



ROOTED *in Action*

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2025



Beaufort Memorial

From **VISION** to *Action*

True investment in healthcare goes beyond press releases and conceptual renderings. It's realized **THROUGH ACTION.**



This was a year defined by action. Words alone don't expand access to care, attract specialists or meet the needs of a growing and aging community. Progress comes from following through on long-term, community-informed strategies shaped by years of listening and adaptation — and in 2025, that's exactly what Beaufort Memorial delivered.

Nowhere was that progress more evident than in southern Beaufort County, where we celebrated groundbreaking milestones for two new facilities: the Beaufort Memorial Bluffton Community Hospital and the Beaufort Memorial Emergency & Urgent Care on Hilton Head Island. These are among the Lowcountry's fastest-growing communities, and Beaufort Memorial is meeting that growth head-on.

For years, Bluffton residents — comprising nearly 20% of our inpatients at the main hospital — have traveled to Beaufort for routine, diagnostic and emergency care. Meanwhile, the southern end of Hilton Head Island, home to thousands of residents and attracting countless visitors annually, has lacked convenient access to immediate care — but a new solution is taking shape.

We broke ground in May 2025 on the Bluffton Community Hospital. Scheduled for completion at the end of 2026 and opening to patients in early 2027, the three-story, 28-bed hospital will bring comprehensive care closer to home in one of the state's most dynamic and rapidly growing regions.

On Hilton Head Island, construction began in November 2025 on a combination ER and

urgent care facility, offering an innovative model for patients to receive the right level of care at the right cost.

Beyond bricks and mortar, we continued to invest in the future of healthcare with community partnerships. In January 2025, we launched a career development collaboration with the Beaufort County School District to prepare the next generation of healthcare professionals. Months later, we welcomed a new class of USCB nursing students to our Beaufort campus as a satellite learning location, expanding the local pipeline of skilled caregivers.

With the support of grant funding and generous contributions to the Beaufort Memorial Foundation, we also advanced our transformation into a “smart” hospital, leveraging technology to improve how care is delivered in our facilities. At the same time, as violence against healthcare workers rises nationwide, we prioritized safety initiatives to protect our team and our patients.

We are delivering on our promises: smart growth, strategic partnerships and innovation that improves outcomes for everyone we serve. As this community's hospital, Beaufort Memorial is rooted in action — and we are just getting started.



Russell Baxley, MHA
President & CEO, Beaufort Memorial



QUALITY &
SAFETY

ORTHOPEDIC *Excellence*

Dr. Vandit Sardana

Dr. Cory Messerschmidt

Joint replacement, spine programs earn national recognition

In 2025, the organization earned two prestigious designations from Blue Cross Blue Shield: Blue Distinction Center for Spine Surgery and Blue Distinction Center+ for Knee and Hip Replacement.

Blue Distinction designations are awarded through a rigorous, evidence-based evaluation of provider expertise, patient outcomes and overall value. Hospitals must apply and meet strict performance standards to qualify.

National Recognition for a Growing Spine Program

The Beaufort Memorial spine surgery program, established in 2022, earned its Blue Distinction Center designation in a notably short time — a rare achievement for newer programs.

“They are very high standards to meet,” said Ashley Hildreth, MSN, RN, CEN, SANE, Beaufort Memorial Assistant Chief Nursing Officer. “These standards are rigorous and often require many years to achieve, as data on mortality, traditions and functional outcomes must be collected and vetted.”

Beaufort Memorial is the only health system in the area to offer cervical disc replacement, which involves removing a damaged cervical disc and replacing it with a synthetic one.

Performed by board-certified, fellowship-trained spine surgeon Dr. Andrew Castro, the procedure preserves motion and often results in less pain and improved mobility compared to traditional fusion.

Designated
BlueDistinction®
Center
Spine Surgery

Designated
BlueDistinction®
Center+
Knee and
Hip Replacement

“Achieving this designation sends a strong message to patients,” Dr. Castro said. “It shows that Beaufort Memorial meets the highest standards for safety, expertise and outcomes in spinal care — something our community truly needs.”

Continued Excellence in Knee and Hip

The Beaufort Memorial knee and hip replacement program earned the Blue Distinction Center+ designation, marking over a decade of recognition from Blue Cross

Blue Shield. After initially earning Blue Distinction Center status, the program advanced to Center+ in 2019. The Center+ distinction recognizes not only superior clinical outcomes and provider expertise but also affordability.

The program’s quality has also been recognized with The Joint Commission’s Advanced Certification in Total Hip and Knee Replacement — a distinction held by only four hospitals in the state.

“Beaufort Memorial has consistently demonstrated excellence in orthopedic care,” said Beaufort Memorial President and CEO Russell Baxley. “These designations reflect the dedication of our physicians, nurses, therapists and staff who work daily to achieve the best outcomes for our patients. They support our mission to expand access to high-quality, affordable care across the Lowcountry.”

A CULTURE of Safety



Beaufort Memorial leaders and area first responders discuss details from the Operation Rapid Shield drill in Nov. 2025.

Hospitals and healthcare facilities are built on compassion and care, but a growing trend is reshaping the workplace for staff at Beaufort Memorial and nationwide: violence against healthcare workers.

Nurses, physicians and frontline workers care for countless patients every day, saving lives, providing comfort and serving the community. Nationally, these healthcare employees are five times more likely to experience workplace

violence injuries than workers in other industries, accounting for nearly 75% of workplace assaults.

Preparedness Through Training

In Fall 2025, Beaufort Memorial conducted its first active shooter drill, "Operation Rapid Shield," in partnership with local, regional and state agencies. Held in the ICU at the main hospital, the exercise brought together hospital staff and the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, Beaufort Police Department,

WHAT THE NUMBERS SHOW

Nearly 70% of hospital workers report experiencing some form of workplace violence, and healthcare professionals represent almost half of all nonfatal workplace violence injuries in the U.S. — despite making up only 10% of the workforce.

45.5% of nurses reported in a 2023 national survey an increase in workplace violence from the previous year, and 6 in 10 said they had left or considered leaving a job because of it.

More than 80% of care providers report that assaults contribute to lost

productivity, increased anxiety, longer wait times and reduced clinical focus. In the middle of a national nursing shortage, workplace violence has become a major driver of burnout and turnover.

7 workplace violence incidents occur in South Carolina hospitals daily, according to the 2025 Workplace Violence Collaborative Report.

2/3 of staff assaults were committed by adult patients, according to data collected from 48 South Carolina facilities in 2024. Nearly 68% involved nurses or nursing support staff, and more than half occurred in patient rooms or bathrooms, most often between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Beaufort/Port Royal Fire Department, Beaufort County EMS, the Department of Public Health and the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (Region 6).

The drill tested staff readiness and reinforced both internal and external communication procedures using the Hospital Incident Command System (HICS). The coordinated response demonstrated the organization's ability to mobilize quickly, communicate clearly and efficiently and prioritize patient and staff safety in a crisis.

Operation Rapid Shield reflects Beaufort Memorial's belief that preparation saves lives, and that collaboration with community partners strengthens overall readiness.

Advanced Security Technology

In April 2025, Beaufort Memorial installed a state-of-the-art weapons detection system in the Pratt Emergency Center. The \$150,000 Evolv system, fully funded by the Beaufort Memorial Foundation, enhances security screening while minimizing disruption to patient care.

