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**IMAGINE**  
The Campaign for Roper St. Francis Healthcare

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025

 **ROPER ST. FRANCIS**  
FOUNDATION



# DEAR FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

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*Thanks to donors like you, we are able to provide healing and hope to our patients and community members. We are honored to share that 2025 was the strongest year yet for the Roper St. Francis Foundation. We hope you see the impact of your generosity reflected in the inspiring stories of our patients and teammates throughout this report.*

*In 2025, the Roper St. Francis Foundation received more than \$50 million in philanthropic support to advance our mission of healing all people with compassion, faith and excellence. Your generosity makes it possible for us to deliver high-quality care to every patient we serve, regardless of their ability to pay.*

*Your support is shaping meaningful progress across Roper St. Francis Healthcare – from advancing clinical programs and technology to enhancing our facilities to better serve our growing community. Your gifts and advocacy help ensure that best-in-class care remains accessible to those who need it most.*

*Each story shared in this report is deeply connected to the commitment of donors like you. On behalf of our physicians, teammates, and the patients we serve, thank you for standing with us and supporting our mission. YOU are an essential partner in this important work.*

*As we look toward the future, we are focused on what comes next. We hope that you will imagine with us as we plan for the future of healthcare in the Lowcountry – expanding access, strengthening services, and preparing for the evolving needs of generations to come. I am beyond grateful for your continued partnership and look forward to all we will accomplish together.*

*With gratitude,*



**Anthony T. Burchard**

Vice President, Roper St. Francis Healthcare  
President, Roper St. Francis Foundation

# IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS 2025

**\$50.7M**

contributions to the Roper St. Francis Foundation

**503**

individuals &  
organizations that  
joined the Roper  
Xavier Society

**1,731**

donors who advanced  
our mission through  
philanthropy

**\$921,305**

given by teammates and physicians

**533**

new patients seen at  
the Greer Transitions  
Clinics this year

**15**

invasive mechanical  
ventilators replaced to  
ensure reliable, life-  
saving respiratory care

**1**

new Children's Care  
Unit opened to meet the  
needs of the children in  
our community

72

nurses who benefited from nursing scholarships

\$200,957

raised in teammate assistance funds to help our teammates navigate hardships

37

replacement orthopaedic power tools purchased for our surgical teams

4

EKG machines purchased to improve cardiac monitoring and diagnostics

1

Arc-Ex system added to enhance patient safety and clinical capabilities

300

blood pressure cuffs purchased to support stroke patient care and monitoring

4

new ambulances added to our fleet to meet the growing needs of our community

20

teammate salaries funded while they train to become Certified Medical Assistants

14

patient support positions funded, including community health workers and nurse navigators

# YOUR IMPACT ON ONCOLOGY

## SURROUNDED BY LOVE: FACING BREAST CANCER WITH FAITH AND GOOD HEALTHCARE

Traci Zerbst was busy in the kitchen, preparing for Thanksgiving and eagerly awaiting the arrival of family. Nearby, her husband, Paul, a devoted pastor, was fine-tuning his next sermon. Life felt full and blessed.

Then came the news that changed everything.

Just days after a routine mammogram raised concerns, a follow-up biopsy confirmed that Traci had breast cancer. For Traci, a music therapist from Hanahan, the diagnosis came as a shock — especially after having faced and overcome Hodgkin's lymphoma earlier in life. The news served as an unexpected reminder that past health challenges can resurface when least expected.



Traci Zerbst with her husband Paul

Traci turned to her trusted physician, Dr. Laura Lee Kinney, who quickly referred her to Dr. Philip Albaneze, a breast surgeon with Roper St. Francis Healthcare. From the moment she met him, Traci felt reassured.

“He didn’t rush, and he answered every question,” she says. “I didn’t feel like just another patient. I felt seen and heard.” At that first appointment — while still processing her

diagnosis — Traci received a comprehensive breast cancer guidebook from Dr. Albaneze’s team. Inside was information designed to help patients navigate their care, including resources available to support them along the way. As Paul transitioned from the corporate world into full-time ministry, knowing that support systems were in place brought tremendous peace of mind.

“It felt like such a blessing,” Traci says. “Before we even knew everything this journey would involve, we knew we wouldn’t be walking through it alone.”

### Hard Choices, Guided by Faith and Trusted Medical Care

An MRI soon revealed additional cancerous spots, confirming a diagnosis of stage two breast cancer. Further review of Traci’s medical history revealed that the radiation treatments she had received years earlier for Hodgkin’s lymphoma likely contributed to the development of this cancer.

After much prayer and thoughtful discussion, Traci and Paul made a bold and proactive decision: a double mastectomy. Dr. Albaneze carefully explained her options and offered guidance but never pressured.

“I never felt rushed or pushed,” Traci says. “He empowered us to make the decision that felt right for us.”

Because the cancer had not reached her lymph nodes, Traci was able to avoid chemotherapy and radiation — a tremendous relief. For reconstruction, Dr. Albaneze recommended Dr. Federico Perez, a plastic surgeon with Roper St. Francis Healthcare. Once again, Traci felt she was in capable and compassionate hands.

Her initial surgery took place on January 8, with both physicians present and working together as a team. While healing came with its challenges, Traci approached recovery with patience, faith, and trust in her care team. By April 2, she underwent a successful reconstructive surgery.



Traci with her care team, Dr. Albaneze (left) and Dr. Perez (right)

### Grace Notes Along the Way

Throughout her recovery, Traci found strength in the small moments — the grace notes that sustained this music therapist. From the steady presence of her husband to the unwavering support of their daughters, Amy and Ashley, and the prayers of their church family, love surrounded her at every step.

And then there were the caregivers — attentive, respectful, and deeply compassionate. Dr. Perez’s team made a lasting impression with their kindness and expertise, reinforcing Traci’s sense that she was truly cared for.

