

PIEDMONT Profiles

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Confronting Cancer: Journeys of Support & Healing

Also Inside:

**Non-surgical Alternative
to Open-Heart Surgery**

**Hypothermia Technique
Saves Rockdale Heart Patient**



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Letter from the CEO

A quick fix. It's what patients who come through our doors **hope** our doctors and nurses have for what ails them. Sometimes the cure **is** a quick fix. Often, it is not.

The same hope is true for those of us who work in healthcare. We would like to believe there is a quick fix for what ails many hospitals around the country – namely, the economy and the future under healthcare reform. Piedmont Healthcare, along with its hospitals and physician groups, is no exception. We are facing significant challenges that have caused us to take a proactive approach to ensure our financial stability now and in the future.

As you know, financial hardships have caused many people to put their healthcare needs on hold. Some choose not to see the doctor or have an elective procedure because they would rather save the copay and the dollars they would spend on what's not covered. Others now find themselves without insurance because they've lost their jobs. Not only are we seeing fewer patients, but also we are seeing more patients without insurance.

In addition, Medicare has already proposed significant payment reductions to hospitals and physicians to help fund healthcare reform. And, here in Georgia, many of us are adjusting to a recent hospital tax. For Piedmont, it's a 1.45 percent tax that not-for-profit hospitals like ours did not have to pay in the past. In just two years, that's added up to payments of over \$25 million.

We know there is no quick fix for these complex issues. That's why we have had to make some difficult decisions to align our cost structure with our changing revenue stream. Families do the same thing; they adjust their budgets when money gets tight.

However, I want to assure you that Piedmont Healthcare remains committed to doing the right thing for our patients. For 106 years, Piedmont has been a trusted source for quality and compassionate healthcare, always committed to making the best choices for our patients, physicians, staff and community. That has not and will not change – ever.

While some of the decisions we've made have been difficult, I am confident that Piedmont Healthcare is even better positioned to meet healthcare industry challenges now and in the future. Piedmont strives to attract and retain the best and brightest talent. Individually and collectively, our team members represent our organization's most important asset – its people.

We **promise** that our patients will always be our priority. Healing and caring are what we do best. And that makes me proud to represent Piedmont Healthcare in the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

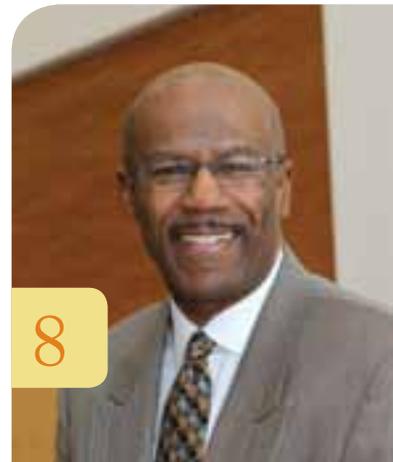


R. Timothy Stack
President and CEO, Piedmont Healthcare



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CONFRONTING

Personal



CANCER

Journeys of Support & Healing

From Doctor to Patient, and Back Again | By Jim Taylor

Carlos F. Zayas, M.D., is no stranger to life-threatening disease. As a transplant nephrologist with Piedmont Hospital Transplant Institute, he has always counseled patients with the proper balance of solid medical advice and human compassion. In 2009, an ironic twist of fate placed this transplant physician on a transplant waiting list himself.

Diagnosed with peripheral T-cell lymphoma, an aggressive form of lymphoid cancer, his chance of survival was estimated at 10 percent. He would require some of the most rigorous forms of cancer treatment available, and his chances of continuing a medical career were slim.

Reflecting on his wife and three young children, Dr. Zayas knew he needed to fight. Under the direction of oncologist Robert Allen, M.D., a course of treatment was determined. Meanwhile, Zayas turned to the highest authority he could think of for the strength he would need to pull through.

“I asked God to give me another chance,” says the devout Roman Catholic. “I knew that my family needed me and that I could still help so many patients. I asked for one more opportunity to make a difference as a husband, father and physician.”

Eventually, doctors told Zayas he would need a bone marrow transplant. His Catholic church family, as well as Jewish synagogues all over Atlanta, offered to help, bringing hundreds to donor registration drives for *Be the Match*, which runs a national registry for bone marrow donors. Although none were a match, bone marrow from one of his brothers was close enough to save his life.

Through his unique outlook as a patient, Dr. Zayas has this message of encouragement. “First of all, I’ve learned a cancer diagnosis does not mean you are going to die. Every day, there is more hope for those with cancer, and life often does go on. While science gets better at curing the disease, I believe that a strong spiritual faith and support of family make a big difference in how cancer affects each individual. These are the truly important things in our lives here on earth, and I credit them for pulling me through the darkest parts of this journey.”

Although he was not able to find his match through the registry, Dr. Zayas considers the efforts made by his friends of faith to be a message for his future. An active volunteer for *Be the Match* and *Icla da Silva Foundation*, a multilingual organization serving children with leukemia, Dr. Zayas attends donor registration events whenever possible. At a recent event, he received a sign that he was on the right path with his efforts to educate others.

“I met a gentleman who had registered as a bone marrow donor at an event on my behalf when I was ill,” said Zayas. “*Be the Match* contacted him about a young girl in the Midwest with leukemia who needed his help. Through a successful bone marrow transplant, she now has her second chance at life, too.”

Carlos F. Zayas, M.D., with wife Rita Pons-Zayas surrounded by their children, Carlos Jr. (left), Lizette and Marisol (front).

The “Best” Cancer Care Could Be Closer

Jo-Ann Goodwin, 72, has lived in Fayetteville, Ga., for 35 years. She and her husband, Joe, live there. She is watching her grandchildren, who come for regular visits from Fairburn, grow up there. But when she was diagnosed with lung cancer last November, she felt the need to look somewhere else for the best treatment.

As she remembers it, “I went into shock when I got the news, and it took a couple of months for me to come to terms with it – especially since I was feeling good when I found out.”

One of her friends suggested that if she still had doubts about the diagnosis, she should get a second opinion. Goodwin thought it was a good idea. So, based on its reputation as a successful cancer center, she called MD Anderson in Houston to arrange a consultation.

Everyone she spoke with was helpful, accommodating and willing to answer the many questions she had about her condition and potential treatments. But after arriving in Houston in late April 2011, she began to have second thoughts about her decision.

Goodwin describes it by saying, “Until I got there, I didn’t realize how uncomfortable I would be in a strange place dealing with new doctors. And once my initial testing was done, I realized I would have to move to Houston for eight weeks for treatment.”

She and Joe drove home the very next day.

“That experience made me see how important it was to get treatment where I live and have my family, community and church. Of all the times in my life, that’s when I needed their support the most,” she says.

Goodwin is now being treated by Jonathan Bender, M.D., medical director of oncology services at Piedmont Fayette Hospital. He points out that in addition to being close to home, the Piedmont Fayette Hospital Cancer Center enables patients to receive a variety of different treatments that are tailored to address their specific individual needs.

“In our one location, patients have access to radiation therapy, chemotherapy and infusion services, as well as all the Cancer Wellness programs. We’re also connected to the hospital, so additional services like diagnostic imaging and interventional radiology are within the same building,” Dr. Bender says.

He also points out that his responsibility goes beyond helping patients survive cancer. “It’s about improving patients’ overall quality of life,” he explains.

