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2023

WINTER EDITION

CareSouth Carolina Named Community Partner of the Year by SC Thrive



CareSouth Carolina named 2022 Community Partner of the Year by SC Thrive. The award, which is given annually to a community partner who has demonstrated excellence in partnering with SC Thrive, was presented by Richard Moses, Chief Community Relations Officer for SC Thrive. On hand to receive the award were CareSouth Carolina Chief of Community Health Joe Bittle and Marek Calhoun, CSC's Director of Social and Community Services.

"We could not be more honored by this recognition by SC Thrive," said CareSouth Carolina CEO Ann Lewis. "The CareSouth Carolina relationship with SC Thrive has been a long-term one and has been essential in meeting the needs of our patients. We are humbled by this award."

"We're so pleased to have CareSouth Carolina as our partner of the year," said Moses. "This award goes to the statewide partner that exemplifies the core values of SC Thrive. In addition, CSC is that partner that goes above and beyond in delivering quality healthcare to the citizens of the Pee Dee area."

"It's an honor to have been selected as SC Thrive's Community Partner of the Year," Calhoun added. "As an organization, we have had a partnership with SC Thrive that spans close to 10 years. Their Thrive Hub system helps my staff to address many of the social barriers identified in CSC patients and individuals and families in the community we serve. I am so proud of the work we do to improve the overall quality of life for our patients and community."

SC Thrive helps South Carolinians navigate the complex system of available benefits, leading those in need of stability while positively impacting the quality of life in communities across the state.

"We partner with SC Thrive to utilize their Thrive Hub systems which allows Family Support Services staff to provide application assistance to our patients and the community to assist them submitting applications for programs such as Medicaid, SNAP and TANF," Calhoun said.

CareSouth Carolina Opens its First Food Pantry in Bishopville

CareSouth Carolina hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 26, at the organization's first food pantry. The building, located at 106 Hospital Square, Bishopville, S.C., formerly served as Dr. Leon E. Hunt's medical office.



"It is an emergency food assistance pantry," said CareSouth Carolina Community Health Educator Christy Beasley. "Anyone with a need can get food at no cost. If they are getting for more than themselves, they need a household summary from the Department of Social Services (DSS)."

The food pantry is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. "If you need assistance at different times, contact CareSouth Carolina's Bishopville office to set up a referral," Beasley said. That contact number is 803-484-5317. The building serves as a community resource center all week from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CareSouth Carolina's Jaquetta Graham named Community Health Worker of the Year



Jaquetta Graham,
FSS Program
Coordinator

CareSouth Carolina Family Support Service (FSS) Program Coordinator Jaquetta Graham has been named the Community Health Worker of the Year by the South Carolina Community Health Worker Association.

"This award is given to the Community Health Worker (CHW) for their outstanding service and excellence in the CHW profession and the work they do within the community and within their organizations," said CareSouth Carolina Community Services Director Marek Calhoun.

Graham, who began her career with CareSouth Carolina six years ago as a Patient Advocate before becoming a Community Outreach Specialist, a CHW, then Technical Advisor and eventually moving into her current position, said she is extremely passionate about helping the people in her community.

"I have a strong passion for people to be successful," Graham said. "especially being out in the community and helping people to be their healthiest. I have worked closely with George General (CSC Bishopville Site Administrator) and Dr. (Jeniqua) Duncan as well as other providers at CareSouth Carolina to come up with ways we can close those gaps that exist."

Two areas of healthcare Graham is particularly focused on improving are diabetes and mammograms.

"We see a lot of people that are pre-diabetic and we want to educate them about their A1C, make sure they're getting their annual screenings and managing their diabetes," Graham said. "Also, I have been able to help with mammograms. I actually have a close friend who I encouraged to get a screening and they found cancer."

Graham was presented with the award on December 16th in Columbia by the South Carolina Community Health Worker Association (SCCHWA), which is made up of CHWs and supporters who are building a healthier South Carolina through the promotion of education, networking and advocacy for the community health worker profession.

CareSouth Carolina presented with Telehealth Program of Excellence Award



CareSouth Carolina was presented the Telehealth Program of Excellence Award at the 10th Annual Telehealth Summit in Charleston on November 9-10. CareSouth Carolina Associate Medical Director Jeri Andrews, FNP, and Reaching Out and Delivering Services (ROADS) Telehealth Provider Staci Cassidy, FNP-C, were on hand to receive the award, which was presented by S.C. Lt. Governor Pamela Evette.

