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2026

WINTER EDITION

CareSouth Carolina Celebrates CEO Ann Lewis for 45 Years of Service and Leadership



Ann Lewis, CEO of CareSouth Carolina

CareSouth Carolina is celebrating a historic milestone as Chief Executive Officer Ann Lewis marks 45 years with the organization—a tenure defined by growth, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to the communities she has served.

Lewis joined what was then a small clinic in the early 1980s and helped guide its transformation into CareSouth Carolina, now a nationally recognized community health organization serving thousands of patients across the Pee Dee region. Throughout her career, Lewis has led through expansion, financial uncertainty, natural disasters, and a global pandemic—never losing sight of the organization’s mission to “enhance the health and well-being of everyone.”

During a special recognition, colleagues, board members, and longtime partners shared reflections on Lewis’s leadership and impact.

Joy Gandy, Chief of Project Development at CareSouth Carolina, shared that she had interviewed with Lewis back in 1981 for a position, and recalled the intention Lewis brought to leadership from the very beginning.

“That interview was personal and intentional. Ann didn’t just want someone who could do the job—she wanted someone who would treat every patient like a human being, not a number. And that expectation has never changed,” Gandy said.

Gandy reflected on the organization’s early days, when resources were limited and staff wore many hats, noting that Lewis was never content to stop at what already existed.

“Even back then, what we had wasn’t enough for her,” she said. “She always saw what CareSouth Carolina could be. She led through budget cuts, hurricanes, snowstorms, personal hardship, and even a global pandemic—and nothing ever stopped her from leading.”

She added: “I truly believe CareSouth Carolina would not be what it is today without her vision and perseverance. If leadership were an Olympic sport, she would have won gold several times by now.”

Lathran J. Woodard, former CEO of the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association, spoke about her deep personal and professional bond with Lewis, describing her as a leader rooted in integrity and service.

“Ann always stood her ground and stood in her truth. She understood that real leadership is servitude. She knows people by name. She checks on people. She cares.”

Woodard emphasized Lewis’s approach to conflict and decision-making.

“If someone came to her and said, ‘So-and-so said this,’ Ann’s response was always, ‘I’m going to that person and ask them.’ She never moved on hearsay. That taught me so much about leadership.”

She continued, “When I was going through hard times, she didn’t come to me as a CEO or a board chair—she came to me as a woman. She protected me. She supported me. And that meant everything. She has been passionate about this for many years and that’s because you are doing God’s work.”

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Dr. Vicki M. Young, who currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO at the SCPHCA), highlighted Lewis's role as a mentor and champion to emerging leaders.

"She was always the cheerleader—the one saying, 'We're going to do this.' Not because it benefited her, but because of her why. Her why has always been the patients and the community."

Young credited Lewis's longevity to a combination of compassion and curiosity.

"She is always learning; Just last week she told me, 'Put it in ChatGPT.' And I thought—here's someone 45 years in, still evolving, still growing."

She added:

"That genuine heart is what keeps her going, and what keeps this movement growing—not just here, but across the state and the nation."

Dr. Flossie Bartell-Jackson, Treasurer and longtime CareSouth Carolina board member, shared how Lewis reshaped her understanding of community health.

"When Ann brings something to the board, we know she has already put in the thought and the research. We trust her."

She praised Lewis's clarity and transparency.

"This is the only board I've served on where most of the time, you don't even need to ask questions. And if you do, she takes the time to explain—no matter how long it takes."

Dr. Bartell-Jackson concluded,

"I am honored to serve on this board with her, and I have no intentions of stepping away."

Board Chair Jay Hodge reflected on Lewis's ability to lead through challenge and purpose.

"In our darkest moments, Ann has always helped us see the light. What we have here isn't just an organization—it's a cause."

He added, "She still has fight in her. And as long as she does, this cause will keep moving forward."

As CareSouth Carolina honors Ann Lewis's 45 years of service, the voices of those who know her best tell a clear story: of a leader who never lost sight of why the work mattered, and whose legacy is woven into every patient served, every staff member supported, and every community strengthened.

Even after 45 years, Ann Lewis is still leading the charge of the community health center movement. She continues to be a pioneer in her field and a light in the community.