Unlike traditional metal detectors, the system uses advanced imaging technology to detect and identify potential threats swiftly and safely.

Additionally, Beaufort Memorial has implemented Midmark Real-Time Location Systems (RTLS) throughout the main hospital, improving operational efficiency through asset tracking, patient flow and communication, while strengthening safety measures. Staff have access to mobile panic buttons linked to location-identifying technology, allowing security or clinical assistance to respond quickly during emergencies.

3 states remain without enhanced penalties for assaulting a healthcare worker, and South Carolina is one of them. Beaufort Memorial is actively supporting state legislation — H4763 and S346 — aimed at strengthening protections for healthcare professionals and improving safety across the state's healthcare system.

While advocacy is key, meaningful change also requires action at the local level. **Beaufort Memorial has taken a proactive, multi-layered approach to prevention, preparedness and response.**

The Evolv weapons detection system located in the Beaufort Memorial Hospital Emergency Department

Strengthening Oversight and Support

Formed in 2023, the Beaufort Memorial Workplace Violence Committee plays a central role in the organization's safety strategy. The interdisciplinary committee meets weekly to review incidents, provide follow-up and staff support, evaluate processes and recommend improvements.

"The committee's work ensures that workplace violence prevention is not a one-time initiative," said Shawna Doran, MSN, RN, Vice President of Quality, Risk and Patient Safety at Beaufort Memorial, "but an ongoing priority, grounded in accountability, transparency and continuous improvement."

A Culture of Safety

Healthcare environments are high traffic, emotionally charged settings where vulnerable patients receive care. Beaufort Memorial is committed to fostering a culture of security and respect, one that protects patients, visitors and the dedicated professionals who care for them.

Through legislative advocacy, enhanced security technology, training exercises and structured oversight, Beaufort Memorial is taking decisive steps to reduce risk and strengthen preparedness.

By investing in safety for patients, staff and visitors, Beaufort Memorial is helping ensure a stronger, safer environment for healthcare in our community for generations to come.

"Our nurses, physicians and team members dedicate their lives to caring for others, and they deserve to feel safe at work. Addressing workplace violence is not just a security priority — it's critical to supporting our workforce and sustaining high-quality care in our community."

— Russell Baxley
Beaufort Memorial
President and CEO

COMPASSION, COMMUNITY, *Courage*

Beaufort educator's school family rallied around her on her breast cancer journey

Last summer, Riverview Charter School fifth grade teacher Jill Scheper checked a lifelong dream off her bucket list: traveling through London and Scotland with her family. The trip was especially meaningful to her; she had completed breast cancer treatment the year before.

"After everything I'd been through, we said, 'Let's just do it,'" Jill recalled.

Unexpected Birthday News

On her birthday in September of 2023, Jill underwent a mammogram after noticing that something hadn't been feeling right. The results confirmed that she had breast cancer.

"I was shocked and scared," she said. "I had so many questions. How bad was it? What stage was it? Was I going to live, or was I going to die?"

Initially diagnosed with stage 0 breast cancer, Jill later learned that she had a second, more aggressive kind of cancer — triple negative breast cancer.

"I went from thinking that I wasn't going to need chemo to learning that I needed 16 rounds of it," she remembered.

Strength Through Treatment

Those 16 rounds of chemotherapy proved to be the most challenging part of Jill's journey.

"It felt like a marathon," she said. "By the 10th or 11th round, you're exhausted, but you still have several more to go."

Following her chemotherapy treatments, she also underwent a year of immunotherapy with Keytruda. One of the keys keeping her strong along the way was her dedication to educating herself about all the treatments that are out there for her type of cancer.

Jill said she also became "a stickler" for her health and her diet, keeping her body as resilient as possible.

"There is just so much to learn; I feel like I just got my PhD. It's like learning a whole other language," Jill laughed. "I would Google constantly, but researched in other ways, too. I read books, articles and talked to various cancer survivors, as well as doctors and nurses. I researched everything the doctors told me."

Support at Every Step

Jill credits her Beaufort Memorial care team with helping her through treatment. She praised the compassion of everyone, from front desk staff to her oncology providers.

One nurse, Annie Loughlin, RN, BSN, made such a lasting impact that Jill nominated her for the prestigious DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses — which Loughlin received in February 2025.

"She was there for me each and every time," Jill remembered. "She took the time to explain everything



to me, every little detail. I wanted to give up, but she is one of the reasons I stayed in chemo. She's an earth angel."

Loughlin also helped Jill navigate the use of a cooling cap during chemotherapy, which allowed her to keep much of her hair.

Jill highlighted the support of oncology social worker Kianna Brown, LMSW, and her oncologist, Dr. Eric Turner, who she said made her feel seen and supported throughout treatment.

"Throughout Jill's treatment, which included systemic chemotherapy and immunotherapy, as well as multiple surgeries, she continued to fight through the side effects and maintain a very positive attitude, which is so incredibly important when a patient is on their cancer journey," Dr. Turner said. "Her spirit is commendable, and taking care of her has been a pleasure and a privilege."



Dr. Eric Turner

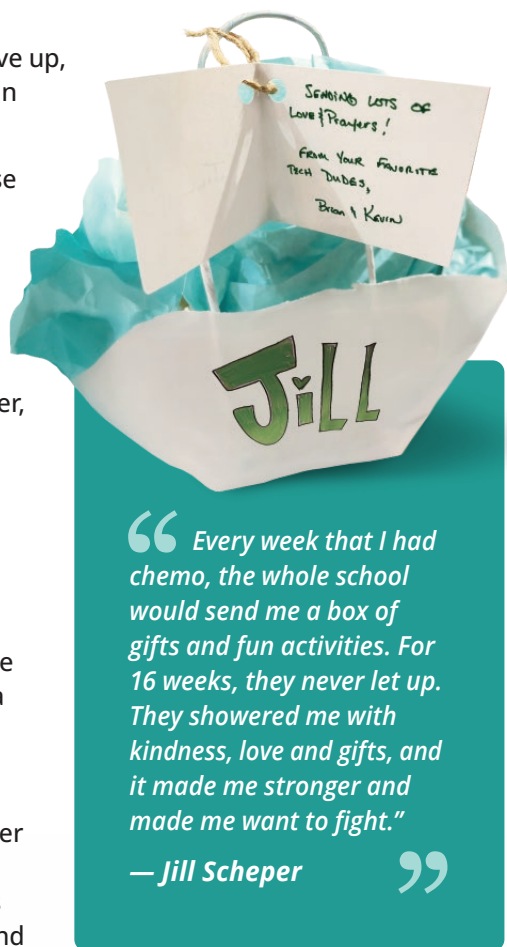
A School and Community United

Beyond her care team and family — including her husband Bill and children Kaitlin, Rachael, Will and Becca — Jill found strength in her school community, too.

She received weekly care packages that included notes from her current and former students, some even writing to their teacher from college to show that they were behind her.

"That community was so, so huge, and they gave me the courage to get through 16 rounds," she said. "I felt like they were all cheering me on through every mile. I wouldn't have been able to get through it without them."

"Put yourself as a priority"
— Jill Scheper



'Put Yourself as a Priority'

The Columbia, S.C. native retreated to her family's house in the mountains during her chemo and was able to take the year off teaching. She committed herself to prayer and journaling, keeping her faith front and center and devoting her time to her treatment, health and recovery.

