

# 2024

## IMPACT REPORT



Spartanburg Regional  
Foundation







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Friends,

This year was one of commitment and change as the Spartanburg Regional Foundation exemplified its new mission to generate philanthropic support to advance health through prioritizing the needs of our patients, growing our healthcare system's services and bolstering the resources in our community.

It was a time of reflection as we look back at how our strategic philanthropy efforts formed and were transformed and strengthened through the years.

As we look ahead at what's on the horizon, we are poised to make an even greater impact in the years to come through the faithful stewardship and leadership of Polly Edwards-Padgett, new executive director for Spartanburg Regional Foundation. Earlier in the fall, Dr. David Church made the difficult decision to medically retire from his position as president of the Foundation. His achievements are worth celebrating and remembering as we move forward with exciting new initiatives and more intentional ways of identifying and supporting needs in our healthcare system and community.



For more than 30 years, David served as a cornerstone of Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. He was instrumental in fundraising efforts that supported the construction of the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home, Bearden-Josey Center for Breast Health and Gibbs Cancer Center at Pelham.

Through the years, he held many leadership positions including director of safety and security, director of operations for home health services, vice president of oncology and support services and, lastly, president of the Foundation.

He ensured that the Foundation remained a philanthropic organization and paved the way for strategic philanthropy to provide direct benefits to Spartanburg Regional and its community partners. For this reason and so many others, we are grateful for his service, not just in the brief time he led the Foundation but over the span of his career with the system.

We have much to build upon and look forward to as a Foundation. Our future is bright as we enter the next chapter of our philanthropic efforts, under the leadership of Polly. Polly has served as interim executive director over the past eight months, demonstrating the leadership skills needed to guide us forward.

Our system's and community's needs continue to evolve, but our commitment to providing meaningful and compassionate resources remains unchanged.

Join me in thanking David for his dedicated service and Polly for her leadership during this time of transition. Together, we celebrate the work of the Foundation in generating philanthropic support to advance health and in continuing to serve our healthcare system and community.

Sincerely,

**Jon Jensen**

*2024 Board of Trustees Chair*

*Spartanburg Regional Foundation*





# 2024

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# 2024

## SPARTANBURG REGIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS



In 2024, [Spartanburg Medical Center](#) was designated as a HeartCARE Center National Distinction of Excellence and accredited Chest Pain Center from the American College of Cardiology.

U.S. News & World Report also ranked [Spartanburg Medical Center](#) as high performing in seven adult procedures and conditions: colon cancer surgery; COPD; heart attack; knee replacement; leukemia, lymphoma & myeloma; lung cancer surgery; and prostate cancer surgery.

[Spartanburg Medical Center](#) was recognized as high performing for Maternity Care by U.S. News & World Report.

In 2024, [Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System](#) obtained a Level 8 achievement for the acute, ambulatory and LTPAC surveys in the Digital Health Most Wired Survey through the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME).







Cherokee Medical Center opened a new Cardiac Rehabilitation Program in February 2024, bringing rehab services closer to home and enhancing patient outcomes.



Spartanburg Hospital for Restorative Care was ranked Best Nursing Home and recognized as high performing for short-term rehabilitation by U.S. News & World Report.



In 2024, Pelham Medical Center was chosen by Modern Healthcare as one of the 100 companies and organizations named The Best Places to Work in Healthcare. Pelham Medical Center has been awarded this distinction eight times since 2016.

Pelham Medical Center also was recognized as high performing in back surgery (spinal fusion) by U.S. News & World Report and was a recipient of the Outstanding Patient Experience Award in 2024 by Healthgrades.

The Hospice Home entrance project will alleviate the flow of traffic into the neighboring community and provide a peaceful and welcoming environment for visitors. The project will also beautify and enhance the surrounding community, working with conservation leaders to ensure a positive environmental impact. Your donation to this fund will directly impact those families who are navigating the difficult season of losing a loved one.

## PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT TO CREATE ENHANCED ENTRANCE TO HOSPICE HOME

Hospice care can be overwhelming, not just for patients but also for their families and caregivers. With the goal of enhancing someone's quality of life toward the end of life, hospice care offers a holistic approach including everything from managing pain to supporting emotional needs.

The Spartanburg Regional Foundation's philanthropic support toward Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System's Hospice Division is helping families navigate that sensitive time through investing in the Hospice Home's physical space.

The Hospice Home, a full-service, 15-bed inpatient facility, was first established in 2006 through the generous support of the community. Now, leaders are looking to enhance the space. A new entrance and bridge are planned to offer a serene and tranquil space that improves the footprint in the surrounding community and creates a welcoming and calming foundation for families and visitors.

When it comes to this type of end-of-life care, environments matter. From the paint on the walls, to the décor and furniture, the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home is designed to put families at ease during a difficult time and give them a space to cherish moments together.

The new entrance project will alleviate disruption to the Hilltop neighborhood and create a welcoming space for the Hospice Home, fostering a peaceful environment for families visiting their loved ones. A new roadway and entrance throughout the Upper Chinquapin Greenway will provide dedicated access to the Hospice Home from Graham Road.

The Upper Chinquapin Greenway is a collection of properties owned by Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE), Spartanburg Regional and Milliken & Co., and includes 1.6 miles of natural surface walking trails, part of which run adjacent to the Hospice Home. The beautification and preservation efforts





of the greenway have been years in the making. Leaders are currently overseeing the infrastructure phase, where markers and signage are being added to the trail system.