CareSouth Carolina was nominated for the award for its expansion of school-based telehealth services. Also, during the summit there was a viewing of the "House-calls: Healthcare in the Digital Age" Documentary that was produced by SC ETV. The documentary takes a deep dive into the telehealth world and how we are using technology to visit patients virtually. It originally aired on Sept. 21, 2022, and can be viewed by visiting SC ETV's homepage.

CareSouth Carolina started telehealth before COVID by partnering with our local schools to give students and families access to quality, convenient healthcare access. Since COVID, Telehealth has played a vital role at CareSouth Carolina by offering treatment for our patients no matter where they are located.

CareSouth Carolina awarded an Outreach and Enrollment Grant worth more than \$600,000

CareSouth Carolina recently received a grant for \$664,179 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources, according to Marek Calhoun, Community Services Director for CareSouth Carolina. Calhoun said the money will be used over a three-year period to fund outreach and enrollment strategies aimed at educating families about the availability of Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and directly assists families with the application and renewal process.

"This was a very competitive grant," said Calhoun, adding that CareSouth Carolina was the only recipient in the state. "In all, 36 organizations in 20 states were awarded this funding, but we were the only one in South Carolina," he said. Since grant funding initiatives began in 2009, more than 330 awards to eligible entities have been issued for approximately \$265 million to community-based organizations, states, and local governments. Connecting Kids to Coverage (CKC) outreach grants share the common goal of reducing the number of children who are eligible for Medicaid and CHIP but not enrolled.

"At CareSouth Carolina we're in a position to enroll individuals in Medicaid and CHIP," said Calhoun. "One of the things we do is reach out to those in our community who may not even realize these programs are available to them. I think it's important for not only individuals as adults to have access to quality healthcare whether or not they are insured, but it's even more important for our children to have access to health insurance so they can have a long and healthy life."



**ALL CARESOUTH CAROLINA OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2023 IN OBSERVANCE OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING.**

Commemorative Portrait Unveiled at Private Ceremony



CareSouth Carolina held a private staff Commemorative Portrait Dedication Ceremony on October 5, in memory of Tim Brown, MSN, FNP-BC.

At the ceremony a portrait of Brown was unveiled as well as a shadowbox containing Brown's medical items. These items will be displayed at the Latta site, where Brown worked for nearly five years.

Speakers included CareSouth Carolina CEO Ann Lewis, co-worker Kris Lane, FNP, Community Health Technical Advisor Latasha Bethea, and Mark Sobiski, Director of the CareFirst Carolina Foundation.

Cysandra Goins named CareSouth Carolina 2022 Employee of the Year



Cysandra Goins,
*Ultrasound
Technologist*

CareSouth Carolina Ultrasound Technologist Cysandra Goins was named the 2022 Employee of the Year during the organization's Staff Meeting on December 14. Goins, who has been with CareSouth Carolina since 2016, said she was "truly honored and humbled" to receive this award.

"My career as an ultrasound technologist has been very fulfilling," Goins said. "I have been very fortunate to find an organization such as CareSouth Carolina, that aligns with my own personal values and commitments which are to openly serve with excellence, joy, respect, integrity and trust. I would also like to give an enormous salute to all of the respected nominees for this year."

CareSouth Carolina Chief Personnel Officer Denise Ellis said Goins was nominated by a provider at her office after taking life-saving measures for a patient. Goins had received an order to perform an abdominal/pelvic scan because the patient was complaining of severe pain, Ellis explained. While doing a routine ultrasound she scanned a vessel that alarmed her. Ellis went on to say that Goins was concerned it could be an aneurysm surrounded by thrombosis – or clot - and transferred the patient to the hospital via ambulance. The patient was referred to a vascular surgeon for repair.

"Cysandra saved this woman's life," Ellis said. "We were lucky that a bad outcome didn't occur prior to her surgery. Cysandra puts patients first, always."

CareSouth Carolina CEO Ann Lewis congratulated Goins on the award saying, "I am so proud that Cysandra has received this recognition. She has made such a difference to so many patients with an unselfish, compassionate and caring manner. We are so fortunate to have her at CareSouth Carolina."