"You have the power and the control over your body and doing all the healthy things to take care of yourself," she said. "Put yourself as a priority. It's OK to put yourself as a priority."

She also hopes to break down the stigma around a breast cancer diagnosis and emphasize that it's OK to lean on your support system. No one should go through their journey alone.

"There are women who are scared to say anything or who think it's embarrassing when they receive their diagnosis," Jill said. "I don't want women to feel like they need to hide it. I don't want there to be a stigma."

Since her diagnosis, Jill has spoken to countless women who have gone through the same things she has. That community and that support are always there, she said.

"Even if you don't have a family to go to, that community is ready to support you," she added. "Reach out."



Jill, pictured with her dad Bob, sister Laura, mom Patti and daughter Becca.

NEW HIP, — New — Horizons

Kathlyn Gray is logging miles and memories after her hip replacement

Every day, Kathlyn Gray hits the pavement in Port Royal for a two-and-a-half-mile walk.

There's always something to see — neighbors walking their dogs, the quiet coastal downtown and, of course, the exciting residents of the Cypress Wetlands. Alligators, roseate spoonbills, ducks and turtles regularly find their way into the retired teacher's camera roll.

But on one walk in August 2025, her right hip gave out. To get moving again, Kathlyn knew she'd need the joint replaced, and she turned to one of the newest faces on the Beaufort Memorial orthopedic team to do it.

This Hip is 'Bananas'

Kathlyn's hip troubles began years earlier, leading to a left hip replacement at Beaufort Memorial in 2018. She hoped that would be her last joint surgery.

Other issues emerged, however, including a troublesome shoulder. She had even scheduled shoulder surgery when her right hip suddenly took priority.

"Two weeks before my shoulder surgery, I was on

my typical walk, and my right hip went bananas — I felt like it had collapsed!" Kathlyn remembered. "I thought, 'I can't have shoulder surgery if I can't walk on my hip! How am I going to take care of myself?'"

She needed a new hip — and fast.

Making the Right Choice

Kathlyn had heard about a young new surgeon at Beaufort Memorial Orthopaedic Specialists who specialized in sports medicine.

Her primary care provider, Dr. Andrea Hucks at Beaufort Memorial Primary Care, had spoken highly of Dr. Cory Messerschmidt, so Kathlyn scheduled a visit.

"I really liked that he had a sports medicine background," she said, and she was particularly impressed with his fellowship training at Emory University and experience working alongside the Atlanta Falcons.

Just as important? She liked him.

She got an appointment quickly and underwent surgery in September 2025, less than a month later.

'Phenomenal' Care

Having been through one hip surgery before, Kathlyn knew what to expect, but Dr. Messerschmidt still stood out for his individualized, knowledgeable approach.

Human connection is what drew the surgeon to medicine, and he connected with Kathlyn's energy and positivity.

"Medicine isn't just about diagnosing and treating disease — it's about understanding people, listening closely and being present," he said. "Kathlyn is very active, and I wanted to get her back on her feet as quickly as possible. She asked lots of questions, and I was able to connect with her goals and expectations, which helped us tailor a care plan that truly fit her lifestyle."

Kathlyn was also struck by how warm and personable the surgeon was — plus, a straight shooter with a dry sense of humor.

"He speaks to you in a collegial manner — I don't feel like I'm talking to a 'highfalutin' doctor," she described. "He just has a different way of relating to his patients, and I was very, very grateful."

What stayed with Kathlyn most during her care happened at her follow-up appointment, the first time she was able to see her incision since the procedure.

"I was stunned — there was no swelling or bruising at all," she recalled. "I didn't even know that was possible."

When Dr. Messerschmidt slowly removed her bandage at that appointment, he summed it up in one word: "Phenomenal."

"And I don't know if he was talking about the incision in general, or my healing, or his work," Kathlyn laughed, "but I loved his attitude and enthusiasm."



Dr. Cory Messerschmidt

After her procedure, she began physical therapy just a few streets from her Port Royal home. She went twice a week for three weeks, and she was done.

She was ready to get moving again.

Back in Action

With both hips replaced and her shoulder recovery nearly complete, Kathlyn returned to the life and retirement she loves — piano lessons, friends, family and volunteering with her church and the Good Neighbor Medical Clinic.

She's also an avid traveler. Since her surgery, she has journeyed to exciting destinations like London in January 2026 and Hawaii just a couple months later.

Her travel plans for the upcoming months are ambitious, just the way she likes it: she's planning to visit family in Kentucky, friends in California and Oregon and looking ahead, she's considering a safari trip in Africa for July 2027 — her third one, by the way.

When she's staying put in Port Royal, she still takes her daily walks through town, enjoying the sights and sounds of the stunning Lowcountry place she calls home — with a new hip and no more pain.



The Port Royal Cypress Wetlands



Kathlyn, pictured third from the left, on her early 2026 Hawaii trip with friends.



Kathlyn's passion for travel took her to Tanzania in 2023.

Fighting BACK

If you walk through the Beaufort Memorial LifeFit Wellness Center around lunchtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays, you'll hear a chorus of counting: "One, two! One, two! One, two!"

The voices, counting jabs and uppercuts, may not be the loudest, but they're strong: they belong to the boxers in the Rock Steady Boxing program at Beaufort Memorial, one of the health system's newest resources for slowing the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

With support from the Beaufort Memorial Foundation, the organization has been able to expand its resources for those diagnosed with the progressive disease, and with programs like Rock Steady Boxing, participants are equipped with tools to fight back.

Finding Support at Beaufort Memorial

Parkinson's disease is a brain disorder that currently has no cure. Symptoms include tremors, stiffness, slow movement, depression, problems sleeping and issues with balance. The disease affects more than 1.1 million people in the U.S., reports the National Parkinson's Foundation.

Beaufort Memorial provides the Lowcountry with a range of resources to help individuals manage Parkinson's symptoms and find community.

Boxing program adds to Parkinson's support services



Boxers combat Parkinson's progression with intense, zero-contact exercise classes.

The first Rock Steady Boxing class was held in January 2026, and in the span of a few months has drawn dedicated Parkinson's fighters — some who never miss a class.

The program was made possible by private donations to the Beaufort Memorial Foundation, supporting the cost of sending the program's instructor, LifeFit manager Melanie Spatig, MS, ACSM-CEP, to train at the official Rock Steady Boxing headquarters in Indianapolis.

"The idea is to keep the disease from getting worse," Melanie explained. "In order to do that, it needs to be intense exercise — boxing is full-body, intense exercise and one of the hardest sports out there."

The Foundation helped bring another critical Parkinson's resource to the organization — Delay the Disease.

Delay the Disease began at Beaufort Memorial in 2018 after a donor with Parkinson's made an impactful gift that allowed the organization to offer the twice-weekly class. The program focuses less on intense exercise and more on improving mobility, core strength, coordination and balance.

Those diagnosed with Parkinson's can also attend monthly support group meetings and, with a physician referral, participate in the "Big & Loud" program as part of their occupational therapy appointments, which improve speech quality and volume while encouraging larger movement and limb mobility.

Rocking Out

Beaufort attorney Henri Ann Logan is a "regular" at Rock Steady Boxing and Delay the Disease classes.

The active walker and cyclist first noticed symptoms of the disease a little over two years ago.

"I started to feel a disconnect between my brain and my body," she recalled. "I didn't feel a connection between my head and my legs. It felt like my legs didn't belong to me."