In 2024, the Spartanburg Regional Foundation allocated \$15,000 per year for three years to SPACE and \$145,830 to Hospice in annual grant funding to see this commitment flourish.

“Having access to beautiful greenspace and trails is good for any community,” said Deb Stevens, a spokesperson for SPACE. “We have worked to increase foot traffic and bring in more volunteers to help and, we have seen a huge impact so far. And access to this type of environment increases physical and mental

health for residents.”

In 2024, Hospice cared for 1,587 hospice patients, 708 of them at the Hospice Home. Hospice provided services for 24 patients at Cherokee Medical Center and 11 at Union Medical Center. The program is offered when a patient’s medical condition warrants a short-term stay for pain control and symptom management.

As a community-based, not-for-profit program, services are provided to all eligible people, regardless of their ability to pay.

# NEW UNION MEDICAL CENTER IS A LEGACY OF COMPASSIONATE GIVING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Throughout 2024, crews worked tirelessly to transform a 48-acre tract of land on Furman L. Fendley Highway into the new Union Medical Center campus.

As the year came to a close, Union Medical Center staff stood on the brink of opening the doors to a facility that will transform care in the community. Hospital leaders from all departments and practices took tours of the nearly completed building, inspecting the final details and making last-minute requests. Donors also had the opportunity to take part in hard-hat tours, seeing firsthand the transformation they helped make possible.

The Spartanburg Regional Foundation played an integral part in the fundraising efforts, with associates and community members making financial gifts throughout the year. The Foundation raised over \$1.4 million for the Union Medical Center Patient Enhancement Project. Over 50 healthcare associates and numerous community members supported the patient enhancement projects.

This outpouring of philanthropic support made possible a serene healing garden, a paved walking trail with exercise equipment and benches, an inviting outdoor dining area and a relaxing café space. These additions are designed not only to enhance the patient experience but to become a beacon of health and hope for the entire community – offering a place of peace, connection and wellness for all.



*Union Medical Center Fundraising Committee Paul Newhouse, Dr. David Berry, Mrs. Brenda James and Dr. Bill James.*

Arthur State Bank contributed \$200,000 to the Patient Enhancement Project for the new Union Medical Center.

“As someone who’s called Union home for 37 years, I’m excited about what Union Medical Center will bring to the area,” J. Carlisle Oxner III, Arthur State Bank chairman and president said. “It is great to know UMC will be able to offer even better care and more services for the folks here. This isn’t just about adding a building or new equipment — it’s about making sure our friends, neighbors and families have access to the care they need close to home.”

Barbara Rippy, a civic and community leader in Union, along with 11-time Grammy Award winner Dolly Parton, also gave generously to the Patient Enhancement Project.





The new facility's improved services and state-of-the-art equipment align with Spartanburg Regional's vision to be the most trusted partner in health.

Paul Newhouse, president of Union Medical Center, emphasized the significance of the new facility for Union and other Upstate residents.

"Today, the healthcare system is delivering on a promise and investment that will benefit generations to come by improving access to health services and wellness opportunities," Newhouse said. "This hospital will be one of the most beautiful rural hospitals in the country, something the entire community will be proud of."

This sentiment underscores the long-term impact of the new Union Medical Center facility. The upgrade is crucial for the future of health care in the Upstate as it creates a sustainable model that centralizes physician practices, outpatient services and inpatient care.

Thanks to the generous and caring donors of Spartanburg Regional Foundation, the Union Medical Center will offer a holistic healthcare experience.

To learn more about the new facility, visit [Go.SRHS.com/UMC-Progress](https://Go.SRHS.com/UMC-Progress).



# STRATEGIC PHILANTHROPY IS SUPPORTING THE BEARDEN-JOSEY CENTER FOR BREAST HEALTH TO MEET PATIENTS' NEEDS

Nearly one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, meaning there's a 13% chance of a diagnosis for every woman. Breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among U.S. women and is the second most common cause of cancer death, behind lung cancer.

Women often face a myriad of challenges and fears throughout their breast cancer journeys – from screening to diagnosis, treatment and recovery.

To enhance the overall patient experience, the Bearden-Josey Center for Breast Health is adapting to innovative technologies and providing additional support services to patients in 2024.

Through the strategic efforts of Spartanburg Regional Foundation in 2024, the Bearden-Josey Center for Breast Health is:

- Implementing an innovative wireless localization pre-op technique to better pinpoint or target tumors and improve patient comfort
- Expanding bone density and mammography services by opening a Bearden-Josey practice in the growing Boiling Springs community
- Continuing to provide Mobile Mammography Unit deployment and mammography screenings to uninsured and underinsured patients through the Mammography Assistance Fund

## **Wireless localization grant**

Traditionally, for women undergoing lumpectomies, a wire would be inserted into the mass or lesion within their breast as a guiding tool for surgery. The

wire would extend outside of the woman's breast after being inserted and remain there throughout the day until surgery.

The method presented challenges with scheduling and discomfort, going from pre-op to the breast center and then back to pre-op before the lumpectomy, all while having a wire coming from the breast.

"If a breast cancer patient has ever shared their story with you, the one part of their surgery experience that always comes up is the placement of the wire and the discomfort associated with having a wire sticking out of their breast. Our desire was to remove that traumatic part of their story," said Stacey Williams, the director of the Bearden-Josey Center for Breast Health. "Traditional wire placement is not something women look forward to."

