



# Wills Memorial Hospital

Washington, Georgia Wilkes County

<https://www.willsmemorialhospital.com/>



With his wife Cherelle and son D'Mytri, heart attack survivor Calvin Wiggs III wants to thank Wills Memorial Hospital for saving his life.

## Quick Hospital Care Saves 38-year-old from 'Widow-Maker'

The News-Reporter, February 2, 2015

*A 38-year-old Washington man who recently suffered a heart attack they call "the widow-maker" is alive today because of the intervention of his family and the immediate care her got at Wills Memorial Hospital, and he wants the world to know.*

To read Calvin Wiggs III's complete News-Reporter story, click:

[http://www.news-reporter.com/news/2015-02-26/Front\\_Page/Familys\\_attention\\_quick\\_hospital\\_care\\_save\\_38yearo.html](http://www.news-reporter.com/news/2015-02-26/Front_Page/Familys_attention_quick_hospital_care_save_38yearo.html)

# Wills Memorial Hospital

Wills Memorial Hospital is a non-profit, 25 bed acute care facility located in historic Washington, Georgia. It is approximately 1 hour from the closest major medical facilities located in Augusta and Athens. WMH is designated a critical access hospital and it is accredited by the Joint Commission. The hospital focuses on providing complete medical care for the aging and medically underserved residents of Lincoln, Taliaferro, and Wilkes Counties.

WMH is governed by the Hospital Authority of Wilkes County and employs 170 people. The original facility opened in 1924 as Washington General Hospital. In 2012 a new inpatient wing, pharmacy, respiratory therapy department, registration, emergency room, reception, main entrance, specialty clinic, and physical therapy/occupational therapy facilities were completed.

## Services:

- Medical and Swing Bed Services
- 24 Hour Emergency Department
- Mobile Screening Mammography
- Digital Imaging Center with CT Scan
- Ultrasound and Mobile MRI
- Respiratory Therapy Services
- Physical, Occupational, & Speech Therapy
- Cardiac and Vascular Testing
- Nutritional Educational Services
- Sleep Disorder Studies
- Community Medical Associates of Washington & Lincoln
- CAP Licensed Clinical Laboratory
- Surgical Center

## Clinics:

- General Surgery
- Augusta University Cardiology
- Augusta University ENT
- Augusta University General Surgery
- Augusta University Urology
- Augusta University Vascular
- Orthopedics
- Podiatry
- Acute Surgical Care of Augusta General Surgery
- Senior Wellness Program



Wills Memorial Hospital Physical/Occupational Therapy is proud to "Keep our Tigers in the Game". Our therapists are renown in the region for the excellent care they provide.

The population of Wilkes County in 2015 was 10, 354. The racial make-up is 53.9% Caucasian, 39.7 African-American, 4% Hispanic, and 2.4% all others. The median family income is \$30, 640, compared to the median Georgia family income of \$44, 461. This equates to 24% of families in Wilkes County living in poverty. Twenty-five percent of the population of Wilkes County is aged 65 or over. Unemployment In the county is 9.4 %, compared to the Georgia average of 7.2%. These factors make traveling to the nearest major medical center, which is an hour away, nearly impossible for a large portion of our community.

Wills Memorial Hospital provides over \$1 million in indigent care to our community every year. We receive no financial support from our local county governments. However, we will not use funds donated through the Georgia Heart program to pay for prior debt or indigent care. We will use 100% of Georgia Heart funds to improve our current service-lines and provide new services to our community,. Through these improved and added service lines, we intend on producing additional revenue streams to ensure the hospital's sustainability. In March, WMH was able to add geriatric counseling services thanks to donations already contributed through the Georgia Heart program.

Other programs and services on our Georgia Heart wish list include:

- Operating Room upgrades to enable us to provide new services \$100,000
- Bladder Scanner and scopes used for cancer detection \$15, 000
- New IV pumps \$90,000
- New Code Blue System \$130,000
- New Physician Recruitment and start-up fees \$150, 000
- GeroPysch inpatient facility conversion \$300,000
- Digital Mammography Machine \$350,000



Dr. Wes Seabolt and the staff of the new WMH Senior Wellness Program  
This program addition was made possible by contributions to the Georgia Heart tax credit program.  
March, 2017



Willie Frank Blackburn with daughter and Wills Memorial Hospital  
Director of Nursing, Angie Radford

## **“Telestroke Technology Speeds Lifesaving Care”**

Chicago Tribune, May 31, 2016:

*In September, Willie Frank Blackburn of Washington, GA , a rural city of 5,000 people, had just left his auto shop when his tow truck slid off the road. Police officers who happened to be nearby found him slurring his speech and acting unlike the person they knew.*

*Blackburn was brought to the hospital by paramedics who called ahead because they understood that time plays an important role in the recovery of stroke victims. The telemedicine stroke team was ready for his arrival. Within minutes he'd had a CT scan. A cart with a mobile two-way camera that enables observation and has the ability to transmit scans was set up between Wills and Augusta University Medical Center, a major stroke facility where highly trained neurologists, usually not found in rural hospitals, are always on duty.*

*After looking at the scan and the patient, the experts at Augusta determined that Blackburn had had an ischemic stroke and instructed the Wills staff to inject tPA (tissue plasminogen activator), the only FDA-approved treatment for ischemic strokes. It dissolves clots and allows blood to flow to a brain that is being deprived of oxygen.*

*Once his condition stabilized, Blackburn was transferred for further care to Augusta. “The neurologist there told me that, had my father not received tPA so quickly, the damage from his stroke would have been devastating and irreversible,” says Angie Vickery (Blackburn’s daughter).*

To read Willie Frank Blackburn’s complete Chicago Tribune story, click :

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/health/sc-telestroke-health-0601-20160531-story.html>