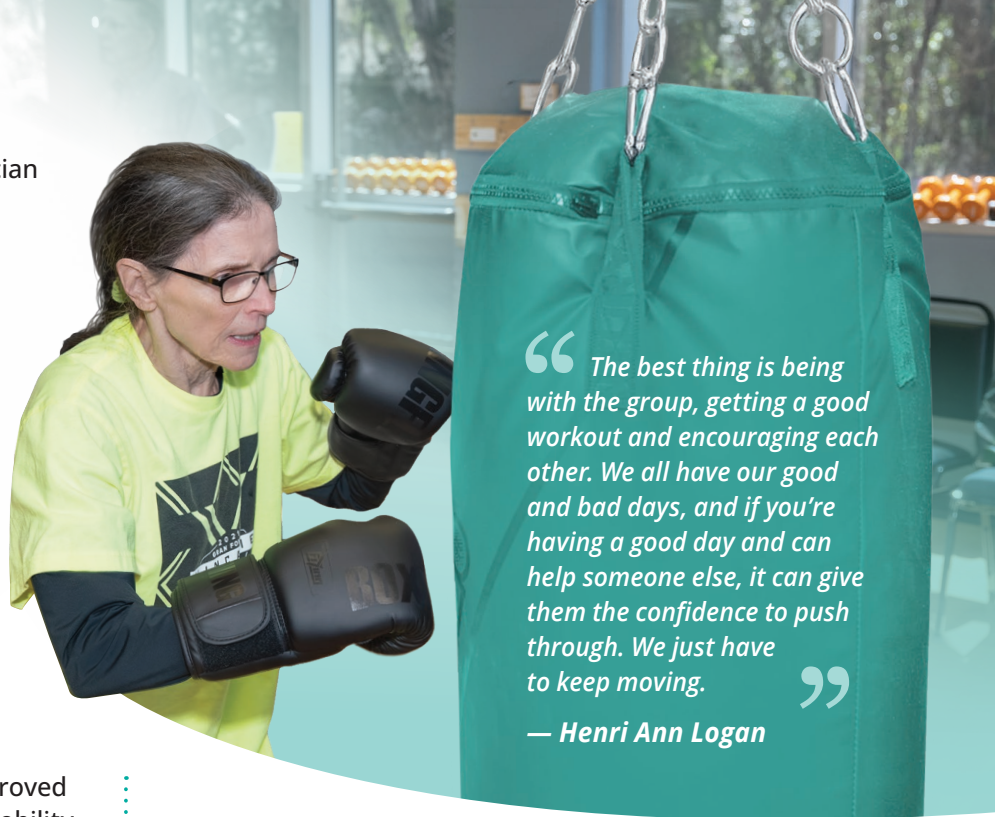
The intense exercise at Rock Steady Boxing has improved Henri Ann's strength, hand-eye coordination and mobility, encouraging the brain and the body to work together. She says she "never misses a class."

While leading the class, Melanie encourages boxers to pay the "smile tax" — the disease affects the ability for individuals to communicate nonverbally with facial expressions, so the "smile tax" combats that symptom.

The classes always involve floor work as well, such as stretching or exercises like crunches.

The purpose is to get the boxers comfortable with being on the floor, Melanie said, since falls are extremely common among those diagnosed with Parkinson's due to the disease's impact on balance and mobility.

Melanie also nudges the boxers to shout as they count their jabs ("One, two! One, two!"), since Parkinson's affects the voice.



"The best thing is being with the group, getting a good workout and encouraging each other. We all have our good and bad days, and if you're having a good day and can help someone else, it can give them the confidence to push through. We just have to keep moving."

— Henri Ann Logan

"There's a purpose for what we do in this class — the smiling, the yelling, the getting on the floor," Melanie explained. "These boxers will tell you — their balance is better and they're getting stronger."

Boxing and Building Community

The science behind Rock Steady Boxing is clear: studies show that participation in the program decreases falls, improves balance, reduces hospitalization risk and supports an active lifestyle, which can aid brain health and longevity.

The impacts go beyond physical, however. The program offers an opportunity for individuals with the disease to build a community, offering each other support, encouragement and camaraderie.

"I have seen the physical benefits, but that's not even mentioning the camaraderie," Henri Ann said. "We all talk about our medications, our doctors and everything that we all have to deal with while going through Parkinson's."

With the support of their fellow boxers, the instructors and the entire Beaufort Memorial community, these program participants have resources at their fingertips to manage Parkinson's and its symptoms.

It's a dedicated group, too, Melanie said — the class usually has 10 to 16 participants who never give up.

"These people work so hard, and they keep coming back. They shock themselves with what they can do," she said. "In that room, you're not a patient. You're a fighter."



Lorna Kuhns and Melanie work together to lead the Rock Steady Boxing classes at LifeFit.

LEARN YOUR *ABCs*

of Innovative Care

Beaufort Memorial Emergency & Urgent Care

A Added Access

Area growth has stretched existing healthcare facilities. Beaufort Memorial is growing, too, broadening access to critical healthcare services across the Lowcountry.

B Billing

The cost difference on average between an ER visit and an urgent care visit is about \$1,800 or more. At this facility, patients are charged at the **appropriate** level for their visit depending on the care they receive.

C Collaboration

This \$16.6-million project is a joint venture led by Beaufort Memorial in partnership with **Intuitive Health**.

F Freestanding

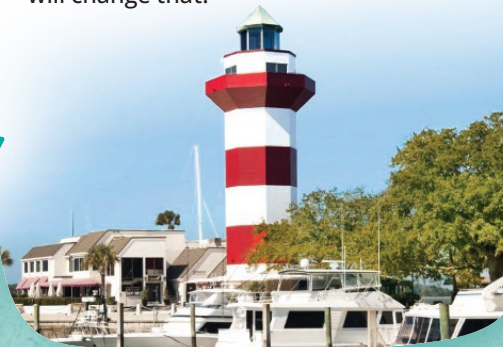
Fully equipped and with ambulance access onsite, this is a freestanding ER and walk-in urgent care.



E ER Exam Rooms (5)

H Hilton Head Island

The south end of Hilton Head Island — where the majority of visitors stay — has lacked access to immediate care options, but this facility will change that.



D Demolition

Site prep began in October 2025.



G Groundbreaking

November 2025



I Innovation

By consistently exploring new partnerships, technologies and innovative care models like this facility, Beaufort Memorial enhances its ability to provide accessible, high-quality care for the patients it serves.

J **Jobs** — Contributing to the local economy and offering healthcare career opportunities in Hilton Head Island and southern Beaufort County, the facility will create approximately 50 new jobs.



K Knowledgeable Staff

The facility will be staffed with board-certified and emergency-trained physicians and nurses, offering skilled, compassionate care.

L

Labs On Site

M Milestone Care Model

This care model will be one of the first of its kind in the state.

Beaufort Memorial holds “innovation” as one of its core values, and on Hilton Head Island, that value is taking shape in the form of the **Beaufort Memorial Emergency & Urgent Care**. This unique, combination facility houses both emergency services and urgent care under a single roof, transforming the way immediate care is delivered in southern Beaufort County, and allowing patients to receive **the right care, at the right time, close to home.**

N

No Appointment Needed



O

Open 24/7



P

Project Timeline – The project has a 12 to 14-month construction timeline, with the goal of seeing patients by early 2027.

