FALL 2009

Hyperbaric medicine arrives in Anderson

New facility provides the latest treatment closer to home

Affiliations build a new Upstate health network

Flu limits visitation

Breast health imaging gets a boost

Hyperbaric medicine arrives in Anderson

New facility provides the latest treatment closer to home
Get your Mammo.
Meet Dabo.

One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. That’s why it’s so important for women over age 40 to get an annual mammogram.

All women who have their mammogram at AnMed Health in September, October or November can register to be one of 15 couples to win dinner with Coach Swinney and his wife Kathleen.

Get your mammogram in September, October or November and register to win dinner with Coach Swinney and his wife Kathleen.

Visit www.anmedhealth.org/mammo4dabo to learn more and for a list of winners.

Reform is on the way

Not long ago, my wife, Julie, and I were coming back from Columbia when we got stuck in a line at the toll station of the Southern Connector. The driver in front of us threw his quarters in the basket, but the light never changed. Eventually, he just ran the light. Julie and I pulled up, put four quarters in the basket, and again the light didn’t change. Julie suggested I add one more quarter, so I did. Immediately, the light turned green and we pulled through the toll station.

What we surmised is that the driver in front of us put in three quarters thinking the toll was still 75 cents. When he didn’t add another quarter, that cost was shifted onto us. The same happens in health care today. When the indigent need care or government programs don’t cover hospital expenses, those costs have to be made up somewhere. For the past several years, those costs have been shifted to the insured. As a result, health care costs have skyrocketed, and health reform is back on top of the national agenda.

Everyday, headlines spout the latest arguments for and against health care reform, socialized medicine and national health care. While these are hot topics in the political arena, they are not new ideas. Theodore Roosevelt first called for universal health care and national health insurance back in the early 1900s. The debate about whether we should treat health care as a right or a privilege has continued ever since.

America’s health care system needs fundamental change, the hardest kind of reform to achieve. When you talk about national health care, people begin using scare words like “rationing” benefits. There’s a difference between limiting something we need, like the gas rationing of the ’70s, and limiting things that we want.

Everyday, hospitals provide health care services that are wanted but aren’t a necessity. Other sensitive issues, such as end-of-life care and defensive medicine (i.e. ordering tests to avoid a lawsuit), are difficult to address without polarizing voters.

It’s clear that reform is needed. What’s uncertain is what it will look like. We know that to continue providing gold standard health care to all Upstate residents, AnMed Health needs to be more efficient. Our new affiliations with Cannon Memorial Hospital and Carolinas HealthCare System help us achieve that goal. This new network allows Cannon Memorial to tie into our resources and purchasing power without losing local ownership or control. AnMed Health gets to do the same with Carolinas HealthCare. As the hub of this new network, AnMed Health expects to save millions in group purchasing, negotiate better contracts with managed care companies and increase our bench strength in clinical areas.

I encourage you to read more about these affiliations on page 8. AnMed Health has never been more ready for the change that’s coming, and that should be good news for everyone in Anderson. After all, we’re in this together.
Breast exams will always be awkward, but a new piece of equipment is improving the experience for patients at AnMed Health. A longtime leader in breast imaging, AnMed Health is now one of the first health systems nationwide to use the Sentinelle Vanguard Breast MR Auxiliary Table for breast MRI.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or MRI, uses a magnetic field and pulses of radio waves to photograph the inside of the breast. Although mammography is the first line of defense against breast cancer, doctors are advising certain women to follow up their annual mammogram with breast MRI. MRI can show the breast’s normal structure, tissue damage or disease, inflammation, or a lump. The image quality often allows MRIs to show problems undetected by an ultrasound or mammogram.

“Breast MRI doesn’t replace mammography, but it is a helpful tool for screening women with known breast carcinoma, dense breast tissue or a strong family history of breast cancer,” said Dr. Kyle Bryans, one of four female radiologists at AnMed Health.

For women who need MRI, the Sentinelle Vanguard Breast MR Auxiliary Table promises a better experience. The table can be adjusted and customized for each patient, allowing for better positioning and images. To ensure the table isn’t outdated faster than an iPod, it is equipped with removable coils, or signal receivers, allowing for future upgrades as technology develops.

Bonnie Emanuel credits breast MRI with saving her life. A mammogram in November 2008 showed that she’d developed a few microcalcifications, tiny bits of calcium associated with extra cell activity in breast tissue. Given Emanuel’s family history of breast cancer, her doctor arranged for a breast MRI in mid-December. It was the MRI that identified a small cancer about 5 millimeters in diameter and ductal carcinoma in situ, or DCIS, a noninvasive condition that can progress into breast cancer.

