



The CARING Connection

This edition is dedicated in memory of CareFirst Carolina Foundation founding board member, Ethel Taylor. She represented Dillon County and was a champion for the underserved. Her spirit of service and compassion will be greatly missed.

Bishopville Pediatric Dental Office Now Open

CareSouth Carolina (CSC) recently opened in the Bishopville Pediatric Dental practice. The CareFIRST Carolina Foundation (CFC) has continued to support its startup.

The CFC Board awarded \$30,000 to the program to augment the \$150,000 investment by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina Foundation. This project had been a work in progress and many stakeholders have contributed to its opening. Additional supporters include the National Children’s Oral Health Foundation, the Sisters of Charity Foundation, and the generous donation of the building by Dr. Forest Evans.

Thank you to all for working together to bring dental services back to Lee County.



Dr. Joshua Hubbard



The pediatric dental office features renovated exam rooms and new equipment. (Left to right) Mark Sobiski, CFC Foundation Director, Joe Bittle, CSC Chief of Community Health, Dr. Forest Evans, Dolly Evans, Ann Lewis, CSC CEO, Joy Gandy, CSC Chief of Special Projects are shown at the property donation in 2017.

‘Stand Up For Veterans’ Planned for Nov. 16th

CareSouth Carolina (CSC) and the CareFIRST Carolina Foundation (CFC) will again offer free medical and dental screenings for veterans during the 2019 “Stand Up For Veterans” event to be held Saturday, Nov. 16. Last year veterans from throughout CareSouth Carolina’s service area of Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Lee and Marlboro counties and surrounding areas were served and received medical as well as dental services and follow-up care.

“We were very proud to be here to make a difference in the lives of our veterans. Targeting local funds to support local needs is our focus, we are looking for additional partners to help us make this possible again in 2019,” Foundation Director Mark Sobiski said.

The purpose of the event is to offer free

medical and dental care for local veterans who have trouble receiving the care they need. Services provided by the medical staff included blood sugar testing, oxygen level testing, blood pressure reading and hemoglobin (HA1C) screening. Eye exams and foot exams were provided by the Hartsville Lions Club and Physicians Foot Care, respectively. Dental services, provided on board the Love Mobile Dental Unit, evaluated pain and need level with same day treatment provided for critical needs.

The event will be held at the CareSouth Carolina Hartsville Center located at 1268 S. Fourth St. To make an appointment call 843-332-3422 and ask for a veterans representative or register online at www.caresouth-carolina.com and click register for event.



CareFIRST Carolina is the supporting foundation of CareSouth Carolina Inc. and is dedicated to financially supporting the mission of CareSouth Carolina and its patients. Together, the organizations provide and improve access to health and support services to those who need them most. It is the first regional foundation to focus on improving the access and the quality of primary health care in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina.

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Reaching Out and Delivering Services Through ROADS Program

Reaching Out And Delivering Services (ROADS) is what this CareFIRST Carolina Foundation (CFC) purchased unit is all about. The ability to assist local school nurses in our area schools was identified as a need and this program continues to expand and grow to fill that need.

Last year 3,340 children were seen by these units — 1115 in Chesterfield County, 865 in Darlington County, 753 in Dillon County and 149 in Marlboro County! An additional 95 were seen in a flu shot clinic. The CFC Board saw the need and, with local donors, was able to coordinate the purchase of the first ROADS unit.

Thank you to CFC donors for making our community healthier one child at a time.



Marlboro County Bus Service Expanding and Increasing Ridership!

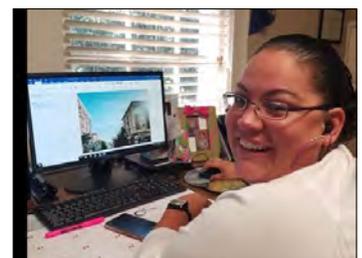
Through the continuing efforts of CareFIRST Carolina Foundation, MARTi ridership continues to grow and additional partners are being added to compensate for the passenger increase. In August, over 1,700 riders were on just the Bennettsville loops and a total of 2,558 trips were taken in the month — there are some hours there is standing room only. CareFIRST is working with PDRTA to expand the model to Dillon County with service anticipated to begin in December.

Thomas Joins Foundation Staff

The CareFIRST Carolina Foundation is excited announce that Jennifer Thomas has joined the foundation team as administrative assistant. She already is keeping the day to day operations running smoothly!

Jennifer has three children and loves shopping and spending time at the beach with her family.