Now, patients can receive a wireless localization reflector – a device about the size of a grain of rice – that goes into the tumor using ultrasound, mammogram or MRI image guidance. The procedure is relatively pain-free and can be done days or even weeks before surgery. The surgeon activates the reflector during a lumpectomy to pinpoint the affected area.

Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System is one of the few healthcare systems in South Carolina to use this technology and is the first in the Upstate to insert these reflectors under MRI guidance.

Bearden-Josey received funds for the clinical training and equipment through the Pledge the Pink Foundation and a matching grant from the Spartanburg Regional Foundation.



Nine months since implementation, this new procedure has benefited more than 200 breast cancer patients.

Polly Edwards-Padgett, executive director of the Foundation, said this investment significantly enhances the quality of care.

“This technology allows for more accurate tumor localization, reducing the need for repeat surgeries and improving overall patient experience,” she said.

### **Spartanburg Regional Foundation’s Bearden-Josey Center for Breast Health Fund**

With the Upstate’s thriving economy and population growth, more patients are taking advantage of the services offered through the Bearden-Josey Center for Breast Health.

The Boiling Springs community of Spartanburg County has seen tremendous growth, and data confirmed the need for additional services.

The newest Bearden-Josey location opened in April through the generous support of the Foundation. This facility has been close to or at capacity with patient appointments since opening.

“The location started filling up by June,” Williams said. “With all that growth and so much in Boiling Springs, it made sense to provide that service in the community where we serve patients.”

The new facility – Bearden-Josey’s ninth location – is housed within the Medical Group of the Carolinas – Carolina Piedmont Obstetrics & Gynecology – Boiling Springs practice off Highway 9. The center now provides mammograms and bone density testing to women, closer to home.



*Jeanne Harber with the Pledge the Pink Foundation, Spartanburg Regional Foundation and Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System.*

The Spartanburg Regional Foundation has provided \$600,000 to make this expansion a reality.

### **Mammography Assistance Fund**

With the help of the Foundation fundraising and strategic philanthropic efforts, Bearden-Josey has used the Mammography Assistance Fund to provide free mammograms to women without insurance or who are underinsured.

This life-saving screening tool is the first step toward detecting breast cancer at an early stage and fighting against it.

“Mammograms save lives,” Williams said. The funds have allowed women to undergo mammograms who ordinarily would not have sought one due to financial barriers.

Bearden-Josey also has two mobile mammography units that can travel anywhere screening is needed to eliminate transportation barriers.

To donate to the Mammography Assistance Fund or Bearden-Josey Center for Breast Health Fund, visit **[RegionalFoundation.com/donate-now](https://RegionalFoundation.com/donate-now)**.

For more information on Bearden-Josey’s efforts toward breast health, visit **[SpartanburgRegional.com/breast-health](https://SpartanburgRegional.com/breast-health)**.

# EMPLOYEES MAKING AN IMPACT BY GIVING BACK

There were times in Linda Lyles' life when she had no choice but to rely on the overwhelming generosity of her colleagues.

Lyles has been an employee at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System for 26 years, and over that time, she has experienced different seasons of need. That experience has made her a dedicated giver, choosing to support those around her whenever she can.

"I always think, 'You could be in the same boat as someone else who is struggling,' and I have been in that boat before," she said. "I'm just a giver. You have to put yourself in their place."

Lyles, a medical assistant, first began working at Spartanburg Medical Center when she was 34 years old, caring for patients with lengthy hospital stays as they underwent treatments and recovered from procedures.

In those settings, it became clear that others around her could use a helping hand and that her financial contributions as an employee could make an impact.

Through the years, Lyles has given to the Spartanburg Regional Foundation's Employee Campaign to support many areas and funds including the Chaplain's Fund, Bearden-Josey Center for Breast Health, NICU, Gibbs at Pelham, Hospice and AccessHealth.



Lyles said, "I have a heart to give, so that's what I do. If I see a need, I step up."

Lyles is proud to serve as an employee Campaign ambassador for "Love to Work Here. Love to Give Here." As an ambassador, she helps spread awareness about the importance of giving to Spartanburg Regional Foundation.

Over 1,300 employees gave to the 2024 employee campaign, raising more than \$778,000.

## 2024 Employee Campaign Ambassadors

Derwin Lee  
Linda Lyles  
Amy Lawter  
Sylvia Jamison  
Wendy McLennan  
Gary Jordan  
Pamela Kumah  
Patricia Stimac  
Heather Bivens  
Dianne Ellisor

Lisa Self  
Misty Sloan  
Jami Burnette  
Tiffany Lancaster  
Sharon Ledford  
Nicole Gaddy  
Heather Wright  
Laura Rawlings  
Sharlene Parmley  
Beth Cutshall

Tammy Denson  
Erika Vanderhaden  
Cindy Gault  
Shannon Casey  
Teresa Shands  
Julia Oehlson  
Katie Dereng  
Wendell Grubbs



# PERSONAL EXPERIENCE INSPIRES EMPLOYEE'S DEDICATION TO GIVE

Sherry Eison was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2016.