As a result of the early detection, Emanuel’s prognosis is good and she’s able to treat the tumor with a combination of surgery and medicine instead of undergoing chemotherapy.

“It was something that because of her fibrocystic changes would have been very easy to miss,” said Ben Emanuel, a pathologist and Bonnie’s husband.

“Radiologists here are excellent at knowing who needs an MRI. It’s not just the modality of the equipment; it’s the people looking at the images.”

Radiology Director Kathy Hood said AnMed Health’s goal is to consistently provide the latest technology and the best patient care. That’s why Women’s Diagnostics offers private changing rooms, soothing water features and quick results. Waiting for results or additional tests adds to patients’ anxiety. So if a follow-up is needed, when women return they can receive same-day consultations and sometimes even same-day biopsies.

While the new breast MRI table was a definite improvement in comfort, Bonnie Emanuel said it was the MRI staff that made the biggest difference to her experience. They provided her with pillows, heated blankets and talked her through the 45-minute procedure.

“From nursing staff to ancillary, they worked with me to help me get as comfortable as you possibly could be,” she said.

Meet AnMed Health’s breast health specialists: Dr. Kyle Bryans, Dr. Carrie Cousar, Dr. Veena Mathur and Dr. Monica Grier of Diagnostic Radiology of Anderson.
Buck Hooper became a believer in hyperbaric medicine after it saved his big toe from amputation. Hooper is one of many Upstate residents who will benefit from having hyperbaric oxygen therapy closer to home.

Hyperbaric medicine arrives in Anderson County

A retired highway patrol officer, Buck Hooper is a trained skeptic. But it only took one round of hyperbaric oxygen therapy to make him a believer. Without the treatments, Hooper, 69, would have lost his big toe.

Hooper’s toe-threatening injury started when he was hanging wires for the sound system at a local church. Two days of climbing a ladder in dock shoes created a blister the size of a nickel on his big toe. For most people, blisters are a nuisance, but for diabetics like Hooper, Masters pose a serious issue. Diabetes can cause neuropathy, a nerve disease that lessens the foot’s sensitivity to pain. This reduces the body’s ability to heal and increases the risk of infections.

Hooper’s blister continually worsened. He sought treatment at AnMed Health’s Wound and Foot Care Clinic, but traditional wound care wasn’t working. The prognosis wasn’t good. If he didn’t start healing, he was facing amputation. “At that point, we’d try anything,” Hooper said.

A home health nurse who attends his church suggested hyperbaric oxygen. The high-dose oxygen treatments increase the amount of oxygen in the bloodstream to facilitate the healing of damaged tissue. Today, Hooper still has his toe and only a small callous to remind him of the experience.

AnMed Health didn’t have hyperbaric oxygen when Hooper was hurt. But that’s no longer the case. With the addition of AnMed Health’s Wound and Hyperbaric Medicine, Hooper and other patients have access to hyperbaric medicine right here in Anderson. The 3,300-square-foot center, located on the second floor of the Cancer Center, has two hyperbaric oxygen chambers and five exam/procedure rooms for outpatients.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy

Hyperbaric oxygen is used to treat a variety of conditions from smoke inhalation to crush injuries to hard-to-heal diabetic wounds. Common conditions treated by hyperbaric oxygen therapy include:

- Radiation tissue damage
- Preparation for tooth extraction or surgery in areas previously treated with radiation
- Comprised (hypoxic or ischemic) wounds
- Osteomyelitis (refractory)
- Gas gangrene
- Comprised skin grafts and muscle flaps
- Crush injuries, compartment syndrome or acute traumatic ischemia

Benefits of hyperbaric oxygen therapy

Hyperbaric oxygen allows for:

- Increased oxygen delivery to injured tissue
- Greater blood vessel formation
- Advanced wound healing
- Improved infection control
- Preservation of damaged tissues

In the past, patients had to travel for hyperbaric care. This facility will not only serve Anderson, but the whole Upstate area, Dr. Knoepp said. The difference in travel time is especially important when you consider that most patients receive 20 to 30 two-hour treatments. Hooper’s condition took 35 to 37 treatments. Including travel time, the treatments took four hours a day, five days a week, for nearly two months.

“If I ever need hyperbaric oxygen again, I hope to have it in Anderson,” Hooper said. “The drive was the worst part of the treatments.”

