



Northeast Georgia Health System, Inc. & Affiliates

Executive Summary

FY17 Community Benefit Report

“Improving the health of our community in all we do.”
Mission Statement

NGMC Gainesville & Braselton

NGMC Gainesville and Braselton value cooperative efforts with community organizations and other healthcare providers to improve the health status of area residents. The organizations demonstrate this through many partnerships ranging from serving as lead agency of Safe Kids Gainesville/Hall County, to partnering with other organizations such as Good News Clinics and the Public Health Department to reach at-risk populations in need of health care.

In FY17, NGMC Gainesville and Braselton provided over \$6.7 million in community benefit programs/outreach. Health education was provided through free community lectures, screenings, various support groups and the semi-annual health magazine, *Communicare*. NGMC also offered many community education seminars on topics ranging from health and nutrition to women’s health education and more, as well as seminars for health professionals in the community, region and state. In addition, NGMC provided support to other local non-profit organizations that serve the community.

What Drives NGMC’s Community Health Improvement Activities?

NGMC, with input from the community, completed a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in 2016. The assessment focused mainly on the needs of the community’s most vulnerable populations, particularly those with low-incomes who are uninsured. Input from the community was gathered through focus groups and interviews. Focus group participants and interviewees included community leaders, public health experts and those representing the needs of minority, underserved and indigent populations. Input was also received from an internal NGMC board level workgroup and senior leadership who validated, refined and expanded the list of health needs NGMC would address. The study culminated in the identification of the following 5 priority health needs across the region: Septicemia, Access to Care, Diabetes, Cancer and Injury.

The 5 health priorities fit hand-in-glove with our strategic direction as an organization. Working together, from senior management to board level, to the bedside and community partners, NGMC has implemented a plan to improve the outcomes of these health needs over a 3 year period. The actions and outcomes of this plan are being tracked to monitor improvements and identify opportunities with each priority health need.

Go to <https://www.nghs.com/community-benefit-resources> for updates and full reports.

The following contains highlights of community benefit activities provided by NGMC in FY17, often partnering with other organizations and individuals in the community:

Partnering to Reach the Uninsured: NGMC works cooperatively with other area healthcare providers to care for area residents, particularly the indigent population. Partners include, but are not limited to, NGMC, the Northeast Georgia Physicians Group (NGPG) Primary Care Clinic at Hall County Health Department, the Northeast Georgia Diagnostic Clinic, The Longstreet Clinic, Medlink (federally qualified health center), area physicians and indigent clinics such as Good News Clinics in Gainesville and Good Shepherd Clinic of Dawson County.

Good News Clinics (GNC): NGMC provides funding to GNC (the largest free clinic in Georgia) that helps provide medications, medical supplies and other support. Founded in 1992, GNC is a Christian ministry that provides medical and dental care to the indigent and uninsured population at no charge. Forty-six physicians, 9 mid-level providers and 43 dentists volunteer to treat patients at GNC. In addition, 332 specialist physicians volunteer to treat patients in their offices through referrals from GNC, NGPG Primary Care Clinic at the Hall County Health Department and physicians in Hall County. **In FY17, nearly \$500,000 was donated to help GNC provide care to indigent patients** who were at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines and did not qualify for other programs. To provide integration between GNC, NGHS, and other providers in the community, NGMC through its foundation, is working to help support the implementation of a high-level electronic medical record system to improve coordination of care and outcomes for this vulnerable patient population.