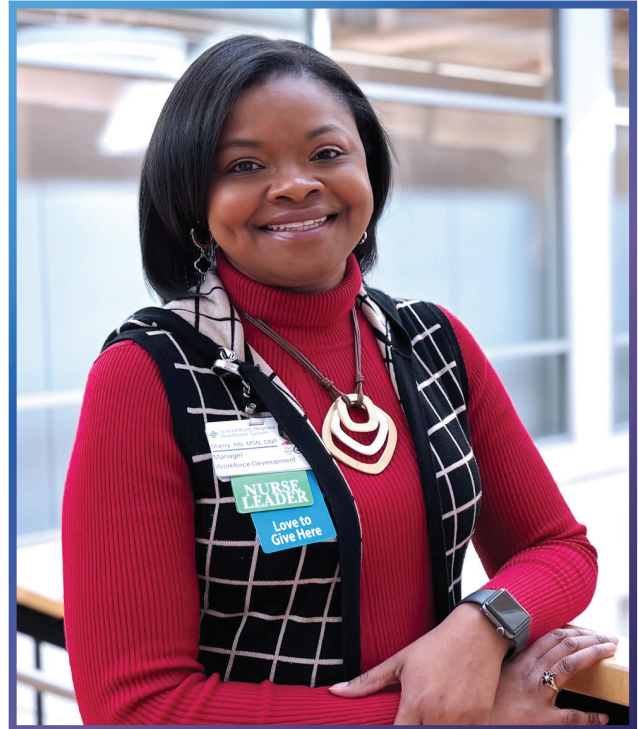
She went through treatment and is now a breast cancer survivor, benefiting from all the ways Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System and the Bearden-Josey Center for Breast Health supported her along the way.

She has worked with the healthcare system for 18 years, most recently as the manager of continuing education. She started giving to the Spartanburg Regional Foundation Employee Campaign while working for the Spartanburg Hospital for Restorative Care, raising money for staff and patients in need.

But after going through her own experience with breast cancer, she shifted her giving. For the past eight years, she has faithfully contributed to the Cancer Special Needs Fund.

"This personal experience has allowed me to witness firsthand how the contributions from the Foundation effectively assist and support the needs of others facing similar challenges," Eison said.

Eison has seen how contributions to the Cancer Special Needs Fund enhances community awareness and fosters support for life-saving initiatives.



"The Spartanburg Regional Foundation's mission is not just a statement, it is actionable in our daily operations, programs and initiatives," Sherry Eison said.

# OUTSTANDING NURSES HONORED WITH DAISY, MCMILLAN AWARDS FOR EXCELLENT PATIENT CARE

Al Fernandez, RN, takes the time to get to know his patients.

That was the feedback from one patient's daughter, who described how Fernandez helped her mother get outside in a hospital bed after learning how much she loved the feeling of warm sunlight and the sight of fluttering birds.

"To know that our nurse saw my mother as important, just as a person, not only as a patient, was all we needed to rest and enjoy the time with her!" Fernandez's patient nomination read.

Fernandez, who works in the Post-Acute Division, was named the Jo Ann McMillan Outstanding Nurse of the Year for Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System in May 2024. He found nursing as a second career and grew to love it, taking part in 11 medical mission trips in addition to his work at the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home.

"Some days are harder than others," Fernandez said after being presented with his award. "At the end of the day, our job is to try to make somebody's day better. We give them dignity and just a little bit of peace for the family. That's our goal."

Fernandez was one of five nurses across the system recognized for their dedication and commitment to caring for patients.

Held May 10 at the Spartanburg Regional Foundation, the recognition ceremony was part of the national DAISY Award program for



*Tim Fagan, Chief Nursing Officer for Cherokee Medical Center and Jo Ann McMillan*

nursing excellence.

One DAISY award winner was selected from each campus and received \$500. Fernandez received an additional \$500 as the system-wide winner. Both are made possible through the Spartanburg Regional Foundation's Jo Ann McMillan Fund.

## **The 2024 campus winners were:**

Abree Fontana, RN – Cherokee Medical Center

Necoia Gaskins, RN – Pelham Medical Center

Al Fernandez, RN – Post-Acute

Charlotte Andon, RN – Spartanburg Medical Center

Lacie Yarbrough, RN – Union Medical Center

Winners were chosen through a selection committee after patients and colleagues



nominated them from the previous 12 months. More than 500 nominations were received.

The system-wide Outstanding Nurse of the Year award presented to Fernandez is named after Jo Ann McMillan, who began her career as a bedside nurse and later became the first executive director of the Spartanburg Regional Foundation.

"These nominations came from families, patients and friends who recognized the compassionate care that these nurses provide and actually touch their hearts and minds," said Mary Jane Jennings, vice president and chief nursing officer for Spartanburg Medical Center. "We are very proud and excited to celebrate these magnificent nurses."

This year, McMillan was presented with her own DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award.

"What an honor. I could not be more proud to be a nurse than I am right now," McMillan said to the room of nurses and nursing leaders. "Just

continue what you're doing and spread the word about what nurses do and what nurses accomplish every day."

Jennings delivered congratulatory remarks for McMillan, who first became a bedside nurse in the early 1970s. Each chief nursing officer also presented her with items to signify her lifetime achievement as a champion for nursing, health care and philanthropy.

"Jo Ann will be the first to tell you that bedside nursing remains her passion today," Jennings said.

If you have received outstanding care, send a letter or ask about DAISY nominations at the nursing unit. You can also nominate online at: [DaisyFoundation.org/daisy-award/thank-your-nurse-nomination](https://DaisyFoundation.org/daisy-award/thank-your-nurse-nomination).