S

Smart Growth

This project is one of the major pieces in Beaufort Memorial's strategic expansion in southern Beaufort County, which also includes the Bluffton Community Hospital, affordable workforce housing and ongoing recruitment of specialists and primary care providers for Hilton Head Island, Bluffton and beyond.



R

Reduced Wait Times
compared to traditional ER setting



Q

Quick – Each patient will be quickly evaluated upon arrival by a board-certified emergency physician. Patients requiring an overnight stay will be stabilized and transported to a hospital with inpatient capacity.

T

Triage Room (1) and Trauma Room (1)



U

Urgent Care Rooms (5)



V

Visitors – Seeing visitors from across the world and home to a growing number of residents, this facility will offer everyone convenient care on the southern end of Hilton Head Island, **less than two miles from Coligny Beach.**

W

1016 William Hilton Parkway

Cross Island Pkwy

278

Palmetto Bay Rd

**BEAUFORT MEMORIAL
EMERGENCY & URGENT CARE**



278

William Hilton Pkwy

Pope Ave

Sea Pines

Coligny Plaza

Y

Your Support – Beaufort Memorial is committed to growing alongside the community, expanding its reach into areas without easy access to critical healthcare services. With your support of the Beaufort Memorial Foundation Vision Campaign, we can create a healthier tomorrow by ensuring that every member of our community receives the care they deserve.

X

X-Ray Imaging/Radiology
(CT, X-Ray, Ultrasound, EKG)



Z

Zero Guesswork – Putting patient care first, this model takes all the guesswork out of the process for patients who may not be sure what level of care they need.



Rendering of the Beaufort Memorial Emergency & Urgent Care scheduled to open early 2027

Find project updates at
BeaufortMemorial.org/EmergencyUrgentCareHHI



A RISING

Star

Alani Crawford is building her future at Beaufort Memorial

In many ways, Alani Crawford is an average 19-year-old.

She loves shopping, music and movies, and has a girly streak: collecting makeup, perfume and gravitating toward all things pink.

The ambitious teen, however, is anything but average. Alani spent her high school years challenging herself, breaking track and field records and loading her schedule with community service, clubs and extracurricular activities.

She graduated with a full-time job lined up at Beaufort Memorial, and she says her journey with the organization has only just begun.

A Taste for Healthcare

As tempting as it is for a teenager to lay around “bedrotting” (Gen Z slang for lounging around in bed), Alani said she has always been a go-getter.

“I’ve been booked and busy since, well, forever,” she said. “I don’t remember the last time I had a free period; I always have to be doing something.”

In high school, Alani was a cheerleader, a tennis player, a track and cross-country superstar, a leadership ambassador and president of the “Ladies First” club at Whale Branch Early College — as well as vice-president of her school’s branch of HOSA-Future Health Professionals.

That interest in healthcare brought her to Beaufort Memorial through the Rising Star Youth Volunteer Program

in June 2024, giving her a taste for what it might be like to work in a hospital right in her community.

“I saw flyers and thought, ‘I want to work at Beaufort Memorial. How do I get in there?’” she recalled. “It was an entry-level way to get my foot in the door.”

The two-week program, which allows high school volunteers to experience different career areas within the main hospital, shed new light on the healthcare profession, Alani said.

“It was a big eye-opener to go from roaming the hallways in high school, talking with friends and going to class, to a place where people are saving patients’ lives,” she remembered.

During her senior year, Alani was one of the inaugural high school students who entered the Beaufort Memorial PATH (People Achieving Their Highest) program as part of the health system’s partnership with the Beaufort County School District.

After her cohort completed the PATH program, five graduates, including Alani, accepted jobs at Beaufort Memorial.

By the time she received her high school diploma in May 2025, Alani had not only a job but, thanks to dual enrollment opportunities



with Technical College of the Lowcountry, a completed associate's degree of both Science and Arts.

"It's great to go off to college and have fun," she said, "but I've found that with Beaufort Memorial, there are some really good opportunities right here, and I'm in a really good place."

She's now a certified patient care technician (CPCT).

Support From All Sides

Alani always shows up to her night shift on 3T with a smile on her face and a positive mindset. Her team on the floor is very close-knit and she has found a strong support system there.

She's the "baby" of the floor, she added with a laugh.

"All of the nurses I work with are always willing to help and teach me," Alani said. "Teamwork is huge on our floor. I really feel like I belong here."

Beaufort Memorial 3T is the pediatric and med surg floor, and Alani spends her shifts rounding on patients, checking vitals and helping with ADLs ("activities of daily living" like bathing, going to the bathroom and eating). She's always inspired while watching the physicians and nurses work together and has learned strategies to manage stress during high-intensity situations.

Having the support of her team helps, she said.

"When you're as close as we are, it makes stressful moments easier to deal with," she said.

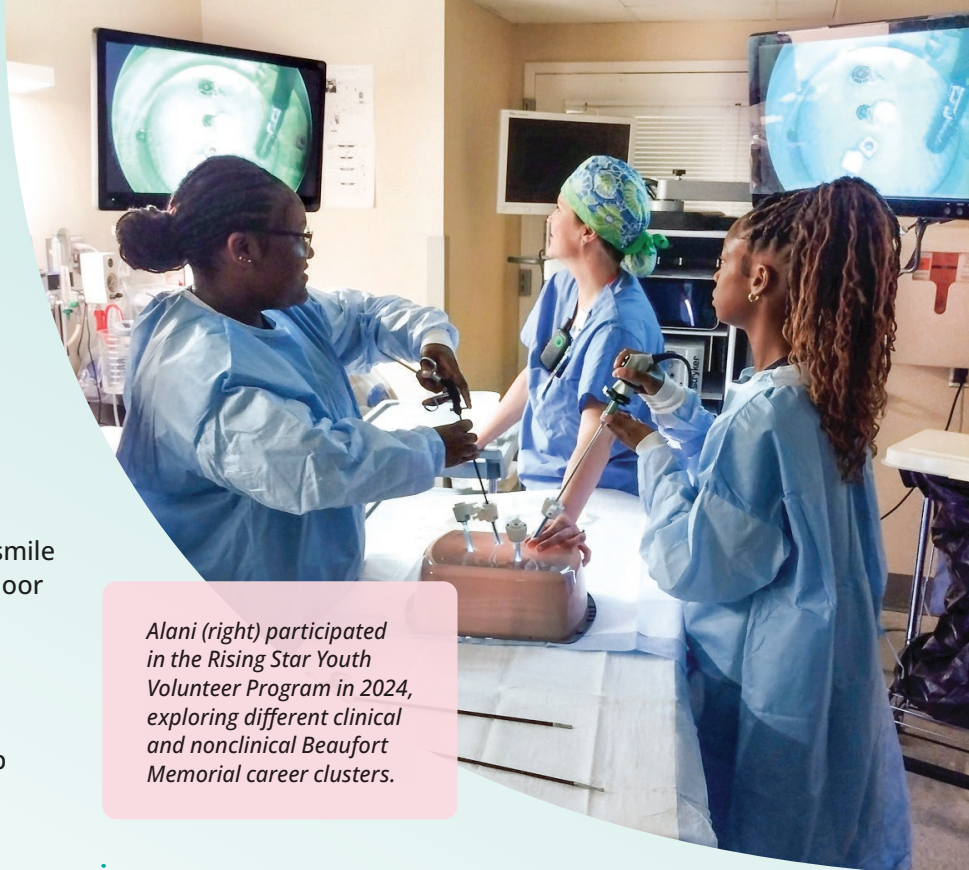
"You start to get used to it and learn to be calm and think critically — like a nurse."