Eva Johnson, NGMC Nurse Practitioner and Heart Failure Disease Manager, helped establish and now runs the Heart Failure Clinic at GNC. Eva was awarded the Sam Poole Community Volunteer of the Year Award for her tireless work with the clinic. **This project has been extremely successful, holding the 30-day hospital readmissions to one patient in 2017.**

NGPG Primary Care Clinic at the Hall County Health Department: NGMC funds and staffs a primary care clinic at the Hall County Health Department to improve access to primary healthcare services for low-income people in our community. **In FY17, NGMC contributed \$1,070,096 to provide this clinic.**

Prenatal Care Program at the Health Department: NGMC, The Longstreet Clinic, and Hall County Health Department partner to improve birth outcomes by increasing early prenatal care for low-income, uninsured and under-insured pregnant women via the Health Department's primary care clinic. Yearly cost to NGMC is approximately **\$200,000.**

Indigent Patient Fund: At NGMC, financial assistance is provided for indigent patients to obtain urgently needed discharge medications and transportation. Individuals eligible for these funds are patients whose needs cannot be met through primary insurance, their own personal funds, government programs or other charitable services. This helps to ensure medication compliance and maximize conditions for recovery and recuperation. The Medical Center Foundation provides funding for this.

Charity Care: NGMC's charity care policy removes barriers for low-income populations within our service area beginning with free, medically necessary care for patients whose gross family income is 0 to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) adjusted for family size. Further, patients from our service area, whose FPL is from 151 to 300%, may qualify for an adjustment equivalent to the hospital's Medicare reimbursement rate plus an additional 40% discount to the Medicare reimbursement rate.

Total Charity Care Cost for FY17: \$19.9 million for Hall County with another \$18.8 million for regional residents outside of Hall County.

NGMC Volunteers: In FY17, **748 NGMC volunteers** contributed **68,961 volunteer hours**, equivalent to **41 full time employees** and a **value of over \$1.6 million to the organization**. While these figures are not included in the quantitative portion of the community benefit report, they show the depth of support the community gives NGMC. 130 teens participated in the Teen Volunteer Program in 2017. The teens represented 28 different schools within the area.

Encouraging Medical Volunteering: NGMC provides information at physician orientation to encourage physicians to **step up to volunteer** opportunities through **local free clinics** (GNC in Gainesville and Helping Hand Clinic in Cleveland) as well as Health Access. **NGPG also encourages physicians to give of their time volunteering** at these locations. **Through various physician leadership councils, NGMC's Cancer Services Program** encourages its physicians to actively participate in community outreach, including educational seminars, screenings, cancer prevention opportunities and other outreach with the purpose of improving patient care, quality, access and programmatic excellence of cancer services within the community.

Financial Navigators: NGMC has **financial assistance counselors who help patients become insured**, be it through **Medicaid, PeachCare** or other programs. This team focuses on being advocates for uninsured and under-insured patients, aiding them in finding viable means to access care. They find the best solutions for helping patients apply for Medicaid or disability, accessing healthcare exchanges or processing charity applications when appropriate.

Patient Navigators: NGMC also has a **cancer patient navigation program**. This program provides cancer patients with guidance throughout their cancer journey, and they are seen as a "living resource directory" for patients.

Clinical Research: In FY17, all ongoing clinical trial research programs at NGHS were reorganized under the oversight of the new NGMC Office of Research. NGMC's Oncology Research program, through the Georgia NCORP (National Cancer Institute Community Oncology Research Program), received recognition as a high performing research site member. Georgia NCORP provides Georgians with access to state-of-the-art cancer prevention, screening, control, treatment and post treatment trials in 41 locations throughout the state. NGMC was recognized for results in meeting or exceeding our goals for providing patients access to cancer research trials. NGMC's Cardiology Research program was recognized by major sponsors as a top enrolling site through participation in pharmaceutical and device clinical trials in cardiology with outcomes that have the potential to improve standard of care for patients throughout the U.S. and around the world.

Partnering in the Community

Partnership for a Drug Free Hall (DFH): As part of the behavioral health issues being addressed in Hall County, much progress has been achieved in FY17 with regard to the opioid epidemic affecting so many counties across the region and our nation. Hall County's response to this epidemic is the collaborative Partnership for a Drug Free Hall. Modeled after a partnership formed in Gwinnett County led by Senator Renee Unterman, she, along with Deb Bailey, Executive Director of Governmental Affairs at NGHS, Dallas Gay, former NGHS Board Member, and Judy Brownell, Director of Prevention at Center Point, pulled together a diverse group of agencies in Hall County to form this partnership. Other NGHS representatives from Community Health Improvement and Laurelwood also actively serve on this committee.