To donate to the Spartanburg Regional Foundation in honor of a caregiver, please visit **[RegionalFoundation.com/Ways-give/Online-giving/Honor-caregiver](https://RegionalFoundation.com/Ways-give/Online-giving/Honor-caregiver)**.



*Al Fernandez, Necoia Gaskins, Abree Fontana, Jo Ann McMillan, Lacie Yarbrough, Charlotte Andon*

# AMID A NATIONWIDE HEALTHCARE WORKER SHORTAGE, SPARTANBURG REGIONAL FOUNDATION IS COLLABORATING TO BRIDGE THE GAP



The healthcare industry is facing unprecedented challenges in workforce development. A shortage in medical professionals and an increasing demand for services has forced healthcare systems to adapt and develop strategies to bolster employment opportunities and advancements.

According to the American Hospital Association, we can expect a shortage of about 100,000 critical healthcare workers by 2028, with nurse assistant positions specifically facing a severe shortage.

This trend could add strain to healthcare systems across the U.S. and limit patients' access to care.

Spartanburg Regional is identifying and developing the next generation of healthcare workers through a variety of strategies and solutions.

Through the strategic philanthropy efforts of the Spartanburg Regional Foundation, leaders have recognized the need to invest in the next generation of the workforce and collaborate with community partners to create pathways to healthcare careers.

“Workforce development efforts have dual goals for Spartanburg Regional Foundation: supporting economic mobility for local students and access to care,” said Polly Edwards-Padgett, Spartanburg Regional Foundation executive director. “The Foundation



is committed to ensuring youth have access to healthcare career opportunities and pathways to build the next generation of healthcare providers for our growing community. The Foundation leverages external grants and awards funding to community partners and the healthcare system to support innovations that expand the healthcare workforce pipelines.”

“Strengthening the healthcare pipeline through targeted training programs and proactive workforce planning is crucial to ensuring our communities have access to quality, sustainable care,” said Shelly McMillan, system director for professional practice, innovation and workforce development.

Significant funding helped upgrade a simulation lab in Spartanburg Medical Center’s clinical education department. This enhanced educational programming will help address the critical gap in workforce development. This simulation center includes state-of-the-art technology to replicate real hospital rooms and patient interactions to properly train clinical staff in secure environments.

In 2024, the Foundation was able to leverage an additional \$2.7 million for workforce efforts across the footprint of Spartanburg Regional.

In 2024, the Foundation and healthcare system partnered to award Spartanburg Academic Movement \$1.5 million over the next six years to support innovation and workforce development at Spartanburg Regional.

In addition, the Foundation assisted Spartanburg Regional in securing a Department of Labor grant for \$996,000 over three years to strengthen workforce efforts. These funds will expand investment in technology, such as simulation machines and virtual reality equipment, for local career and technology centers. This funding will also enhance training quality and attract more rural and local students to healthcare careers.

In 2024, Spartanburg Regional graduated 93 student nurse associates, hiring 71, and provided work-based learning to 36 high school students, 29 of whom were hired. The system also offered 8,026 clinical rotations across 43 programs and expanded clinical opportunities for EMT and paramedic students. Additionally, over 11,000 learners utilized the simulation lab, and 420 nursing seniors participated in clinical placements.



# SPARTANBURG PHOTOVOICE EMPOWERS YOUNG ARTISTS TO INSPIRE CHANGE, IMPROVE ADOLESCENT HEALTH

The saying runs true: a picture is worth a thousand words.

The Spartanburg Photovoice project provided 10 young artists with an opportunity for their perspectives to be heard through art, empowering them to express themselves and inspiring positive change in the community.

The art project had an unusual start—the 2022 Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The study informed local organizations, foundations and school districts about the pressing social and health issues teens face. Spartanburg Regional Foundation’s Connect initiative, the Chapman Cultural Center and Live Healthy Spartanburg collaborated to bring together young artists to explore a data-driven theme.



“The Spartanburg Photovoice Project is a powerful testament to the impact of data-driven youth voice and a shining example of

SPARTANBURG		2019	2021	2022
<b>PHYSICAL ACTIVITY</b>				
Hours of video/computer activity daily	60%	75%	76%	
Active at least 60 min per day on 5 or more days	53%	46%	53%	
Least One Sports Team	57%	48%	55%	
<b>FOOD INSECURITY</b>				
Breakfast Daily	14%	24%	24%	
Eat One or More Times per Day	~	52%	55%	
At the Time or Always Went Hungry Due to Lack of Food in Home	~	3%	3%	
<b>SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, and MENTAL HEALTH</b>				
Lonely or Hopeless	35%	39%	38%	
Have a Plan About How They Would Attempt Suicide	14%	18%	15%	
Own School Property	20%	18%	20%	
Ever Bullied	14%	16%	15%	
Wounded at their School	66%	58%	64%	
<b>INJURY and VIOLENCE</b>				
Ever Injured	19%	19%	19%	
Ever Injured by a Weapon	4%	5%	7%	
Ever Injured by a Fire	11%	17%	15%	
Ever Injured by a Car	7%	10%	8%	
Ever Injured by Alcohol	7%	7%	7%	
Ever Injured by Drugs	12%	12%	12%	
<b>Substance Use</b>				
Ever Used Tobacco	18%	23%	23%	
Ever Used Marijuana	5%	5%	5%	
Ever Used Prescription Drugs	2%	2%	2%	
Ever Used Illicit Drugs	2%	2%	2%	

effective youth-adult partnership,” said Keith Hill, the Foundation’s grants project manager.

