

# Inspired *by you.*

The care provided to Lindsay Sims' grandfather and twins Henry and Nathan inspired her to join donors like you in supporting the McLeod Foundation.





# Donors Ensure the Full Spectrum of Dialysis Care is Available to Patients

*Thanks to You, a Myrtle Beach Father Leads a Full Life Despite His Diagnosis*

Dialysis patients often face the challenges of long, grueling treatments, strict diets, and multiple trips to the clinic every week. Many people are not aware, however, of another issue dialysis presents: vascular access procedures.

Dialysis patients need permanent access ports in arm or leg veins to receive their treatments. These ports require multiple surgical procedures per year to maintain, and often wear out over time so that new ones must be created. Despite the heavy demand for these procedures, **there are only three dedicated vascular access providers across our entire state.**

**Thanks to you -- our McLeod Health Foundation donors -- one of these physicians is in the Pee Dee.**

As Kevin Moore, of Myrtle Beach, explains, having this service close to home does more than simply keep his dialysis treatment on track -- it helps him lead a full life.

**"It is not ideal that my four-year-old daughter knows the word 'dialysis,'" Kevin said. "But, thanks to the Dialysis Access Center, I never miss a PTA meeting or dance recital because I'm stuck in the hospital or in a car. My daughter's life is not uprooted whenever I need a procedure."**

Living just a half hour away from the center, located at McLeod Health Loris, also means Kevin never misses work on days he receives an access procedure.

"I can have an access procedure in the morning and still get home in time for work," Kevin explained. "This is key to my success."

For Kevin, though, it is about more than just proximity. It's the quality of care.



*Kevin Moore, pictured with his daughter, Rose, is able to lead a full life thanks to the generosity of donors to improve dialysis access.*

**"The team of people working there is amazing," Kevin said. "From start to finish the process is so efficient and caring."**

Without the Dialysis Access Center, explains Dr. David Bjerken, patients like Kevin would face a much more difficult journey.

"Without this service, patients from our region would have no centralized care. They would bounce from surgeon to surgeon, sometimes having to travel hours, with no consistent care plan."

**Thanks to your generosity, Kevin and hundreds of other patients are able to receive top notch dialysis access care without leaving the region. Further, your gifts have also funded equipment necessary to provide dialysis treatment at McLeod Health Cheraw and McLeod Health Dillon, increasing access to this lifesaving care for patients living in the most rural parts of the region.**

# Restoring Patients' Confidence in the Future

*Your Donations Help Patients Help Themselves*

Your generosity has helped make the COVID-19 pandemic bearable for countless people, especially Daniel West of Manning, South Carolina.

Last February, Daniel was admitted to McLeod Health Clarendon, where doctors diagnosed him with both pneumonia and COVID-19.

**"I was in shock," he remembered. "I was out of work and did not know how I would pay the bills or make ends meet."**

After enduring a medically-induced coma and two weeks on a ventilator, Daniel faced the unknown reality of discharge and recovery at home. In addition to muscle atrophy and reduced lung capacity from COVID-19, his recovery would be complicated by chronic neuropathy, uncertain finances, and the fact that he had lost a foot to amputation six months earlier.

**The deck was stacked against Daniel, but your gifts to the McLeod Health Foundation would give him hope.**

**Seemingly out of the blue, he received a wheelchair, walker, and other devices, paid for by the McLeod Clarendon Care Transition Fund. Supported by**

**donor gifts to the Foundation, the fund helps patients afford the equipment they need after discharge.**

"I had no idea about the Care Transition Fund," Daniel said. "I had simply mentioned to my physical therapist that I was stressed about the costs of the medical devices I was going to need. McLeod did the rest."

Daniel did a lot, too, though. With newfound confidence about his future, he threw himself into his recovery.

"The wheelchair and walker made it possible to do more exercises

than I could just lying in bed," Daniel explained. **"After only about a month at home, I had enough stamina to walk around normally."**

Daniel's experience shows how your gifts create hope and empower others to improve their circumstances, even against tremendous odds.