DFH is dedicated to providing the people of Hall County with information, resources and actions to address drug abuse. Information and resources can be found at <http://drugfreehall.org>. The following activities have come from this collaboration and are available to the community:

- **Not My Family, a series of forums** directed at families and individuals was launched to provide awareness, education and local resources. In September 2017, the first forum was held in Gainesville at the Brenau Downtown Center where over 450 people attended. Attendees ranged from professionals to students to families and friends, and this series continues in 2018.
- **Parent Support Group** for parents/guardians who have lost a child due to overdose or drug-related injuries as well as parents with a child who is struggling with addiction is available to the community.
- **3 Steps to Save A Life**, a training program designed to equip the general public with lifesaving information to prevent overdose deaths, was launched. In 2018, this tool will be available in a free App, (currently available at www.oorescue.com).
- **Engagement in local schools and university systems** such as with the University of North Georgia was expanded. In addition to this, **DFH in collaboration with the Hall County Family Connection Network (HCFCN)**, planned a 2018 Youth Empowerment Summit to educate up to 100 sixth graders about the dangers of alcohol and drugs, as well as, leadership skills and refusal strategies. Through this summit, a **Youth Advisory Council** will be developed.
- **S.T.A.R.T. (Students Together Achieving Responsibility & Tolerance)**, a Youth Advisory Council, will be an advisory group of youth leaders who work in partnership with their peers, local leaders and community organizations in Hall County. As part of this council, members will learn about current issues facing youth, develop and strengthen leadership skills, provide input about current issues facing youth, interact with local community leaders, serve as youth advocates and ambassadors for Hall County, participating in team building activities, volunteer projects and community service.
- NGMC's emergency departments have been chosen by the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse to participate in a two-year, grant-funded pilot project to help patients who experience an opioid-related overdose. The **ED-CARES** program connects people who have been admitted to emergency rooms for an opioid-related overdose with trained peer recovery coaches. This peer support plays an important role in helping people avoid another overdose and encouraging them to seek treatment. The program was created in response to the increasing number of overdose fatalities and seeks to curtail that trend by better connecting people at high-risk with community supports and services. NGMC is the only hospital system in Georgia to provide this support, which is provided in all three Emergency Departments (at Gainesville, Braselton and Barrow).
- Georgia continues to benefit from **Project DAN (Deaths Avoided by Naloxone)**, an effort to equip first responders with the drug naloxone/Narcan which can quickly reverse overdoses from opioids or heroin. The Medical Center Foundation's 2015 Medical Center Open

benefited the Medical Association of Georgia Foundation's 'Think About It' Campaign that funded Project DAN. Until recently, naloxone was only available by prescription, but thanks to a standing order signed by Gov. Deal on December 14, 2016, the *Jeffrey Dallas Gay Act*, naloxone can now be dispensed over-the-counter by pharmacists across Georgia, making it accessible to parents and other lay citizens who may be the firsthand witnesses to overdoses. Through Project DAN, Northeast Georgia Health System has trained more than 5,000 people in 98 agencies across 53 counties on the use of naloxone. Although, there is no official reporting process to capture all lives saved, we do know that 27 lives have been saved in Hall County and over 80 in our service area with naloxone kits provided to first responders through Project DAN.

- In FY17, the **Georgia Composite Medical Board** proposed required physician education addressing controlled substance prescribing guidelines. NGMC has for many years participated in seeking solutions to the tremendous opioid epidemic in our community and our state. In an effort to better educate physicians on this alarming health crisis, the Georgia Composite Medical Board met and proposed amendments to the Georgia Composite Medical Board Rules which add continuing education requirements for physicians to address controlled substance prescribing guidelines and recognizing signs of abuse or misuse. The updated ruling was set to take effect January 1, 2018. Details can be found at the Medical Association of Georgia's website at www.mag.org.