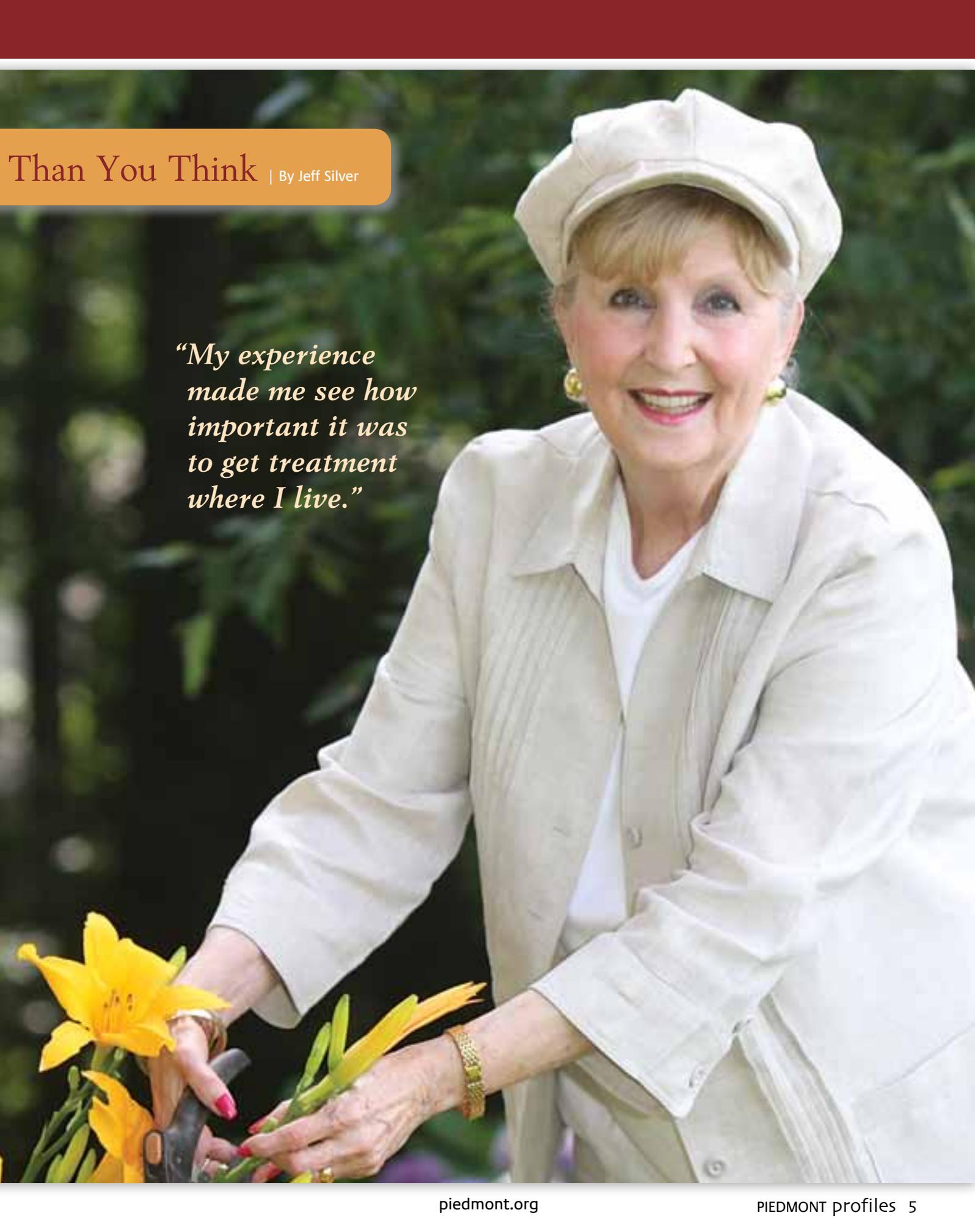
Looking back, Jo-Ann Goodwin realizes she’s learned a lot from her experience. “It’s hard enough dealing with a cancer diagnosis and treatment, so I’d like to help other people going through the same thing. It’s not only that everyone at Piedmont Fayette Hospital Cancer Center is a wonderful source of encouragement – it’s that we have the best right here in Fayette County and don’t need to go anywhere else.”

The Piedmont Fayette Hospital Cancer Center provides “one-stop shopping” for a wide range of treatment options and services. For more information, visit piedmontfayette.org/littlec or piedmontcancer.org.

Jo-Ann Goodwin tending to her garden.

Than You Think | By Jeff Silver

“My experience made me see how important it was to get treatment where I live.”



Medical Scare

“I learned the power of patience, gratitude, humility and laughter.”

Turns Joyful for Part-time Georgia Resident | By Tricia Molloy

“This sounds like a made-for-TV special,” Cindy Frye says about her medical adventure that began in April 2010 at Piedmont Mountainside Hospital.

The Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., resident and her husband, Bill, had just moved into a vacation home at Big Canoe when she had a severe headache. “Before I knew it, I collapsed and hit my head on a table,” she says. “When I came to, Bill said I wasn’t making any sense. He was concerned that I might have had a concussion, so we rushed to Piedmont Mountainside Hospital.”

After a CT scan was inconclusive, Frye was taken by ambulance to Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta. “I was scared, cold and having seizures,” she says.

An MRI detected a brain tumor, which would later be diagnosed as a glioblastoma, the same aggressive cancer that took Senator Ted Kennedy and the same one her first husband died of in 1991. Steven Wray, M.D., neurosurgeon, determined the best option was to remove the walnut-sized tumor above Frye’s right ear.

Frye’s daughters, parents and brothers flew in from Florida, California and Alabama for her brain surgery at Piedmont Hospital. “It was such a confusing time that it didn’t quite dawn on me how serious this was until everyone was there at my bedside.”

The morning of surgery, her daughter Kelly, who was eight months pregnant, went into premature labor. Two hours after Frye’s surgery, she had a new grandbaby. “The nurses rolled my bed into the neonatal intensive care unit so I could see my granddaughter. Everyone was crying. It was so surreal. A day that started out so fearful had turned into pure joy. My family shuttled back and forth from the pediatric ward to me. Everyone at Piedmont knew about us, and they were all so kind.”

“While this is an aggressive form of cancer, the biologic behavior of the tumor is highly variable and based on individual response to treatment,” says Dr. Wray. “More than a year since her surgery, Cindy has no evidence of tumor progression and is responding very well to treatment.”

A huge Florida Gators fan, Frye wore her Tim Tebow football jersey to every radiation appointment. Somehow, the quarterback found out and called her to say he and his family prayed for her every day. “I was so surprised and touched,” she said.

She says her near-death experience intensified her appreciation of life. “I recently turned 60 and realized that there were so many people to thank for my last five decades,” says Frye, who taught fourth grade gifted students.

Taking it one decade at a time, she thought about those who had molded and influenced her, from her parents and teachers to friends and colleagues. Then, she reached out to each one to thank them. “There is so much I learned on this journey. Most important, I learned the power of patience, gratitude, humility and laughter. I choose every day to be joyful and positive. I know there is a reason for everything, and I believe I went through this experience to give hope to others.”

Cindy Frye enjoys spending time at her Big Canoe vacation home.

Thorough Testing Reveals Kidney Cancer

Merrell Walker lived in Atlanta less than a year when indigestion prompted him to go to the Emergency Department (ED) at Piedmont Hospital in February. While the reason for the indigestion wasn't clear, a deeper issue was discovered thanks to his thorough ED physician, who ordered additional tests. Those tests – chest X-rays, ultrasound, CT scan and an MRI – revealed five lesions in his right kidney.

"I'm not sure why she was still suspicious after ruling out everything including a heart attack, but I thank God she was," says the 52 year old. "I feel like I'm alive today because she took those extra steps."

After consulting with his primary physician, Walker was referred to urologist William Allen, M.D. Dr. Allen reviewed the diagnostic results, then he and Walker discussed several treatment options to determine the best approach. They chose a laparoscopic nephrectomy – complete removal of the affected kidney. Walker told Dr. Allen he planned to be "proactive and optimistic" to ensure the best outcome, something Dr. Allen welcomed.

"There should be an ongoing dialogue so patients can clarify their priorities, as well as any anxieties they might be experiencing," says Dr. Allen. "That gives us as physicians a much better sense of where they want to be and the best ways to help them get there."

Walker, whose wife, Janice, works as a physical therapist at Piedmont Newnan Hospital, planned to be as positive as he possibly could throughout his treatment. However, he also was very deeply moved by the compassion and support he received from the entire treatment team throughout his care and successful recovery.

"I was an assistant pastor in California before moving to Atlanta, so I spent a lot of time sharing my beliefs about how we should treat others. Then I came here and found myself being cared for by hospital staff who didn't know me, but who put those very beliefs into practice when I needed them the most," says Walker, who makes special mention of his interactions with Arrington Leitch, his patient navigator, as well as his nurses, medical technicians and the Cancer Wellness staff.

Walker still sheds a few tears when he talks about his experience, but he is quick to point out, "It's not because of sadness. It's because of the great joy I have about the connections I made with all the people at Piedmont. They embraced me and treated me like family."