"It is an honor and a privilege that God has given me every single day," Lewis concluded. "I love CareSouth Carolina, and I love our communities. Let's keep doing it."

CareSouth Carolina Announces Saturday Hours for CSC Community Pharmacy in Hartsville



CareSouth Carolina is expanding access to care with the introduction of Saturday hours at its CSC Community Pharmacy in Hartsville.

Beginning Saturday, January 10, 2026, the pharmacy will be open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with both drive-thru and inside services available. The pharmacy is located at 1280 South Fourth Street in Hartsville.

This expansion is part of CareSouth Carolina's ongoing commitment to meeting patients where they are and making essential healthcare services more accessible for working families, caregivers, and individuals with busy schedules.

"Saturday pharmacy hours ensure that care doesn't stop when the weekday ends. They give patients vital access to medications, guidance, and support when they need it most—setting the tone for a more accessible, patient-centered healthcare future. It helps to strengthen the bridge between pharmacies and the communities they serve. Keeping the pharmacy doors open on Saturdays is more than convenience, it's commitment. It shows that access to care doesn't rest-paving the way for a more flexible and responsive healthcare system," said Ashley Singleton, Chief of Pharmacy at CareSouth Carolina.

With the addition of Saturday hours, patients can now visit CSC Community Pharmacy in Hartsville six days a week. Whether stopping by during the workweek or on the weekend, patients can expect the same welcoming environment, personalized care, and dependable service.

This also coincides with CareSouth Carolina's Hartsville clinic, which is open each Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, please call the CSC Community Pharmacy at 843.339.5530.

CareSouth Carolina Generates More Than \$191 Million in Economic Impact in 2024

CareSouth Carolina contributed an estimated \$191.3 million to the local economy, fueled by job creation, direct spending, healthcare savings, and expanded support for underserved populations, according to a comprehensive assessment performed by Capital Link.

A Major Economic Impact for the Pee Dee Region

The report shows that CareSouth Carolina's operations supported 1,128 total jobs, including 596 direct health center positions and 532 additional jobs created through indirect and induced economic activity. These roles span clinical services, administrative support, and jobs within the wider community that benefit from the center's presence.

CareSouth Carolina's economic contributions for 2024 include:

- \$104.8 million in direct health center spending
- \$86.5 million in community spending
- \$21.9 million in total annual tax revenues
- \$4.1 million in state and local tax revenues
- \$17.8 million in federal tax revenues

Significant Healthcare Savings for South Carolina

The 2024 analysis also highlights the substantial savings CareSouth Carolina provides to Medicaid and the broader healthcare system. This year, the center helped generate:

- 24% lower costs for Medicaid patients who received care at a community health center
- \$30.1 million in savings to Medicaid
- \$61.6 million in overall health system savings

These savings come from increased access to primary and preventive care, reduced emergency room visits, and improved long-term patient outcomes.

Providing Care to Vulnerable Populations

CareSouth Carolina continues to serve as a vital access point for individuals who face significant barriers to healthcare. In 2024, the organization recorded:

- 230,878 total visits, including 193,602 clinic visits and 37,276 virtual visits
- 37,617 patients served
- 74.4% of patients identified as low-income
- 61.5% identified as an ethnic or racial minority
- Support provided to 2,598 agricultural workers, 1,219 veterans, and 867 individuals experiencing homelessness

Strengthening Community Health and Local Economies

Beyond the numbers, the 2024 report underscores how CareSouth Carolina strengthens both community health and economic resilience. Every dollar invested in the health center generates additional economic activity, supports local businesses, and contributes to a healthier population.

CareSouth Carolina's Rosa Lee Gerald Office Spreads Holiday Cheer to Local Families

CareSouth Carolina's Rosa Lee Gerald office is always looking to spread cheer, especially during the holiday season.

As part of an annual tradition, CareSouth Carolina's Rosa Lee Gerald office came together to support patients and their families in meaningful and personal ways.

For the past six years, staff at the Rosa Lee Gerald office have made it a priority to give back during the holidays. This year, the team randomly selected three patients from their population and worked collectively to support and "adopt" their households. Each patient shared a list of family members and specific needs, allowing staff members to personally contribute and purchase gifts that brought comfort and relief during the season.