**"Donors to the McLeod Health Foundation should know that they make a huge impact on people. It was not just about the medical equipment. The real impact was giving me back control of my life."**



*Daniel West is grateful to McLeod Foundation donors who made it possible for him to receive a walker and wheelchair.*



# Donors Join McLeod Health to Solve Critical Workforce Shortages

*Your Gifts Support Scholarships to Train Vital Healthcare Workers*

**W**hen an unprecedented crisis shifted the healthcare landscape, McLeod Health Foundation donors -- like you -- stepped up to ensure timely access to excellent healthcare would always be available in the region.

One unfortunate result of the COVID pandemic was in the creation of staffing issues. While McLeod Health continued its mission of providing excellent care throughout these trying times, hospital leadership recognized that the workplace shortages could negatively effect the timeliness of care.

In response, McLeod established a new division, Workforce Development, that partners with local schools and other organizations to introduce individuals to both bedside and support careers. Charity Gerald, Manager of Workforce Development, leads her team's dedicated efforts in this important work.



*Charity Gerald is pictured with scholarship recipient Niki Hammonds. Niki appreciates McLeod donors who contributed in order for her to further her education.*

"An essential aspect in recruiting excellent staff is to let them know they are supported in their decision," explains Charity. "The scholarships McLeod Foundation donors provide are often just what is needed to help them with the commitment to pursue a career in healthcare."

**McLeod Foundation donors value timely access to care. Yet again, you demonstrated this concern through gifts to establish and fund healthcare scholarships, which will keep our workforce strong and vibrant for years to come. Thanks to you, lives are changed and lives are saved.**

A sincere appreciation to you for allowing me to be awarded this scholarship. It is truly an honor to accept these funds to enhance and further my nursing education. I thoroughly enjoy being a nurse and serving others. This scholarship and your generosity of this award is just another reflection of why I love working at McLeod Health Dillon. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**-Niki Hammonds, RN**  
Recipient of the Betty Jo Barnes and Nina Annas Lee Scholarships

# HEALTHCARE CRISIS LEADS TO REGULAR SUPPORT

*Generous Nurse Shares Her Appreciation for McLeod Foundation Donors*

**F**or many donors like you, the desire to help others through the McLeod Health Foundation is sparked by a profound personal healthcare crisis. Generosity and the desire to give back turns a crisis into actions that help others, and occasionally yourself, in tangible ways.

Lindsey Sims, a nursing supervisor with McLeod OB/GYN Associates, and her family experienced the positive impact of your gifts to the Foundation nine years ago. They were blessed by the high-quality, compassionate care her grandfather received at the Hospice House.

**Her family's healthcare crisis inspired Lindsey to become a regular donor to the Foundation through payroll deduction.**

In December, Lindsey once again experienced the benefits of your generosity.

Pregnant with twins, Lindsey suffered a placental abruption (a sudden separation of the placenta from the uterus). She had to be rushed to hospital, knowing that her babies' lives were in danger.



*The specialized incubators in the NICU, funded by Foundation donors, allowed Lindsey to bond with her twins Henry and Nathan during their ten-week hospitalization.*

Though they were delivered safely via C-section at 28 weeks, each baby weighed only 40 ounces and had to spend ten weeks in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

**Through your gifts to fund new, specialized incubators, you helped save Lindsey's precious babies.**

The incubators are a tremendous asset not only for infants, but for parents, who can interact with their newborns, change diapers, and give sponge baths through ports in the incubators. These features were key to helping Lindsey endure this frightening ordeal.

"Our incubators helped me feel more at peace," Lindsey

recounted. "Being able to care for my babies and look at all their daily statistics on the screen gave me a sense of control over a situation that was scary and not normal at all."