Today, Traci’s prognosis is positive, with no signs of cancer spread. With the help of ongoing preventive therapy, she remains focused on healing and moving forward with confidence.

*“(Dr. Albaneze) didn’t rush, and he answered every question... I didn’t feel like just another patient. I felt seen and heard.”*

### Giving Back with Gratitude

Grateful for the care, guidance, and support she received, Traci and Paul felt called to give back — to help ensure others facing a cancer diagnosis experience the same compassion and dignity. Not long after her own diagnosis, another woman in their church received similar news. Traci stepped into the role of encourager, offering understanding, prayer, and hope.

This journey has only strengthened Traci’s belief in faith, community, and resilience.

“You have a choice,” she says. “You can get bitter or better. I chose better. I chose to surround myself with people who lift me up.”

Her advice to others facing a diagnosis is heartfelt and simple:

“Don’t walk through it alone. Let people in. Let them pray for you and carry some of the weight. We are made for community.”

Because of generous donor support, patients like Traci receive not only excellent medical care, but the guidance, compassion, and resources needed to focus fully on healing. Your philanthropy helps ensure no one faces cancer alone.



# YOUR IMPACT ON COMMUNITY HEALTH

## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK: GENEROUS DONORS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT THE GREER TRANSITIONS CLINIC

### Martin Robinson

Thousands of uninsured and underinsured people in the Lowcountry benefit from the high-quality health care they receive at the Greer Transitions Clinic, thanks to generous donor support.

Martin Robinson was born and raised in Charleston. He left at age 18 to pursue a career in the army in California, then decided to return to the North Charleston area. Until recently, he served as a cook at the College of Charleston. By the time he began to have serious health problems in the summer of 2024, he had no health insurance.

After going to the emergency room for weakness and paralysis in his legs, Martin was referred to the Greer Transitions Clinic. Dr. Samuel Parish became his primary physician, who ordered a round of blood tests. Martin was found to have a high PSA level, often an indicator of prostate cancer. As a result, Dr. Parish then wanted Martin to get a CT scan.

Kelly Pierson, the clinic's certified Community Health Worker, arrived in the clinic's "Roper Rogue" to take Martin to get his scan, only to find Martin about to fall in his home.



Martin Robinson (second from right) with members of the Greer Transitions Clinic team

She took him to the Roper Hospital Emergency Room, then to get his CT scan. He was diagnosed with having a cancerous tumor on his spine. He had it surgically removed, with chemotherapy and radiation treatments to follow.

He now checks in regularly at the clinic with Dr. Parish, while Kelly helps bring him food and his medications. She also helps him with his financial aid paperwork.

Had it not been for Kelly's timely visit to Martin's home, he could have been in serious trouble. With the clinic's services, Martin is doing well as he continues his post-surgery radiation treatments.

As he reflects on the care he's been given by the clinic's staff, Martin is grateful. "They care about you there," he says. "It feels like home. "They bought me a walker and bring me food. I take just what I need to get me through." This former college cook is enjoying preparing his own meals again.

Could Martin have found this kind of care anywhere else besides the Greer Transitions Clinic? Kelly doesn't think so. Now this 61-year-old man has a fighting chance at a much longer, healthier life.

### Joseph Harris

Joseph Harris is 79 and a former local government employee. He has been a longtime patient of the Greer Transitions Clinic. While Joseph has Medicare, like many patients, he still needs care coordination and clear communication to improve his health. That's where the clinic comes in, providing needed services unavailable elsewhere in the Lowcountry. These critical services are offered thanks to donors' philanthropy.

In March of this year, Joseph changed phone numbers. As a result, a cardiologist's office staffer tried unsuccessfully to confirm an upcoming appointment with him. Then he missed a visit to the clinic with Kelly, prompting her to



Kelly Pierson and Joseph Harris

drive to his home to check on him. When Joseph came to the door, Kelly was concerned about his unhealthy appearance. He was weak, thin and not breathing well.

Joseph had considered calling for an ambulance, but he wondered how he would get home. Kelly immediately called 911. Joseph spent nine days in Roper Hospital, where it was discovered that he had a double hernia. He had a previous hernia that had not been too painful. This time, Joseph says he had “pain all day and all night.”

As part of Joseph’s post-surgery care, Joseph receives nutritious food from the clinic, for which he is thankful.

“I love going to the Greer Transitions Clinic!” Joseph says. “I don’t want to go anywhere else.”

Helping people like Martin and Joseph is all in a day’s work for Kelly, who has worked at the clinic for two years.

“I love it,” she says. “It’s a blessing to be able to help people every day.”

Without the generous support of our donors, our uninsured and underinsured patients would have no one to check in on them, to take them to appointments, to help them obtain and take their medications, to provide them with nutritious food, and to pair them with a primary care physician.

Such patients do not fall into the cracks of our system. In most cases, Greer Transitions Clinic patients can heal and thrive, thanks to the quality healthcare our donors provide.

## AN UPDATE ON OUR MOBILE HEALTH PROGRAM



Scott and Dottie Farfone (above left) gifted a fully equipped Sprinter Van to support community health outreach



From the Charleston Battery soccer stadium and neighborhood barbershops to libraries and cancer screening events, our Mobile Health Units spent the past year doing exactly what they were designed to do: meet people where they are and bring preventive care directly into the community.

In 2025, we added a new unit to our fleet thanks to a generous donation of a sprinter van from Dottie’s Pharmacy. Our Mobile Health team reached more than 905 people through health education and administered over 1,650 health screenings, helping community members better understand their health and take proactive steps toward prevention.

### 2025 MOBILE HEALTH UNITS IMPACT

- 331 breast exams
- 703 blood pressure checks
- 590 A1C tests
- 12 colon cancer risk assessments
- 25 prostate cancer screenings

### ONE YEAR OF THE BERKELEY COUNTY GREER TRANSITIONS CLINIC

In its first year of operation, the Berkeley County Greer Transitions Clinic has demonstrated the impact of transitional, comprehensive primary care for medically and socially complex patients. Serving as a bridge from emergency, inpatient, and community-based settings into stable outpatient care, the Clinic has improved continuity, reduced avoidable emergency department visits, and expanded access for patients who historically lacked a medical home.