Diabetics like Hooper are only one group of patients who will benefit from hyperbaric medicine. Hyperbaric oxygen was first introduced to help divers recover from “the bends.” It can also be used to treat bone infections, tissue damage from radiation and exceptional blood loss.

The actual treatment was a pleasant experience, Hooper said. Patients relax in a pressurized chamber where their body makes when changing altitude in a car or airplane.

“I’m a firm believer in it,” Hooper said. “Family physicians, people who deal with wounds really need to look into it … If that doesn’t heal your wound, I don’t know what will.”

Candidates for hyperbaric oxygen therapy

Hyperbaric oxygen is used to treat a variety of conditions from smoke inhalation to crush injuries to hard-to-heal diabetic wounds. Common conditions treated by hyperbaric oxygen therapy include:

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New network takes shape in the Upstate

In health care, as in sports, size and depth matter. In August, AnMed Health announced two separate affiliation agreements—one with Cannon Memorial Hospital in Pickens and another with Carolina HealthCare System in Charlotte. These agreements put AnMed Health at the center of a new health care network for the Upstate.

The affiliation with Carolinas HealthCare allows AnMed Health to tie into the third largest non-profit health care system in the nation without giving up local ownership and control. Like a combination of a Costco membership and a consulting contract, the affiliation allows AnMed Health to learn from Carolinas HealthCare’s expertise and benefit from its economies of scale. The affiliation between AnMed Health and Cannon works the same way. Cannon ties into AnMed Health’s experience and buying power, but retains local ownership.

The affiliations became official Oct. 1, but AnMed Health started to see benefits from the relationships almost immediately. With construction already underway on AnMed Health Wound and Hyperbaric Medicine, some of the clinic’s staff was able to tour an established hyperbaric medicine program at another Carolinas HealthCare facility.

“It really helped the staff to see what a department like theirs does on a daily basis,” said Tina Jury, AnMed Health’s chief nursing officer. “We got a lot of great suggestions on lessons learned and how to successfully open a new center.”

Over the next six to eight months, AnMed Health will work with Carolinas HealthCare to develop a management action plan or MAP. This initial action plan will help AnMed Health identify and quantify opportunities for growth, find ways to improve efficiency and take advantage of economies of scale.

“The MAP is not a strategic plan for our organization. It’s more like a blueprint of what we want to accomplish jointly with Carolinas HealthCare,” said Bill Manson, AnMed Health’s chief executive officer. “It’s a way to look at the entire CHS organization, those that we can identify with and who can help us accomplish all that we want to do.”

One of the most tangible benefits for everyone involved is expected to come from improved purchasing power. As soon as the affiliations were announced, AnMed Health’s finance and purchasing staff started sharing data with Carolina HealthCare and receiving reports from Cannon.

“We wanted no time looking for ways to save on items we use every day,” said Jerry Parrish, AnMed Health’s chief financial officer. “Just like a wholesale club, hospitals get a better price per unit when they buy in bulk. When we save a few cents per unit on something we use every day, it adds up quickly.”

For example, a 15-cent discount on an IV drug could end up saving the health system $96,000 a year, Parrish said.

AnMed Health president emeritus D. Kirk Oglesby Jr. speaks with Joe Ploessl, chief executive officer of Carolina HealthCare, at a news conference announcing the health system’s affiliations with Carolina HealthCare and Cannon Memorial.

Meet our new partners

Cannon Memorial Hospital

Cannon Memorial Hospital started with a country doctor’s dream of bringing medical care to the people of Pickens County. Dr. E. Gaine Cannon founded the first Cannon Hospital located on Pendleton Street and named it as a memorial to his father Dr. James Cannon. In 1949, the hospital grew to an 88-bed facility and was sold to community leaders who formed a non-profit organization.

In 1982, a new hospital was built at Cannon’s current location on W.G. Acker Drive. An outpatient services building was added in 1991, and a hospital remodel in the early 2000s resulted in a new emergency department. Today, Cannon Memorial is a 55-bed facility with 60 staff physicians. Many of the physicians are specialists in areas such as urology, orthopedics, cardiology and gastroenterology. The hospital also has two family practice centers—one serving the Pickens area and another in Liberty.

Carolina HealthCare System

Carolina HealthCare System (CHS) is the largest healthcare system in the Carolinas. CHS owns, leases or manages 31 hospitals in North and South Carolina. CHS employs more than 1,400 physicians and operates more than 475 care locations, including rehabilitation hospitals, nursing homes, ambulatory surgery centers, home health agencies, radiation therapy centers and physician offices.

