

Higgins General Hospital, like many of Georgia's rural hospitals, is a community-built, community-driven hospital. Its mission – to improve the health of the communities it serves – and its mantra of *neighbors caring for neighbors* takes many forms, from award-winning patient satisfaction to an exceptional level of quality.

The community built Higgins General Hospital because residents in rural Haralson County have long understood how important access to care is to a region's health and its economy. Now part of the nonprofit Tanner Health System, Higgins General Hospital works to provide care to every member of the community, regardless of ability to pay. Fulfilling its mission to provide care to every member of the community comes at a cost. The hospital provided more than \$10 million in uncompensated care (including indigent care, charity care and bad debt) in the last fiscal year alone. Donations from private residents and local organizations – and the careful stewardship of Tanner's all-volunteer board of local residents – are essential to continuing that mission.



As detailed in the demographic data on page 3, Higgins General Hospital is working to deliver care to an aging and increasingly diverse population. As rural Haralson County's only hospital, Higgins General Hospital and its supporters are a lifeline to the region, connecting residents to:

- 24-hour emergency care
- Inpatient hospital services
- Critical care services
- Rehabilitation and swing bed care
- Lab services
- Diagnostic imaging services
- Minimally invasive surgical care
- And more

The fate of those services are in the hands of the community that first opened Higgins General Hospital. In the coming years, Higgins General Hospital expects to invest more than \$5 million in diagnostic imaging equipment upgrades – including a new CT, MRI system, digital X-ray machine, C-arm units for the hospital's operating suites, mammography upgrades and more. Another \$7 million will be necessary as the hospital upgrades its software system to keep pace with increasing improvements to electronic medical records, and a \$200,000 investment is necessary to establish telemedicine services to connect patients with an even wider range of health specialists.

These costs in continuing to offer a competitive level of care seem staggering, and they would be unattainable without your support.

By making a donation through the SB 285 tax credit and the Georgia HEART program, you become part of the region's legacy of neighbors caring for neighbors, working together to ensure quality medical care is available to *everyone*.



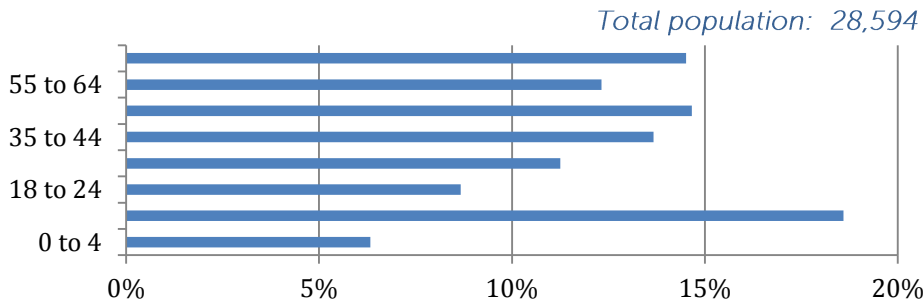
This year alone, Higgins General Hospital is expected to provide care for almost 20,000 emergency department visits, more than 1,200 surgical procedures and almost 650 gastrointestinal procedures — including lifesaving colonoscopy procedures — and almost 1,900 digital screening mammograms. The hospital's innovative swing bed program is helping residents regain their health in the care of a specialized patient care team, so more people are able to live independently after discharge with fewer readmissions.

Already, Higgins General Hospital is moving forward with construction of a new, state-of-the-art surgical center and a sound financial plan to make the necessary improvements in technology and services while keeping the hospital viable. Your support through Georgia HEART not only rewards you with a generous state tax credit, but helps defray the growing amount of charity care the hospital must cover, enabling it to invest in the new services and equipment upgrades that will allow it to provide an even higher standard of care in Haralson County and west Georgia.

Your help is vital in making sure Higgins General Hospital is available to serve the generations of west Georgians to come. Be part of our community's story. Our region's health is in your hands.

Understanding Our Region: Haralson County Demographic Snapshot

Haralson County Population by Age



51.36% of the population is female.

Education Attainment

25.83%	Population over 25 with no high school diploma (10.57% higher than the state average)
18.74%	Population over 25 with associate's degree or higher (16.16% less than the state average)
14.10%	Population over 25 with bachelor's degree or higher (13.90% less than the state average)

Uninsured Rates

17,005	Population age 18 – 64
4,019	Population without medical insurance
23.63%	Percent population without insurance