Each photographer researched a theme and reflected on their real-life experiences with those issues. Participants were trained by professionals to learn advanced photographic techniques, enabling them to explore their stories and share their ideas.

“By equipping young people with tools to interpret data through the lens of their lived experiences, we’re not just amplifying their voices, we’re empowering them to shape the conversation about adolescent health,” Hill said. “When communities actively listen to and support youth perspectives, we don’t just learn more about the challenges they face, we also uncover pathways to resilience, empathy and change.”

The exhibit kicked off with a reception with almost 100 attendees at the Spartanburg Art Museum, where attendees engaged with the artwork and learned more about the youth survey.





“Photovoice showed me that there is community in creativity. It was really inspiring to be around such a diverse group of people from all different backgrounds, ages, and artistic styles. Through Photovoice, we were able to easily connect with one another in ways we would not have otherwise.”

**-Mia Easler**

Each artist displayed one original photo, along with a QR code linking to additional photography and multimedia content featuring their thoughts and perspectives.

Designed as a traveling exhibit, the artwork visited seven locations across Spartanburg County in fall 2024, making stops at schools, community centers and medical facilities.

Through the combined efforts of community partners, this event and program not only supported young artists but also inspired the Spartanburg community to listen to teens in a memorable and impactful way.



“I think Photovoice is important because of the way it made the teens feel.”

**-Ashlynn Clayton**



“Photovoice gave us a way to shine a light on issues we care about, issues that we may have never talked about but know are there.”

**-Emma Heffner**

## ASSOCIATE THANKFUL FOR FOUNDATION EMERGENCY FUND IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE HELENE



As Hurricane Helene swept through the Upstate, speech-language pathologist Will Brooks and his family were at home waking up and eating breakfast when the unthinkable happened.

A massive 100-year-old oak tree crashed through their garage and kitchen, shaking the entire house. Brooks' wife was just 15 feet from where branches collided with the house.

Months later, work is still being done to restore the house to its original condition. Brooks, his wife and three young kids have been staying

in a hotel while construction continues.

But the silver lining, Brooks said, is two-fold. One, that his family is OK – thankfully, no one was hurt. And two, the Spartanburg Regional Foundation's Employee Emergency Fund allowed them to remain financially stable and cover expenses that insurance did not.

"Insurance has obviously covered some of that, but the fund certainly helped us bridge the gap," Brooks said. "I don't know what we would have done without the emergency fund's help."



Associates this year benefited from the Spartanburg Regional Foundation's Employee Emergency Fund after Hurricane Helene's widespread damage in September. The disaster relief efforts helped nearly 400 associates. Corporate and community donors came together to raise over \$37,000 to support Helene relief efforts at the Spartanburg Regional Foundation, including over \$9,000 from Spartanburg Regional Strong T-shirt sales.

"When the Hurricane hit, we knew our associates and medically vulnerable patients would be in need," said Polly Edwards-Padgett, executive director of the Spartanburg Regional Foundation. "Our team quickly responded by deploying emergency assistance for food and supplies. I was incredibly proud of our team's ability to adapt and swiftly mobilize. The Foundation is honored to support our healthcare team in times of crisis."

Brooks remembers eyeing the large tree before the storm really picked up in intensity.

"I looked at the trees and I was trying to determine whether we needed to get our kids out of their bedrooms or if they would be near where the tree might fall," he said. "It was obviously scary, but I'm just glad we're all OK."

Brooks has worked at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System as a speech-language pathologist for more than 11 years. He currently



works with Rehabilitation Services at Spartanburg Medical Center – Mary Black Campus.

He said his manager and other employees told him about the emergency fund after the storm and applying was a seamless and efficient process. In just a couple of weeks, he was receiving financial assistance to help cover some of his immediate expenses.

Though the Brooks family celebrated Christmas a little differently in 2024 – staying in a hotel while construction on their home continues – he is thankful to not be facing a huge financial burden.

"The money was a tremendous help," he said. "Thankfully, we're all alive and the kids are OK and we're doing well. The house will be rebuilt, and we can look forward to moving back in soon."

To learn more about the Employee Emergency Fund or to give toward the fund for future needs, go to [RegionalFoundation.com/ways-give/employee-emergency-fund](https://RegionalFoundation.com/ways-give/employee-emergency-fund).

# FOUNDATION JOINT MEETINGS

The Spartanburg Regional Foundation began hosting bi-annual joint meetings in 2024. In the spring and fall, the heart, cancer and hospice division board members gathered to network and receive updates from the Foundation leadership team. We are grateful for our volunteers who dedicate their time to improving health in our community.







# SPARTANBURG REGIONAL FOUNDATION GIVES MORE THAN \$800,000 TOWARD HEALTH INITIATIVES IN 2024

The Spartanburg Regional Foundation in 2024 allocated more than \$800,000 across 17 grantees that are advancing patient care and promoting sustainable health and wellness throughout the community.

“This is a time to reflect on our commitment to projects that have a meaningful impact on our community and patients,” said Polly Edwards-Padgett, the Foundation’s executive director. “We live in a very generous community with people who are compassionate and think through how we prioritize health and wellness for our patients and our neighborhoods.”

Seven grants went toward hospital projects totaling \$474,400, while \$334,000 went to 10 community initiatives.