Together, these operations comprise more than 6,000 licensed beds and employ more than 40,000 full-time or part-time employees.

CHS’s flagship facility is Carolina Medical Center in Charlotte, an 874-bed hospital and major teaching hospital. Carolina Medical Center also serves as one of North Carolina’s five Academic Medical Centers, providing residency training for more than 240 physicians in 15 specialties.

A conversation with Dr. G. Edward Cothran

For Dr. Edward Cothran, the decision to specialize in obstetrics and gynecology was a simple one. In medical school, he enjoyed surgery, delivering babies and practicing general medicine. Becoming an OB-GYN was the best combination of the three. When it came time to settle down, there was no place like home for this Anderson native. After being on call every third night for 25 years, Dr. Cothran has shifted his focus away from obstetrics to gynecology.

Q. What’s the difference between a gynecologist and an OB-GYN?

A. The main difference is that an OB-GYN delivers babies. The training is the same for gynecology (GYN) and obstetrics (OB), but then people choose to do one or the other or both. Generally, as doctors get older they tend to slow down and limit their practice.

Q. What’s the best part of your job?

A. The best part was delivering babies. When you get to experience a couple’s child being born, that’s fun. Today, the best part is probably surgery. I enjoy surgery, and the technical advancements in GYN surgery have so much benefit for our patients.

Q. What’s your favorite procedure to perform?

A. Laparoscopic hysterectomy. Dr. (James) Herbert and I have been doing those for about eight years. The patients do so much better than the old way, and it makes you feel good when you can help someone.

Q. What’s the most difficult part of your job?

A. The downside of any medical practice is the complications that occur, such as a miscarriage or an infection. It affects the doctor a lot more than the patients realize, and it affects the doctor’s family. When doctors are worried about a patient, their family life suffers. It’s a lot of responsibility.

Q. Knowing that October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, could you provide some general tips about mammograms and self breast exams?

A. Self breast exams should be done every month after your period, preferably in the bath tub or shower. Use soapy hands because they slide better. With the middle three fingers on your left hand, feel for lumps in the right breast. Feel for something that is new to you. Repeat with the opposite hand on the opposite breast. I encourage women to start self exams as early as possible. I think it’s important for them to know what’s normal so if they find something new they can seek medical treatment.

For mammograms, the general recommendation is to start at age 35 if you have a strong family history. In that case, your doctor may recommend regular mammograms even earlier.

Q. Why are these steps so important in the fight against breast cancer?

A. Early detection is a key to survival and effective treatment. You want to find things as quickly as possible. As a patient, you have the best chance of finding an abnormality. The doctor only gets one chance a year. You’d be amazed at how many people are afraid to do a self exam because they’re afraid to find something. It’s almost like they don’t find it, it’s not there.

Q. What are three questions you would encourage every woman to ask her gynecologist or OB-GYN?

A. How can I quit smoking? How can I control my weight? How can I stay fit?

That covers heart disease, diabetes, pretty much all your general health concerns and all the bad habits people have. If you are obese and smoking a pack a day, you’re taking 10 years off your life. Smoking also exposes you to other cancers, because it harms your immune system.

Q. If you could give women one tip to help them live healthier lives, what would it be?

A. Try to de-stress your life as much as you can. It’s hard to do in this age, but sometimes people choose to be stressed. For example, they live or work in a stressful situation and do nothing to change it.
Michael Cunningham named director of communications

There’s a new face in the executive office. Michael Cunningham was named director of communications in August. The position was left vacant in April 2008 when senior director of communications, Dan Corrigan, passed away following an intense battle with cancer. Cunningham brings more than 10 years of public sector experience to this role. As director of communications, he will serve as a media spokesperson for the executive office; develop relationships with local, state and federal leaders; coordinate community sponsorships; assist in fundraising activities and provide staff assistance to the Board of Trustees.

“Dan was such an integral part of our organization that it’s taken some time to find the right person for this position,” said John Miller, CEO of AnMed Health. “Michael brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our organization, and we’re excited to have him join the team.”

Cunningham is a 1995 graduate of Clemson University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science with a minor in English. In 1997, he completed a Masters in Public Administration in a joint degree program from Clemson University and the University of South Carolina.

Cunningham began his public sector career working for Greenville County’s Human Resources Department. In 1998, he was hired as an administrative intern for Anderson County. There he served in various capacities, including county administrator, until March 2009.