In its first year, the Clinic became a vital point of care for **567 individuals**, including **137 patients** who were connected to ongoing care for the first time. Many of these patients came to us through emergency departments, inpatient units, or community-based referrals — often without a primary care provider or any reliable path to follow-up care. By meeting patients where they were and closing critical gaps in access, the Clinic demonstrated both an urgent community need and its powerful ability to reach those who might otherwise be left behind.

Through timely access to primary care, medication management, proactive follow-up, and care coordination, the clinic helped avoid **59 Emergency Department visits** and **20 hospital admissions** during the first year of operation. These efforts allowed high-risk patients to be safely managed in the outpatient setting, preventing issues from escalating into emergency or inpatient care.



Staff of the Berkeley County Greer Transitions Clinic

Additionally, in the first year, mental health support was provided to **56 patients**, reflecting the significant behavioral health needs within the Clinic's population.

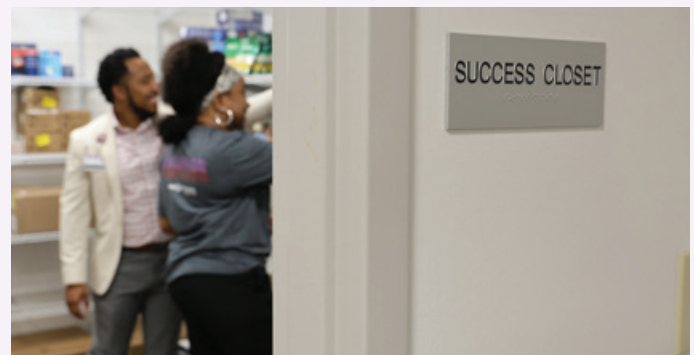
These needs often overlap with chronic disease management, medication adherence, and frequent use of acute care. By integrating mental health referrals and coordinating care, the Clinic supported patients' emotional well-being alongside their physical health.

Most new patients at the Greer Transitions Clinic engage with a Community Health Worker or Social Worker as part of routine care coordination. Support includes:

- Resource navigation
- Charity care and financial assistance applications
- Medication access and affordability support
- Transportation assistance and other needs

These services are essential to stabilizing patients, keeping them engaged in care, and supporting long-term success.

It is because of donor support that we were able to expand the Greer Transitions Clinic to Berkeley County and meet the needs of even more of our community members. Thanks to donors like you, we are providing a much-needed medical home and restoring dignity for many underserved members of our community.



# YOUR IMPACT ON CARDIOLOGY

## LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, patients at Roper St. Francis Healthcare are empowered to live their lives more fully — just like Bruce and Anndel.

The Spring Island couple has always embraced life with gusto, cherishing time outdoors with their family and traveling across the country. Their adventurous spirit has never waned, even as health challenges arose.

Bruce, in particular, has a passion for vigorous activity, shaped by his years as a professional hockey player and coach. However, a diagnosis of atrial fibrillation a decade ago marked the beginning of an eight-year journey with blood thinners — a treatment that came with its own risks.

“There was too much bleeding and bruising,” Bruce recalls. “Then the bleeding started happening every day for six months.”

“It weighs on you after a while,” Anndel adds, reflecting on the toll it took on both of them.

Determined to regain his active lifestyle and reduce his risk of bleeding, Bruce began researching alternatives to blood thinners. With a teacher’s mindset — he and Anndel spent years in education — Bruce dove into learning about innovative treatments for atrial fibrillation.

In early 2023, his research led him to the Watchman procedure, a relatively recent advancement in cardiac care. This minimally invasive implant helps prevent strokes in patients with atrial fibrillation, often eliminating the need for blood thinners altogether.

Bruce’s path eventually brought him to Dr. Michael Field, a clinical cardiac electrophysiologist with Roper St. Francis Healthcare. After consulting with another cardiologist who raised concerns about his age — then 85 — Bruce was reassured by Dr. Field’s exceptional credentials and compassionate approach.

“He stood out in my research,” Bruce says. “He answered all my questions and really put me at ease.”



Bruce and Anndel

On February 2, 2023, Bruce underwent the Watchman procedure. It was a success. His days of daily bleeding and bruising were over.

“I feel great!” Bruce says. “For me, this was absolutely the way to go. I haven’t had one moment of regret.”

“No one believes he’s 87 now,” Anndel smiles. “He’s always been athletic. Anytime someone can get off blood thinners and have this surgery, I think it would be a plus.”

Following a family fishing trip in Montana, their roles reversed. Anndel experienced a minor cardiac episode, possibly a TIA. Back in South Carolina, she, too, turned to Dr. Field for answers. She received a loop recorder implant to monitor her heart rhythm — a preventative step to safeguard her health.

Throughout their journeys, Bruce and Anndel have felt supported by the personalized, high-quality care at Roper St. Francis Healthcare.

“Dr. Field doesn’t practice a ‘one-size-fits-all’ medicine,” says Anndel. “He listens to you and customizes your treatment. If we have to have anything else done, we’d go to Roper before any other.”

Their gratitude led them to give back, making their first gift as donors to support the very system that helped them through some of life’s most challenging moments.

Thanks to your generosity, patients like Bruce and Anndel can receive cutting-edge cardiac procedures close to home. Philanthropy plays a vital role in advancing cardiovascular care, supporting equipment upgrades, endowing top medical positions, and enhancing specialized facilities.

Because of you, more positive outcomes like Bruce and Anndel have experienced are possible — through stories of hope, healing, and vigorously living life to the fullest.