Funding for hospital-related projects supported:

- Unite Us referral software that coordinates with community partners to deliver proactive, targeted interventions, tracking the impact on reducing disparities and improving patients’ health.
- Community health workers in the Northside and Highland neighborhoods of Spartanburg, in addition to Union, in partnership with The Duke Endowment.
- Healing Arts artists to create and install a mural in the extended stay surgical unit hallways to create a warm and welcoming environment for patients and families.
- Training for the Center for Pediatrics in the evidence-based model to improve health outcomes in infants and children.



*Foundation honors Mark Aycock for his dedication to the Foundation*

- Wireless localization equipment for breast cancer procedures to precisely target the affected tissue to pinpoint its location within 1mm, which can enhance outcomes for women.
- Virtual reality systems to improve rehabilitation of motor function, cognition and movement in pediatric rehab, neurological outpatient rehab and acute care.
- Completion of a new entrance to the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home, which will reduce disruption to the Hilltop neighborhood.



The Funding for community-based projects supported:

- **Family Effect:** To reduce addiction by providing comprehensive services and support to families affected by substance use disorders.
- **Free Medical Clinic of Cherokee County:** To provide free medical care to uninsured, low-income residents of Cherokee County, ensuring access to essential health services.
- **Healthy Smiles:** To improve oral health of underserved children in Spartanburg County through preventive services, education and access to dental care.



- **Project REST:** To provide emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy and support services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties.
- **Angels Charge Ministries:** To provide transitional housing, case management and support services to women transitioning from incarceration back into the community.

- **St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic:** To provide free medical care and health services to low-income, uninsured Spartanburg County residents, aiming to improve health outcomes and quality of life.
- **Strategic Spartanburg:** To support the work that leverages data and evidence to improve the quality of life in Spartanburg County by conducting research that informs policy and practice.
- **Live Healthy Spartanburg:** To support a community-wide effort dedicated to improving the health and wellness of Spartanburg residents by addressing key health issues.
- **SPACE:** To help fund the rehabilitation of the Upper Chinquapin Greenway for enjoyment of residents of the Hilltop neighborhood in Spartanburg and the Spartanburg Regional Hospice Home.
- **Spartanburg Academic Movement:** To support Movement 2030 that aims to improve academic achievement and readiness for the healthcare workforce.

## 2024 FUND HIGHLIGHTS

### **\$57K** CANCER SPECIAL NEEDS

**81 patients** have received one or more of the following types of assistance: medications, rent, mortgage, utilities, nutritional needs, or needed medical equipment.

### **\$269K** HOSPICE SPECIAL NEEDS

Approximately **650 patients/families** were **assisted** financially through caregivers, bill assistance, grocery cards and transportation.

### **\$21K** HARRISON CHAPMAN

These funds allowed **62 patients** to attend cardiac and pulmonary rehab. Each month, the Harrison Chapman fund supported around 7-10 patients, allowing them to participate in 18 rehab sessions over an average span of 6-10 weeks. This funding enabled these patients to receive the necessary rehabilitation services to aid in their recovery.

### **\$10K** HAROLD E. FLEMING

The Harold E. Fleming Fund helped **five patients** by covering expenses for home-based care and durable medical equipment to ensure a safe discharge to their homes.

### **\$22K** PEDIATRIC REHAB

During Christmas week, **587 patients** received hand-picked gifts to enhance their therapy and **71 patients** benefited from testing and medical supplies assistance.

### MAMMOGRAPHY ASSISTANCE

**313** Exams and Screenings      **2** Diagnosed cancers

### **\$8K** DAN WILLIAMSON FUND

### **\$66K** EMS FUND

### **\$8K** DIABETES EDUCATION FUND

### **\$40K** NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

### **\$56K** EMPLOYEE EMERGENCY FUND



LEARN MORE  
ABOUT THE  
FOUNDATION'S  
IMPACT IN 2024.



**\$325,859**  
COMMUNITY GRANTS



**\$269,664**  
HOSPICE



**\$88,140**  
EDUCATION



**\$109,251**  
FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS



**\$267,650**  
GENERAL FUND



FOUNDATION PROGRAM EXPENSES



**\$284,008**  
HOSPITAL GRANTS



**\$1,229,244**  
CANCER



**\$104,525**  
HEART



**\$2,394,690**  
COMMUNITY HEALTH



**\$179,904**  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN

TOTAL



**\$5,252,935**

# GARROW CROWLEY INDUCTED INTO ROBERT H. CHAPMAN, III LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

Garrow Crowley has never been one to sit on the sidelines – she is driven by a passion for making a difference.

That passion is reflected in her long-standing support of the Spartanburg Regional Foundation, where she has served for 12 years on the Foundation's board of trustees.

Her dedication was honored in December 2024 when she was inducted into the Robert H. Chapman III Leadership Society, a distinction reserved for trustees who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to the Foundation and whose contributions will leave a lasting legacy on the health and wellness of the community. Inductees include community members who have served two or more terms on the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

"I just want to be involved," Crowley said. "Serving on a board like this – especially one that can make a meaningful difference in our healthcare system – just makes sense."

Rob H. Chapman, III was a tireless advocate for community health, leaving a legacy that includes expanding the emergency center, funding the Bearden-Josey Center for Breast Health and numerous other contributions to enhance health and wellness in Spartanburg. Chapman died in 2017, but his influence continues to shape the region.

Trustee Sally Spencer, incoming board chair, praised Crowley's dedication and leadership.