CareSouth Carolina presents Palmetto Care Connections with Annual Partnership Award



Each year CareSouth Carolina presents an award to an organization or individual in our community with whom it partners in various capacities. This year's recipient was Palmetto Care Connections (PCC), a non-profit telehealth network that assists healthcare providers in connecting rural and underserved South Carolinians to quality services through broadband, technology and telehealth programs.

According to CareSouth Carolina CEO Ann Lewis, the fact that Palmetto Care Connections "has worked and will continue to work diligently to ensure our patients and healthcare facilities have broadband access for telehealth and other healthcare needs," made them the clear choice for this year's award.

"What an amazing difference Palmetto Care Connections makes across not only the CareSouth Carolina service area, but the entire state of South Carolina," Lewis said. "Going beyond just providing access, PCC also works to provide digital training and technology support – essential in many of our rural underserved areas."

Telehealth refers to a broad scope of remote healthcare services, including clinical care (called telemedicine) and non-clinical services such as provider training, consultations between providers and continuing medical education.

"In this case, Palmetto Care Connections provides financial and technical support for broadband connections at all of our offices," said CareSouth Carolina Associate Medical Director Jeri Andrews, FNP who presented the award to Kathy Schwarting, Palmetto Care Connections CEO, and Chief Technology Officer Matt Hiatt at CSC's Staff Meeting on December 14. "They provide the telehealth software program we use in our school-based program as well as provide ongoing technical support for the software and devices in the schools."

Services:

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

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, 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
 715 S. Doctors Drive Suite E
 Cheraw, SC 29520
 843.537.0961

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

Public Employee Health
 Services - Marlboro County
 100 Matheson Street
 Bennettsville, SC 29512
 843.456.7752

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
 715 S. Doctors Drive, Suite A
 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



Contact
 PO Box 1090
 Hartsville, SC 29551
 Telephone: 843.857.0111
 Fax: 843.857.0150
 Website: www.caresouth-carolina.com

CareSouth Carolina Welcomes New School-Based Counselor



TABITHA HENNAGAN, MA, LPC

Licensed Professional Counselor Tabitha Hennagan, LMSW has joined the CareSouth Carolina team of Behavioral Health professionals. She is a school-based counselor located at McColl Elementary/Middle School. Hennagan says she is passionate about making sure the people in our community are both physically and mentally healthy.

"When people feel that they are doing well physically and mentally, they tend to have a better attitude and tend to want more out of life," she explains. "These same people tend to want others to benefit from the joy and feeling of success that they are experiencing and this helps the community to grow and have peace."

Hennagan earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from S.C. State University in Orangeburg, and her Master of Arts in Psychology and Professional Counseling from Argosy University in Atlanta, Ga.

"One of the challenges that we have to overcome in rural communities is building trust with the community," Hennagan said. "Living in a rural community, I have found that people tend to flock to services from professionals that they know and that have a stake in the community. I have attended events sponsored by CareSouth Carolina or attended an event where CareSouth Carolina has been represented and I am always pleased with what I observe."

Outside of work Hennagan enjoys reading, singing, listening to music and spending time with her family.

CareSouth Carolina Welcomes New Behavioral Health Provider to Bennettsville



NICHELLE BIVENS, LMSW

CareSouth Carolina welcomes Nichelle Bivens, Licensed Master Social Worker, to its Bennettsville office. Originally from Cheraw, Bivens said she decided to return to the area to practice because she is very family oriented and passionate about behavioral health.

"I loved the convenience of living in a city," she said about her time in Charleston, where she worked as an advocate in the Family Court System through the Guardian ad Litem Program, "but I missed the sense of connection to others that is associated with living in rural communities."

CareSouth Carolina Director of Behavioral Health Amy Cook, LISW says she is excited to have Bivens on staff. "She brings an abundance of knowledge and experience to CareSouth Carolina," Cook said. "We are lucky she chose to become a part of the CSC family!"

After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Francis Marion University, Bivens served within Child Protective Services in the family preservation unit.

Bivens went on to earn a Master of Social Work from Tulane University in 2019, and worked with the ALPHA Behavioral Health Center in Chesterfield.

"I am passionate about providing support and service to others, and helping to facilitate change. It takes a lot of strength to seek help, and I've seen the smallest of us struggle and work very hard to cope or change their situation and if I can play a small part in assisting them with this then count me in."

Outside of work Bivens enjoys reading, DIY craft and home projects, spending time with family and taking care of her chickens.

If you would like to schedule an appointment with Bivens call 843-479-2341.