A positive outlook helped Merrell Walker through his kidney cancer recovery.

Piedmont Enrolls Cancer Study Participants

In April, Piedmont Hospital, Piedmont Hospital Cancer Center and Piedmont Fayette Hospital enrolled 1,000 participants in the American Cancer Society Cancer Prevention Study-3. The historic study is one of the American Cancer

Society's biggest research projects ever – a groundbreaking study that will have an enormous impact on preventing cancer.

Men and women between the ages of 30 and 65 years who have never had cancer are participating.

The ultimate goal is to track 500,000 adults from various racial/ethnic backgrounds from across the United States to help better understand what causes cancer and how to prevent it. For more information about CPS-3, visit cancer.org/cps3.

| By Jeff Silver

*“The people at
Piedmont embraced
me and treated me
like family.”*

Cancer Screening Guidelines

The American Cancer Society recommends the following screening guidelines for most adults. You should talk with your physician about your medical history and whether you need additional screenings.

Breast Cancer

- Yearly mammograms at age 40 and older.
- Clinical breast exam about every three years at ages 20 to 39; every year at age 40 and older.
- Breast self-exam monthly at age 20 and older.

Colorectal Cancer and Polyps

Beginning at age 50, both men and women should follow one of these testing schedules.

Tests that find polyps and cancer:

- Flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years*, or
- Colonoscopy every 10 years, or
- Double-contrast barium enema every five years*, or
- CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) every five years*.

Tests that primarily find cancer:

- Yearly fecal occult blood test**, or
- Yearly fecal immunochemical test every year**, or
- Stool DNA test, interval uncertain**.

** If the test is positive, a colonoscopy should be done.*

*** The multiple stool take-home test should be used.*

One test done by the doctor in the office is not adequate for testing. A colonoscopy should be done if the test is positive.

Endometrial (Uterine) Cancer

At the time of menopause, all women should be informed about the risks and symptoms of endometrial cancer. Women should report any unexpected bleeding or spotting to their doctors. Some women, because of their history, may need to have a yearly endometrial biopsy.

Cervical Cancer

- All women should begin cervical cancer screening about three years after they begin having vaginal intercourse, but no later than 21 years old. Screening should be done every year with the regular Pap test or every two years using the newer liquid-based Pap test.
- Beginning at age 30, women who have had three normal Pap test results in a row may get screened every two to three years. Women older than 30 also may get screened every three years with either the conventional or liquid-based Pap test, plus the human papilloma virus test.
- Women 70 years of age or older who have had three or more normal Pap tests in a row and no abnormal Pap test results in the last 10 years may choose to stop having Pap tests.
- Women who have had a total hysterectomy may also choose to stop having Pap tests, unless the surgery was done as a treatment for cervical cancer or pre-cancer. Women who have had a hysterectomy without removal of the cervix should continue to have Pap tests.

Prostate Cancer

Men should talk to their doctor about the pros and cons of testing at age 50; at age 45 for African American men and men who have/had a father or brother with prostate cancer before age 65.

Cancer-Related Check-up

For people age 20 or older having periodic health exams, a cancer-related check-up should include health counseling and, depending on a person's age and gender, exams for cancers of the thyroid, oral cavity, skin, lymph nodes, testes, and ovaries, as well as for some non-malignant (non-cancerous) diseases.

Comprehensive Cancer Services Close to Home

Piedmont offers cancer services across Greater Atlanta and beyond. For a free referral to a Piedmont cancer specialist, call **866-900-4321**.

Piedmont Hospital and **The Doris Shaheen Breast Health Center at Piedmont Hospital**

1968 Peachtree Road, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30309
piedmonthospital.org

Piedmont Hospital Cancer Center

Piedmont Hospital Outpatient Center
1800 Howell Mill Road, Atlanta, GA 30318
piedmontcancer.org

Piedmont Fayette Hospital Cancer Center

1255 Highway 54 West
Fayetteville, GA 30214
piedmontfayette.org/littlec

Piedmont Mountainside Hospital

1266 Highway 515 South
Jasper, GA 30143
piedmontmountainsidehospital.org

Piedmont Newnan Hospital

60 Hospital Road
Newnan, GA 30263
piedmontnewnan.org



Piedmont Healthcare, a not-for-profit organization, is the parent company of Piedmont Hospital, Piedmont Fayette Hospital, Piedmont Mountainside Hospital, Piedmont Newnan Hospital, the Piedmont Heart Institute, Piedmont Philanthropy, the Piedmont Physicians Group and the Piedmont Clinic. For more information, visit piedmont.org.

Henry Medical Center Chooses Piedmont Healthcare

Piedmont Healthcare is proud to partner with Henry Medical Center in Stockbridge, Ga., which chose Piedmont as its long-term, healthcare partner in April. Our goal is to serve the healthcare needs of Henry County and enhance healthcare services for its residents. At press time, both organizations are conducting the necessary due diligence to move the partnership forward.

As not-for-profit organizations devoted to serving the needs of our communities, Piedmont and Henry share a common mission, vision and set of values aimed at improving the health and lives of local residents by delivering the highest standards of care balanced with compassion and caring. We bring with us a strong spirit of collaboration, world-class quality care, and a solid track record and success in running community hospitals.

According to Henry Medical Center President and CEO Charlie Scott, Piedmont Healthcare was selected based on its community hospital focus and experience; its demonstrated

record of improving community hospitals in the areas of quality, patient and employee satisfaction, clinical program development, capital investment, and financial standing; its clear and close alignment with Henry Medical Center's mission and culture; and its existing and proven clinical integration strategy.



Henry Medical Center

The partnership will allow Henry Medical Center to strengthen its ability to serve its community while meeting the many challenges in healthcare. According to Henry County Board of Commissioner Chair B.J. Mathis, "Henry County and Henry Medical Center are fortunate to be affiliating with such a quality healthcare organization. Our residents are key stakeholders in this affiliation, and we look forward to seeing this progress and are pleased to welcome them to our community."

Note: At press time, Piedmont Healthcare and Henry Medical Center (HMC) received word that the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice have completed their collective reviews clearing the way for Piedmont and HMC to proceed on their partnership journey. ✚

Redneck Gourmet Raises Money for Two Piedmont Hospitals



A special thanks to our friends at the Redneck Gourmet for giving back to Piedmont in celebration of National Hospital Week. They donated \$300 to Piedmont Newnan Hospital and Piedmont Fayette Hospital in honor of our employees and volunteers. Thanks to all who supported this effort! ✚

L-r: Casey Smith, Redneck Gourmet owner; Kelly Loftin, PNH director of Philanthropy; and LaVann Landrum, PFH director of Philanthropy.

Piedmont Healthcare Ranks in National Study

Piedmont Healthcare has ranked among the top quintile (20 percent) in the nation according to a recent study by Thompson Reuters, which uses independent and objective research to guide hospital and health system performance. Piedmont Healthcare is one of 57 systems in the United States and the only Georgia healthcare system to rank in the top 20 percent of the 285 health systems evaluated nationwide as part of the 10 Top Health Systems Study.

“This ranking is a testament to the collaboration among our hospitals to create a culture that places patient care and safety first,” says R. Timothy Stack, president and CEO of Piedmont Healthcare.

The Thomson Reuters 10 Top Health Systems study identifies the 10 best health systems in the nation and also releases the top quintile, totaling 57 systems. This annual, quantitative study uses objective, independent research and public data sources. Health systems that win this award outperformed their peers by providing better care, following standards of care more closely, saving more lives, creating fewer patient complications, making fewer patient safety errors and earning better overall patient satisfaction scores.

Thomson Reuters evaluated 285 health systems (with an average of 6.8 hospitals per system) on eight measures of clinical quality, efficiency and patient satisfaction. For more information, visit 100tophospitals.com. 

PHC Receives Partnership Award

Piedmont Healthcare has been selected as the recipient of the 2011 Georgia Free Clinic Network *Partnership Award*. Piedmont’s network of community hospitals in North Georgia has been instrumental in providing lab services, administrative services and financial support to charitable clinics.