While her work family inspires her constantly, her support system also has a critical component cheering her on from home: her mom, Latessa, has supported her through everything and is her best friend.

Her faith is also key: "I'm a strong Believer," she said, "so I just pray before I come to work and hope I have a good night — and most of the time, I do."

What's Next?

Spring 2026 marks a year that Alani has been officially on the Beaufort



Alani (right) participated in the Rising Star Youth Volunteer Program in 2024, exploring different clinical and nonclinical Beaufort Memorial career clusters.

Memorial staff, but she doesn't plan to slow down anytime soon.

She's currently enrolled at the University of South Carolina-Beaufort and has her sights set on nursing, thanks in part to her inspiring team on 3T.

"I'm very grateful to God for giving me this opportunity," she said. "I want to thank my mom, all of my PATH instructors, and I'm grateful for all the nurses I work with, because I learn from them every day and aspire to be like them."

When she gets her license, she wants to contribute to 3T as a nurse on the floor.

"I want to keep climbing the ladder," she said. "After that, maybe a nurse practitioner. I want to keep going back to school. Maybe I'll even be a director or a doctor here one day... who knows?"

“
It felt really good to know that I had a job secured before I graduated. Knowing that the PATH program supports you each step of the way was really reassuring.
”

— Alani Crawford



Mary Anne McNamee, MA, RN, MedSurg-BC, NPD-BC, pins Alani as a certified patient care technician.



TECHNOLOGY MEETS *Compassion*



Virtual nursing program supports efficiency and enhances patient experience

Beaufort Memorial is always innovating how it delivers the compassionate, patient-centered care that the community health system is known for.

In Fall 2025, that mission included implementing virtual nursing technology, a program that has changed the landscape of care at Beaufort Memorial Hospital for not only patients, but the busy, dedicated nurses on the floors.

Real Support, Delivered Differently

At the center of the program is Sara Tuten, RN, Beaufort Memorial's first virtual nurse — and a real person. She and her husband Matt got married in 2022, she likes to crochet and, like every other nurse at Beaufort Memorial, she has a passion for helping others and serving her community.

Her role just looks a little different since Beaufort Memorial started the virtual nursing program.

At the end of 2024, the Duke Endowment awarded the Beaufort Memorial Foundation \$485,000 to pilot the

two-year program aimed at improving overall workflow and care delivery.

At Beaufort Memorial, technology is designed to support — not replace — the skill, compassion and human connection that define its nurses. Through virtual nursing, time-intensive tasks like admissions, discharges and patient education are streamlined, giving bedside nurses more time to focus on direct patient care, while Sara handles tasks related to patient admission and discharge, acting as a resource and educator for patients.

Improving the Patient Experience

Initially serving only the hospital's fourth floor, the program quickly expanded. By November 2025, virtual nursing was active across the third, fourth and fifth floors of Beaufort Memorial Hospital.

Depending on the day, Sara might handle admissions and discharges for anywhere between 12 and 20 patients daily,

taking that load off bedside nurses to allow them to focus on hands-on patient care.

"This program gives time back to the nurses, especially with discharges," she explained. "I have the time to sit with these patients, educate them and be a resource."

She can spend 30 minutes or more with a patient, walking them through their medication, for example — something nurses on the floor don't always have the time to do.

"The discharges are where I get to use my skills as a nurse," she said. "Admissions involve mostly formalities and questions, but with discharges, I get to educate. I'm able to take more time with them than a nurse would otherwise."

How it Works

Sara works from an office in the Beaufort Memorial Medical and Administrative Center, communicating with patients through secure, active monitors in their rooms. The system allows for real-time video interaction while maintaining patient privacy and security.

While she doesn't perform in-person duties like physical assessments, she verifies emergency contacts, records medical history and completes administrative tasks.

The user-friendly system can be accessed by patients, and all communication with Sara through the monitor is completely secure.



The vast majority of patients have embraced the technology, Sara said. Some are initially hesitant, but most quickly recognize the benefit of having an additional nurse dedicated to answering any questions they have.

'A Huge Timesaver'

While the implementation of a program like this is never perfectly seamless, Sara's work supporting staff across 3T, 4T and 5T has been an extremely helpful addition.

"I was a little leery at first," said Margaret Britt, RN, a nurse on 4T. "But having a virtual nurse here is a huge timesaver."

Sara saves time for nurses like Pablo Caballero, RN, on 3T, taking over some of the necessary but time-consuming duties, allowing him to focus his attention on direct patient care.

"There are so many nursing tasks that have to be done, and there's so little time to do them," he explained. "Sara has saved me so many times. I can go take care of a patient who may be in pain while she helps with discharges and patient education."

A 'Smart' Healthcare Model

The virtual nursing program is just one way that Beaufort Memorial is embracing cutting-edge healthcare technology as it evolves into a "smart" hospital system.

"Innovation is one of Beaufort Memorial's core values, and incorporating technology like this to further enhance the way we deliver high-quality care is an example of our commitment," said Russell Baxley, Beaufort Memorial President and CEO. "We've grown alongside this community, and these new technologies will strengthen our ability to deliver the exceptional care our patients deserve."



BEHIND the Screen

Sara Tuten, RN

Sara grew up in "middle-of-nowhere Georgia" and found herself called to nursing while she was in college.

When she was 19, her mom spent a month in the hospital before she passed away, an experience that gave Sara a firsthand look at the compassion and dedication of healthcare professionals up close.

"I saw how much the nurses cared for her," Sara recalled. "They were great with us as a family, and I felt

like it was something I'd be good at."

Looking back at that spark that drew her to healthcare, Sara said that the nurses caring for her mother resonated with her and helped her envision her future in the nursing profession.

"I could see myself in those nurses," she remembered. "I asked them questions, and they were extremely supportive during a traumatic time — and I felt like that was what I was supposed to do."

A LEGACY *of* Kindness

Mary McCarthy's \$2.5 million contribution to the Beaufort Memorial Foundation is the largest gift in the nonprofit's history



In Summer 2025, the Beaufort Memorial Foundation received the largest donation in its history — an extraordinary \$2.5 million gift from longtime Okatie resident Mary McCarthy.

This historic contribution marks a major milestone for the nonprofit and will allow Beaufort Memorial to continue its mission of expanding access to high-quality healthcare throughout the Lowcountry.

A Transformative Gift for a Growing Community

Mary's philanthropic generosity will be transformative for Beaufort Memorial as it continues to grow to meet the needs of the region's rapidly-growing communities.

That generosity will bolster key initiatives to improve access to emergency care, primary care and state-of-the-art services in southern Beaufort County and beyond.

"This remarkable act of generosity is a defining moment for the Foundation and for the future of healthcare in our region," said Kim Yawn, Chief Development Officer for the Beaufort Memorial Foundation. "Mary's gift will help us deliver care that touches lives for generations to come." When Yawn called to personally thank her for the historic gift, Mary recalled the excitement in her voice.

"Kim's appreciation confirmed that I made the right decision," she said. "Beaufort Memorial is a community hospital. I am part of this community, and leaving it better than when I arrived is what matters to me."