Outside of work, Cunningham has been a tireless servant to the Anderson community. He’s a mentor for Anderson School District 5 and serves on boards for the Anderson Federal Credit Union, First Steps of Anderson County, the Salvation Army, the African-American Leadership Council and the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce.

“I look forward to contributing to AnMed Health any way I can,” Cunningham said. “I enjoy this community, and I’m grateful that I get to work in an organization that puts the health of the community and the region as its priority.”

Safe Kids makes your baby’s first ride home a safe one

Safe Kids Anderson County is making rounds at AnMed Health Women’s and Children’s Hospital in an effort to promote safe travel for the next generation. When Safe Kids staff visits new parents on the mother/baby unit, they review best practices for child passenger safety, discuss South Carolina’s child passenger restraint law and offer to check the family’s car seats for proper use, installation and recall history.

Few hospitals provide this level of service, said Jackie McCall, child passenger safety coordinator. Normally, if parents need car seat assistance, they have to schedule an appointment at an inspection station or face long lines at community safety events.

“We’re ensuring their safety before the first ride home,” McCall said. “Most families don’t realize their car seats are not being used properly. There has been some element of incorrect installation in about 90 percent of the car seats we’ve inspected. That includes not installing the seat correctly in the vehicle, or not securing the child correctly in the car seat. These types of errors compromise the car seat’s ability to optimally protect a child in the event of a crash.”

Safe Kids performed more than 2,500 car seat safety checks between 2000 and 2008. Thousands of additional car seats have been checked by coalition partners trained by Safe Kids. In at least 15 known instances, Safe Kids’ efforts have helped save the life of a child in a motor vehicle crash.

To learn more about how to protect your family or to have your car seat checked for free, call Jackie McCall at 864.512.5437.

Teddy Bear Clinic provides a “beary” good time for all

More than 300 children saw their favorite stuffed animal medicated, mended and measured at the third annual AnMed Health Teddy Bear Clinic. The event is designed to teach children about medical procedures and equipment by sending their teddy bears through a series of medical play stations.

“Many children are scared of the doctor, but this event helps to take away that fear of the unknown,” said Deborah Koege, senior director of AnMed Health Women’s and Children’s Hospital. “It’s so rewarding for the staff and volunteers to see their faces light up as they begin to understand why we do what we do.”

Early flu outbreak causes hospitals to restrict visitation

Anyone younger than 18 is asked to refrain from visiting patients at AnMed Health as a result of the growing numbers of H1N1 cases in the Upstate.

South Carolina is one of six states already reporting widespread influenza activity, and AnMed Health joined six other hospitals – Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, Cannon Memorial Hospital, Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center, Oconee Medical Center, Palmetto Health Baptist Easley and Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System – in announcing this temporary visitor restriction.

H1N1 appears to be more widespread among children and young adults. In August and early September, AnMed Health had already treated 85 patients who tested positive for flu A, a likely indicator of H1N1. Nearly 70 percent of those patients were 18 and younger.

“We understand that this policy may cause some disruption for families, but our first priority is to create the safest possible environment for our patients and reduce potential exposure to the flu,” said Bill Manson, AnMed Health president and chief operating officer.

Exceptions to the visitation policy can be made for gravely-ill patients. If a family is in this situation, they can contact a nursing supervisor to ensure that safety protocols are followed for the protection of patients and the visiting child. As always, anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms is asked to refrain from visiting until they have recovered.

NEWS BRIEFS

Inside AnMed Health 11
Gifts that say “thanks” and give hope to others

One of Rita Jacks’ last wishes was to give back to her community. After losing her battle with lung cancer earlier this year, Jacks’ life was celebrated through gifts from her family and friends to the AnMed Health Infusion Center.

“Jacks was such a thankful person,” said Kristi Austin, Jacks’ daughter. “She absolutely adored Dr. Doster, and he and the other staff members gave her the most wonderful care. They made her feel like she was their only patient,” Austin said.

“We were always up late at night during the Infusion Center.”

Originally from Williamson, Jacks lived in the Anderson area for 30 years. She had two children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was a widow for the last 10 years of her life and always had her closest companion, a miniature Yorkie named Chili Pepper, by her side. Austin describes her mother as someone who was full of life and who cherished each moment with family and friends. She was a caregiver for people in her life. By setting up a memorial to the Infusion Center, she gave her loved ones the opportunity to share in her nurturing spirit by helping other cancer patients.

“I sincerely hope that my mother’s story will make others decide to do memorials in the same way,” Austin said.