“This award honors businesses or corporations that have contributed significantly to either Georgia Free Clinic Network or individual clinics,” said Donna Loper, executive director of the Georgia Free Clinic Network. “Piedmont’s support on behalf of the charity clinic movement in Georgia and long-standing commitment to quality healthcare have distinguished Piedmont in a field of high-quality nominees.”

The Georgia Free Clinic Network connects over 100 non-profit medical and dental clinics across Georgia serving the over 1.7 million uninsured. According to the Georgia State Auditor, these clinics provide \$200 to \$400 million of care while only reaching 10 percent of the uninsured population. Charitable clinics are the unseen fabric of the health care safety net in communities, especially in rural areas, serving

homeless individuals and those with chronic and life-threatening illnesses such as cancer, hypertension, and diabetes. As such, they are forced to focus on acute needs, such as medications, referrals, equipment and funding.

“Piedmont Healthcare has been providing a vital service to the communities we serve for over a century,” said R. Timothy Stack, president and CEO of Piedmont Healthcare. “As the demand for care grows, it is important that we each do our part to help create healthier communities. By supporting Georgia Free Clinic Network efforts to fulfill primary care needs, we help keep healthcare costs low for everyone and ultimately create stronger and more prosperous communities.”

Community is one of our six fundamental pillars, and Community Value is one of our eight Top 10 metrics. Piedmont Healthcare has supported the HEALing Community Center,

Good Samaritan Health Center, Grant Park Clinic and Center for Black Women’s Wellness in Atlanta; the Fayette CARE Clinic in Fayetteville; the new Coweta Samaritan Clinic in Newnan; and the Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center in Jasper. 



A 481-bed, acute-care facility in the north Atlanta community of Buckhead, Piedmont Hospital is one of *U.S. News & World Report's* 2011-12 Best Hospitals nationally and ranks No. 2 in metro Atlanta. In addition, Piedmont was named *Best in Atlanta for Overall Cardiac Care, Cardiac Surgery and Coronary Intervention* (2011) by HealthGrades® (a leading healthcare ratings company) and has consistently ranked in the top five among metro Atlanta hospitals in patient satisfaction according to the HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) survey the past two years. For more information, visit piedmonthospital.org.



Join us at facebook.com/piedmonthospital.

Piedmont Hospital Achieves *U.S. News and World Report* Rankings

Among metro Atlanta area hospitals, Piedmont Hospital is the top acute-care community hospital in metro Atlanta and the metro area's No. 2 hospital overall on the 2011-12 *Best Hospitals* list by *U.S. News and World Report*. Piedmont climbed in the rankings, earning its first-ever national ranking in gastroenterology, and regional recognition for 10 additional *high-performing specialties* as well.

U.S. News and World Report has published the annual *Best Hospitals* list for more than 20 years, identifying the top hospitals in the field nationwide. Earlier this year, the list was expanded to identify top hospitals among 52 metro areas. To be ranked, a hospital had to score in the top 25 percent among its peers in at least one of 16 medical specialties. On the inaugural list in March 2011, Piedmont Hospital ranked No. 3 in Atlanta.

"These rankings validate that we are delivering on our Piedmont Promise to provide exceptional care," said Les

Donahue, president and CEO of Piedmont Hospital. "This award gives us cause to reflect on all the great things that occur in our facilities every day and the tireless efforts of our workforce to make them happen."



In addition to the national ranking at No. 48 for Piedmont Hospital's gastroenterology program, which includes liver transplant, a total of 10 specialties

offered at Piedmont Hospital was recognized regionally as *high-performing*: cancer care; cardiology and heart surgery; diabetes and endocrinology; ear, nose and throat; geriatrics; gynecology; nephrology (which includes kidney transplant); neurology and neurosurgery; orthopaedics; and pulmonology.

For more information about the 2011-12 *Best Hospitals*, visit usnews.com/hospitals. ☒

Piedmont Celebrates 25 Years of Transplant Services

Piedmont Hospital and the Piedmont Hospital Transplant Institute are proud to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its transplant program which began in September 1986. (Visit piedmont.org/profiles to read our full feature in the Spring 2011 issue of *Profiles*.) Since then, more than 2,500 kidney, pancreas and liver transplants have been performed. Most recently, Piedmont has added heart transplant under the umbrella of Piedmont Heart Institute. Piedmont's transplant program is ranked among the top 15 percent of all transplant programs in the country.

Piedmont's original program started as a joint effort with Emory University Hospital under the direction of John D. Whelchel, M.D. In 1999, Dr. Whelchel and Piedmont Hospital established an independent kidney transplant program and began developing its multi-organ transplant center. In 2000, the program expanded to include pancreas transplants, and in 2005, Dr. Whelchel formalized the liver transplant program under the direction of transplant surgeon Mark W. Johnson, M.D., now program director of the Piedmont Transplant Institute. Today, with a multidisciplinary team of 13 fellowship-trained physicians and surgeons, two doctorate-level pharmacy specialists, a PhD in immunology and a support staff of nearly 150, Piedmont's transplant service has grown into a multi-disciplinary, multi-organ program, added a transplant immunology lab, and developed clinical research activities.

For more information about Piedmont Transplant Institute, visit piedmonttransplant.org. For more information on organ and tissue donation, visit donatelifenet.net. ☒

35 Years of Happy Feet

Piedmont Hospital would like to thank Gudrun Noonan, RN, who is retiring from Happy Feet Service after more than 30 years of service. The native of Innsbruck, Austria, opened Happy Feet Service at Piedmont on October 7, 1977. For a year prior to that, she provided free foot care to elderly and critically ill orthopaedic patients during her lunch break.



Gudrun Noonan, RN

“I’m most appreciative to have had this opportunity,” says Nurse Noonan, who retires October 31, 2011. “I’m grateful for the trust that Piedmont put in me to work with its family for 35 years.”

The Happy Feet Service includes soaking and cleansing feet; nail trimming; removing dry skin, corns and calluses; and massaging feet and lower legs to stimulate blood circulation. Perhaps most importantly, though, patients are educated on proper and preventive foot care. Piedmont plans to allow the service to continue under new management; however, details were not finalized at press time. Happy Feet Service operates in Suite 500 of the main hospital building. The phone number is **404-605-3600**. ☒



Happy Feet Service, 1979

PIEDMONT MOUNTAINSIDE HOSPITAL

Piedmont Mountainside Hospital, a 42-bed community hospital in Jasper, has consistently ranked in the top five among metro Atlanta hospitals in patient satisfaction scores according to the HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) survey for the last three years. For more information, visit piedmontmountainsidehospital.org.

Join us at facebook.com/piedmontmountainsidehospital.



Piedmont Mountainside Hospital Offers MRI Services

Piedmont Mountainside Hospital Outpatient Center in East Ellijay now offers magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) as part of its comprehensive imaging services. MRI allows physicians to view areas inside the body with great accuracy; detecting problems within muscles, joints and other soft tissue.

“This expansion of the Piedmont Outpatient Center helps us better serve our patients in North Georgia,” said Mike Robertson, president and CEO of Piedmont Mountainside Hospital. “Rather than traveling out of their way to the hospital for advanced imaging services, most of the orders given by physicians can now be filled in a convenient outpatient setting.”

Piedmont Outpatient Center offers comprehensive radiology and imaging that includes bone densitometry, CT scan, digital mammography, echocardiography, routine X-Ray, ultrasound and MRI. Physicians often refer patients to an outpatient center as it is quick and efficient. Piedmont Outpatient Center is located at 309 Highland Parkway, East Ellijay, Ga. For additional information on Piedmont Outpatient Center imaging services, or to schedule an appointment, call **706-635-1680**. For information about MRI services at Piedmont Mountainside Hospital, visit piedmontmountainside.org. ☒

Piedmont Newnan Hospital is a 143-bed, acute-care community hospital in Newnan. In addition to a comprehensive offering of inpatient services, Piedmont Newnan also provides outpatient healthcare services through its Cardiovascular Imaging Center, Outpatient Center, Heartburn Treatment Center, Sleep Center, Rehabilitation Center, Wellness Center and Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center. For more information, visit piedmontnewnan.org.



Join us at facebook.com/piedmontnewnanhospital.