# YOUR IMPACT ON WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

## CHILDREN'S UNIT OPENING

In 2025, Roper St. Francis Healthcare and MUSC Children's Health celebrated the opening of their new Children's Unit at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital – a major milestone in a first-of-its-kind partnership for South Carolina. Made possible in part through the generosity of donors like you, this new unit reflects a shared commitment to expanding access to high-quality care.

The 16-bed unit serves children who need low-acuity inpatient or overnight care, allowing more families to stay closer to home in West Ashley. Those who need a higher level of care can be seamlessly transferred to MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital in downtown Charleston.

Roper St. Francis Healthcare President and CEO Joseph DeLeon said the opening reflects long-term goals outlined in the system's 2030 Strategic Plan. "We are pleased to come together and provide this service for the people of Charleston," he said.

Dr. Megan Baker, Chief Clinical Officer at Roper St. Francis Healthcare, said the partnership improves healthcare access and ensures "the right patient is in the right place at the right time."

Built collaboratively with experts from MUSC, the unit is staffed by a specialized team. Tavia Buck, the hospital's Chief Nursing Officer, said unit's nurses and patient care technicians had a hand in everything from equipment selection to workflow design, creating a deeply engaged team with more than 140 combined years of pediatric experience.

"They really own this unit," she said.

The project also included updates to the hospital's Emergency Department to support pediatric readiness and ensure collaboration with MUSC pediatric hospitalists.

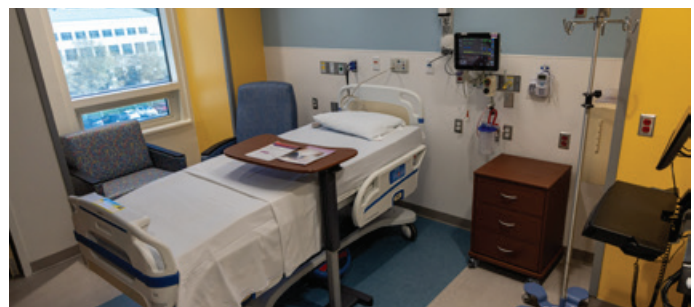
Dr. John Pastore, the MUSC pediatric hospitalist who

serves as the unit's medical director, said patients will receive care that mirrors the quality of MUSC's downtown facility and offer a child-life therapist to help bring calm to patients and their families during a difficult time.

He added: "I am hopeful that other parts of the state will look at what we have built here, and say, 'This is the gold standard for collaborative inpatient community-based care.'"



*Ribbon cutting at the new Children's Unit*



*The Nurse's Station (above) and a patient room at the new Children's Unit at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital*

## ADVANCEMENTS IN WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH COMING SOON

Thanks to Stacie and Davis Marksbury, we are upgrading our current Level 2 nursery to a Level 3 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) — equipping us to care for the most vulnerable and critically ill newborns all the way down to 28 weeks. Through philanthropic support, we will be able to add up to 20 new bassinets, allowing us to care for more newborns in need of critical care. Additionally, the Level 3 designation allows for greater medical equipment capacity, including the purchase of more ventilators, which will allow us to care for those babies who need them.



At the same time, with continued donor generosity, we can transform the care experience for mothers and families. Through philanthropy, we will provide our new mothers with a safe and beautiful new Mother Baby Unit, where they can expand their families under the care of the best clinical providers in the Lowcountry. Additionally, philanthropy will allow us to develop and enhance high-risk pregnancy care through a dedicated, upgraded Maternal-Fetal Medicine space.



*Dr. John Walker with baby Vienna*

### COMPASSION WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

Because of your generosity and ongoing commitment to the health of our community, you are making moments of hope possible for local families every day.

When Julia and Karl welcomed their daughter, Vienna, at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital, they anticipated the familiar emotions of new parenthood — joy, nerves, and sleepless nights. What they didn't expect was that their newborn would need urgent, specialized care. Soon after birth, Vienna was admitted to the Level II Special Care Nursery, where she required constant monitoring and advanced medical support.

During those overwhelming first days, what brought Julia and Karl the greatest comfort wasn't just the advanced technology or clinical expertise; it was the people.

"Our nurses were phenomenal," Julia recalls. "They treated our daughter like their own. We never felt like just a number."

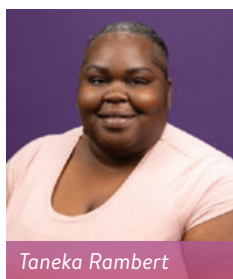
Today, Vienna is thriving. But what her parents remember most is how they were cared for during one of the most frightening moments of their lives — with compassion, dignity, and hope. That level of care is possible because of donors like you. Your support ensures that families receive not only exceptional medical treatment, but also the human connection that makes all the difference.

# YOUR IMPACT ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## STRENGTHENING OUR WORKFORCE THROUGH THE CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANT PATHWAY PROGRAM



The healthcare industry is facing a critical shortage of Certified Medical Assistants (CMAs). Generous support through Parker's Community Fund helped launch Roper St. Francis Healthcare's in-house CMA Career Pathway Program, a workforce development and retention initiative designed to remove financial barriers that often prevent capable team members from advancing their careers and stepping into vital patient-care roles. The program also received a grant from Kuznik Charitable Foundation to help sustain the CMA Career Pathway Program into its third year, ensuring teammates can pursue certification, remain employed, and step into frontline roles that meet the evolving needs of our community. Now, the program continues to strengthen our workforce while creating meaningful career pathways for our teammates.



Taneka Rambert

Taneka Rambert is one of those teammates. A full-time employee in the Roper St. Francis Call Center, Taneka had long dreamed of working more directly in patient care. Her interest in medicine began while working at a plasma clinic, but as a single mother of two pre-teen children, she couldn't afford to step away from her job to pursue further training.

"I had tried before to go back to school, but stepping away from work just wasn't financially possible," she shared.