Financial challenges increase need for community support

Like other health care systems throughout the country, AnMed Health is facing a considerable challenge in the face of a weak economy and the uncertainty surrounding health care reform.

AnMed Health anticipates an increase in revenue over last year. However, deductions and expenses are also projected to increase resulting in a modest gain for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

“We’re doing more and seeing more patients but receiving less money,” said Jerry Parrish, AnMed Health’s chief financial officer. “We have a big hill to climb. We continue to control costs through efficient spending and strategic financial planning, but as hospital costs and reimbursement cuts continue to rise, the need for support from the community grows vitally important.”

The health system continues to look for ways to cut expenses, but only so many cuts can be made without sacrificing the quality and accessibility of care provided to the community. The reduction in hospital reimbursement and the rising numbers of uninsured patients takes an unmistakable toll on health care systems.

As a major provider of health care for an eight-county region, AnMed Health serves many uninsured, low-income, Medicare- and Medicaid-dependent residents, putting an additional strain on the financial situation.

“We will continue to examine expenses or try to derive the difference by raising revenue, which provides only about 20 cents for every dollar generated,” Parrish said.

Part of the solution lies within the community. These hard times provide an opportunity for the community to work together and make a difference. The AnMed Health Foundation offers many giving opportunities—from annual giving and sponsorships to planning gifts and endowments—and contributions make an immediate impact. Unlike raising prices, money raised through philanthropy goes straight to the bottom line, dollar for dollar.

“It simply makes more sense to generate funds through philanthropy rather than trying to raise revenue,” Parrish said.

Foundation expands giving opportunities

As the fundraising arm of AnMed Health, the AnMed Health Foundation generates private funding to support a variety of services and programs, as well as capital needs to maintain high quality care. As the need for private funding increases, the Foundation is creating new ways for organizations and individuals to contribute. A new planned giving society—the Jennie Gilmer Legacy Society—allows residents to include AnMed Health in their estate plans. Memorials and honor gifts are a fitting option for those who wish to honor or remember loved ones through a monetary gift to the Medical Center.

Annual giving programs are vital to the ongoing operation of many of AnMed Health programs, including Pediatric Therapy Works, the Medical Outreach Van, Westside Family Medicine, the Women’s and Children’s Health Centers and Patient Assistance Funds.

“For some donors, sponsoring an event or making a gift in honor of someone is a way to give that has special meaning or significance,” said Rob Ruark, executive director of the AnMed Health Foundation. “We’re trying to offer new and different ways people can give to meet their philanthropic goals.”

For information about giving opportunities, contact the AnMed Health Foundation at 864.512.6800 or go to www.anmedhealth.org and click on “Foundation.”

Community Programs supported through contributions to the AnMed Health Foundation

AnMed Health Westside Family Medicine serves an at-risk community in Anderson. Most residents within walking distance of the clinic do not have health insurance and often go without proper medical care. The clinic provides preventive health, wellness and medical care in a family-oriented setting.

The AnMed Health Women’s Health Center, now located within the AnMed Health Family Medicine Center, provides essential prenatal care, including prenatal examinations, education and support, for pregnant mothers in need.

At the AnMed Health Children’s Health Center, our youngest patients—infants and children—are able to see a caring physician for sick and well visits. They also receive needed vaccinations to promote a healthy future for our entire community.

AnMed Health Pediatric Therapy Works is a unique and comprehensive therapy program that provides a new world of opportunity each year to more than 600 children with developmental delays and disorders.

The AnMed Health Medical Outreach van nearly makes 200 stops each year and offers free or low-cost health screenings, including blood pressure checks, cholesterol checks and various cancer screenings that can detect potentially serious health risks.

Patient Assistance Funds provide a helping hand to those in dire financial need:

• The Chaplain’s Fund is a safety net for hundreds of patients who need prescription medication or medical supplies that they cannot afford.

• The Lifeline Fund provides Lifeline’s emergency response service to elderly or disabled people living alone who cannot afford the service themselves.

Because of contributions to the AnMed Health Foundation, hopelessness is replaced with promise. Thanks to all of our donors and supporters for improving the life and health of your community.

Inside AnMed Health
Meet Marshall Pickens Jr.

When you meet Marshall Pickens Jr. you realize that philanthropy is just part of who he is. Pickens comes from a family committed to health care and supporting efforts of community hospitals. That’s why Pickens has volunteered for leadership roles at AnMed Health since the early ’70s. He served on the Board of Trustees for 27 years and is now a member of the Development Advisory Board.