PNH Receives \$100,300 Grant

Piedmont Newnan Hospital has received a generous grant of \$100,300 from the Abraham J. and Phyllis Katz Foundation to enhance services to patients with diabetes. The funds will enable the purchase of software to help physicians and nurses better manage blood sugar levels of critically ill patients as well as glucometers and strips for patients who can't afford these medical supplies.

"Approximately 60 percent of our critically ill patients have diabetes," said Michael Bass, president and CEO of Piedmont Newnan Hospital. "This grant will have a direct and positive effect on their successful return to good health."

With this grant, Piedmont Newnan Hospital will be able to secure advanced software for the administration of insulin. A powerful drug used in the treatment of diabetes, insulin can be dangerous if not closely monitored. This software will help nurses and physicians more closely monitor each patient's unique blood sugar levels and bring them back to better health more quickly.

Unfortunately, many patients have trouble affording their own medical supplies to properly manage their diabetes. Part of this grant will relieve some of their financial burden and help ensure that once patients are well, they stay that way with adequate resources to monitor their condition at home.

Finally, continuing education for physicians, nurses and dietitians will be made possible with this grant. Healthcare professionals will be able to become certified diabetes educators and provide high quality education programs to diabetes patients.

The Abraham J. and Phyllis Katz Foundation seeks to fulfill the wishes of its founders by providing support for organizations that provide innovations in medicine, access to music and performance and lend support to those with chronic illness or other life challenges.

"We are so pleased to be one of the hospital's partners," said Deva Hirsch, executive director of the Abraham J. and Phyllis Katz Foundation. "With the family's business, Kason Industries, located in Coweta County, the trustees truly wish to contribute to the health and well-being of the county's residents."

For more information about Piedmont Newnan Hospital and diabetes services, visit piedmontnewnan.org. ☩



NuLink Sponsors Wellness Center Events



The Piedmont Newnan Hospital Wellness Center announces NuLink as a presenting sponsor of its annual fundraising events, including Fitness on the Square and Autumn Chase. Through its sponsorships, NuLink is providing an enhanced entertainment package for the Wellness Center valued at \$3,000, including upgraded cable TV connections, digital cable, three digital boxes and new music choices. ☩

L-r: Stacey Jacobs, NuLink; Lana Mobley, NuLink; Kelly Loftin, PNH director of Philanthropy; and Carrie Chambless, PNH Wellness Center fitness coordinator.

Glover Donation Names Future NICU



Hospital and community leaders celebrate a donation from J. Littleton Glover Jr. and his family that will name the future Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Piedmont Newnan Hospital replacement facility. Gathered in the future Glover NICU are (l-r): J. Littleton Glover Jr.; Jim Thomasson, PNH capital campaign chairman; Kelly Loftin, PNH director of Philanthropy; Tammy Templeton, PNH director of Women's Services; and Michael Bass, PNH president and CEO.

Auxiliary Hosts Tour of Homes

The Piedmont Newnan Hospital Auxiliary has announced the return of its Candlelight Tour of Homes on **Friday, December 2**, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Homes in the historic Cole Town/East Downtown Newnan area will be featured. Proceeds will benefit the Auxiliary's pledge to the Piedmont Newnan Hospital Outpatient Center and annual scholarships. For general information, call the Piedmont Newnan Hospital Auxiliary office at **678-854-2487**. 🏠

Outpatient Center Earns ACR Accreditations

The Piedmont Newnan Hospital Outpatient Center has been awarded its second and third ACR accreditations, both three-year terms of accreditation in breast ultrasound and ultrasound-guided biopsy, as well as computed tomography (CT), as the result of a recent review by the American College of Radiology (ACR). The Outpatient Center also is ACR-accredited in mammography.

Breast ultrasound is a non-invasive medical test that uses high-frequency sound waves to produce images of the internal structures of the breast, and helps physicians diagnose and better treat breast-related medical conditions. CT scanning is a non-invasive medical test that helps physicians diagnose and tailor treatments for various medical conditions.

"The Piedmont Outpatient Center is focused on providing the very best in patient care and clinical quality to our patients," said Rhonda Winkles,

Piedmont Outpatient Center coordinator. "Our newest accreditations in breast ultrasound, ultrasound-guided biopsy and CT, in addition to our accreditation in mammography, further exhibit our commitment to taking excellent care of those who entrust us with their care."

The ACR gold seal of accreditation represents the highest level of image quality and patient safety. It is awarded only to facilities meeting ACR Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards after a peer-review evaluation by board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field. Image quality, personnel qualifications, adequacy of facility equipment, quality control procedures and quality-assurance programs are assessed.

The Piedmont Outpatient Center is located at the Summit Healthplex on Highway 34 East in Newnan. For more information, visit piedmontnewnan.org. 🏠

Construction Update

Construction continues to progress around the Piedmont Newnan Hospital replacement facility. The exterior is now enclosed with only minor exterior touch-up work to be completed. Currently, campus landscape work includes asphalt paving and installation of concrete sidewalks, campus irrigation and other landscaping, all scheduled to be completed in November 2011. The interior is progressing at a rapid pace with the most recent projects including installation of cabinetry, application of finishes such as wall painting, flooring and ceiling tiles, and installation of food services equipment. During the months to come, the project's focus will turn toward the installation of medical equipment, completing the information technology infrastructure, interior and exterior signage, and testing to ensure that building systems are interacting according to design intent and operational needs. The new hospital is scheduled to open in the spring of 2012. For the latest update, visit piedmontnewnan.org/construction. ☒



SilverSneakers® Available at PNH Wellness Center

The Piedmont Newnan Hospital Wellness Center is recognizing the unique needs of the older adults in the community by partnering with the nationally recognized Healthways SilverSneakers® Fitness Program. The Wellness Center is now able to offer older adults a way to increase their levels of physical activity while motivating them to remain active.

SilverSneakers is the nation's leading exercise program designed exclusively for older adults and is available at little or no additional cost (beyond any monthly premium) to eligible Medicare health plan and group retiree members.

"Research points to the significant health benefits of regular exercise for older adults," said Dee Glazier, SilverSneakers Senior Advisor at the Wellness Center. "In addition to helping our members stay physically healthy,

SilverSneakers also offers a great way for them to socialize, meet new friends and have fun."

With the SilverSneakers premier network, eligible members receive access to a variety of participating locations throughout the country. Many sites offer amenities such as fitness equipment, treadmills and free weights, and the



signature SilverSneakers Fitness Program classes, designed specifically for older adults and taught by certified instructors. A designated staff member will assist members along the way.

To find out if you are eligible for SilverSneakers,

contact your health plan provider. For more information about the SilverSneakers Fitness Program, contact the Wellness Center at 770-254-3550, visit silversneakers.com or call 888-423-4632. ☒

Piedmont Physicians Group is a multi-specialty physician group with more than 120 primary care physicians in over 35 offices, in addition to more than 20 specialists in over 15 locations across greater Atlanta. A member of Piedmont Healthcare, Piedmont Physicians Group is governed by the Piedmont Medical Care Corporation and has been identified as a *Better Performer* for the eighth consecutive year by the Medical Group Management Association for superior operational service compared with similar medical group practices nationwide. For more information, visit piedmontphysicians.org.



Join us at facebook.com/piedmontphysiciansgroup.

Welcome New Physicians



Dennis King, M.D.

Piedmont Physicians at Premier Medical
2700 Highway 34E, Suite #300
Newnan, Ga. 30265
770-304-0987



Jennifer Gilligan, M.D.

Piedmont Physicians Endocrinology
105 Collier Rd., Suite 5020
Atlanta, Ga. 30309
404-367-3210



Edward Rojas, M.D.

Piedmont Physicians Urology
1020 J.L. White Dr., Suite 180
Jasper, Ga. 30143
706-253-9020

PPG Earns Prestigious Distinction

Bridges to Excellence, a Health Care Incentives Improvement Institute program, has recognized Piedmont Physicians Group as a patient-centered medical home. Piedmont Physicians Group is the first multi-site physician practice group in the United States to receive the distinction, with its diabetes care link and hypertension programs receiving particularly high marks. The patient-centered medical home title is a validation of the success of Georgia’s first accountable care organization (ACO), conceived by CIGNA and Piedmont a year ago.