"Spartanburg is a healthier community because of my dear friend Garrow Crowley," Spencer said. "Her tireless dedication to our Foundation and her keen insights into how we can drive positive change in our healthcare system have inspired me since I first sat next to her at our initial board meeting."

Crowley's journey with healthcare began with a phone call to Dr. Julian Josey, asking how she could get involved. She joined the Foundation's cancer advisory board and, from there, her involvement has been limitless.



For Crowley, the joy has been in working alongside others who share her passion for advancing health care. She has played a vital role in ensuring the Foundation’s initiatives continue to support Spartanburg Regional patients and the broader community.

Throughout the years, she has served in multiple capacities, including on the Board of Visitors (2000-2005), the Foundation Cancer Division (2005-2010) and the Foundation Hospice Division (2011).

The award honors those who have dedicated their time and talent, passion and resources to improving the health of area residents. Crowley has done just that.

The Crowley family’s commitment to health care extends beyond her own service. Her husband, Chris Crowley, is a member of the Foundation’s Heart Division Advisory Board, and together, they have been deeply inspired by the growth and impact of Spartanburg Regional.

Reflecting on her time with the Foundation, Crowley expressed gratitude for the opportunity to help bring new projects, innovations and philanthropic initiatives to life.

## Spartanburg Regional Foundation Robert H. Chapman, III Leadership Society recipients

G. Ashley Allen, PhD  
Jeffrie B. Berline  
Bill Burton  
Mellnee G. Buchheit  
Harrison S. Chapman\*  
Robert H. Chapman III\*  
Garrow H. Crowley

Phyllis B. DeLapp\*  
Marsha H. Gibbs  
Ellen H. Gramling  
Robert A. Harley\*  
John A. Harrill Jr., MD  
Katie A. Hodge\*  
Brenda M. James

Julian C. Josey Jr., MD\*  
Samuel H. Maw Jr.  
Norman F. Pulliam  
L. Terrell Sovey Jr.\*  
Thomas R. Young III\*

*\*Deceased*

# A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY: TERRELL AND ANNE SOVEY'S IMPACT WILL SPAN GENERATIONS

Rooted in a lifetime of achievement, Terrell Sovey thought deeply about how to leave a generous mark on the community.

The longtime textile executive and entrepreneur wanted to ensure he and his wife, Anne, shared their success with those around them long after their own lives had ended.

Terrell Sovey, a member of the Robert H. Chapman III Leadership Society and chaired the board of trustees, died in 2024 at the age of 93.

The Soveys' generous, seven-figure giving to the Spartanburg Regional Foundation took the form of a charitable remainder unitrust given in 2019.

This form of giving reduces the tax burden on an appreciated asset, provides annual income to the donor for life, reduces potential taxes and leaves the remaining funds to the chosen charities.

The Soveys' legacy will be felt far and wide for generations to come.

"Terrell was more than a leader; he was a friend," said Shelly Sinclair, Spartanburg Regional Foundation senior director of philanthropy. "Throughout the years, he



and Anne were steadfast supporters of our mission. Their generosity will continue to touch and improve the lives of countless individuals in our community. Their memory will continue to guide us and inspire us in the years ahead."

Terrell and Anne Sovey married in 1952 as college sweethearts and moved to



Spartanburg in 1959 after living in Ohio, Rhode Island and New York City.

In Spartanburg, Terrell worked for Deering Milliken, helping to install an engineered cost system. He eventually became general manager of several operating divisions.

Later, Terrell became president of a textile company with major manufacturing facilities in Lyman and Rock Hill, followed by the chairman and CEO of Texfi Industries. He later retired from publicly owned companies and began entrepreneurial work in several private enterprises.

Toward the end of their lives, the Soveys made a commitment to contribute generous amounts to the Spartanburg Regional

Foundation, among other philanthropic organizations.

Through the Foundation's philanthropy efforts, one way to support the work that benefits the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System and surrounding community is by joining the Legacy Society.

This form of giving is planned and offers an invaluable and enduring symbol of one's commitment to patients in need.

If you are interested in more information about Spartanburg Regional Foundation's Legacy Society, contact Shelly Sinclair at 864-560-6727.

## LEGACY SOCIETY

Dr. & Mrs. Jay Bearden  
Mrs. June Bradham  
Dr. Sheila & Mr. Robert Breitweiser  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Butscher  
Ms. Kristy Caradori & Mr. Matthew Russ  
Dr. & Mrs. David Church  
Dr. & Mrs. Mac Davis  
Dorothy C. Alexander Estate  
Mr. & Mrs. Andy Falatok  
Dr. & Mrs. Brian Fowler  
Ms. Heidi From  
Mr. Irwin From  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Gibbs  
Dr. & Mrs. Steve Harley  
Mrs. Renee Hennick  
Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Hodge  
Dr. & Mrs. Bill James  
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Jensen

Estate of Alice M. Lee  
Ms. Julia Lyons  
Mrs. Michelle McCallum  
Estate of Joe W. McCraw  
Ms. Bunny McKown  
Dr. Lori McMillan  
Mr. & Mrs. Marion McMillan Jr.  
Ms. Dawn L. Palladino  
Louise S. Pettus Estate  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Pulliam  
Ms. Cindy L. Selig  
Mary Flowers Scott Smith Estate  
L. Terrell Sovey, Jr. Estate  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Troup  
Mrs. Linda West  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Wildrick  
Dr. & Mrs. Cliff Williams Jr.











# Spartanburg Regional Foundation

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**RegionalFoundation.com**

