



2009 Report to the Community

Taking our place

IN A NEW DECADE



Even as the recession forced healthcare providers across the country to tighten their belts in 2009, BMH remained committed to its mission to deliver superior healthcare services to its patients. Last year, we invested millions of dollars in new technology and advanced programs aimed at improving patient safety and quality of care.

Robots in the operating room

Among the most significant advancements is the da Vinci Surgical System, robotic technology that allows surgeons to perform hysterectomies and other gynecological operations using dime-sized incisions. BMH is the only hospital in the area offering the minimally invasive procedures as an alternative to traditional open surgery and conventional laparoscopy.

Surgeries performed with the da Vinci system result in significantly reduced pain, blood loss and recovery time for patients. Instead of a three- or four-day hospital stay and six weeks of recovery, patients generally spend just one night in the hospital and are usually back to work in a week.

Managing meds

BMH also is one of only a handful of South Carolina healthcare providers that have implemented Bedside Medication Verification, a barcode scanning system shown to reduce medication errors by nearly 70 percent.

Using handheld scanning devices—similar to those found at your neighborhood grocery store—nurses can now confirm a patient’s identity and prescription orders before administering medication. As soon as the information is processed, the hospital’s computer system crosschecks for any allergies and potential drug interactions.



Continued on page 10

Financial statement for fiscal year 2009

Statistics

During fiscal year 2009, BMH:

- Admitted **10,473** patients.
- Delivered **1,817** babies.
- Cared for **39,462** emergency room patients.
- Registered **130,637** outpatients.
- Performed **2,660** inpatient surgeries.
- Performed **2,204** outpatient surgeries.

Revenue

Total net patient services revenue: **\$143,850,041**

Other revenue: **\$4,978,916**

Total operating revenue: \$148,828,957

Expenses

What it cost in 2009 to:

- Pay our employees: **\$75,962,669**
- Purchase supplies, insurance, utilities and other general expenses: **\$54,300,225**
- Pay interest on debt: **\$1,052,057**
- Pay for depreciation of buildings and equipment: **\$9,268,377**

Total cost of caring for patients: \$140,583,328

Net income

Funds available for capital expenses (new programs, equipment and facilities): \$8,245,629

Foundation contribution

Contributed by the BMH Foundation to offset capital and operating expenses: \$570,608



In 2009, BMH again took home awards from HealthGrades and ranked among the Top 100 Most Wired Hospitals in the U.S. See the next page for details.

Continued from page 9

Additionally, new computers installed in every room provide doctors with instant access to nurses' notes about their patients.

Saving blood, saving lives

Following the lead of nationally renowned institutions like Duke Medicine, Johns Hopkins Medicine and Cleveland Clinic, Beaufort Memorial initiated a blood conservation program aimed at reducing blood transfusions that can pose serious risks to patients and are medically unnecessary. By training doctors and nurses to use new treatment techniques, we were able to reduce blood usage last year by 16 percent.

Taking better aim at tumors

At the Keyserling Cancer Center in Port Royal, we upgraded our Varian linear accelerator with on-board imaging, respiratory gating and image fusing, making it possible for radiation oncologists to treat patients with even greater accuracy. Few hospitals outside of major academic medical centers offer this kind of technology.

On-board imaging allows oncologists to see the position of the tumor immediately before each treatment. Essentially a CT (computed tomography) scanner built directly into the machine, it facilitates precise tracking of the target, reducing the collateral damage to adjacent organs.

With **respiratory gating**, radiation treatment is delivered in multiple brief pulses, rather than a continuous stream.

It is particularly useful in treating women with breast cancer as it permits the oncologist to visually track the position of the breast and synchronize the radiation delivery with the natural movement of breathing, reducing unnecessary exposure to the heart and lungs.

Using **image fusing**, physicians can simultaneously overlay images from multiple sources—including CT scans of bones, magnetic resonance imaging scans of soft tissues and positron emission tomography scans of metabolic activity—to get one clear picture.

Researching cures for cancer

As an affiliate of Duke Medicine—ranked among the top 10 cancer treatment sites in the nation—BMH qualified to join national clinical trials studying new drugs and procedures that could be the next big breakthroughs in cancer care. During the past year, Keyserling Cancer Center participated in a dozen clinical trials, most of them in breast and colon cancer care.

Expanded services in Bluffton

In summer 2009, we also completed a major renovation and expansion of Beaufort Memorial Bluffton Medical Services to better serve our patients south of the Broad River. We doubled the size of the outpatient center, adding a dozen exam rooms, a rehabilitation gym and high-tech diagnostic screening, including ultrasound, digital mammography and bone density scans.

Although BMH is not immune to the financial downturn, we continue to look



Reaching out

Learn more about the services Beaufort Memorial is bringing to you and your loved ones.



Go to www.bmhsc.org.

at ways to improve patient safety and provide our community with the highest-quality medical care.

Moving forward, moving up

As the year came to a close, we moved ahead with plans to beef up our level 3 Emergency Department to meet the increasing demand for emergency medical services. The estimated \$7.5 million expansion project will add:

- As many as nine beds to our 18-bed unit.
- Much-needed space to improve the nurses' station, physicians' work area and public waiting room.

→ Contamination facilities to handle patients exposed to hazardous materials.

While BMH has completed its 2009 chapter, 2010 and the decade to come give us much joy and anticipation at the opportunities to come—opportunities to advance even further in our medical and technological capabilities, to expand our services and to continue to stand as your family's trusted community hospital.

Join us in celebrating the past year of successes and welcoming a new year, a new decade and a new era of medicine for Beaufort.



Ranking high: Our trophies from 2009

In 2009, BMH's efforts to implement new technology and prepare future medical professionals, as well as our having outstanding programs for orthopedics and gastrointestinal surgery, earned us national recognition. And that means we're achieving great care for you and those you love.

WIRED FOR CARE

In the past year, BMH adopted a variety of technological improvements, including Bedside Medication Verification. Such advances earned BMH a spot among the 2009 Top 100 Most Wired Hospitals in the nation.

The designation was even more significant as we moved up from the "Small and Rural Hospitals" category to compete against all hospitals in the nation, including the most prestigious academic medical centers.

MAKING THE GRADE

Beaufort Memorial also received top honors from

HealthGrades, the most respected healthcare ratings organization in the United States.

For the third straight year, we ranked among the top 10 percent in the nation for spine surgery and best in the area for overall orthopedics. In addition, we earned the much-coveted five-star rating for back and neck surgery, total knee and joint replacements, and gastrointestinal surgeries and procedures.

PREPARING FUTURE PROVIDERS

Beaufort Memorial was named Clinical Teaching Site of the Year by the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) for on-site clinical instruction during the 2008–2009 school year.

Thanks to the efforts of many clinical staff members, 13 Lowcountry AHEC health professions students received hands-on, patient-centered instruction during their clinical rotations at BMH.