“My dad, Marshall Pickens Sr., was with the Duke Endowment for more than 60 years and did a lot to develop community hospitals,”Pickens said. “His commitment impacted our entire family.”

Pickens’s sister, Sarah Williamson, retired as a vice president for Carolina HealthCare System. His other sister, Lucinda Lockwood, also retired from a career in health care as a patient representative in the emergency department at Carolina Medical Center in Charlotte. In addition, his wife, Bitty Pickens, is an active community leader and serves as the chair of the Mental Health Group of Anderson and on the board of Hospice of the Upstate.

“As a family, we try to give and do as much as we can to make a difference in our corner of the world,”Pickens said.

When asked the meaning of philanthropy, he responds, “Only by giving can we receive, and we should give to help others in need.”

Pickens attended college at Duke University and St. Andrews Presbyterian College, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science. A Charlotte native, he worked for Duke Power after graduation. When Duke offered him a two-year retail management assignment and a choice between moving to Durham or Anderson, he made the biggest decision of his life. He chose Anderson, and 43 years later he still calls Anderson home. Shortly after moving here in 1966, he met his wife of 40 years and began his career at the lake or spending time with his family. 

Enjoying retirement to its fullest, Pickens commits his time and energy to helping the AnMed Health Foundation raise money and to educating the community about how these contributions make a difference in the lives of others. When he’s not in board meetings at the hospital, he is most likely on one of the foundation’s many committees. For example, he serves as the chair of the hospital’s Development Advisory Board.

“Supporting the AnMed Health Foundation is a way to give that is totally local,” Pickens said. “All resources go to the health care needs of our community. AnMed Health is a community organization that is owned and operated by the community, so as a community we should give it our full support.”

Foundation celebrates philanthropic commitment at annual event

In celebration of its Five Star Society members and other key donors, the Foundation held its annual donor appreciation event Oct. 22. The event brings together individuals and organizations that have made a commitment to the community through generous contributions to the Foundation. In addition, a new White Coat Society was unveiled to honor donors who have reached significant lifetime cumulative giving levels to the Foundation.

“We are very proud to be acknowledging our donors for their generosity and recognizing that our achievements over the past year are possible only through their outstanding acts of giving and commitment to the health of our community,” said Rob Ruark, the Foundation’s executive director.

Foundation introduces Jennie Gilmer Legacy Society for donors wishing to leave a legacy

The AnMed Health Foundation recently introduced the Jennie Gilmer Legacy Society, an opportunity for families and individuals to support the health of our community through a planned gift to the Foundation. These gifts, often bestowed through a will, trust or designation, make a significant impact by ensuring that quality medical care will be available to everyone when they need it.

Too often, these gifts go unrecognized as they come at the end of a donor’s life. By making a commitment to include the AnMed Health Foundation in estate plans, donors can become a part of the Jennie Gilmer Legacy Society. Members are recognized for their commitment to the health of our community and participate in Foundation events with other philanthropic individuals. Of course, the Foundation is always willing to honor requests for anonymity.

As someone interested in learning more about making a planned gift should consult their tax advisor or financial planner. Then, schedule an informational meeting with the Foundation. Contact Rob Ruark at 864.512.6800 to request a brochure or schedule a meeting.

Foundation news briefs

Donors making a planned gift to the AnMed Health Foundation will become members of the Jennie Gilmer Legacy Society in recognition of their generous commitment.

Five Star Society members gather over the summer

Five Star Society members and friends gathered for food and fellowship this summer at a festival low country boil hosted by Mill and Elaine Epstein, Tom and Sherrill Hall, Steve and Lynn Kay, Roger and Jane Mudd, and Everett and Beverly Newman. This special event was an opportunity for donors to network with others who share in their passion for philanthropy.

The Five Star Society is a special opportunity to support the ongoing health care needs of AnMed Health’s community programs by making a generous annual gift to the AnMed Health Foundation. Donors making an annual gift of at least $1,000 are eligible to become members of the Society, and anyone 45 or younger may become a member with a minimum $500 annual pledge. Additionally, those who make a minimum pledge of $5,000 over the next five years earn the honorable designation of being a charter member of the Five Star Society.

For more information about the Five Star Society, please contact Lynn Stoddard at 864.512.6800 or by email at lynn.stoddard@amedhealth.org.

