

East Georgia Healthcare Center Grows by Leaps & Bounds

By: Herman Thompson
Chief Information Officer
East Georgia Healthcare Center

East Georgia Healthcare Center, Inc. (EGHC) is a not-for-profit, community-based healthcare organization governed by a board of directors. EGHC is dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for all residents of Emanuel, Candler, Tattnall, Treutlen and the surrounding counties, regardless of their race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, gender, disability, veteran status, and/or ability to pay. EGHC now has **five** locations in Southeast Georgia; Swainsboro, Swainsboro Pediatric, Metter, Reidsville and Soperton.

Since the doors opened 14 years ago in 1994, EGHC has served **22,999 patients**, had **161,708 visits**, and has provided **\$21,217,463 in free goods and services**.

In the past year alone, EGHC has had 26,317 patient visits and \$1,880,153 in free medication was given to patients in need by the Indigent Drug Program. With a 70% increase in visits over the past 3 years, and a steady stream of new patients each month, patients have obviously responded to the quality of service and care we provide at EGHC.

In 2007 EGHC's received an expansion grant to open an office in Metter. After 2 months of construction, this new office located next to IHS (Byrd) Pharmacy opened for business February 4th, 2008. A modern 5 exam room facility that will help us to expand our services and more effectively balance the patient flow in our other offices. All of us at EGHC are very proud of our new office and the expanded services it makes available to everyone.

EGHC also received a state Health Information Exchange grant to plan for and implement an ePrescribing project that transmits your prescriptions directly from the provider to the pharmacy of your choice. This grant will help improve patient safety and expand EGHC's technology infrastructure for expansion into Electronic Health Records.

Dr. Darshan Shah, Brigitte Hampton, PNP and the staff of Swainsboro Pediatric and Adolescent Center joined the EGHC family in February of 2008. Because of the special type of care provided at this office, Dr. Shah will be East Georgia Healthcare Center's Pediatric Director overseeing the services provided to our pediatric patients.

In 2007 East Georgia Healthcare Center expanded our Mental Health services by adding psychiatrist, Dr. Gwen Moddrell to our staff in Swainsboro.

New offices, new services and increased need in the community requires more staff. EGHC now employs 45 and expects this number to grow significantly in 2008. In 2007 EGHC added 3 new providers; Regina Groover-Cody, FNP, Kathy Smith, FNP, and Dr.

Gwen Moddrell.

As the onion crops were planted and harvested this past spring, East Georgia Healthcare Center (EGHC) provided free on-site medical care to the migrant farm workers and their families. The migrant camp visits were held at various farm locations in Toombs and Tattnall County. East Georgia Healthcare Center partnered with Medical College of Georgia, Georgia Southern University and Southeast Georgia Communities Project to make the migrant camp visits a huge success.

“East Georgia Healthcare Center has shown remarkable and well-planned growth and has proven that they intend to build upon their 14 year history of providing quality healthcare to the rural communities of Georgia,” Duane Kavka, Executive Director, GAPHC. The GAPHC is a state-wide association of Community Health Centers of which EGHC is a member.

East Georgia Healthcare Center offers a monthly Healthy Living class free of charge to the public at our Swainsboro office. Guest speakers lecture on subjects from exercise to meal planning. Patients are given diabetic counseling, free glucometers and glucometer strips are sold to the patient at a discount. EGHC also provides free blood pressure screenings throughout the community at local businesses, schools and industries. For more information on when and where please contact the office convenient to you.

“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 CIO, Herman Thompson.

“As we look forward to an even better 2008, the providers, management and board of directors at EGHC would like to thank our wonderful staff and patients for helping to make 2007 a great year. Everyone has worked very hard and together we have helped those in need get the quality healthcare they deserve.”, East Georgia Healthcare Center CEO, Jennie Wren Denmark

We invite you to make an appointment and visit one of our offices to see all that we have to offer. For more information you can also visit our website at www.eghc.org.

Swainsboro: 478-237-2638 / Reidsville: 912-557-3300 / Soperton: 912-529-5533
Swainsboro Pediatric: 478-237-5850 / Metter: 912-685-4040