



Health Services Provided at 'Stand Up For Veterans' Event

CareSouth Carolina and the CareFIRST Carolina Foundation offered free medical and dental screenings for veterans during the inaugural "Stand Up For Veterans" event held Saturday, Nov. 17. Sixty-four veterans from throughout CareSouth Carolina's service area of Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Lee and Marlboro counties and surrounding areas were served medical and dental care visits.

"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 thank our partners who helped us make this possible," CareFIRST Carolina Foundation Director Mark Sobiski said.

The purpose of the event was to offer medical and dental care at no cost to local veterans to honor their service and expedite needed care. Services provided by the medical staff included blood sugar testing, oxygen level testing, blood pressure reading and hemoglobin (H1C) 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



The CareFIRST Carolina Foundation and CareSouth Carolina held the inaugural "Stand Up For Veterans" event on Nov. 17 in Hartsville. Veterans from throughout the region were provided medical and dental care. A variety of veteran-related organizations also participated by providing information and services.

ed pain and need level with same day treatment provided.

In addition to CareSouth Carolina and the CareFIRST Carolina Foundation, the Hartsville United Way was a Title Sponsor for the event with Life-Line Mobile Services, Sandhill Telephone Cooperative, and an anonymous donor being Partner Sponsors. Gold Star Sponsors were Carolina Bank, Karen Currin, CPA, and First Citizens Bank.



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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Representatives from the CareFIRST Carolina Foundation and CareSouth Carolina attending the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Marlboro Area Regional Transportation Initiative (MARTi) on Dec. 18 in Bennettsville.

Foundation Plays Pivotal Role in New MARTi Service

A goal set by CareSouth Carolina CEO Ann Lewis at the organization's 2018 strategic planning session was to improve access to medical care as well as essential services for the residents of CareSouth Carolina's five-county service area. With the opening of a new CareSouth Carolina facility in McColl funded through a generous donation by the C.W. and Dorothy Love Foundation and the new building being a mile out of town finding a way to connect patients to the facility was needed.

Marlboro Area Regional Transportation Initiative (MARTi) started as a conversation between CSC board member and state representative Pat Henegan, Charles Love, Jr. of the C.W. & Dorothy Love Foundation and Mark Sobiski of CareFIRST Carolina Foundation. While initially only a local shuttle bus was considered between McColl and the new facility, other communities were also in need of transportation services. This conversation resulted in a call to the Pee

Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA). Marlboro County Administrator Ron Munnerlyn also called PDRTA to inquire about local transportation needs.

A partnership evolved between PDRTA, Marlboro County and the CareFIRST Carolina Foundation. The foundation acted as a facilitator for the project to help find a way to secure and leverage local funds to support a larger coverage area.

The CareFIRST Carolina Foundation in conjunction with Marlboro County and PDRTA secured financial sponsors for the initiative. These sponsors include the Federal Transit Administration, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, Marlboro County Economic Development Corp., Love Foundation, CareFirst Carolina Foundation, CareSouth Carolina, Vantage Point, the City of Bennettsville, Scotland Memorial Hospital, Town of Clio, Town of McColl and Town of Blenheim.

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Annual Golf Tournament Teeing Off May 15

CareFIRST Carolina Foundation will sponsor its annual golf tournament on Wednesday, May 15, at Cheraw State Park. Tournament proceeds will be used to support CareSouth Carolina's school-based children's services, the "Miles of Smiles" mobile dental program and the ROADS team medical outreach program.

These programs allow children with no health care home or dental provider a way to access much needed care. The SC Dept. of Health and Human Services records show only 36% of children on Medicaid under the age of 18 received any preventative dental service. Proceeds from the tournament insure that no child in pain is turned away. CareSouth Carolina serves Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Lee and Marlboro counties.

Specifically, the foundation is working to raise these funds to purchase supplies for the "Miles of Smiles" dental program. The program is operated by qualified dentist, dental hygienists and staff from CareSouth Carolina.