Remembering Katie Campbell: donor, advocate and friend

On July 17, Anderson County lost a special resident. Katie Campbell passed away at age 89. She had an extraordinary giving spirit and was remarkably devoted to the people and things she loved. Katie and her husband, James Campbell, are AnMed Health’s most generous donors, having contributed nearly $2 million to support the health system’s vision and to have a positive impact on the health and lives of the people of our community.

Born Katie Lou Rogers in 1920 in Hartwell, Ga., Mrs. Campbell moved to Easley and met her husband while they were both attending Easley High School. After graduation, she worked as a dental assistant until the couple married in 1943. Together, they ran the family farm, growing cotton, grain, corn and alfalfa hay on 600 acres of land. A dedicated wife and hard worker, she also worked for First National Bank of Anderson for many years.

The Campbells’ ties to AnMed Health date back to the Great Depression when Mr. Campbell sold eggs and chickens to doctors and nurses at Anderson Memorial Hospital while helping his mother run a country store.

“The last stop going out of town was the Anderson Hospital,” Mr. Campbell remembers. “At the time, it was a very small hospital. I knew all the doctors and nurses and many of them would buy things from us since they knew it was fresh and good quality.”

Through their donations to AnMed Health, the Campbells have made a tremendous impact that has continued to touch so many lives. In 1998, the couple donated $509,000 to the health system, and the James and Katie Campbell Building on North Fant Street, home to AnMed Health’s Children’s Health Care Center, was named in their honor. In 2003, they made another landmark donation of $520,000, which went to support the women’s and children’s health centers. In the midst of AnMed Health’s largest expansion effort and major capital campaigns, the Partners for Life campaign, the Campbells made not only one but two significant contributions to the campaign. In 2005 they gave a $275,000 gift designated for the Women’s and Children’s Hospital and near the end of the campaign, they gave a challenge gift of $150,000 to help reach the campaign goal.

“Since we didn’t have any children, we decided to leave our estate to various organizations that we feel impact peoples’ lives,” Mr. Campbell said.

Mrs. Campbell was an active community leader, serving as a charter member of Anderson County Woman’s Club, a charter member of Col. John Robin’s Chapter Colonial Dames of VIII Century, member of the Hudson Berry Chapter C.R.A., S.C., Genealogical Society, Anderson Heritage, Inc., Pendleton Historic Foundation and a member of S.C. Archaeology Society. She was also active in her church, Mt. Pisgah Baptist, where she was a Sunday school teacher and a steward involved in women’s missionary organizations.

“We are deeply sorry for Mr. Campbell’s loss,” said AnMed Health CEO John Miller. “Katie Campbell was a giving and caring person. She will truly be missed, but her legacy will live on through the many lives touched by the generous gift she and Mr. Campbell donated to our community organization. We are extremely grateful and appreciative for everything James and Katie Campbell have done over the years for AnMed Health. Their charitable spirit is an inspiration to us all.”

This photo of James and Katie Campbell was taken during the dedication of the James and Katie Campbell Building on North Fant Street. The Campbells are AnMed Health’s most generous donors, giving nearly $2 million.
AnMed Health ranked among America’s best in annual quality study

AnMed Health ranked among the top 5 percent of hospitals nationwide for cardiac surgery, overall pulmonary services, overall gastrointestinal services and critical care, according to a comprehensive annual study released by HealthGrades.

In addition to ranking among the nation’s best, AnMed Health was among the top 5 hospitals in South Carolina for overall cardiac services, cardiac surgery, cardiology services, overall orthopaedic services and overall critical care. AnMed Health was No.1 in the state for gastrointestinal services, gastrointestinal surgery, gastrointestinal medical treatment and overall pulmonary services.

HealthGrades’ 12th annual Hospital Quality in America Study assessed mortality and complication rates at close to 5,000 nonfederal hospitals. According to the study, top-rated hospitals had a 52 percent lower mortality rate than the U.S. national average when looking at the patient outcomes of 17 procedures and diagnoses ranging from bypass surgery to treatment for heart attack. When the top-rated hospitals were compared to the poorest performers, there was an even greater difference of 72 percent lower mortality.

“These rankings are a credit to the hard work of our doctors and clinical staff,” said Dr. Mike Tillirson, AnMed Health’s chief medical officer. “Consumers want to know that they are receiving the best care possible, and HealthGrades’ study shows that AnMed Health is setting the gold standard for care both locally and nationally.”

AnMed Health was No.1 in the state for gastrointestinal services, gastrointestinal surgery, gastrointestinal medical treatment and overall pulmonary services.