Through the CMA Career Pathway Program, Taneka didn't have to choose between providing for her family and pursuing her dream. The program covered the cost of her courses, uniforms, stethoscopes, and blood pressure equipment, all while allowing her to maintain her full-time role within Roper St. Francis Healthcare.

*"This support was a lifeline," she said. "I wouldn't have been able to do it otherwise."*

Taneka completed her coursework and clinical training, earned her CMA certification on July 14, and has since stepped into a CMA role within Roper St. Francis Healthcare. Looking ahead, she hopes to continue her education and become a nurse. She shared that the program helped her build confidence, form meaningful connections, and see a clear path forward in her career.

As the demand for certified medical assistants continues to grow — including a new state requirement that all medical assistants be certified by 2026 — sustaining programs like this is more important than ever. Continued support from partners such as the Kuznik Charitable Foundation is helping sustain the CMA Career Pathway Program into its third year, ensuring teammates can pursue certification, remain employed, and step into frontline roles that meet the evolving needs of our community.



The 4th cohort of CMA certification students. 30 students have completed the CMA certification program since its inception

## EARLY OFFER PROGRAM BRINGS IN TWO NEW RADIOLOGY TECHS

Hospital systems nationally face a shortage of well-educated, well-trained Radiology Technicians. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have begun a creative solution, a new Early Offer Program.

This Early Offer Program offers an attractive starting bonus to certified Registered Radiology Technicians. The program has now successfully secured two highly qualified Radiology Technicians for Roper St. Francis Healthcare: **Rachel Smerdon** and **Meg MacCrossan**.



Rachel Smerdon joined the Roper St. Francis Healthcare team in June 2024 as a Student Radiology Tech during her two-year radiology program at Trident Tech. She has recently graduated and has a Registered Radiology Tech position secured, pending her certification testing with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).

Before her medical career, Rachel worked at a veterinarian's office for four years. However, her undergraduate degree is in public health, so she had always hoped to enter that field. Her sister, a nurse, helped to reintroduce her to healthcare. "I really fell in love with it," Rachel says.

During her coursework at Trident, Rachel received a close-up view of several hospitals and clinics. Towards the end of her program, she had clinical rotations at Roper St. Francis Berkeley Hospital and Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital, which she greatly enjoyed. She got to see what a new radiology lab looks like at Roper St. Francis Berkeley Hospital.

"I loved the people I worked with at both Roper facilities," she notes. "Everyone was nice, from management, doctors,

and nurses to co-workers. They all worked well together and were respectful of each other. Patients were nice, too. I liked the atmosphere, from the top down. It was a good fit for me."

Rachel says that the Early Offer Program, especially the sign-on bonus, helped her opt for a radiology career at Roper St. Francis Healthcare. She looks forward to that career in radiology, which she believes will last several years.

Thanks to your generosity in allowing us to establish the Early Offer Program, we are fortunate to bring Rachel's experience, education, and enthusiasm for the healthcare field to our team. She is thankful for donor support in helping to make her career a reality.

Like Rachel, Meg was a Student Radiology Technician for a year. She had wanted to enter healthcare for some time, as she had nurses in her family.

However, Meg wanted a different kind of healthcare career. She investigated other health-related programs, including Dental Hygiene, but started viewing health programs at Trident Tech and chose radiology.

*Meg says that the Early Offer Program bonus helped her make her decision to pursue radiology. "I'd like to say thank you to the donors who made this happen," she says. "The Early Offer bonus definitely helped out."*

One of her favorite parts of clinical rotations was shadowing during surgeries. Meg is not only unafraid of seeing what goes on in surgeries — her curiosity about surgical procedures has confirmed her decision to enter a health career. "I like seeing how procedures work in surgery," Meg notes. She looks forward to working with surgical teams when possible.

Now Meg is busy preparing for her Registered Radiology Technician test, which is coming up soon. "It takes a good month of studying," she notes.

She sees this opportunity as a significant boost to her career. Thanks to her hard work, Meg started as a Registered Radiology Technician at Roper St. Francis Healthcare.

# YOUR IMPACT ON OUR TEAMMATES

## TEAMMATE ASSISTANCE FUND HELPS BERKELEY HOSPITAL TEAMMATE

Tamartha Harrison has worked as a housekeeper at Roper St. Francis Healthcare for 8 years

Last October, Berkeley Hospital Chaplain David Hudspeth talked with Tamartha, noting that she had been off work for a few weeks. Tamartha explained how she had been having difficulty breathing from her pulmonary fibrosis, which was diagnosed in 2015. Additionally, she had dealt with rheumatoid arthritis since 2003 and had managed to control both conditions well for several years.

Then she contracted COVID in 2020, and her doctors confirmed that COVID combined with those two underlying health issues damaged her lungs. By late last year, Tamartha began to have breathing problems. She has been on oxygen ever since, using a portable oxygen machine that utilizes a battery pack, including when she is at work. This is necessary, she explains, as her oxygen level would otherwise drop when she moves around.

Chaplain David swung into action, checking into Roper St. Francis Healthcare's Teammate Assistant Fund. Tamartha's rent payment, electricity bill, and \$600 in medical expenses were paid by the fund. Additionally, Katie, a Med Surg nurse at Berkeley, and Alexis, Unit Secretary, discovered that Tamartha had need of an additional battery pack for her portable oxygen machine. That way, she could simply switch to the second, fully charged battery pack instead of waiting a long time for the first one to charge.

The Teammate Assistance Fund covered the new battery pack, too. Tamartha laughs, recalling it all.

"Some of my teammates went behind my back to see if the Teammate Assistance Fund could help me," she says. "I had no clue what was going on. Then they presented what the fund could do for me. I have some amazing co-workers! They helped me out a whole lot."

Along with her son who lives nearby, she cares for her 11-year-old grandson.

The support she received from the Teammate Assistance Fund, especially for the new battery pack, enables her to keep working, for which she is quite thankful.