“Quality can be a difficult thing to measure in healthcare,” said Jim Sams, M.D., medical director of Piedmont Physicians Group. “Recognition from Bridges to Excellence has been one of our goals since the inception of our accountable care organization practice model. Being the first multi-site group in the country recognized as a patient-centered medical home helps validate Piedmont Physicians Group’s position as a primary care center of excellence.”

Bridges to Excellence recognition programs are based on nationally accepted quality measures that are most predictive of improved patient health. Clinicians who follow those measures will consistently provide better care at lower costs. Perhaps most importantly, Bridges to Excellence recognition indicates a superior level of patient care.

Coordination of care is the cornerstone of the medical home concept. A team that includes a clinical care manager, care coordinator and two health coaches has enabled Piedmont Physicians Group to reach many patients with gaps in care and help them get back into the office and under medical supervision. Piedmont Physicians Group proactively manages chronic diseases including diabetes through the use of technology.

An ACO is a variation on the patient-centered medical home model of health care that rewards primary care doctors for improved outcomes and lower medical costs. The CIGNA-Piedmont pilot ACO is one of the first patient-centered pilot programs in the Atlanta area involving a medical practice and a single private payer and is the first accountable care organization in Georgia. +

Welcome, PAPP Clinic

This summer, PAPP Clinic joined Piedmont Physicians Group (PPG). PAPP Clinic is a multispecialty physician group with six locations, 37 physicians in 11 medical specialties, and close to 300 employees. Coupled with a common interest in bringing together quality providers with the capacity to serve the healthcare demand in the community, the addition of the PAPP Clinic furthers both PPG and PAPP Clinic's goal of working together in shaping the future of healthcare for Coweta County.



189 Jefferson Parkway
Newnan, GA 30263
770-304-2220

Pediatrics

Kemi Amosu, M.D.
J. Edwyn Carter, M.D.
Jill Dickerson, M.D., FAAP
Jasmina M. Rice, M.D.
J. Boyce Thomas, M.D.



51 Hospital Road
Newnan, GA 30263
770-251-5540

Family Medicine

Melissa D. Ringfield, M.D.
Georgia M. Theriot, M.D.



15 Cavender Street
Newnan, GA 30263
770-253-6616

Family Medicine

Altee S. Johnson, M.D.

General Surgery

Kevin W. Davis, M.D.
Joseph W. Parks III, M.D., FACS

Internal Medicine

Cleland D. Child, M.D.
Andrew T. McDonald, M.D.
Evangelos J. Moraitis, M.D.
James M. Smith, M.D.
Stan W. Smith, M.D.

Ophthalmology

Jackson T. Giles, M.D.

Pediatrics

Jill Dickerson, M.D., FAAP

Pulmonology

Shankar Kandaswamy, M.D., FCCP
Vijay M. Patel, M.D.

Urology

Donald P. Finnerty, M.D., FACS
Bob B. Mann Jr., M.D., FACS



2959 Sharpsburg-McCollum Road
Newnan, GA 30265
770-502-2000

General Surgery/Vein Care

Garnet R. Craddock Jr., M.D., FACS

Internal Medicine

Guy C. Arnall Jr., M.D.
David C. Hart, M.D.
Vijay M. Patel, M.D.
David E. Vann, M.D.

Neurology

Xiaoyan Guo, M.D.
Qing Ni, M.D.

Pediatrics

Brittany Cheeks, M.D.
Lewis W. Jackson, M.D.
Jamison R. Roberts, M.D.

Rheumatology

Jeffrey L. Stark, M.D.



59 Hospital Road
Newnan, GA 30263
770-251-9631

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Neely B. Dean, M.D.
Walter M. Lonergan II, M.D.
Heide H. Moeling, M.D.
Charles V. Slomka, M.D.
Larry E. Steigelman, M.D.



42-A Main Street
Senoia, GA 30276
678-723-0400

Family Medicine

Monica O. Watts, M.D., FAAFP

Named five times as one of the nation's *100 Top Hospitals*® according to Thomson Reuters, Piedmont Fayette Hospital, a 157-bed, acute-care community hospital in Fayetteville, has consistently ranked in the top five among metro Atlanta hospitals in patient satisfaction according to the HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) survey the past two years. For more information, visit piedmontfayette.org.

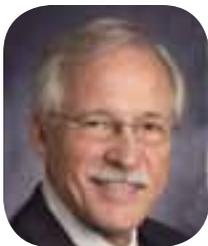


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In Recognition of Piedmont Fayette Board Retirees

Piedmont Fayette Hospital (PFH) would like to thank the following who have retired from the PFH Board of Directors. It is our pleasure to recognize them for their outstanding service.

“Our hospital has enjoyed great success under the leadership of these distinguished men,” said Darrell Cutts, president and CEO of Piedmont Fayette Hospital. “We wish them all the best in their new continued roles in the Piedmont Healthcare family.”



Ron Duffey is one of the founding board members. In 1994, as chairman of the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce, Duffey served on the “Fayette ’93” taskforce that championed the CON battle for Fayette County and ensured a hospital for the local community. He will remain

in the Piedmont family as he also serves on the Piedmont Newnan Hospital board of directors.



Frank Cole, M.D., has served on the medical staff at Piedmont Fayette Hospital since the hospital opened in 1997. Dr. Cole has held many leadership positions, including medical staff president and chairman of the board of directors. He also serves on the board at Piedmont Healthcare.



Joel Cowan, known as a visionary with business acumen, has served on the board for eight years. Cowan founded Peachtree City, Phipps Plaza, Snapfinger Woods and Palmetto Dunes in Hilton Head, S.C. In recent years, he extended his entrepreneurial efforts globally. Cowan will still serve

our community by representing Piedmont Fayette Hospital on our Piedmont Healthcare Foundation Board. ✚

Cancer Wellness Gift

The Fayette County Chamber of Commerce 2011 Leadership Fayette Class presented Darrell Cutts, president and CEO of Piedmont Fayette Hospital, with a gift of \$39,000 for Cancer Wellness. The class coordinated a successful Cancer Wellness Walk with the community to raise money for Cancer Wellfit fitness programming. Thanks to generous philanthropic support, Cancer Wellness programs are free and available to anyone affected by cancer. For a listing of wellness programs, visit piedmontfayette.org/littlec. ✚



New Technology For Smallest Patients

Thanks to a generous donation from the Piedmont Fayette Hospital Auxiliary, some of the latest neonatal technology is now available to Fayette's youngest and most delicate patients. The Giraffe OmniBed combines advanced technology and innovative design to provide a developmentally-supportive, family-centered, critical care environment for NICU babies. The Giraffe OmniBed allows physicians and nurses to care for and monitor premature infants with minimal disturbance.

"We wanted to give the hospital something really spectacular," said Joan Ingram, the Auxiliary president who championed this gift to the growing NICU. "The community voiced support for more advanced neonatal services during our 'Keep Babies in Fayette' campaign. We knew that we wanted these babies to have the best technology to promote their growth and to provide comfortable, easy access for caregivers and parents."

Premature babies can be placed directly in the bed after delivery, then transported to the NICU and cared for without subsequent transfers of the baby. The Giraffe technology is brought into the delivery room whenever there has been a notification about a high-risk delivery. The bed contains everything required to care for newborns including quick and easy patient access, softer support surface, an integrated scale for accurate assessment of babies' growth and development, as well as the ability to control heat, humidity, oxygen, light and noise.

"This technology is used for extremely premature infants as it helps support delicate thermal needs while reducing environmental stress that can be challenging to the baby's health," said Bernie Hinton, director of women and children services at Piedmont Fayette Hospital. "We are grateful for this gift from the Auxiliary." ❖

This technology is used for extremely premature infants as it helps support delicate thermal needs while reducing environmental stress.



Teresa Meason, RRT (left), and Amy Chancey, RN, care for a NICU baby in the Giraffe OmniBed.

Piedmont Healthcare Foundation, established in 1976 as the Piedmont Hospital Foundation, is comprised of volunteer boards and professional staff devoted to enabling private support to be a distinct strategic advantage for all the hospitals and entities of Piedmont Healthcare. Through philanthropy, Piedmont's ability to deliver on the promise of the perfect balance between health and care is realized. For more information, visit piedmont.org.