NGMC is actively involved in Vision 2030 (www.Vision2030.org). This community-wide program is sponsored by the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and participation is open to everyone in the community. **An NGMC employee currently serves on the board of Vision 2030** which focuses on the creation of a culture of community wellness, the support and maintenance of lifelong learning, the building of an economy around emerging life sciences, the encouragement of innovative growth/infrastructure development and the promotion of cultural integration.

NGMC is also an active partner on other chamber committees such as the **Healthcare Committee** and the **Health Initiative Consortium**. NGMC is also a partner in **HALLmark**, which is a community investment plan that addresses economic development, education, government and community development through partnership.

Two NGMC representatives serve on the **Hall County Family Connection Network (HCFCN)**. HCFCN adopted **Teen Pregnancy Prevention and community-wide resource mapping in partnership with United Way** as its two focus areas in FY17. HCFCN is a collaborative which serves as the local decision-making body, bringing community partners together to develop, implement and evaluate plans that address the serious challenges facing the children and families in our county, in addition to increasing awareness and knowledge of existing programs and services available to families and children in Hall County. Its vision is that every child has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential for good health, be secure from abuse and neglect and become a literate, productive, economically self-sufficient member of our community.

A Member of NGMC's bariatric service line serves on **Hall County School System's Wellness Council**.

The Medical Center Foundation (MCF) Raises Funds to Benefit the Community

The MCF is the fundraising arm of NGMC and raises funds to improve the health of the community. The Foundation's operating expenses are supported by NGMC so that donated funds can be used to support NGMC projects and community health improvement initiatives. Following are items of interest to note:

- **Since 1997, approximately \$3.8 million has been raised for community health improvement projects through The Medical Center Open.**
- **The 2016 Medical Center Open Golf Tournament, which was held in FY17, raised \$282,454 to fund three homes and a neighborhood playground for Habitat for Humanity of Hall County, located in its signature subdivision, Copper Glen. Over 100 community volunteers, 225 sponsors and 216 players made the tournament a success! NGMC senior leadership and employees helped construct the homes through three NGMC Build Days that benefitted three deserving families.**
- **Through the employee giving club known as W.A.T.C.H. (We Are Targeting Community Healthcare), members have donated more than \$8.8 million to support the Healthy Journey Campaign since the program's inception in 1999.**

Investing in Our Youth

Safe Kids Coalition Works to Keep Kids Safe: The Gainesville-Hall County Safe Kids Coalition, led by NGMC, is part of Safe Kids Worldwide, the first and only national organization dedicated solely to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury, which is the nation's number one killer of children ages 14 and under. This program provides affordable safety equipment such as car seats, bike helmets, and life jackets to area children in need. Working with a coalition made up of law enforcement, area schools, community volunteers and others, Safe Kids provides educational materials and programs that teach children and their parents how to avoid accidents and injuries. Safe Kids continued the work of injury prevention for families in the Hall County community in 2017 thanks to the support of MCF and The Medical Center Auxiliary proceeds from Marketplace (an annual fundraising event of The Medical Center Auxiliary, which benefits healthcare services of NGMC).

In FY17, members of the Gainesville-Hall County Safe Kids Coalition provided over 76 programs and events that **reached an estimated 9,643 children and their family members, teachers and caregivers.** Through these programs, **over 4,201 safety devices were distributed** to families in need of them.

Education and Support for Seniors

Getting Older and Better Workshops: Over **220 people** participated in the **Getting Older and Better Workshops** held in September in Gainesville and Braselton. This event was sponsored by The Medical Center Auxiliary, provided by NGMC and featured the topic "Let's Talk About Stroke: Signs, Treatment, and Lowering your Risk." Featured speakers were Antoine Leflore, MD., Emergency Medicine Physician from Northeast Georgia Health System, Shaena Blevins, MD., Stroke Medical Director from Northeast Georgia Medical Center and NGPG Neurology, Jennifer Sweigart, Inpatient Neurology Physician Assistant from Northeast Georgia Physicians Group Neurology and Heather Wilsey, Physical Therapist and Outpatient Supervisor from The Rehabilitation Institute of Northeast Georgia Medical Center.

