

## **EGHC Receives “Community Healthcare Center of the Year” Award**

11/05/2004

East Georgia Healthcare Center (EGHC) has been named “Community Healthcare Center of the Year” by the Georgia Association for Primary Healthcare (GAPHC). The award was presented at the annual GAPHC conference held on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in Savannah.

“In 2004 East Georgia Healthcare Center has shown remarkable and well-planned growth and has proven that they intend to build upon their 10 year history of providing quality healthcare to the rural communities of Georgia,” Duane Kavka, Executive Director, GAPHC.

In the past year, EGHC has both tripled in size and in staff as they reach out to patients and communities in need. With a 70% increase in visits over the past 3 years, patients have obviously responded to the quality of service and care provided by EGHC. “The fact that East Georgia Healthcare Center patients have a choice and in many cases travel great distances in order to receive care here speaks strongly of the quality of care we offer, and of our dedication to a patient’s health” explained East Georgia Healthcare Center CEO, Jennie Wren Denmark.

In the past year alone, EGHC has had 16,413 patient visits and \$1,565,440 in free medication was given to patients in need by the Indigent Drug Program. Since the doors opened 10 years ago, EGHC has served 12,092 patients, had 79,629 visits and has provided \$7,686,624 in free goods and services.

In early 2005 EGHC goes live with Electronic Medical Records (EMR). An important step forward for the healthcare of the communities they serve. Among the many benefits, EMR will improve patient education, provide instant access to patient records, and enhance patient chart information. “EMR is a valuable tool and we plan to use it to further improve the care we provide our patients. EGHC is proud to lead the way for other healthcare centers across the country by being one of the first to implement this type of technology,” Herman Thompson, Chief Information Officer.

East Georgia Healthcare Center offers several health education programs free of charge. participates in the Diabetic and Cardiovascular collaboratives.

East Georgia Healthcare Center, Inc. is a not-for-profit, community-based organization dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for all residents of Emanuel, Tattnall, and Treutlen Counties, regardless of their race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, gender, disability, veteran status, and/or ability to pay. EGHC has three locations in Southeast Georgia, Swainsboro, Reidsville and Soperton.

The providers, management and board of directors at EGHC would like to thank our wonderful staff and patients for helping to bring this prestigious award to Southeast Georgia. Everyone has worked very hard and together we have helped those in need get the quality healthcare they deserve.