Rooted in Compassion and Connection

Mary's connection to the Lowcountry runs deep. Originally from Long Island, N.Y., she moved to the area with her late husband Edward and quickly fell in love with the region's natural beauty and the area's sense of community.

Just a few miles from her Okatie home is the future site of the Beaufort Memorial Bluffton Community Hospital — a cornerstone of the health system's efforts to bring accessible, advanced care to the southern end of the county.

Mary's historic gift will support the new hospital, where the Emergency Department will be named in her honor, and other current and future expansion projects, including:

- ▶ **A 5,000-square-foot primary care facility** in southern Beaufort County
- ▶ **The Beaufort Memorial Emergency & Urgent Care**, a combination facility that broke ground in Fall 2025 on the southern end of Hilton Head Island

These expansion initiatives, aided by Mary's generosity, will help thousands of residents access convenient, high-quality care close to home.

A Life Shaped by Service, Education and Empathy

A lifelong educator, Mary spent over 30 years teaching kindergarten, finding daily inspiration in her students' kindness, curiosity and joy. It was more than a job, she said, calling it a "labor of fun."

"Kindergarten is the best. They're such nice people," she said. "They look out for one another. They love each other."

After the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, Mary turned to photography as a source of healing, capturing images of everyday beauty and compassion. Photography became a way to reconnect with the good in the world during a time of profound grief.

That love for capturing the spirit of a place was something she shared with her late husband. Together, they traveled the world, documenting people and places through candid photographs that revealed the unique character of each community. Their mission was simple but powerful: to find and celebrate the good.

"People need hospitals. They need good hospitals. They need emergency rooms with people who think on their feet, who care for you first and guide you through. I hope this gift will help many people for years to come."

— Mary McCarthy



Mary, pictured with photographs she and her husband took during their travels to capture everyday beauty.

Choosing a Legacy that Lives On

When considering where to leave her mark, Mary's mindset was intentional. She wasn't interested in something generic; she wanted to support a place that was doing meaningful, compassionate work right in the heart of the community.

Her choice to support the Beaufort Memorial Foundation was deliberate and full of heart.

"It wasn't just a coin flip," she said. "I meant it, sincerely."

Shaping the Future of Healthcare

With Mary McCarthy's historic generosity, thousands of Lowcountry residents will have greater access to lifesaving healthcare. Her support ensures Beaufort Memorial can continue its mission of providing convenient, exceptional healthcare close to home for patients, today and for future generations.

Philanthropy IN Action

Operational Support: \$ 907,277.08

Capital Equipment Purchases

Echocardiogram Machine
Electrocardiogram Machine
Fetal Wireless Monitoring System
EEG System
Vein Visualization System
Interventional Radiology Upgrade
Ultrasound and Glidescope for ER
Treadmill and Elliptical for LifeFit

\$ 1,907,575.21

Program Support

Addiction Medicine Clinic Support
Pharmaceutical Assistance
Sickle Cell Clinic Support
Healthcare Career Scholarships
Housing Down Payment Assistance
Cancer Patient Transportation Support

\$ 288,044.83

Total: \$3,102,897.12



Discover the powerful impact of philanthropy on healthcare.

To see how the Foundation is transforming healthcare in our community, scan the QR code or visit BeaufortMemorial.org/Foundation. Together, we're building a healthier community!

When Karen Carroll joined Beaufort Memorial as a young nurse in 1979, she could not have imagined the 46-year journey ahead — a career that would help shape the hospital and help bring the organization to new heights.

Encouraged by her mother, Yvonne (a nurse herself), Karen pursued nursing after moving to Beaufort in 1973.

"I wanted to take care of people. I wanted to make a difference," she said.

Nursing has changed dramatically since Karen's first day on the floor. Over the decades, she witnessed the profession evolve, with technology enhancing safety, efficiency and outcomes.

At the same time, Beaufort Memorial grew from a small community hospital on the Beaufort River into the largest health system between Savannah and Charleston.

Despite the growth, Karen believes that one thing has never changed: its heart. "It has always felt like a community hospital," she said, "and it still does."

Karen served in nearly every nursing leadership role: staff nurse, critical care nurse, charge nurse, director of critical care and, beginning in 2000, Chief Nursing Officer. Though she loved direct patient care, she embraced leadership, and, continuing to earn a doctorate in nurse leadership, modeled lifelong learning for the teams she guided.

Throughout her tenure, she mentored countless nurses, encouraged advanced education and helped launch the PATH (People Achieving Their Highest) Program in 2021 to remove barriers for aspiring nurses during a workforce shortage. Under her leadership, Beaufort Memorial became South Carolina's first Pathway to Excellence® hospital in 2011, and in 2022 was named a Leapfrog Top 5% General Hospital for patient outcomes.

She played a key role in major facility expansions, including the Pratt Emergency Center, Collins Birthing Center, the surgical pavilion renovation and the new Bluffton Community Hospital, opening in 2027.

Her connection to Beaufort Memorial runs deep: she worked alongside her mother here, gave birth to both of her daughters here and supported her father as he spent his final days here.

"This hospital is woven into the fabric of this community and the fabric of my own life," she said.

As she is entering retirement, Karen looks forward to time with her husband, Lowell, their grandchildren and opportunities to volunteer, travel and grow in new ways.

Her legacy is one of steady leadership, compassion and a commitment to doing what is right for the community.

While her chapter as Chief Nursing Officer has ended, the culture she cultivated — grounded in excellence, compassion

and connection — remains a key part of Beaufort Memorial. Her legacy lives on in the nurses she mentored, the programs she championed and the standard of care she defined.



46 YEARS of Caring

Karen Carroll retires, leaving behind a legacy
of leadership and compassion



Karen Carroll and her mother, Yvonne Manuel, celebrating Yvonne at the Employee Service Awards. Yvonne retired in 2014.

POWERING *the* Lowcountry



3,227

JOBS SUPPORTED



\$433.7 M

TOTAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT



\$234.6 M

LABOR INCOME REGIONWIDE

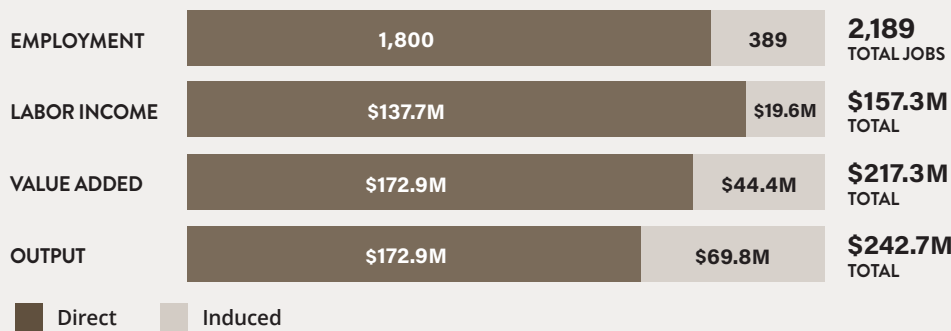


\$45.6 M

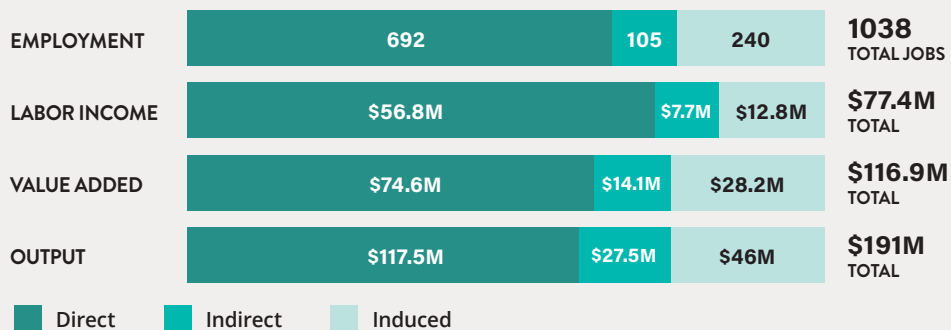
ANNUAL TAX IMPACT

Beaufort Memorial is a major economic driver for the Lowcountry, supporting jobs, wages and broader business activity across the region.