Komen Grants Help Screen for Breast Cancer

By Judy Stanton

When Rosie Frizzell's husband retired and she was no longer covered on his insurance, cancer was the last thing on her mind. Her annual mammograms were normal. So, when she learned the small insurance policy she purchased wouldn't cover mammograms, let alone the surgery and radiation she needed on her right breast, or a biopsy of her left breast a year later, she was shocked. Fortunately, she met the guidelines for Piedmont Hospital's Susan G. Komen grant and her care was covered.

"I am so thankful, and now, I'm giving back," says Frizzell, who participated in the Mother's Day walk at Atlantic Station to raise money for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. This year, she recruited 15 people and raised \$900, and she's already campaigning for next year.

In April, 2011, Piedmont Hospital was awarded a one-year grant of \$142,012 from the Susan G. Komen for the Cure of Greater Atlanta to serve up to 160 indigent or under/ uninsured women with screening, breast imaging and biopsy services. Those, like Frizzell, who are diagnosed with cancer and have limited financial resources, are eligible for surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy through indigent and charity care financial assistance programs.

The hospital had a similar grant in 2009. Today, Brenda Kelly, manager of the Doris Shaheen Breast Health Center at Piedmont Hospital, sees a difference. "With a dip in the economy, we're seeing many women who have lost jobs and find themselves uninsured. So, our clientele goes beyond traditional 'underserved' populations," she says. Already, 35 patients have been screened; five have required biopsies; and two cancers have been diagnosed.

Piedmont Fayette Hospital received its second annual Komen grant of \$98,242 to serve 200 women living in the 10-county Komen Atlanta target area with screening and diagnostic services.

According to Lisa Jones, manager of Piedmont Fayette's Women's Imaging Center, they've already screened 69 patients this grant year, performed five biopsies and found three cancers.

"These grants help us close critical gaps in services for many women. Diagnostic breast imaging, ultrasound, biopsy and MRI are very costly procedures and not readily accessible to the uninsured," says Robert DiVito, corporate director of operations and grants administration for Piedmont Philanthropy. ☩



"With a dip in the economy, we're seeing many women who have lost jobs and find themselves uninsured."

—Brenda Kelly,
Doris Shaheen Breast Health Center

Rich Foundation: Thanks a Million

For most of the 20th century, Rich's was one of Atlanta's leading department stores. The Rich Foundation has been supporting Piedmont Hospital since 1943, and the Richard H. Rich Auditorium is named in its honor. Despite the store's closing, the Rich Foundation continues its philanthropic legacy by making nearly a hundred grants annually to Atlanta organizations involved in the arts, education, environment, health and social services.

This year, the Rich Foundation's gift of \$250,000 put it over the \$1 million cumulative donation mark. The funds will go toward major renovations in Women's Services. "This gift will make a significant impact on Women's Services at Piedmont Hospital," says Sarah Batts, director of Major Gifts, "We can't thank trustee Tom Asher and Anne Berg, grant consultant, enough."

With nearly 4,000 babies delivered annually, there is a need for expansion, reconstruction and restoration of Piedmont facilities. Piedmont Philanthropy's goal is to

"This donation moves us further toward helping families begin life with their newborn in a truly family-centered environment."



raise \$5 million; expenditures are expected to approach \$7.7 million. Because of the Rich Foundation donation, Piedmont Hospital was able to advance toward its campaign goal by securing an anonymous \$750,000 challenge grant that required a match.

"This donation moves us further toward helping families begin life with their newborn in a truly family-centered environment," says Batts.

For information on how you can support the renovation of Women's Services at Piedmont Hospital, contact Sarah Batts at 404-605-3252 or sarah.batts@piedmont.org. ✚

The Piedmont Philanthropy Annual Donor Report pays tribute to our generous donors and their contributions for 2010. Copies were mailed with the last issue of *Piedmont Profiles*. If you did not receive it, or would like additional copies, contact Erica Nelson, donor relations liaison, at 404-605-2772 or erica.nelson@piedmont.org. You also can find donor stories and information about giving opportunities online at piedmontphilanthropy.org. To make a gift online, visit donate.piedmont.org. Your continued support is appreciated.



Honoring a Talented Artist and Patient

By Judy Stanton

Joyce Entrekin Harris lived a full life and bravely battled ovarian cancer for the last 10 years. When her family suggested that a fitting tribute in her memory would be an expressive arts room in Cancer Wellness at Piedmont Fayette Hospital, she wholeheartedly agreed.

The Hollis and Joyce Harris Expressive Arts Studio was made possible with generous donations from the Harris family and friends. Joyce was an accomplished artist who, along with her twin sister, enjoyed painting flowers and landscapes in watercolor. The family knew what it was like to deal with cancer; the Harris' lost a grandson years ago to leukemia.

Hollis Harris is a well-respected airline executive, who rose among the ranks at Delta Airlines in the 70s and 80s to become president and chief operating officer in 1987 and a member of the board of directors.

He went on to lead Continental Airlines, Air Canada and World Airways. His career has spanned more than 50 years. Though Hollis traveled and worked in many different locations around the world, the Harris family always maintained

their home in Peachtree City, where they moved in 1969. Hollis and Joyce Harris were married 55 years and have three children, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.



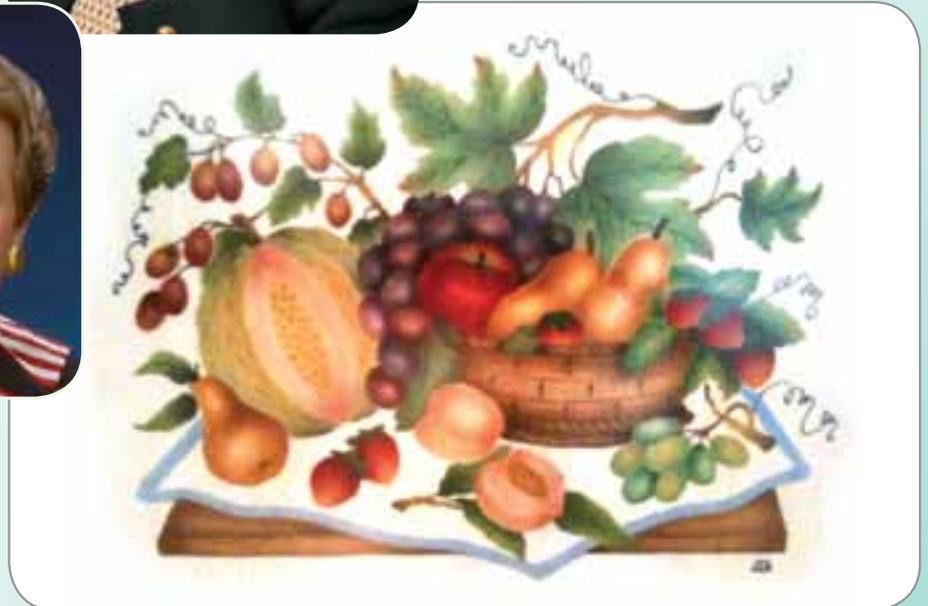
Hollis Harris

“There were less than 800 people here when the family moved to Peachtree City. Joyce often volunteered her time and ample talents to community groups in Fayette County. It would give Joyce great satisfaction to know that she would continue to help others whose lives are impacted with cancer,” says Hollis Harris.

“Because of the generosity of the Harris family, and other supporters like them, cancer patients in Fayette have access to free quality psychosocial programs that improve their quality of life and promote health and well-being,” says LaVann Landrum, director of Philanthropy for Piedmont Fayette Hospital. ✚



Joyce Harris



One of Joyce Harris' still-life paintings.



Sean Peacock's family and friends wore Superman shirts to support him in his recovery.

Miracles & Medicine

A Super Combination

By Liz McRoberts

Choir leader Sean Peacock, 38, doesn't remember attending church with his family on Easter Sunday or leading the congregation in a lively song. But his wife, Angela, recalls the details with crystal clarity. "One minute, Sean was singing and dancing up front. The next, he slumped over the pulpit and fell to the floor. It was like watching in slow motion," she says. "And I just knew it was his heart."

Sean's sister immediately began CPR. Paramedics continued resuscitation efforts en route to a hospital in Rockdale County. There, doctors knew Sean needed more specialized care, so he was airlifted to Piedmont Hospital.