CareSouth Carolina Executive Director Ann Lewis said "This is a much needed project. The fact that



CareFirst Carolina Foundation volunteers enjoyed hosting the 2018 golf tournament at Cheraw State Park.

over 22,000 children in our area have no dental insurance or can not afford any preventative care is something that together we can do something about."

The tournament, with a captain's choice format, will begin with a shotgun start at 1 PM. There is a \$20,000 prize for a hole-in-one on the fifth hole. Teams of four may be registered for a \$250 donation to the CareFIRST

Carolina Foundation. Walk-on players are welcome at \$70 per player.

According to Foundation President Charlie Gray, "The 'Miles of Smiles' unit helps address both the area's unmet dental needs as well help ease many of the transportation barriers faced by local families in accessing care," Foundation President Charlie Gray said. "It gives CareSouth Carolina the ability to bring dental services directly to those who need them using an existing community center, church, or local school as a service delivery point."

For more information on the golf tournament, contact Mark Sobiski at 843-309-8120 or 843-339-1920 (cell).

MARTi

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"None of the partners could have accomplished this on their own and together have created a much needed service for Marlboro County," CareFIRST Carolina Foundation Director Mark Sobiski said. "Facilitating change and assisting patients find ways to access care has always been the mission of CareFIRST Carolina Foundation. CareFIRST is proud to be able to shepherd this initiative and act as an agent for positive change in our region."

MARTi, a free bus service, began on Dec. 10 with over 350 riders utilizing the service before year's end. In the first full month of service in January over 630 individuals were served. The service operates Monday-Friday between 9:30 AM and 5 PM.

A partnership with Vantage Point began in March and will enhance the utilization for senior adults. This includes a demand response aspect to help

"We need the folks in Marlboro County to be healthy, energized, effective citizens able to work, able to be productive, able to be engaged and making a difference."
—Ann Lewis, CEO
CareSouth Carolina



the homebound and elderly get to essential services. Also in April 2019 a phone application begins that allows potential riders to see, via GPS, where the bus is in real time and to know when it will arrive at a particular stop.

An employment loop was established in March to provide transportation for employees of large local employers like Mohawk. Expansions to other employers within the county and service areas near Wallace/Cheraw are also being considered.

Foundation Frequently Asked Questions

Who benefits from my donation?

Your donations are used to support all individuals and families in our five county service area (Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Lee and Marlboro) who are patients of CareSouth Carolina.

Is CareFIRST Carolina a non-profit institution?

Yes, CareFIRST Carolina Foundation, is a private, non-profit supporting foundation serving the needs of CareSouth Carolina, a community health center and its patients. CareSouth Carolina is also a non-profit institution and its stakeholders are the people in all the communities we serve. Our dollars go to assist those in greatest need and provide them proper medical assessment and services.

Will my donation be used locally?

Yes! Your dollars will go into our regional "friends and neighbors fund" and will be used to help your friends and neighbors that come into

any of our CareSouth facilities and need a helping hand. The funds will be used to help them access needed medications, specialty services, or help support our board initiatives to bring additional medical services to our communities.

CareFIRST Prescription Assistance

October—December, 2018

\$7,467.07

Prescriptions	County
43	Chesterfield
144	Darlington
125	Dillon
41	Lee
72	Marlboro
82	Other
507	Total



A patient came to our site with a lump on her breast. Her CareSouth provider requested that the foundation assist with a mammogram and follow up to determine possible breast cancer. The patient was not BEST CHANCE eligible but the condition is accelerating. CareFIRST Foundation was able to negotiate with a local hospital for the mammogram and follow up. The request amount was increased to \$450 to be sure adequate funds could be available in case of a positive determination of breast cancer. It would not be possible for her to afford this visit and follow up without the help of CareFIRST and the friends and neighbors funds. A biopsy and follow was covered by the foundation and the patient was found to need surgery and emergency State Medicaid was available for her thanks to the positive pathology acquired through CareFIRST Carolina funds.



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