



Critical Care Units on Wheels

When seconds count, and it's a matter of life or death, access to appropriate care and safe, immediate transportation is essential. This especially would ring true to a parent watching their child in a medical crisis or the loved one of a patient experiencing a heart attack.

In their ten years of service, the McLeod HeartReach and McLeod ChildReach ambulances have transported thousands of patients who required immediate, critical medical care. The high-risk nature of these transfers from referring facilities requires a specially trained ambulance crew and the most advanced equipment to provide this crucial level of care.

Unfortunately, wear and tear on the ambulances during the past decade resulted in numerous repairs and expenses. Recently, the time came to replace the vehicles. To obtain the new ambulances, McLeod Emergency Services requested a grant from the McLeod Foundation in the amount of \$124,476.

As a result of community and employee support to the McLeod Foundation, and the Foundation's commitment to this need, two new HeartReach and ChildReach units began transporting patients in the fall of 2009.

The HeartReach Mobile Cardiac Unit is a Coronary Care Unit on wheels that provides emergency transport services from hospitals and patients' homes throughout the region. In addition, the technology and personnel available in transport on HeartReach is equivalent to the care received in a Cardiac/Medical Intensive Care Unit.

ChildReach, a mobile pediatric intensive care unit, transports children and newborns from community hospitals throughout the region to the high-tech, lifesaving specialists at McLeod Children's Hospital. ChildReach also provides transport services for high-risk or critical babies from hospitals in the region to the McLeod Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Saving lives and providing quality care are a result of the power of giving.



Members of the McLeod HeartReach and ChildReach Critical Care Team are appreciative that the McLeod Foundation and its donors assisted in the purchase of the new ambulances.

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Serving Their Community



Marilyn Henderson, Diabetes Coordinator for the McLeod Diabetes Center, tests Tyson Hubbard's blood sugar during the McLeod Darlington Free Family Health Fair held in August.

Outreach and educational services offer participants access to care and exposure to a variety of specialties and caregivers.

Health fairs are extremely beneficial resources to the communities in which they serve. In fact, these events play a much more vital role in prevention of illnesses than they are credited. Such outreach services offer participants access to care and exposure to a variety of specialties and caregivers. Health fair screenings and attention to the results also often assist in earlier detection of certain diseases.

In 2009, McLeod Medical Center Darlington planned a free family health fair. A grant from the McLeod Foundation made it possible for the hospital to provide free health screenings for cholesterol, diabetes, PSA levels, bone density, PVD, stroke and blood pressure. During the health fair, seven medical professionals including four physicians provided brief presentations on several health-related topics including knee replacements, attention deficit disorder, colon cancer, breast cancer, diabetes, yoga and nutrition. With the assistance of the Foundation, McLeod Darlington was able to perform:

- 150 Blood Pressure/Stroke Screenings
- 124 Cholesterol Tests
- 120 Blood Sugar Tests
- 62 Bone Density Exams
- 40 PSA Blood Tests
- 31 Hearing Screenings
- 24 PVD Screenings

The McLeod Diabetes Center also counseled patients with known diabetes; detected individuals with pre-diabetes; and diagnosed people with probable undiagnosed diabetes.

The family health fair also included numerous activities for children such as:

- Finger Casts by McLeod Urgent Care Darlington
- Glow Germs
- ChildReach Ambulance tours
- McLeod Safe Kids games and backpacks
- Darlington County Sheriffs Department Bloodhounds
- Darlington County Fire Truck
- Face Painting
- Large Inflatable Slide

Health Fairs, such as the one in Darlington, serve as a network of medical support through education and information, resulting in improving health through the power of giving.