

St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital
Greensboro, Greene County, Georgia
<http://www.stmarysgoodsam.org/>

St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital is guided by the St. Mary's Health Care System mission to be a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities. Serving the Greensboro and Greater Greene County areas of East Georgia, St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital is a 25-bed acute care critical access hospital accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. We offer a wide range of services including general surgery, inpatient care, swing bed program and a 24-hour emergency department. St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital brings specialty services close to home, provided by a network of board certified physicians.



St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital is located in Greene County, Georgia, the 56th largest county in the state in land area, but with a population of only 16,710. It is composed of five cities with its population centers in Greensboro and Union Point. Greene County at 22.5% has a significantly higher percentage of families and individuals living below the poverty level than the state of Georgia.

According to the 2015 County Health Rankings, Greene County also has higher percentages than Georgia in adult obesity (30%), mammogram screenings (69.5%), diabetes (15%) and many other significant health issues. As a result of these findings, focus areas have been identified and the hospital has developed a strategy plan around the needs it can most effectively influence. This plan focuses on developing and/or supporting initiatives that will hopefully improve the following health needs in Greene County: **Access to Care**, **Cancers**, and **Chronic Diseases**.

Commitment: Caring for the most vulnerable.

As a tax-exempt, Catholic healthcare provider, St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital offers charity and below-cost discounted care to patients who meet income criteria. One of our ministry's five Core Values is Commitment to Those Who are Poor. Funding from the tax credit will offset some of the costs of charity care so that we can continue providing access to quality care to the underserved, while remaining financially able to meet the future health care needs of our entire community. Tax credit donations will also help us offset some of the costs of other unreimbursed care, including bad debt, and bridge the gap between reimbursement and cost of care for Medicaid recipients. We will continue our commitment to providing quality healthcare for our local community, regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

Tax credit donations will not be used solely for the purpose of uncompensated care, but will strengthen our ability to provide care for the most vulnerable population in our community. Through the hospital's 2016 Community Needs Assessment and Implementation Plans, access to care for the under- and uninsured patient population was identified as a high priority focus area. The tax credit donations will help us continue to address this significant community need.

Sustainability: Looking at the future.



As a rural hospital, one of our primary challenges is to provide modern, life-saving services locally; otherwise, people in our community must travel 40 miles or more to reach hospitals in larger cities – travel time that is inconvenient at best, life-threatening at worst. The travel burden is even more problematic for some elderly and low-income patients in our community due to lack of transportation resources. In addition, we face significant financial challenges that create risks for our future ability to adequately address community health care needs.

These challenges include rising costs of pharmaceuticals, increasing labor and benefit costs, and costs related to necessary maintenance and updates for existing technology. These and other financial challenges currently outpace reimbursement rate increases from Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurers. Your tax credit donations will play a substantial role in allowing us to keep and provide quality healthcare locally.

St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital has an extensive track record of using donated funds to acquire equipment and technology that enables us to meet our local health care needs. Examples include inpatient telemetry monitoring, the REACH stroke telemedicine system, 3D mammography, and nuclear medicine. Ongoing support will help us further our patient care efforts by assisting in areas such as:

- **Expansion of telemedicine capabilities** to leverage technology for improved remote access to physician specialists for our hospitalized and emergency department patients. Enhanced telemedicine capabilities would reduce the number of patients needing transfer to a larger facility for care; provide quicker access to specialized expertise (such as cardiology, pulmonology, or neurology) – even in cases where patients might need to be transferred -- and provide a better care transition for patients who need to be followed-up on an outpatient basis.
- **Improved access to services and care** through assisting in the recruitment of primary care providers to the community, providing local availability for infusion services for patients in need of sometimes very costly intravenous medication therapy, and ensuring appropriate staffing to provide quality care in a timely manner in areas such as the emergency department.
- **Acquiring modern technology and equipment** that allows people in our community to receive care close to home. One example: we are currently evaluating the feasibility of installing a permanent MRI system.
- **Health-related renovations or improvements** to the existing facility to enhance patient care.
- **Ongoing support for equipment repair and replacement** and upgrading our technology in areas such as emergency, surgical, and inpatient patient care services.

Your tax credit donation in any amount to St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital will help to enhance our long-term ability to provide first-rate health care in our community. Together, we can **Help Enhance Access to Rural Treatment (HEART)**! For more information about Good Samaritan Hospital, please contact Beth Patrick epatrick@stmarysgoodsam.org or visit www.stmarysgoodsam.org.