**Lindsey's story shows how gifts like yours have an immense effect on the healthcare for our region -- impacting the lives of families across multiple generations. We thank you, our donors, for your kindness and generosity.**

**You can volunteer for this year's McLeod Children's Hospital Radiothon October 19 - 21, 2022. Volunteers are needed to help answer phones and assist in this exciting live broadcast from the concourse of McLeod Regional Medical Center. To get more information or to volunteer, please call 843-777-2694 or return the enclosed reply envelope.**



# Cancer Journeys Inspire Giving

*Patient Joins HOPE Fund Donors in Ensuring Help for Fellow Cancer Patients*

Generous HOPE Fund donors like you give confidently knowing all donations go directly to assist cancer patients with critical financial needs.

For Steven Higman, a 64-year-old Navy Veteran, supporting the HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund provides personal solace and gratification.

Steven and his late wife, Joyce, made Longs, SC, their home eight years ago. After traveling the world, Steven delights in all the outdoor amenities available in the area. He is an avid fisherman, boater, gardener, animal lover and notorious storyteller.

However, in December 2020, following three years of struggling with undiagnosed health issues, Steven found himself in the McLeod Health Seacoast Emergency Department. A complete work-up by doctors resulted in a diagnosis of Stage IV renal cancer for Steven. He was immediately referred to **Dr. Glenn Gangi** to remove the affected kidney.

After healing from his procedure, Steven was referred to McLeod Seacoast Oncologist **Dr. Donny Huynh** to begin his cancer treatment.

“I am incredibly grateful that the dedicated medical professionals at McLeod Seacoast discovered and are treating my cancer,” shares Steven. “I believe my condition would have been fatal. They saved my life.”

Steven, already fighting a demanding battle, faced a deep emotional setback eight months after his diagnosis. Joyce, the love of his life, succumbed to her own battle with cancer.

**Dealing with grief while in active treatment inspired Steven to look for ways to help others who face individual struggles during their cancer journey. He found his answer in the McLeod HOPE Fund.**



*Steven Higman enjoys spending time with McLeod Pet Therapy dog, Wadsworth, during his cancer treatment.*

**Steven has become a generous supporter of the HOPE Fund knowing that his gifts will help cancer patients with critical needs like transportation, nutrition, rent assistance, supplies and medications.**

For a man who relishes time outdoors, long hours in treatment can be especially debilitating. Steven has personally benefitted from a new program established through the HOPE Fund: Pet Therapy. While patients receive treatment, volunteers bring certified pets to provide comfort and distraction for cancer patients like Steven who are enduring long, sometimes grueling treatments.

**While grief originally led Steven to become part of the HOPE Fund family, gratitude now guides his giving as he joins donors like you who generously provide for cancer patients.**

# HOPE Fund Donors Respond to Critical Appeal for Transportation Funding

*A Heartfelt Thank You From a Grateful Patient*

You came to the rescue for cancer patients who struggle with transportation to their lifesaving treatments.

As gas prices soared this summer, the HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund transportation budget was completely overwhelmed. But compassionate donors, like you, were there for our patients. You ensured they could continue their fight to survive by providing individualized assistance with not only transportation but nutrition, medication, rent and many additional financial needs.

**Clyde Davis, a 76-year-old gentleman from Cheraw is one of the many patients you have helped.**

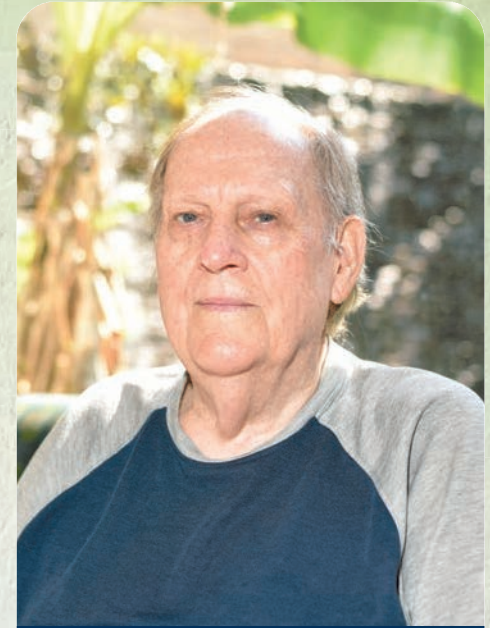
Clyde is single and lives at an assisted living facility in Cheraw, 40 miles from Florence. A motorcycle accident in 1978 resulted in Clyde's leg being amputated. The accident left him disabled and unable to drive.