Services:

Family Medicine
 Pediatrics
 Women's Care
 Behavioral Health Counseling
 Lab
 Foot Care
 IV Therapy
 Internal Medicine
 Radiology/Ultrasound
 Chiropractic Care
 Dental Care
 Family Support Services
 Substance Abuse Prevention Program
 HIV/AIDS Primary Care
 Infectious Diseases Primary Care
 Senior Support Services

Convenient Locations

Bennettsville Center
 999 Cheraw Street
 Bennettsville, SC 29512
 843.479.2341

Dillon Center
 1016 Old Latta Highway
 Dillon, SC 29536
 843.774.4337

Bennettsville Pediatric Center
 210 W. Main Street
 Bennettsville, SC 29512
 843.479.1200

Hartsville Center
 1268 S. Fourth Street
 Hartsville, SC 29550
 843.332.3422
 843.339.5520 Chiropractic

Bennettsville Women's Center
 1076 Marlboro Way Road, Suite 1
 Bennettsville, SC 29512
 843.454.2294

Lake View Center
 103 N. Kemper Street
 Lake View, SC 29563
 843.759.2189

Bishopville Center
 545 Sumter Highway
 Bishopville, SC 29010
 803.484.5317

Latta Center
 122 Latimer Street
 Latta, SC 29565
 843.627.6252

Bishopville Pediatric Dental
 101 Harris Street
 Bishopville, SC 29010
 866.815.9845

McColl Center
 3080 Highway 15-401 E.
 McColl, SC 29570
 843.523.5751

Cheraw Center
 812 State Road
 Cheraw, SC 29520
 843.537.0961
 843.921.6711 (Foot Care)

Society Hill Center
 737 S. Main Street
 Society Hill, SC 29593
 843.378.4501

Chesterfield Center
 204 Perry Wiley Way
 Chesterfield, SC 29709
 843.623.5080

CSC Community Pharmacy Locations

HARTSVILLE
 1280 South Fourth Street
 843.339.5530

LATTA
 122 Latimer Street
 843.627.6261

BENNETTSVILLE
 999 Cheraw Street
 843.456.7777

BISHOPVILLE
 545 Sumter Highway
 803.588.7960

CHERAW
 812 State Road
 843.865.4080

SOCIETY HILL
 737 S. Main Street
 843.378.4148

MCCOLL
 3080 Highway 15-401 E.
 843.523.6212

CHESTERFIELD
 204 Perry Wiley Way
 843.927.1030

DILLON
 1016 Old Latta Highway
 843.627.7154

Contact
 PO Box 1090
 Hartsville, SC 29551
 Telephone: 843.857.0111
 Fax: 843.857.0150

Website: www.caresouth-carolina.com



Congratulations!



2025 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



CareSouth Carolina has named Nick Johnson, Deputy Director of Maintenance, as its Employee of the Year for 2025, recognizing his consistent dedication, leadership, and genuine care for both colleagues and the communities the organization serves.

Johnson, who has been with CareSouth Carolina since 2018, was selected after first being recognized as Employee of the Month in September—an honor voted on by peers and supervisors—before ultimately earning the top distinction through board review.

“Nick’s commitment was on full display recently when one of our employees was involved in a work-related incident,” his nomination read. “Upon immediate notification, Nick stopped what he was doing and rushed straight to the scene. His actions went far above and beyond his normal responsibilities. He ensured the driver’s safety, managed the clean-up, and even went to the ER that evening, staying until nearly 10 p.m. to personally check on the driver’s well-being. Nick’s work ethic and genuine care for both CareSouth and his coworkers are truly unmatched. He never sought recognition or praise, but his compassion speaks volumes.”

In his role, Johnson supports facilities across the organization, a responsibility he says is one of the most rewarding parts of the job.

“Being in a different spot every day, and working with different people,” Johnson said, when asked what he enjoys most about his work.

Despite the recognition, Johnson remains characteristically humble about the honor.

“Honestly, I feel like all I was doing was just my job,” he said. “But sometimes just doing your job, from your perspective, can be something big on somebody else’s side. We had 12 people who stood out inside the company as Employees of the Month throughout the year. This company is full of good employees.”

Outside of work, Johnson keeps things simple and personal.

“Working for my wife,” he joked. “She keeps me busy.”