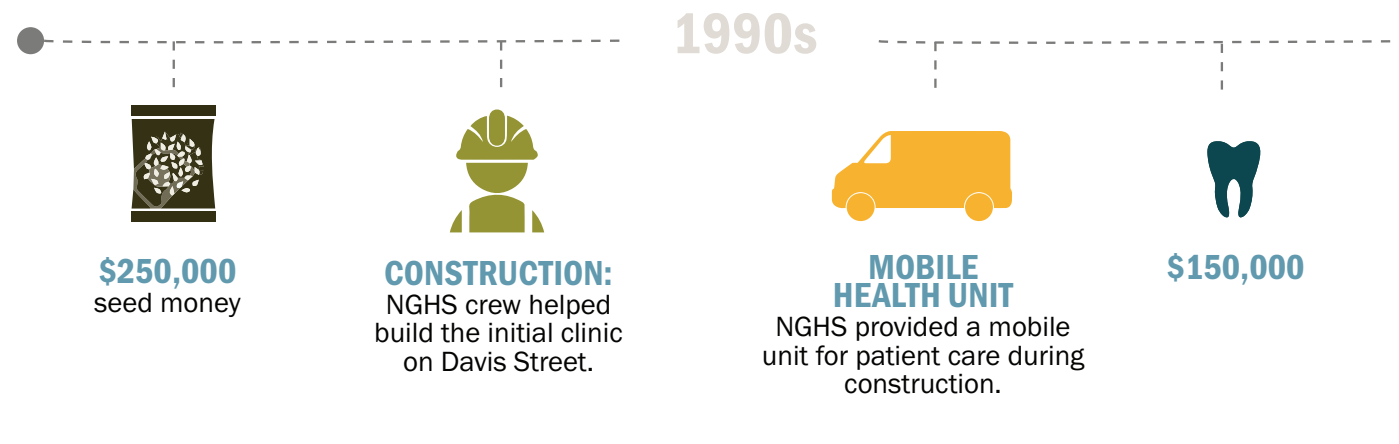


BUILDING A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY TOGETHER

partnering for decades



IN OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

working together to serve our community's most vulnerable populations



Good News Clinics (GNC), which began seeing patients in a closet decades ago, is today (by patient count) the largest free medical clinic in Georgia. The Clinics provides not only primary care, but also dental and specialty care to the uninsured in Hall County who cannot afford health care.

That care is not only lifesaving for people who benefit first-hand from GNC's services, but also reduces the burden of providing higher level care in hospitals and surgery centers.

"Support of Good News Clinics is in perfect alignment with the mission of our Health System," says Christy Moore, Director, Community Health Improvement at Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) and GNC board member. "We want people to get the right care at the right time, ideally at a preventive stage versus an emergent situation. It's better for the patient first and foremost and also allows for better use of our collective resources. Good News Clinics helps improve the health of our community one patient at a time, and our partnership has grown and evolved since the Clinic began." (See support highlights at left.)

Liz Coates, Executive Director at Good News Clinics, shared a real life example of how GNC provides a continuum of care unavailable to patients from any other source in our community: "Around Christmas in 2017, Eleslie came to Good News Clinics carrying the weight of trauma and searching for someone to help her heal. At just 22 years old, she found more than counseling—she found a team committed to her health and healing. Eleslie now receives medical and specialty care, lab work, and medications. Through our Health Access Initiative, she was connected to imaging services and a cardiologist to address a serious heart condition—care she would not have received otherwise. Today, she is on a path to healing, surrounded by support, and filled with new hope for her future.

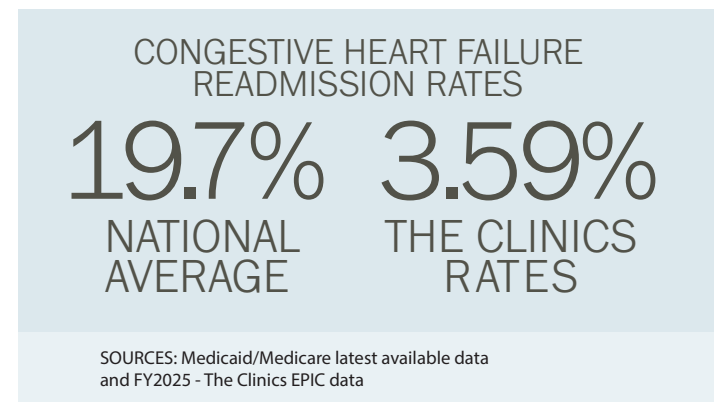
Eleslie is one of approximately 3,500 patients cared for at Good News Clinics each year. Northeast Georgia Health System provides roughly a third of the Clinic's budget currently and has been a major supporter year after year. NGHS also provided GNC with access to the same electronic medical record system used by the health system and large physician groups like Longstreet Clinic. That access also included training for the GNC team.

"With the electronic record, GNC patient care coordination is greatly improved," says Coates. "We can access patients' lab work, imaging, visit summaries – all in one place. If GNC patients need hospital services, the hospital team has access to records of care at GNC. This was a large investment by our community through the NGHS Foundation. Also, NGMC is able to make

direct referrals to GNC for patients being discharged who lack insurance and require often serious follow up care and medications in order to remain stable. The partnership between NGHS and GNC has incredible power and our patients are the beneficiaries."

The relationship between NGHS and GNC goes beyond financial support, according to Moore. "Many NGMC Medical Staff physicians volunteer with Good News Clinics, seeing patients at GNC or in their offices," she says. "Services are often provided at our imaging centers or operating rooms if there is a need that is not available at the Clinic."

The result of the work at Good News Clinics is a healthier community measurable in quantifiable results. For example, while the national re-admission rate for Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) is 19.7 percent, GNC's re-admission rate is only 3.59 percent. The clinic's CHF efforts are led by the physicians of the Georgia Heart Institute at no cost to the patient.



Just as NGHS continues to expand to care for patients, Good News Clinics has grown to meet the high demand for health services among its patient population. The Clinics has raised over \$9 million toward their \$11 million goal to double their space for medical services, expand eye services by 400% and grow the pharmacy by 100%.

"The relationship between GNC and Northeast Georgia Health System is rooted in a shared commitment to our community," says Moore. "Through innovation, joint problem-solving, and a willingness to partner throughout the community, the clinic is a model for similar services across the state and the nation."

For more information, visit goodnewsclinics.org