Last year, Clyde was concerned when he felt an unusual lump which led him to see his primary care physician in Cheraw. He was then referred to McLeod Oncologist **Dr. Ravneet Bajwa**, who diagnosed Clyde with a hip sarcoma. Dr. Bajwa arranged an appointment for Clyde with a McLeod Surgeon to have the tumor removed.

After the surgery, Clyde learned that he would have to travel to the McLeod Cancer Center in Florence every day for six weeks of radiation treatment to ensure all the cancer cells were eradicated.

However, Clyde did not have anyone who could make the commitment to drive him day in and day out. He did not know where to turn for help.

**You can imagine Clyde's relief when he learned from**



*Clyde Davis is grateful to HOPE Fund donors for providing him with transportation so he could receive his radiation treatments.*

**McLeod Cancer Center Social Worker Raquel Serrano that because of HOPE Fund donors, his transportation would be provided.**

“My life has been complicated by my accident,” explained Clyde. “But when I had nowhere to turn, I learned of the wonderful people who had given to help me. I can never thank you enough for allowing me to receive my lifesaving treatments.”

**Your generous response to help with ongoing transportation struggles during the gas price crisis has given hope to patients in their battle to survive. On behalf of Clyde and so many others, thank you.**





# Donors Lead the Fight Against Sexual Assault

*Your Generosity Helps McLeod Establish the Region's First and Only Forensic Nurse Examiner Program*

**T**hanks to McLeod Health Foundation donors like you, victims of sexual assault in the Pee Dee now have immediate access to specialized, trauma-informed care.

When a hospital lacks a forensic nurse examiner program, victims of sexual violence are treated among the general emergency department population. **This means vulnerable individuals, fresh off their life's most traumatic moments, are forced to sit hours in the waiting room to receive treatment that fails to meet the standard of care.** This experience traumatizes victims even further.

**Now, thanks to your generosity, our region's sexual assault victims are immediately triaged and provided a complete forensic exam in a private space dedicated to this care.**



*Forensic Nurse Lauren Moose offers a teddy bear from a Hero Comfort Bag to a patient.*

Before the McLeod Forensic Nursing program was established, victims of sexual violence in our region had to travel 100+ miles to receive a forensic exam. Hundreds of victims have made this profoundly difficult journey over the years. But an untold number, debilitated by the assault against them, have decided to forgo treatment altogether.

**Thanks to you, no longer.**

"The need for this program is clear," said Shannon Scott, the program's coordinator. **"Our first pediatric patient was just three years old."**

Forensic nurses are specially trained to provide compassionate and understanding care to both pediatric and adult victims of sexual assault. Additionally, these nurses are experts in victim advocacy -- they assist patients in their long-term recovery.

**In addition to helping ensure our region's victims receive the highest standard of care, McLeod Foundation donors have also played a crucial role in lifting spirits during these distressing times.**

Through the McLeod Foundation's HERO Fund, pediatric victims are given backpacks -- known as Comfort Bags -- containing teddy bears, coloring books, crayons, and new clothes.

"I wish that donors could see the change when we give a precious, frightened child a teddy bear to hold close or place a coloring book and crayons in their lap," Shannon says. "And, they are so proud when we provide them new, pretty clothing. What a blessing this fund is for children."

***You can be a HERO for a child who is the victim of assault by making a gift of \$50 to provide a Hero Bag while they are in the Emergency Department. The bags include items of comfort and a change of clothes. To be a Hero, visit [mcleodinspiredbyyou.org](http://mcleodinspiredbyyou.org) or return your gift in the reply envelope provided.***