” said Kruczkiewicz.

Mulligan was honored for her tireless dedication to patients and families and her unwavering support of co-workers and staff.

Hillcrest Memorial Hospital (HMH) has been designated a Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence by the American College of Radiology. HMH is first in the state and ninth in the country to receive this designation. The hospital earned this honor following a comprehensive assessment of its entire medical imaging enterprise, including structure and outcomes. The designation recognizes excellence at multiple levels, including professional staff, technology, organizational policies and procedures, and patient care.

Greenville Health System has received the Toastmasters International Corporate Award. The system was recognized for its continuing support of the GMH Toastmasters Club, including providing meeting locations, sponsoring member renewal dues and allowing the club to host area and district Toastmasters events at system facilities.

Greenville Health System received the Data Completeness and Timeliness Gold Award from the South Carolina Central Cancer Registry for excellence in data management for the period of July 2015-June 2016. The award was presented to Kathy Brandt, supervisor, Cancer Registry Quality Management Department, and her team at the N.C. & S.C. Registrars Regional Meeting.
A Free Shot in the Arm
This fall, Greer and Hillcrest Memorial Hospitals hosted drive-thru flu shot clinics and partnered with area groups to provide flu shots at different sites in their communities.

Hospitalist Service Awards
Congratulations to hospitalists Hicham Yactine, MD (GMH), and Nathaniel Richards, MD (OMH), recipients of the inaugural Dr. Lloyd Hayes Hospitalist Service Award. Drs. Yactine and Richards are well-regarded as excellent clinicians and efficient hospitalists who provide outstanding patient-centered care.

The Division of Hospitalist Medicine established the award in honor of Lloyd Hayes, MD, founder of the GHS Hospitalist program, to recognize outstanding hospitalists who exemplify GHS’ values of integrity, respect, trust and openness and who consistently demonstrate GHS’ mission to heal compassionately, teach innovatively and improve constantly.

Each year, two recipients will be selected from peer nominations and hospitalist division leaders, one from GMH and one from a GHS community hospital.

Hand Hygiene Awards
Congratulations to the following who were recognized by Infection Prevention and Control as role models among their peers for consistently demonstrating good hand hygiene:

Hand Hygiene Awards
- Thomas Jarecky, MD, Upstate Medical Rehabilitation
- Joanne Skaggs, MD, GHS Pediatrics & Internal Medicine–Wade Hampton
- Angie Pruitt, MLT, Travelers Rest Family Medicine

Helping Hands Awards
- Michael Stewart, MD, Neonatologist
- CLABSI Executive PI Team

Veterans Day
GHS hosted its annual Veterans Day Ceremony at Greenville Memorial Hospital to honor those who have fought for and protected our country. The event included remarks by U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, a performance by the Greenville Textile Heritage Band and a 21-gun salute. Items collected by GHS employees for Blue Star Mothers also were on display.

Approximately 250 people received free flu shots during Hillcrest Memorial Hospital’s fourth-annual drive-thru flu shot clinic.

Hand Hygiene Awards
Thomas Jarecky, MD

Helping Hands Awards
Michael Stewart, MD

Medication PI Team
Medication Performance Improvement is an interdisciplinary team whose goal is to provide a safe environment for patients and staff. The committee is charged with maintaining a safety program through surveillance and policy/procedure development to ensure that safe medication management practices are consistently followed.

New Institute Announced
In partnership with GHS, Furman University has launched the Institute for the Advancement of Community Health. The institute will expand Furman’s research into the health of the community and allow students to pursue more internships as well as research and mentorship opportunities.

Medication PI Team:
Sue Booker, RN, manager, Infection Prevention (center), presents the Helping Hands award to the CLABSI Executive PI Team: (l-r) Annette Durphy, RN; Kate Richardson, RN; Jennifer Macaluso, RN; Ron Collet, RN; Fady Nassif, MD; Laura Beth Law, RN.

(1–r) Kevin Gilroy, MD, with Drs. Yactine and Hayes

(1–r) Drs. Hayes and Richards

(1–r) Angie Pruitt with co-worker Tracy Freehan

(1–r) Angie Pruitt, MLT, Travelers Rest Family Medicine

(1–r) Thomas Jarecky, MD

(1–r) Joanne Skaggs, MD (center)

(1–r) Sue Booker, RN

Medication PI Team: (front row, l–r) Renee Waddell, Beverly Ross, Lynn Ethridge, Annette Durphy, Becky Sawyer; (back row, l–r) Connie Gibbons, Jim Rose, Kate Richardson, Lana Warner, Cathie Oakle-Lanehreth, Mark Calh, Misty Gilbert, Sabrina Bauman
The Magnet® Recognition Program epitomizes nursing excellence. It emphasizes professional development and higher education through engaging and developing a knowledge-based nursing workforce. GHS supports nursing education and encourages nurses to advance their careers through continuing education and obtain BSN, MSN, DNP, PhD and other related degrees.

One way GHS helps set the standard for nursing education is through their Nurse Extern program. This 12-week immersion program serves as a pipeline for nursing students who wish to improve their clinical knowledge and skills while developing a relationship with nursing at GHS.

GHS’s focus on high-quality outcomes and nursing excellence is a cornerstone for nursing practice at GHS. In alignment with this practice model, multiple GHS hospitals are seeking Magnet Recognition while supporting a culture of safety and quality in delivering patient- and family-centered care through evidence-based practice.