Support of Community Efforts to Improve Health

NGMC employees are very active in the community, volunteering at GNC, in their churches on mission trips and for community agencies such as the Humane Society and Habitat for Humanity. **When it**

comes to supporting MCF's employee giving club, W.A.T.C.H., over 3,500 employees donated about \$745,000 in 2017.

American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and March of Dimes: NGMC employees turned out in full force for community events such as the American Heart Walk, March for Babies and Relay for Life, averaging participation of 300 employees per event.

Blood Drives: In FY17, NGMC hosted 22 drives, resulting in 484 donors and over 404 pints of blood.

United Way Pacesetter & More: NGMC has partnered with United Way to engage employees and leaders in the community. NGHS employees **contributed \$76,415** to United Way as a Pacesetter Company. Three NGMC employees serve on the United Way Board; **Dr. Sam Johnson**, Chief Medical Officer at NGHS, serves as **Chairman on One Hall United Against Poverty**.

In an effort to improve school readiness and literacy for our community's children, NGMC has partnered with the United Way of Hall County's **Read Learn Succeed** initiative to produce a children's book. Printed in English and Spanish, "**Welcome to the World**," provides education about the importance of reading to children every day, for at least 15 minutes, starting at birth. The book also includes keepsake pages for baby's first footprints and handprints. Funded by The Medical Center Auxiliary, this book is given to all babies born at NGMC Gainesville and NGMC Braselton.

Training and Education for Healthcare Professionals: NGMC continues to serve as a "**pipeline**" to help get more qualified people interested in healthcare positions and help provide training and education to students. This training and education is done through a variety of avenues from job shadowing to the nurse extern program and pharmacy residency program, as well as significant support to Foothills Area Health Education Centers.

Graduate Medical Education (GME): Northeast Georgia Medical Center's GME program is designed to train residents to be leaders in the medical field as well as in the community. Medical students will receive hands-on training in one of six medical specialties: internal medicine, family medicine, general surgery, OB/GYN, psychiatry and emergency medicine. NGMC expects this program to grow to 170 residents by 2024, which would make this program one of the largest in the state, and expects its first students in 2019.

Dr. Antonio Rios, Chief Physician Executive for NGPG, was elected **Chairman of The Georgia Board for Physician Workforce**. On this board, Dr. Rios will be committed to furthering the board's mission to identify the physician workforce needs of Georgia communities and to meet those needs through the support and development of medical education programs. Dr. Rios also serves on the Good News Clinics and District 2 Public Health boards.

Northeast Georgia STEMI Summit: Hosted each year by NGMC, the Northeast Georgia STEMI Summit brings together paramedics, EMS staff and doctors from across the state. They meet to discuss the state of the Northeast Georgia Regional STEMI System – a collaborative effort providing critical care and rapid response in 18 counties across the region to people suffering a severe heart attack known as STEMI (S-T Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction).

As this year's summit was in progress, the Georgia House of Representatives voted in favor of adopting Senate Bill 102, which provides for the establishment of emergency cardiac centers and the

establishment of the Office of Cardiac Care within the Georgia Department of Public health. The bill was spearheaded by Jeffrey Marshall, MD (The Heart Center of NGMC) and Deb Bailey, Executive Director of Governmental Affairs at Northeast Georgia Health System. In addition to championing Senate Bill 102, Deb has made tremendous contributions to our state as a whole, serving on the Georgia Committee on Public Health, Georgia Board of Nursing and the Georgia Hospital Medicaid Financial Program Advisory Committee.

NGMC Provides Health Information & Support: The Fraser Resource Center and Health Sciences Library & Braselton Resource Center at NGHS serve the health information needs of the community. Consumers, patients and their family members have access to credible resources relating to medical symptoms, conditions and treatments both at the library and also via links on NGMC's website (www.nghs.com/library). The Resource Center encourages visitors to make healthy choices and become active, informed partners in their health care.