It wasn't Sean's first visit to Piedmont. Diagnosed years earlier with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, Sean had the same heart-thickening disease that's a well-known cause of sudden death in athletes. An athlete himself – Sean was the 2010 national archery champ – he'd recently noticed shortness of breath and fatigue. "Sean ignored the problem, but finally consulted with his cardiologist at Piedmont Heart Institute (PHI), who said his heart had worsened," says Angela. "His doctors scheduled two surgical procedures right after Easter." Unfortunately, Sean's heart didn't last that long.

When Sean arrived at Piedmont on Easter, "he was unconscious and unresponsive," recalls Nicholas J. Lembo, M.D., PHI interventional cardiologist. "Even if he survived the heart episode, there was a good chance of brain damage from lack of oxygen. Fortunately, we're one of the few hospitals in the region that can provide therapeutic hypothermia, which is proven to help preserve organs and tissue related to blood deprivation."

The hypothermia technique, led by Charles L. Brown III, M.D., PHI interventional cardiologist, involved lowering Sean's body temperature, which slowed his metabolism and put him into a controlled coma. Through it all, Angela held steady. "Sean's favorite character has always been Superman. And he's something of a Superman himself. I had faith that God wasn't done with him yet."

After four days – time enough for his heart to improve – Sean's body was gradually warmed. He slowly regained consciousness and showed no signs of brain damage. Once Sean was stronger, Stephen P. Prater, M.D., PHI cardiologist, surgically inserted an implantable defibrillator in Sean's heart to detect and correct abnormal rhythms. Meanwhile, Dr. Lembo conducted a minimally-invasive procedure to reduce heart muscle thickness and help restore function. Much to the overwhelming relief of Sean, Angela, their two young sons, and more than a thousand friends and family who'd become Sean's Facebook followers, both procedures were successful.

Today, Sean is back home and looking forward to a healthy future. "Piedmont's care was top-notch," he says. "The cardiology and neurology teams came together, knew what to do and did what it took. No other hospital will ever compare."

The Sunday after Sean came home, the family returned to the welcoming arms of their church. "We walked in and nearly everyone was wearing Superman shirts with 'Support Sean Peacock' printed on the back. They'd designed and sold them to raise money on our behalf," Sean says. "Talk about a truly heart-warming moment." ✚

Visit piedmontheart.org to take an online risk assessment.



PIEDMONT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Race for the Cure

More than 130 members of the Piedmont Healthcare team ran or walked in the 2011 Susan G. Komen Atlanta Race for the Cure in May at Atlantic Station. The PHC team collected more than \$10,000 in donations. The event drew more than 17,000 participants and raised over \$1.5 million just in the Atlanta area.



PNH Dessert and Discussion

The Piedmont Newnan Hospital Sleep Center hosted a free Dessert and Discussion at the Newnan Country Club, featuring Vijay M. Patel, M.D., internal, pulmonary and sleep medicine; Tom Freeman, Psy.D., licensed psychologist; and Paula Williams, technical director, Tennessee Academy of Sleep Medicine and consulting manager for the PNH Sleep Center. Attendees heard discussions on how stress can affect sleep and learned ways to manage short-term and chronic insomnia.



L-r: Paula Williams, Tom Freeman, Psy.D., Vijay M. Patel, M.D., and Michael Bass, president and CEO of Piedmont Newnan Hospital.

Piedmont Supports July 4th Runners

Peachtree Road Race runners William Davidson Jr., a Piedmont Hospital employee, and his brother, Mel Wages, pose for a picture on Cardiac Hill in front of Piedmont Hospital. Each year, Piedmont cheers on runners in the July 4th race and gives out hand towels and water during the practice runs.



March of Dimes

Piedmont Fayette Hospital, Piedmont Newnan Hospital and Piedmont Hospital each took part in March of Dimes March for Babies events this spring. Piedmont teams walked, raised funds and made a difference for stronger, healthier babies.



L-r: Piedmont Fayette NICU nurses Jan Mannion, Lori Bissantz, Karen Veccie, Shannon Deaton, Amy Chancey and Tracie Delally.

School Health Fair

Piedmont Hospital partnered with Garden Hills Elementary staff and E. Rivers Elementary PTA to host “Feria de la Salud Hispania” in March. The health fair was offered in support of the large percentage of kids with Hispanic origins enrolled at the schools. Screenings, health information, fitness activities and a healthy lunch were provided free of charge.



Relay for Life

Piedmont Mountainside Hospital was this year’s sponsor for the Gilmer Relay for Life Survivor Dinner on May 6 at Cherry Log Christian Church in Cherry Log, Ga. Tables were decorated with balloons and party hats to go with this year’s theme, “Celebrate More Birthdays.” Eighty-five survivors and caregivers enjoyed a dinner catered by Kelly’s Main Street Catering and served by volunteers. After enjoying cupcakes and ice cream for dessert, many of our guests were lucky winners of great door prizes donated by businesses in Ellijay.



SilverSneakers®

More than 50 SilverSneakers® members attended an information fair hosted by Piedmont Mountainside Hospital at Gold’s Gym on May 25. The panel of experts included Rodney Fields, M.D., orthopaedics; Islam Eltarawy, M.D., family practice; Asim Kidwai, M.D., family practice; Charles Haendel, D.P.M., podiatry; and David Sprinkle, physician assistant.



L-r: Piedmont Mountainside representatives Anne Johnson, Islam Eltarawy, M.D., Asim Kidwai, M.D., and Ashlyn Reece.

From Trials to Tra

By Jim Taylor

If you've ever been to East Ellijay, chances are you've heard of Oscar Poole.

He and his wife, Edna, own Poole's BBQ. The restaurant is not only popular with locals, but it has also been a hot campaign stop for many well-known politicians. A generous man by nature, Poole would give the shirt off his back to help a friend or neighbor. But in August 2009, he wondered if he might lose more than his shirt — the 81 year old had a stroke.

"It altered my lifestyle to say the least," says Poole, who suffers from a condition known as aortic stenosis, which caused his aortic valve to not open and close properly, limiting blood flow from the heart. "I love to travel, and I wasn't able to do as much of that as I would have liked. My cardiologists told me an operation would be too risky at my age and with my condition."

One year after his stroke, Poole's cardiologist, Ted Monitz, M.D., with Piedmont Heart Institute, told him about the Medtronic CoreValve® U.S. clinical trial which was about to be available at Piedmont Hospital and 39 other hospitals across the United States. The trial would evaluate a revolutionary non-surgical, less-invasive procedure as a treatment alternative to open-heart surgery for patients with Poole's condition.

Fast forward to January 13, 2011. Poole had a heart attack at his winter home in Florida. When Poole returned to Georgia, Dr. Monitz sent him to Piedmont Hospital for further evaluation. Vivek Rajagopal, M.D., interventional cardiologist with Piedmont Heart Institute, performed a balloon angioplasty procedure to clear a 90 percent blockage near his heart. However, the procedure would only provide temporary relief. Poole would need a replacement aortic valve if he was to expect a full recovery. As luck would have it, Dr. Rajagopal informed Poole that he may qualify for the new clinical trial which would accept patients within a few months.



vels, It's a Full Life





Oscar Poole decorated his property with signs bearing the names of his doctors and nurses.

“With an estimated 5 percent of people over 65 experiencing some form of aortic stenosis, there is significant need for new treatment options that do not involve invasive surgery,” says Dr. Rajagopal.

Poole was a candidate for the CoreValve clinical trial and was one of the first to receive the non-invasive procedure on June 6, 2011, at Piedmont Hospital. Thanks to Piedmont and the treatment he received, Poole is back to enjoying life as usual in East Ellijay. When he’s not visiting with customers at his restaurant or traveling, he can be found online, blogging about his life. Poole also is finishing a new book, appropriately titled *I Talked to Death and Said NO!*

In a classic display of his well-known generosity, Poole recently hosted a party for those involved in his care at his restaurant in East Ellijay. A barbecue lunch was held in their honor, and Poole decorated his property with signs bearing the names of his doctors and nurses.

“I have a new lease on life thanks to Piedmont,” he says. “I’m so grateful for the people who cared for me and happy I can say thank you in a small, but unique, way.” ☒

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