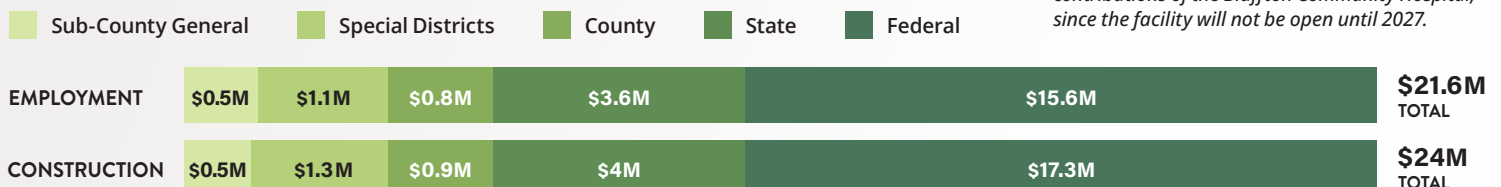
ECONOMIC IMPACT: EMPLOYMENT



ECONOMIC IMPACT: CONSTRUCTION



ANNUAL TAX IMPACT



Boosting the Economy

- In 2025, Beaufort Memorial generated more than \$433.7 million in total economic output through annual operations and major capital construction projects.
- The health system supported 3,227 jobs, including 1,800 direct health care positions and more than 1,000 jobs tied to construction activity.
- Combined labor income exceeds \$234.6 million, reflecting the wages and salaries paid to healthcare professionals, construction workers and the many businesses supported by Beaufort Memorial's operations and investments.
- Capital investments, including the Bluffton Community Hospital, operating room renovations and interventional radiology expansion, generated nearly \$191 million in economic output.
- Beaufort Memorial contributed more than \$45.6 million in annual tax revenue across local, state and federal governments through employment and construction, reinforcing its role as a health care provider and major regional economic driver.

These figures do not represent any operational contributions of the Bluffton Community Hospital, since the facility will not be open until 2027.

2025 YEAR in Review



\$364.7 M
TOTAL REVENUE



\$366.4 M
TOTAL OPERATING
EXPENSES



\$35.6 M
UNCOMPENSATED
CARE



-\$1.69 M
TOTAL OPERATING
INCOME

\$191.2M
Salaries, wages
and benefits

\$175.2M
Supplies, utilities
and general items



By the

NUMBERS

636,001
TOTAL
PATIENT VISITS

316,117
PHYSICIAN
OFFICE VISITS

252,730
OUTPATIENT
REGISTRATIONS

44,384
EMERGENCY
ROOM VISITS

12,854
SURGERIES

8,833
ADULT
DISCHARGES

1,083
NEWBORN
DELIVERIES

EXPANDING ACCESS to Care

9 NEW HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ADDED

In FY25, Beaufort Memorial added 9 new healthcare providers across a range of specialties, from primary care to cardiology to orthopedics.

- Francis O'Neill, M.D. — Heart Specialists (12/1)
- Angela Olsen, FNP-C — Express Care & Occupational Health (5/1)
- Tammy Page, DNP, FNP-C — Express Care & Occupational Health (5/1)
- Cory Messerschmidt, M.D., FAAOS — Orthopaedic Specialists (7/1)
- Aron Love, MSN, FNP-C — Orthopaedic Specialists (7/7)
- Spenser Staub, M.D. — Pulmonary Specialists (8/1)
- Jenna Gossett, MSN, FNP-C — Lady's Island Internal Medicine (8/18)
- Kelsey Mijares, D.O. — Palmetto Medical Group (8/18)
- Kara White, PA-C — Orthopaedic Specialists (10/6)

PARTNERS in Care

Beaufort Memorial supports community safety net organizations with in-kind services.

Good Neighbor Medical Clinic

2,856 ... Total patient visits across imaging, lab, specialty and surgical care

\$88,935 ... Value of in-kind rental of clinic space (3,025 sq ft)

\$867,068
TOTAL VALUE

AccessHealth of the Lowcountry

3,760 ... Visits across imaging, lab, specialty and surgical care

\$1,600,988
TOTAL VALUE

Volunteers in Medicine

(Greater Bluffton-Jasper County and Hilton Head Island)

1,485 ... Total patient visits across imaging, lab, specialty and surgical care

\$172,560
TOTAL VALUE

COMMUNITY *Health*

Beaufort Memorial is committed to improving the health and well-being of the communities we serve, not only within the walls of our hospitals and clinics, but across the Lowcountry every day.

Through preventive screenings, transportation services, specialty care programs and partnerships with local organizations, Beaufort Memorial continues to expand access to critical healthcare services, connecting residents with resources they need to live healthier lives.

These initiatives meet our community where they are, helping identify health concerns early, reduce barriers to treatment and improve overall health outcomes for individuals and families throughout the region.



Mobile WELLNESS UNIT



61

COMMUNITY
HEALTH
SCREENING
EVENTS

Serving 960 people



175

EMPLOYER
WELLNESS
EVENTS

5,402
participants



909

BLOOD
PRESSURE
SCREENINGS

119 abnormal



879

BLOOD
GLUCOSE
SCREENINGS

100 abnormal



563

LIPID PANELS

307 Abnormal



159

PROSTATE
CANCER
SCREENINGS

16 abnormal



26

CLINICAL BREAST
AND SKIN EXAMS

0 abnormal



686

FLU SHOTS AT
EMPLOYER AND
COMMUNITY
EVENTS

TRANSPORTATION *Services*

A dedicated transportation team offers free rides for patients to and from Beaufort Memorial facilities.

665 RIDES PROVIDED

8,698 MILES TRAVELED

26 ZIP CODES SERVED

SICKLE CELL *Clinic*

The Beaufort Memorial Sickle Cell Clinic has drastically cut ER visits driven by the condition's debilitating pain and organ damage. Since the clinic opened, 80% of its patients have avoided hospital admission due to their care.

730 PATIENT VISITS
IN FY25

100+ RED BLOOD CELL
UNITS TRANSFUSED

82% DECREASE IN
HOSPITAL STAYS
due to the condition

FEEDING *the Need*

Partnering with local agencies' "Meals on Wheels" programs, Beaufort Memorial provides nutritious meals for those in need.

250
MEALS PER WEEK



955 Ribaut Road
Beaufort, SC 29902

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THE GIFT of Time and Talents



Beaufort Memorial Hospital and Foundation board members help commemorate the groundbreaking of a new facility on Hilton Head Island.

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