

## **Putnam General Hospital**

Eatonton, Georgia (Putnam County)

<http://www.putnamgeneral.com>

Putnam General Hospital, located in Eatonton, Georgia serves Putnam and surrounding counties in the beautiful twin lake area of central Georgia. It is perfectly located in the middle of the “diamond” between Athens, Augusta, Macon, and Atlanta. Putnam General Hospital has been in continuous operation since

It opened its doors in 1968. We provide top quality patient care 100% of the time and constantly strive to improve our services. Through difficult times, we stand strong on our mission and promises to our community and work hard to provide the best healthcare available in this area. Although Putnam General has received financial assistance from Putnam County in the past, it is not enough to meet all the costs of uncompensated care that the hospital provides.



As of the 2010 United States Census, 21,218 people reside in Putnam County, with the racial make being 67.9% White, 26.0% Black or African American and 6.3% are Hispanic. The median family income was \$25,673, lower than the national average of \$29,701. Putnam County has a poverty rate of 11.1%, and an unemployment rate of 8.1% higher, than the national average. Putnam General Hospital is a 25 bed Critical Care Access Hospital that is Joint Commission accredited. We are an active member of the Georgia Hospital Association, and a partner with the STRATUS Healthcare Alliance. We offer 24/7 Emergency Care, Lab, Radiology, Surgical Services, Physical Therapy, including Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy, both inpatient and outpatient, Swing Beds, Sleep Disorder Clinic, and Respiratory Services. In March 2017 our Wound Center Department should be open and seeing patients—the only center of its type in this area. Additionally, Putnam General will continue to develop health programs to assist in improving the overall health of the community, thus reducing the financial burden of providing costly, episodic crisis care in the Emergency Department.

While providing these valuable services as well as educational opportunities for our community, our Health Needs Assessment for Putnam General Hospital has identified several other areas of opportunity to improve the health needs of our community. These areas include:

- **Access to Care**—several of the residents in our community lack health insurance and are unable to access care through primary care physicians. We have proposed to renovate and redesign the flow of the Emergency Department at Putnam General Hospital to better accommodate not only true emergency patients but also those seeking primary care. The projected cost to renovate and expand the Emergency Department is \$2,500,000.
- **Heart Disease and Stroke**—there is a high risk of heart disease and stroke in our community as demonstrated by high prevalence of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and obesity. The Hospital offers free lab screening and health education in an attempt to have early identification of heart disease and stroke risk. There is a need to upgrade and replace equipment in our imaging department and cardiopulmonary department to further diagnose and treat those patients identified at risk. The projected cost of new imaging equipment is \$400,000.
- **Injury**—the Emergency Department at Putnam General Hospital sees several patients who are injured in motor vehicle accidents, falls and other accidents. Several of these patients require some type of surgical intervention. We have identified a need to upgrade the equipment in our Surgical Services Department to not only prepare us to treat these injuries, but to safely perform surgical procedures. The proposed cost of new surgical equipment is \$500,000.

In addition to addressing the listed opportunities above, 25% of the funds received each year from the tax credit donations will be used to offset the costs of providing uncompensated care to the residents of our community. By addressing the most significant issues identified in the Community Health Needs assessment, and continuing to offer health education to the community, Putnam General Hospital anticipates that we can improve the overall health of our community and reduce the financial burden of providing costly care in crisis situations. We believe early diagnosis and treatment will improve the needs of our patients and our community as a whole.

For more information about Putnam General Hospital, including financial information, please contact Alan Horton, CEO at [ahorton@putnamgeneral.com](mailto:ahorton@putnamgeneral.com).