

Inspired *by you.*



The parents of Mariah Linster are full of gratitude for donors like you who helped save her life.

SIMPLE ITEMS GIVE ESSENTIAL RELIEF AND COMFORT

Your Generosity Touches Families Everyday Through the Butterfly Cart

Sometimes, small items make a huge impact when and where it is needed most.

Families with loved ones at the McLeod Hospice House often arrive with only the items in their purse or pockets. They may have received an urgent call and hurriedly traveled to be with family, their sole focus on getting to their loved one as quickly as possible.

Your gifts to the Butterfly Fund generously funded the Butterfly Cart, a hospitality cart that provides patients and caregivers free items to help make their time at the Hospice House more comfortable.

Volunteers wheel the Butterfly Cart throughout the Hospice House, delivering refreshments -- like candy bars, potato chips, and beverages -- and personal care items families may have left at home, such as toiletries or reading glasses.

For caregivers who are reluctant to leave their loved one even for a moment, this cheerful cart and the friendly face of the volunteer guiding it, is a welcomed sight.

“Your gifts allow us to meet the patients and their caregivers wherever they are,” said Deby Strickland, McLeod Hospice House Volunteer. “Donors to the McLeod Health Foundation should know how much respite and comfort this cart brings to everyone. When I make my rounds with the cart, the number one question is, ‘how much do the items cost?’



McLeod Hospice Volunteer Deby Strickland provides Hospice House patient Tommy Thompson peace and comfort using the robotic cat that is part of the Butterfly Cart.

Thanks to caring donors of the McLeod Foundation, I can smile and warmly say ‘it costs nothing.’”

Whether providing a toothbrush for a family member who just completed a frantic 300-mile journey, offering a patient comfort with their favorite childhood candy, or bringing joy with a fun activity, the Butterfly Cart impacts patients and caregivers in unimaginable ways.

By funding the Butterfly Cart, you are bringing untold comfort to families every day. Your compassion and generosity truly help hospice families enjoy their precious moments together.

Thanks to donors like you, the Butterfly Fund provides funding to meet critical, immediate needs for McLeod Hospice and Palliative Care patients who struggle financially during their time of care.

You can assist the Butterfly Fund with your gift of support or time. As a Hospice volunteer, individuals can choose to work directly with patients and families or help in a hundred other ways – making a difference in someone’s life. To get more information or to volunteer, please call 843-777-2694 or return the enclosed reply envelope.

Eating Local, Feeling Good

How Your Support Makes Our Communities Healthier and Happier

McLeod Health Foundation donors know that health is not solely determined by what takes place within hospital walls. That is why you fund initiatives that reach deep into our communities, improving the health and wellbeing of our region at the most fundamental levels.

Donor support brought Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas to our region in 2017 to determine community needs.

In Chesterfield, Marlboro, and Dillon Counties, a major problem quickly became apparent: poor access to healthy food.

The McLeod Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas team sprang into action and a FoodShare hub was established at the Marlboro School Community Center in Bennettsville.

FoodShare partners with local farmers to provide fresh produce to people living in areas with little

access to healthy options at a fraction of grocery store prices.

At the Bennettsville hub, volunteers take delivery of produce, pack boxes, and distribute them to customers on location and at senior centers in the area. They also deliver them to customers’ doorsteps.

Ashley Holman, the McLeod Healthy People, Healthy Carolinas Coordinator, is grateful for you and amazed at the program’s rapid growth.

“Last Fall, we were distributing maybe 30 boxes per week,” Ashley explained. “Now, we are doing more than 100. Word spreads fast. People bring their sister or cousin to a pick-up and then by next week, they have signed up, too.”

The impact has been undeniable. Clients are getting fresh, local staples for low prices, excitedly trying new foods, and feeling better as a result.

“When I first received my box, I was shocked,” recalled longtime FoodShare customer Lois Lane. “I could not believe all the fruits and vegetables in there. Before, I was only getting my groceries through food stamps, so I mostly purchased canned goods. Since I have been buying FoodShare boxes, I have more energy.

“I even started getting a box for my friend whose son has kidney cancer,” Lois continued. “Without FoodShare, he would not be able to afford these healthy items that are vital for his recovery.”

With the Bennettsville hub’s success, and thanks to YOUR support, another distribution site was established in Dillon this past February. **Your generosity impacts our region’s wellbeing in ways far beyond medical care.**



Pat Broughton, at right, a FoodShare Hub Volunteer, provides a box of fresh fruits and vegetables to longtime customer Lois Lane. Lois appreciates McLeod Foundation donors who contribute in order for her to receive access to healthy food.

You Keep Little Hearts Beating

McLeod Health Foundation Donors Fund Lifesaving Medical Technology

The birth of a child is accompanied by big emotions -- love, gratitude, and relief.

But for Renata Price and Tony Linster of Bishopville, a traumatic experience during the birth of their daughter, Mariah, amplified these feelings.

Your generosity helped save a life.

"I had a normal pregnancy," Renata remembers. "No warning signs at all."

