

# Jeff Davis Hospital

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Hazlehurst, Georgia (Jeff Davis County)

<http://www.jeffdavishospital.org>

Immersed in the natural beauty of pine forests and fertile river lands of Jeff Davis County in South Georgia, Jeff Davis Hospital, is a small, geographically remote facility that provides outpatient and inpatient hospital services to the residents of Hazlehurst and its surrounding communities. Like most of America's rural hospitals, Jeff Davis Hospital faces many financial and demographic challenges. Through the generous support of donors to



the Georgia HEART rural hospital tax credit program, our hospital hopes to continue to provide access to quality health care, to our neighbors, including the poor and elderly.

As of the 2010 United States Census, there were 15,068 people, 5,689 households, and 4,079 families residing in the county of Jeff Davis. The racial makeup of the county was 76.1% white, 14.8% black or African American, 0.5% Asian, 0.2% American Indian, 7.3% from other races, and 1.2% from two or more races. Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 10.5% of the population. The median income for a household in the county was \$32,928. Males had a median income of \$33,340 versus \$27,126 for females. The per capita income for the county of Jeff Davis was \$15,730. Jeff Davis is ranked at 138 of 159 counties per capita income in Georgia. About 14.9% of families and 24.0% of the population were below the poverty line, including 31.2% of those under age 18 and 19.5% of those ages 65 or over.

The 2010 Census figures for Telfair County, which Jeff Davis Hospital also serves, are comparable ones, with significantly higher percentages of minority families (36.5% black and 12.3% Hispanic), a lower per capita income (\$13,420), and a higher poverty rate (23.3% of families below poverty line).

Jeff Davis Hospital's goal is to improve the health and health care of all residents of Jeff Davis and Telfair Counties. Our hospital faces many financial challenges, such as Medicare cuts, increases in uncompensated care for those unable to pay their medical bills, cost increases, reimbursement reductions, and technology investments.

Of our patients, 70% have Medicare/Medicaid in which we only are reimbursed 36 cents on the dollar for what we bill. Of our Emergency Room patients, 40% are self-pay and the vast majority of self-pay patients ultimately do not pay their medical bills. Each year, on average, our hospital provides \$3.4 million in uncompensated care to patients. This is done without any county subsidy except county tax support from SPLOST<sup>1</sup> funds in the amount of \$240,000 per year. This is a small dent in the ever-growing financial struggles of our hospital to provide care to those underserved.

Jeff Davis Hospital plays a vital role in the economic activity of the community. We have 163 employees. Economists report the economic impact our employees contribute is over \$11 million into the economy. Thus, the health and economy of our community relies on the future sustainability of our hospital. For this reason, it is essential for us to secure the financial resources necessary to provided services.

Since opening August 8, 1963, Jeff Davis Hospital has grown to become a licensed 25-bed, Joint Commission Accredited Critical Access Hospital. Our Medical Staff consists of thirteen Primary Care providers, a General Surgeon, Radiologists, Pathologists, and a Psychiatrist. The hospital provides Inpatient, Outpatient, Observation and Swing Bed Services to our patients. Emergency Room Care is available 24/7 and is staffed by a contracted Emergency Physician Group. Diagnostic services are provided including: respiratory, radiology, and laboratory services. Both inpatient and outpatient surgical services including endoscopy and laparoscopy services are provided. Therapy services are provided for our swing bed program, and mental health services are provided through our Outpatient Behavioral Health Program. To further meet the needs of our community, we have been granted a Certificate of Need to build a 10 - bed inpatient adult psychiatric unit, at a cost of \$2.5 million. The hospital's Georgia HEART contributions will be applied toward the cost of this new psychiatric unit.

Our Hospital has identified a 5 - year projected sustainability plan. This plan identifies Revenue Cycle Improvements, Cost Savings and Growth Opportunities. The County, Hospital Authority, and Medical Staff support the sustainability plan and are making the necessary corrections to the current financial situation, but so much more is still needed to ensure the hospitals financial wellbeing.

During the past decade, Jeff Davis Hospital has changed and expanded to keep pace with the dramatic advances in modern medicine and to meet the demand for new services in both the hospital and the growing Southeast Georgia Community. In the last six months we have made tremendous improvements in our financial well-being, but much is still needed to insure our sustainability. With your financial support, you will be assisting in safeguarding the health and well-being of our community.

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<sup>1</sup> A special-purpose local-option sales tax (SPLOST) is a financing method for funding capital outlay projects in the U.S. state of Georgia. It is an optional 1% sales tax levied by any county for the purpose of funding the building of parks, schools, roads, and other public facilities.

Thank you for supporting Jeff Davis Hospital with your donations. For more information about our hospital, please contact Tammy Mims, CEO at [tmims@jeffdavishospital.com](mailto:tmims@jeffdavishospital.com) or visit our website at [www.jeffdavishospital.org](http://www.jeffdavishospital.org)