NGMC Employees Lead the Way: Carol Burrell, NGHS President and CEO, was named Georgia's Most Respected Business Leader for 2017 by *Georgia Trend* magazine. At the annual *Masters in the Art of Nursing: Healers Among Us* event, Deb Bailey, Executive Director of Governmental Affairs at NGHS, and Mary Martin, Chief Nursing Informatics Officer at NGHS, were recognized along with two other nurses in the community for their dedication and excellence.

SANE program: NGMC provides a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) program which provides nurses special training in rape crisis, trial time with a District Attorney and training with law enforcement and a pediatrician's office. NGMC employs nurses who have specialized training to complete the Sexual Assault Nurse Exam and provide specialized care for patients who are victims of sexual assault. This program is not a requirement of hospitals and is also not provided at all hospitals throughout the state.

NGMC Barrow

NGMC Barrow, LLC (Barrow) values cooperative efforts with community organizations and other healthcare providers to improve the health status of area residents. The organization demonstrates this through community partnerships ranging from free health screenings at local health fairs to providing a meeting space for other non-profit organizations, such as United Way and Rotary Club of Winder.

In FY17, Barrow provided over \$89,000 in community benefit programs/outreach. Barrow offered many community education seminars on topics ranging from healthy cooking demos to heart health and more. In addition, Barrow provided support to other local non-profit organizations that serve the community.

What Drives Barrow's Community Health Improvement Activities?

NGMC, with input from the community, completed a region-wide Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in 2016 that included Barrow and surrounding counties (before Barrow was acquired by NGMC). Through the CHNA, cancer was identified as a health priority for Barrow County. According to the National Cancer Institute 2008-2012, Barrow County has a lung cancer indicator value of 87.9, well above its neighbor Gwinnett County's value of 54.1 and the state benchmark of 68.8. Additionally, according to the Georgia Department of Public Health's Georgia Tobacco Use Surveillance Report, in 2015, approximately 4% of middle school students and 53,000 or 13% of high school students in Georgia smoke cigarettes. NGMC is partnering with Barrow County Schools to implement "Tar Wars", a tobacco-free education program for fourth and fifth grade students developed by the American Academy of

Family Physicians to teach kids about the dangers of tobacco use, the cost associated with using tobacco products, and the advertising techniques used by the tobacco industry to market their products to youth.

Go to <https://www.nghs.com/community-benefit-resources> for updates and full reports.

The following contains highlights of community benefit activities provided by Barrow in FY17:

Charity Care: Like NGMC Gainesville and Braselton, Barrow's charity care policy removes barriers for low-income populations within our service area beginning with free, medically necessary care for patients whose gross family income is 0 to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) adjusted for family size. Further, patients from our service area, whose FPL is from 151 to 300%, may qualify for an adjustment equivalent to the hospital's Medicare reimbursement rate plus an additional 40% discount to the Medicare reimbursement rate.

Total Charity Care Cost for Barrow in FY17: \$1.2 million with another \$308 thousand provided to regional residents outside Barrow County.

Encouraging Medical Volunteering: Through various physician leadership councils, NGMC Barrow's **Cancer Services Program** encourages its physicians to actively participate in community outreach, including educational seminars, screenings, cancer prevention opportunities and other outreach with the purpose of improving patient care, quality, access and programmatic excellence of cancer services within the community.

Financial Navigators: Barrow has **financial assistance counselors who help patients become insured**, be it through **Medicaid, PeachCare** or other programs. This team focuses on being advocates for uninsured and under-insured patients, aiding them in finding viable means to access care. They find the best solutions for helping patients apply for Medicaid or disability, accessing healthcare exchanges or processing charity applications when appropriate.