She notes how grateful she is to everyone across the system who gives to the Teammate Assistance Fund. She recalls donating to the fund before, but didn't know how it was used. Now she's seen personally where it goes and its positive impact on teammates.

Tamartha delights in telling how her Berkeley Hospital teammates went the extra mile for her, following what the Teammate Assistance Fund had provided.



*Tamartha Harrison (center) with some of her teammates*

"Let me tell you what a wonderful group of people I work with," Tamartha says. "They had a complete Thanksgiving dinner delivered to my house for my grandson and me. They took up money on their own for that."

They also got into the holiday spirit and gave her an early Christmas gift – a basket of gift cards for stores and restaurants.

"I was so touched," says Tamartha. "I'm so thankful for my teammates, you just don't know."

Thanks to your generosity, the Teammate Assistance Fund can provide many teammates like Tamartha the help they need to get through a difficult time in their lives.

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

On February 22, 2025, donors and supporters of Roper St. Francis Healthcare gathered at the Charleston Gaillard Center for the annual Roper Xavier Society Celebration – an evening marked by gratitude, momentum, and a historic announcement.



During the celebration, Roper St. Francis Healthcare proudly announced a transformational \$20 million lead gift from the Medical Society of South Carolina. This extraordinary commitment is the largest donation in the history of Roper St. Francis Healthcare and the second-largest gift to a healthcare system

in the Lowcountry. Serving as the cornerstone of the campaign, the gift will propel a bold vision for world-class, locally based healthcare for generations to come.

“This extraordinary contribution will have a lasting impact on the future of healthcare in our community,” said Dr. Ellison. “It underscores the deep commitment of those who believe in the profound power of high-quality, locally focused care. We are deeply grateful for the support of the Medical Society of South Carolina’s Board of Directors, especially President Dr. Ronald C. Turner Jr. and CEO Charles F. Rivers III, in bringing this vision to life.”

The Medical Society of South Carolina’s historic generosity reflects a shared belief in strengthening care close to home and ensuring the Lowcountry’s communities continue to thrive through exceptional healthcare.

Since this gift was made, its impact has been felt immediately. We’ve been able to make upgrades to critical equipment for our care teams and invest in advanced technology that enhances the care we provide every day. Funds from the gift have been used to replace 15 invasive mechanical ventilators for the Respiratory Therapy team, upgrade orthopaedic power tools that had reached the end

of their lifecycle, and purchase a new Apex CT scanner to add to our imaging fleet.

These investments are already strengthening care across our system, equipping clinicians with the tools they need, expanding access to advanced diagnostics, and improving outcomes for the patients and families we serve.

The Medical Society of South Carolina’s gift will continue to support additional priorities and initiatives annually, driving meaningful improvements in patient care and advancing healthcare across the Lowcountry.



*Upgraded equipment made possible by the donation from MSSC*

# CELEBRATING OUR 2025 ROPER XAVIER SOCIETY

While we couldn't gather this year for our Annual Roper Xavier Society Celebration due to winter weather, our gratitude for the generosity of our donors remains unwavering. We continue to reflect on the meaningful impact Roper St. Francis Healthcare makes in our community and deeply appreciate the commitment of our Roper Xavier Society members.

Our members share a deep commitment to supporting our legacy of care, ensuring that patients and families

have access to the services they need. Through the Imagine Campaign, these philanthropic investments are helping shape the future of healthcare – expanding access, advancing innovation, and strengthening care for generations to come. While we were unable to gather in person, we are honored to recognize the individuals whose dedication exemplifies our mission to heal all people with compassion, faith and excellence.

## PHYSICIAN CHAMPION AWARD

*Sponsored by Trident Construction, LLC*

### **The 2025 Physician Champion Award recipient is Timothy J. Jones, MD**



The Physician Champion Award recognizes a physician whose service extends far beyond the exceptional care they provide to patients. Dr. Jones is an internal medicine physician who has served patients within the Roper St. Francis Healthcare system throughout his career.

Beyond his clinical role, Dr. Jones is a passionate advocate for philanthropy through his dedicated service to the Roper St. Francis Foundation. He has played a key role

in developing new ways to engage physicians, including proposing a personal outreach initiative encouraging physicians across our healthcare system to support the Foundation. He didn't just suggest the idea – he led it.

In addition, he is consistently involved in Foundation-related happenings, regularly attending meetings, supporting events, and offering his time and perspective. He is known for encouraging others to get involved, give back, and actively support our mission. His leadership is thoughtful, his commitment is genuine, and his impact is meaningful.

It is because of physicians like Dr. Jones that the culture of philanthropy at Roper St. Francis continues to grow.

## OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIST AWARD

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**The recipients of the 2025 Roper St. Francis Foundation Outstanding Philanthropist Award are Stacie and Davis Marksbury.**



The Outstanding Philanthropist Award recognizes individuals whose generosity creates meaningful, lasting impact and helps bring bold visions for healthcare to life.

Through their transformational \$2.5 million gift, the Marksbury family has named the new

Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital. Their generosity is helping make possible the expansion of our existing Level II nursery to a Level III NICU – a project that is now moving into its next phase as construction begins.

Today, the Level II nursery cares for babies born at 32 weeks or later. As the community continues to grow and more pregnancies become high-risk, the need for advanced neonatal care has increased. The new Level III NICU will allow caregivers to provide specialized

treatment for critically ill and premature infants born as early as 28 weeks, while expanding capacity, equipment, and lifesaving interventions.

Perhaps most importantly, this expansion will allow mothers and babies to remain together during their first precious days of life, rather than being separated and transferred to another facility for higher-level care. This is an extraordinary gift to families during some of the most emotional and vulnerable moments they will ever experience.

Davis and Stacie’s support is already shaping the future of women’s and children’s care at Roper St. Francis Healthcare and will touch thousands of families for generations to come.

