

DONALSONVILLE HOSPITAL

Donalsonville, Georgia (Seminole County)

Located in the historic, but economically challenged, City of Donalsonville, in the far southwest corner of Georgia, Donalsonville Hospital is a well-respected, highly-ranked hospital that continuously strives to improve the quality of patient care and to address in a sustainable manner significant health care industry and local demographic changes.

As of the 2010 United States Census, 2,650 people resided in Donalsonville, with the racial makeup being 61.4% Black, 34.1% White, and the remaining from two or more races. The median family income was \$25,679, with males having a median income of \$24,464 versus \$16,451 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$13,095. About 25.4% of families and 32% of the population were below the poverty line, including 45.6% of those under age 18 and 27.6% of those age 65 or over.



Yet, in the face of this persistent poverty, in 2015 and 2016, the influential Georgia Trend magazine ranked Donalsonville Hospital as one of the state's top ten medium-sized hospitals. The rankings were based on data produced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS"), which provides public information on more than 40 quality-related indicators, including patient experience, outcomes of care, process of care, and efficiency and value of the services rendered.

An acute care hospital, Donalsonville Hospital's mission is to provide a uniform level of high-quality curative and pain-alleviating health care and diagnostic services to all who seek our aid and to refer those whose needs we cannot meet to other qualified and competent providers of care. A non-profit corporation, Donalsonville Hospital is governed by a five-member Board of Directors and is served by a seventeen-member medical staff, including ten active staff members and seven courtesy (i.e., limited patient admittance and procedures) staff.

The health care professionals at our hospital pride themselves on providing quality care to their patients, which is reflected in consistently high patient rankings.



*Committed
to Caring
One Patient
at a Time*

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Donalsonville Hospital:

- Offers diagnostic radiology and laboratory services to both inpatients and outpatients
- Operates a 24-hour physician-staffed emergency department
- Opened a 24-hour behavioral health unit, 12 Geriatric and 8 Adolescent beds, in July 2017.
- Provides 24/7 Emergency Services
- Provides both inpatient and outpatient general and gynecological surgery and outpatient endoscopy services
- Provides physical and occupational therapy to inpatient and outpatient groups
- Contracts with a licensed psychologist to provide mental health services
- Owns and operates Seminole Manor Nursing Home, a long term care hospital-based nursing home that provides care to both skilled and intermediate care patients
- Earned ISO 9001 accreditation, meaning that the hospital meets or exceeds rigorous CMS patient safety standards

In providing these valuable services to our community, Donalsonville Hospital has overcome numerous challenges to its financial viability and stability, including a lack of local indigent care funds. Five years ago, the hospital was profitable and experienced positive monthly cash flows; however, since 2014, due to the retirement of a very productive chief of staff and the re-location of one of our two OBGYNs, the hospital's patient census has gone from an average of 33.58 patients per day for fiscal year ending 6/30/2010 to 17.34 for fiscal year ending 6/30/2016.

Nevertheless, for the following reasons, we are optimistic about the hospital's future:

- Hospital Administration has worked diligently to keep staffing levels in line with reduced patient care needs, with staffing being reduced by 32% since 2010, for a total savings of \$1.5 million
- Employee benefits, local health projects, and contracted services have been reduced by \$1 million
- Hospital Administration has diligently been working to generate new services and future revenue stream
- Although the hospital has been debt-free for the past 25 years, we recently secured \$2 million in financing for a state-approved construction and initial start-up of a mental health wing, which will house 20 mental health beds consisting of twelve geriatric-psychological beds and eight adolescent-psychological beds. The new unit will provide much-needed mental health services to Seminole County and the surrounding area and will provide jobs for presently unemployed or underemployed healthcare workers in the area. This new unit is estimated to add \$1,000,000 of net profit to our bottom line.
- At a cost of \$360,000, the hospital is in the process of replacing the nurse call system, fire alarm system, and back-up generator, all of which are over 25 years old and in need of replacement.
- At a cost of \$1.5 million, over the next five years, the hospital plans to renovate current patient rooms and install new patient monitoring systems.
- At an estimated cost of \$200,000, the hospital plans to acquire another operating room table, portable ultrasound machine, OPS patient call system, defibrillator, and digital X-Ray unit.

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Most exciting of all, through our Physician Scholarship Program, five physicians who were able to intern at Donalsonville Hospital have committed to return to Donalsonville to practice medicine, with two family practice physicians and one OBGYN starting in July of 2017. We estimate that the staffing, supplies, and other office expenses (in excess of initial billings and collections) associated with the start-up of these three practices will be \$800,000, with an additional \$300,000 being required to expand our current medical office building.

In conclusion, Donalsonville Hospital's physical plant is in good condition; the equipment is up-to-date; the numbers of our well-trained physicians and other service providers are growing; and our Administration is committed to making sure our community has the best primary healthcare available. With your generous support, we will continue to focus on assessing the health care needs of our community and continuously strive to deliver quality and sustainable health care to the citizens of Donalsonville and Seminole County.

For more information about Donalsonville Hospital, including financial information, please contact Chuck Orrick at corrck01@windstream.net.