Welcome Jennifer!



Jennifer Thomas

Mission Maker:

**Improving Access to Care
One Prescription at a Time**

It started with a penny can....way back in 2009 when the CSC Pharmacy first began and Teresa King came on board as a delivery driver for the new pharmacy program in Hartsville. A new member of the CSC family she was excited about being able to make a difference in the lives of patients in our area. As she drove from site to site Teresa became as much a part of the fabric of the pharmacy's future as well as making so many good friends among the CSC outreach staff.



Teresa King

One item kept coming up when she was back in Hartsville — patients had to turn down medications because they could not afford all of them. Five dollars here for blood pressure medicine, \$15 there for diabetic test strips, it was a constant need that cried out to be filled. This was before Welvista and before the aggressive pharmaceutical assistance plans we have now — the needs just went unmet. The pharmacy team

in Hartsville would pool their resources and help when they could but she saw this need and came to the CareFIRST Carolina Foundation (CFC) to see if CFC could help. CFC got with Ann Lewis and Nick Tomlinson, then the pharmacy director, and presented it to the CFC board for support. It began as a few hundred dollars a month and grew.

Thus began a pilot program in Hartsville that created a better way of assisting, something that together many could all assist with. Forms were created and modified, and modified again to insure medications could be accessed quickly by providers when needed. Little by little the system came together with Teresa and the CSC Pharmacy staff all helping develop a workable solution.

From the \$3 and \$15 roots this program now has support from CFC, local United Way affiliates as well as getting the CareSouth Carolina board to authorize specific funding. Over \$25,000.00 was invested in 498 patients and in excess of 1,900 prescriptions were covered over the last 12 months alone. All of our CSC providers and sites now have access to what started as a penny can!

Teresa King is our CareFIRST Foundation Mission Maker for 2018!



Jennifer Lynch, FNP-C, (left) and Cynthia Atkinson

**Success Story
Spotlight...**

Cynthia Atkinson came to CareSouth Carolina's (CSC) Hartsville medical site complaining of dizziness, fatigue and some chest pain. The condition had been treated over several months; however, it seemed to be getting worse. She had no insurance coverage and had saved up to have a CT of the head done. The results were abnormal and an MRI was recommended. She then began to have memory lapses and did not feel like herself and could not target the source.

Her CSC provider Jennifer Lynch, FNP-C, reached out to the CareFIRST Carolina Foundation (CFC) and requested both an MRI of the brain as well as a bilateral carotid artery study to rule out blockages. The cost was going to be \$2,200 and Ms. Atkinson did not have these funds... there were no options left to her. The CFC board was able to match local Hartsville United Way funding with employee donations from the "Friends and Neighbors" program to cover this cost for a more thorough diagnosis.

This was a life changing event for her. She was found to have multiple sclerosis (MS). With this diagnosis her provider was able to identify additional national resources to assist with further treatment and care from the Multiple Sclerosis Society as well as other funding sources now open to her due to a definitive diagnosis. It is cases like these that show how important a fund like the "Friends and Neighbors" program is to individuals in a medical crisis in a primary care setting.

Your donations to our foundation make this a reality. Together lets help someone today.... www.carefirst-carolinafoundation.org to make a gift.

'Miles of Smiles' Golf Tournament Proves Successful

Thanks to our many business and industry partners, over \$10,000 was raised at the 2019 annual MILES OF SMILES Golf Tournament. It was held at Cheraw State Park on May 15.

Proceeds are used to support the needs of our school based dental teams and school based pediatric ROADS teams. Doug Jennings' team from Marlboro County won top honors and took home the challenge trophy as well. All on Doug's Birthday! Sixteen teams from five counties were in competition.

Next year's event will be held on May 20, 2020.



UWCC Supports CareFIRST Carolina Foundation



The United Way of Chesterfield County recently made a donation to support the Friends and Neighbors Assistance Fund for Chesterfield County patients. This donation will allow the CareFIRST Carolina Foundation to continue to expand and assist local residents in critical need of both emergency medications as well as diagnostic specialty care so CareSouth Carolina providers are able to catch and treat serious conditions earlier. The partnerships with the region's United ways chapters is an important part of our ability to help patients in medical crisis. Angie Smith presents the check for 2019 funds.

CareFIRST Prescription Assistance

**January—June, 2019
\$13,199.31**

County	Prescriptions
Chesterfield	52
Darlington	245
Dillon	182
Lee	154
Marlboro	119
Other	97
Total	849



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