Beyond this transformational gift, the Marksbury family’s commitment reflects a deep belief in philanthropy as a force for lasting good. Stacie also serves on the Imagine Campaign Committee, offering her time, insight, and leadership as the campaign continues to move forward.

Their generosity, leadership, and belief in Roper St. Francis Healthcare are felt far beyond this moment and exemplify the spirit of the Outstanding Philanthropist Award.

## HEALTHCARE HERO AWARD

*Sponsored by Parker’s Community Fund*

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**The 2025 Healthcare Hero Award recipient is Stephanie Green-Calloway, BSN, RNC-MNN.**



The award recognizes a caregiver who provides exceptional care and devoted service. Stephanie is a registered nurse who embodies what it means to heal with compassion, faith, and excellence.

Through her dedication, kindness, and unwavering commitment to patients, she has touched countless lives and earned the admiration of both families and teammates. One patient shared the impact Stephanie made during the first hours after giving birth:

“At 39, we were surprised and blessed with our third child. Stephanie truly helped me through those first hours after giving birth. I don’t know if I could have made it without her. She was so kind, loving, and patient, and treated me as if I were her only patient. Nurse Stephanie was a true blessing, and I want to acknowledge her for going above and beyond to help me. She deserves the accolades and acknowledgements for a job well done.”

Moments like these reflect why Stephanie is remembered not only for the care she provides, but for the comfort and reassurance she brings to families during some of life’s most meaningful and vulnerable moments. Her leadership and compassion set a powerful example for caregivers across our health system.

# GRANTS IMPACT

## SUSTAINED GRANT FUNDING EXPANDS OUR COMMUNITY NETWORK OF CARE

At Roper St. Francis Healthcare, alignment with our Community Health Needs Assessment for our tri-county area means funding initiatives that bolster health prevention measures and ensure access to care. Many of our Community Health department priorities and past awarded projects – funded mainly through grants from government and foundation partners – received continuation monies to expand and grow in 2025. Success in the Community Health service line strengthens our mission to heal all people with compassion, faith and excellence in the Charleston Lowcountry.

In 2025, nearly \$1.8 million in new grants were secured to support outreach programs developed by the Community Health department working with Grants Services.

### Roper Learning Center Playground

The Roper St. Francis Healthcare Learning Center received support from several ABC Quality Operating grants, initiated to help childcare providers enhance their services, which enabled the continued build out of the Roper St. Francis Healthcare Learning Center’s redesigned playground area for early learners. The Learning Center provides early education and offers childcare for teammates working in all corners of the healthcare system.

Following research indicating that children benefit in many ways from being in a natural environment and to secure a continued ABC Quality rating of A, the playground’s drainage and grading problems were improved and made safe with a Landscape Design Plan created by a trained natural playground architect and approved by South Carolina Department of Social Services/Child Care Licensing.

The playground was designated “Marjorie’s Playground” as a special honor for Marjorie Fitzgibbon, who retired in 2025 after 35 years of service as Director at the Roper St. Francis Healthcare Learning Center.



Above pictures showcase the updates and improvements completed to fix drainage complexities and create a safe playground for teammate childcare meeting ABC Quality rating requirements



Marjorie Fitzgibbon (pictured above wearing an orange dress) celebrating her 35 years of service as Director of the Roper St. Francis Learning Center at her April 2025 retirement party

## MEDICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR NURSING EXCELLENCE AND PILOTS NURSING EXTERNSHIP



In a time of national nursing shortages, Roper St. Francis Healthcare knows the importance of our nursing workforce and increases investment in nursing development. The 1789 Society Nursing Scholars Program, established in 2011 by the Medical Society of South Carolina (MSSC) and its Roper St. Francis Physicians Endowment, provides financial assistance to nurses on their educational journey through academic scholarships, research awards, and externship awards.

In 2025, MSSC awarded \$165,000 to Nursing. This funding provided academic scholarships for 20 qualified nurses to receive awards ranging from \$2,500 to \$15,000 (depending upon advanced degrees from BSN and RN-2-MSN masters track all the way to a DPN doctorate program). The funding also provided for nurse professional development and evidence-based practice internships through the Opportunity to Advance Knowledge, or OAK, Nursing Fellowship Program, which allows recipients to explore approaches to enhance patient outcomes and improve the quality of care. The MSSC funding provided a scholarship to 2 student nurse externs upon accepting and starting a position with Roper St. Francis Healthcare. The two nurse externs were selected from a group of 10 summer externs who successfully completed an 8-week clinical program where they worked with RN preceptors and gained valuable insight and hands-on experience in the daily life of an RN.

Since first established, the MSSC and its Roper St. Francis Physicians Endowment Nursing Scholars Program has provided financial assistance for 172 nursing scholars, 12 nursing research internships, and 18 professional development trainings. To date, MSSC has invested \$1,800,000 for nurses seeking to advance their careers.



*(Left) The newly designed recognition pin that all MSSC and its Roper St. Francis Physicians Endowment Nursing Program nurse scholars will receive. (Right) Participants in the 2025 Roper St. Francis Healthcare Student Nurse Extern Program.*



## GRANTS

### CONNECTIONS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT RECEIVES \$20,000 FROM THE THERBLIG FOUNDATION

The Therblig Foundation awarded a \$20,000 grant to bolster community health outreach activities in 2025. This initiative addressed access to care for vulnerable populations by focusing on three drivers most influencing access to care: 1) knowledge and ability to enter the healthcare system, 2) trust and communication with providers, and 3) geographic proximity to care and services. Grant funds enabled the Community Health team to engage the community in neighborhood settings and at outreach events and provided educational materials (translated into multiple languages) that were comprehensive, accessible, fact-based, and culturally sensitive. The team worked alongside local existing community partners in free clinics, community health centers, and churches to coordinate outreach services.