Because research is a major tenet of Magnet, GHS and Clemson University have established a partnership for nursing education, research and practice. Our emphasis on applied/translational research targets national healthcare issues. Also, GHS Nursing Academics offers research bootcamps and research seminars, such as “Tips and How-tos of Getting Started in Publishing,” which reflect Magnet support for conducting, sharing and translating research to improve care and services for those we serve.

GHS works diligently with our academic partners to provide their students clinical learning in our facilities and helps our preceptors become certified through the Lippincott Preceptor program.

As a result, GHS is in alignment with Magnet’s emphasis on stellar nursing education in providing excellent patient care.

GHS Complies with New ACA Rule

Have you seen recent GHS posters, forms or letters, marketing materials and website wording that contain our nondiscrimination notice and availability of language services? This material helps meet the final rule of Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Now in effect, Section 1557 requires all healthcare providers who receive funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (such as hospitals or doctors accepting Medicare or Medicaid) to include these two items in “significant” publications and communications accepting Medicare or Medicaid to include these two items in “significant” publications and communications targeted to patients and the public. These items must be easily seen and note that free interpretation help is available in the top non-English languages in this state.

Diversity, Marketing and Legal Affairs are ensuring that GHS complies with this rule. An ad hoc group is auditing materials statewide to identify any item that might be relevant under Section 1557. This process will be ongoing for the near future. In the meantime, materials you already have in stock may be used as is.

Learn more about section 1557 at http://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/section-1557.

If you have questions about what may qualify in your area as pertinent, email ccbromb@ghs.org.

November Service Anniversaries

35 Years Sandra Collins, Michelle Taylor-Smith, Yolanda Meadou
30 Years Norma Hicks, Sheila Moore, Dorothy Proctor
25 Years Charlene Moore, Cindy Bell, Lisa Hart
20 Years Liz Dickard, Sue Jones, Angel Morehead

December Service Anniversaries

40 Years Jim Roe, Sandy Turner
35 Years Sammy McNinch
30 Years Bell Smith
25 Years Amy Abdalla, Angela Heady, Janice Ellingson

Nursing Education at GHS

GHS provides opportunities for students who wish to improve their clinical knowledge and skills while developing a relationship with nursing at GHS.
Upcoming Events

Life Center® Holiday Hours
• Sat., Dec. 24: 8 a.m.-noon; no group fitness classes
• Sun., Dec. 25: Closed
• Mon., Dec. 26: 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; no group fitness classes
• Sat., Dec. 31: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; no group fitness classes
• Sun., Jan 1: Closed

MLK Jr. Diversity Leadership Luncheon
Jan. 13—Greenville Memorial Hospital Skarupa Community Room, 11:30 a.m. This 10th annual event is open to all GHS employees, but registration is required. To reserve your free seat, contact the Diversity Department by Jan. 6 at 455-7115 or diversity@ghs.org.

GHS Half-marathon and 5K
Feb. 25—Gateway Park, Travelers Rest, 7:30 a.m. (half-marathon); Swamp Rabbit Café, Greenville, 7:30 a.m. (5K). GHS co-sponsored this event with Upstate Mothers of Multiples and Without Limits. For information and to register, go to www.swamprabbitrace.com.

Community Connections

CHOC Winter Wonderland
Elsa, Belle, Batman, Pokemon and Winnie-the-Pooh frolic in a winter wonderland at Children’s Hospital Outpatient Center (CHOC) on the second floor of Patewood Office Building A. Five talented student artists from J.L. Mann High School painted the delightful scenes on CHOC windows overlooking the lobby.

The students are the winners of CHOC’s inaugural art contest in which students compete for the honor of displaying their work in a public space. Students submit drawings of favorite children’s animated characters. The contest was designed so that the center’s pediatric patients also can vote for their favorite pictures. Artists whose work is among the top five submissions are the winners.

Each spring and fall for several years, child life specialist Mitzi Privette, CCLS, has invited elite high school art clubs to paint the CHOC windows for patients and families to enjoy. Giving patients some ownership in the creative process is one reason Privette decided to host a contest.

Think Pink at Oconee
October 27 marked Oconee Memorial Hospital’s inaugural Think Pink event to raise breast cancer awareness and recognize cancer survivors. The evening included guest speaker oncologist Jeffrey Giguere, MD, a victory lap around the hospital’s walking track, and a balloon release that honored fellow cancer survivors and signified the release of fear, anxiety, anger and other emotions associated with the recovery journey.

Purchasing an item for Children’s Hospital through Virtual Toy Drive is like shopping online: It’s fast, convenient and will match what the donor wishes to give with a current need in Children’s Hospital. Items start at $2.50, so anyone can make a difference!


GHS’ annual report for FY 2016 now is available online at www.ghs.org/annualreport.

Upstate Pharmacy Expands Services

Adult immunizations (Influenza Quadrivalent, Influenza HD, Tdap, Pneumococcal and Zoster) are available at the GMH location and the Eastside location of Upstate Pharmacy. Immunization hours are Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. No appointment or prescription is necessary.

All Upstate Pharmacy locations offer courtesy refills for maintenance medications. Request this service when you drop-off or pick-up prescriptions or call your pharmacy. Learn more at https://www.ghs.org/healthcareservices/upstate-pharmacy.