Partnering in the Community

Barrow Volunteers: In FY17, **24 NGMC volunteers** contributed **4,828 volunteer hours**, equivalent to **almost 3 full time employees** and a **value of over \$116,548 to the organization**. While these figures are not included in the quantitative portion of the community benefit report, they show the depth of support the community gives Barrow.

Like Gainesville and Braselton, Barrow's emergency department participates in the **ED-CARES** program, which connects people who have been admitted to emergency rooms for an opioid-related overdose with trained peer recovery coaches.

Rotary Club of Winder Support: Sunita Singh, public relations manager for Barrow, serves as President of the Rotary Club of Winder, which benefits various community programs such as Peace Place, The Tree House Inc., United Way and Boy Scouts of America, just to name a few.

Support of Community Efforts to Improve Health

American Cancer Society (ACS): Barrow was the Platinum Sponsor for the ACS Relay for Life in Barrow County. The walk benefits cancer research and community education. NGMC employees turned out in full force for Relay for Life, with over 360 walkers throughout the region.

Northeast Georgia Food Bank Support: Barrow provided a donation to the Northeast Georgia Food Bank's Food 2 Kids program in Barrow County. This program was developed to alleviate hunger on nights and weekends when other food is not available for children in need.

Boys & Girls Club: Barrow gave a donation to the Boys & Girls Club which provides programs that empower youth to excel in school, become good citizens and lead healthy, productive lives.

Health Screenings: Barrow provided health education and screenings at local health fairs, such as free blood pressure checks and diabetes education.

Community Health Education: Barrow offers a variety of free health education classes from Arthritis to healthy cooking demonstrations.

The Diabetes Education team at NGMC developed partnerships with community professionals, including a dietitian at Barrow, in order to expand the access to the **Prevent T2 Diabetes program**, a proven program to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. This team is currently working to provide classes in Barrow.

Organization Overview

Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) is a not-for-profit community health system dedicated to improving the health and quality of life of the people of Northeast Georgia. Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) has three hospital campuses – NGMC Gainesville, NGMC Braselton and Barrow – with a total of 713 beds and more than 700 medical staff members representing more than 50 specialties.

The Health System offers a full range of healthcare services through NGMC such as gynecologic oncology, electrophysiology, cardiac surgery, critical care medicine, surgical trauma, neonatology and perinatology. CareChex® recognizes NGMC as Georgia's #1 hospital for heart care, women's care and pulmonary care. NGMC also provides long term care through two centers in Gainesville and mental health and substance abuse treatment through a freestanding inpatient center.

Northeast Georgia Physicians Group (NGPG) brings together more than 350 talented physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, midwives and other clinical staff at more than 65 locations across North Georgia. As the state's sixth-largest physician group, we always have a practice nearby to offer you expert care in more than 25 specialties.

Led by volunteer boards made up of community leaders, the Health System serves 1 million people in more than 18 counties across Northeast Georgia. As a not-for-profit health system, all revenue generated above operating expenses is returned to the community through improved services and innovative programs. Northeast Georgia Medical Center's Charity Care Policy supports the provision of care for indigent patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

Special Notes

NGMC uses the precepts outlined in "A Guide for Planning and Reporting Community Benefit," provided by the Catholic Health Association of The United States and VHA, Inc. The guide's purpose is to help not-

for-profit mission-driven healthcare organizations develop, enhance and report on their community benefit programs.

Community Benefit Definition: Program or activity must address a demonstrated community need, and seek to address at least one of the following community benefit objectives:

- improve access
- enhance population health
- advance generalizable knowledge
- relieve government burden to improve health

The program or activity must:

- primarily benefit the community rather than the organization
- result in measurable expense to the organization

If the program or activity is provided primarily for marketing purposes, standard practice, expected of all hospitals (such as activities required for accreditation, licensure, or to participate in Medicare) or is primarily for employees (not including interns, residents and fellows) and/or affiliated physicians, it is not community benefit.

For more information, contact Christy Moore, Manager, Community Health Improvement, at (770) 219-8097 or go to www.nghs.com.