*Roper St. Francis Healthcare teammates volunteering to assist and distribute turkey at one of our community partner locations*

## THERBLIG FOUNDATION

The Therblig Foundation is a private fund established in 2022 in Charleston supporting programs that enhance the quality of life in the Charleston community by granting yearly awards focused on the five priority areas of Civic Life, Conservation/Preservation, Cultural/Arts, Education, and Health/Welfare.

### RYAN WHITE PART C PROGRAM GRANT SPOTLIGHT

The Roper St. Francis Health Services Center (HSC) provides care to vulnerable populations such as uninsured tri-county residents and adults who are HIV-positive or at risk of HIV infection, providing access to routine STI screenings and treatment and PrEP, a revolutionary HIV prevention medicine. In 2025, HSC provided care to 1,142 patients.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded HSC \$628,204 in continued support in 2025. Grants Services collaborated with the staff at HSC to prepare and complete a scheduled financial and programmatic compliance audit in July 2025. Results were exceedingly positive, with the team earning high marks for excellence in operations, innovation and patient-centered care. The four-member HRSA review team assessed HSC's compliance with federal standards across service delivery, administration and finance. Reviewers commended the entire team for its professionalism and commitment to excellence. Teammates Amy Ray and Aaron O'Brien were recognized for their exceptional knowledge of the program, while the patient panel stood out as a highlight – reviewers described it as deeply moving and said patients' stories made HSC feel "like family." One reviewer was struck by the center's innovation, saying they were "surprised by the great things coming out of our area that can be shared with other Ryan White HIV centers."



*HSC team together with Grant Services in July 2025 following conclusion of the HRSA Audit*

# GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS

In 2025, Grants Services secured over \$17 million in new awards, including nearly \$16 million in government awards and contracts, and \$290,000 in non-profit grants.

## 2025 Special Projects - Grants Funding

COVID-19 Recovery	\$15,196,354.16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,196,354.16</b>

## 2025 Program Area Support - Grants Funding

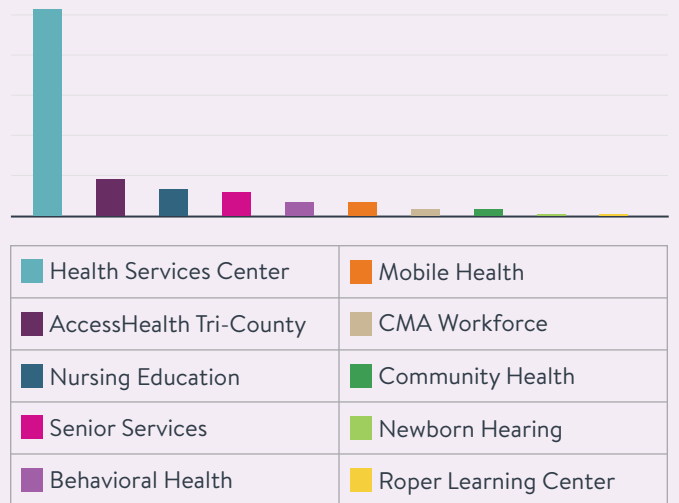
Health Services Center	\$1,338,204.00
AccessHealth Tri-County	\$217,110.60
Nursing Education	\$165,000.00
Senior Services	\$131,985.84
Behavioral Health	\$80,000.00
Mobile Health	\$80,000.00
CMA Workforce	\$25,000.00
Community Health	\$20,000.00
Newborn Hearing	\$9,380.00
Roper Learning Center	\$7,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,073,680.44</b>

## Grants Services

Housed in the Foundation, Grants Services works with program staff throughout the health system to secure external grant funding (and aid with compliance to funder requirements) to support projects that align with priority initiatives and help to improve the health and well-being of the patients we serve in the South Carolina Lowcountry.

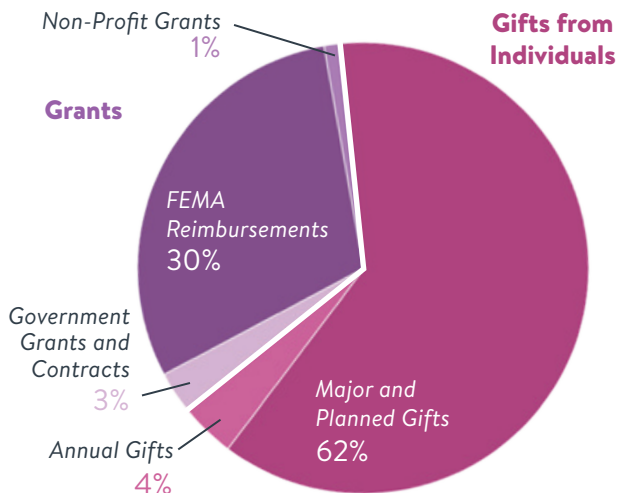
## 2025 PROGRAM AREA SUPPORT

(Excluding COVID-19 Recovery)



# FOUNDATION FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## 2025 DONATIONS



## TOP DONOR DESIGNATIONS IN 2025

- Area of Greatest Need
- Cancer Care and Prevention
- Cardiology
- Community Health Initiatives
- Greer Transitions Clinic
- Future Roper Hospital Medical Campus
- Hospice
- Mobile Health
- Nursing Excellence and Scholarship
- Rehabilitation and Spinal Cord Injury
- Teammate Assistance
- Women's and Infant's Health
- Workforce Development

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SUPPORTERS

## ROPER XAVIER SOCIETY

Named for Colonel Thomas Roper and Sister Xavier Dunn, the Roper Xavier Society recognizes those leaders who support the Foundation with an annual gift of \$1,500 or more. The Roper St. Francis Foundation is grateful for the 503 members of the 2025 Roper Xavier Society.

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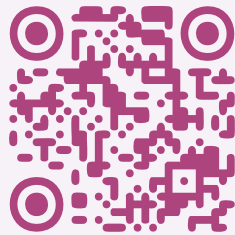
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