After Mariah was delivered by C-section at a hospital close to their home, a joyful occasion immediately turned terrifying. Mariah struggled to breathe and was airlifted to McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, where Pediatric Cardiologist

Dr. David Steflik was on standby awaiting her arrival.

Using a cutting-edge Pediatric Echo machine, funded by your gifts to the McLeod Health Foundation, Dr. Steflik rapidly diagnosed Mariah with

transposition of the great arteries (TGA), a condition where the two main arteries leaving the heart are reversed. If untreated, the body's organs fail due to lack of oxygen.

Renata endured a physically and emotionally agonizing two days recovering from her C-Section before she could be reunited with Mariah.



Mariah Linster, pictured with Dr. David Steflik, is able to live a full and happy life thanks to the Pediatric Echo machine made possible by McLeod Foundation donors.

"I was frustrated and heartbroken that this was happening to my little girl," Renata recounted.

"But the care we received was a godsend," Tony added.

After surgery and a month-long

hospital stay, Mariah was discharged. Today, she is happy and full of energy.

Dr. Steflik credits his team and the Pediatric Echo machine for producing this happy ending.

"Our Pediatric Echo machine is our eyes and ears, an invaluable tool to help make an accurate and

timely diagnosis," Dr. Steflik explained. "Without the right team and technology in place to make a quick diagnosis and determine an appropriate treatment, Mariah's condition would have deteriorated further, and quickly become life threatening."

Renata and Tony share Dr. Steflik's gratitude.

"We are very grateful and cannot thank the people who support the McLeod Foundation enough," Tony says. "You saved Mariah's life. Lord, bless the people who provided this support."

You can volunteer for this year's McLeod Children's Hospital Radiothon October 19-20, 2023. 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.

PATIENTS ARE NOT ALONE ON THEIR CANCER JOURNEY

Through Your Support of the HOPE Fund, You Walk With Them

Donors to the HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund understand that the cancer journey does not end with the final treatment. The emotional and physical effects carry on for much longer. However, you demonstrate your caring help, even after they ring the bell signifying completion of their treatment.

One day, Daisy Nesmith discovered a lump in her breast. A busy grandmother of six, her days were filled by family and at her church in Kingstree. Still, she found time to get it checked out.

This would begin a journey she never wanted to take.

Following a biopsy, Daisy learned that she did in fact have breast cancer. She was devastated.

"I cried," Daisy reflected. "But after drying my tears, I ripped a sheet of paper out of my journal and wrote: 'God, I am going to beat this.'"

She placed the scrap of paper between the pages of her Bible as a reminder to keep pressing forward.

Towards the end of her treatment, Daisy began having fluid build-up and swelling in her arms. She had begun experiencing a painful symptom many cancer patients face: lymphedema.

Oncologist Dr. Rajesh Bajaj, along with Daisy's surgeon, Dr. Amy Murrell, suggested that she purchase a lymphedema sleeve. Made of a tight, stretchy material a compression sleeve would allow the blood flow to increase in her arm.

While necessary, the sleeve was costly, and not covered by Daisy's insurance.

With her limited personal resources, Daisy asked a friend to purchase the first sleeve. Her swelling and pain reduced dramatically, but these sleeves must be replaced every three to six months to remain



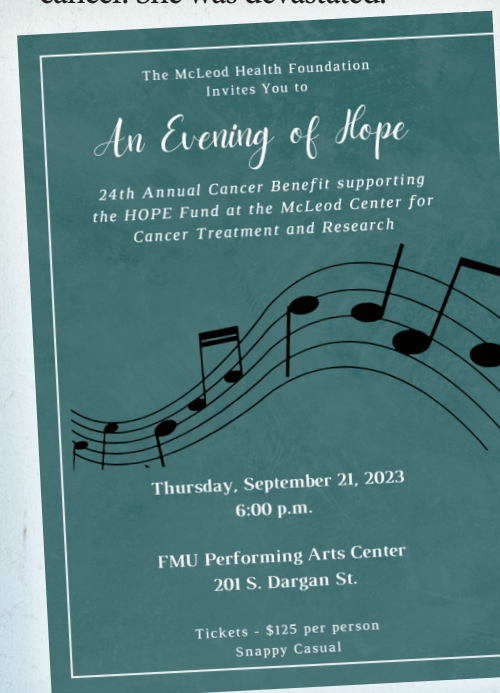
Dr. Rajesh Bajaj is pictured with Daisy Nesmith who is grateful to HOPE Fund donors for providing her with lymphedema sleeves to help alleviate her painful cancer symptoms.

effective. Daisy knew this would be impossible to afford on her own.

She humbly sought out Sarah Beth Averette, the McLeod HOPE Coordinator, to ask for help. **Because of your generous support, Sarah Beth immediately ordered a new sleeve and a second one for Daisy's other arm, too.**

"I was relieved and so very grateful," Daisy said. "I saw that I was not alone and was given what I really needed."

HOPE Fund donors, like you, make it possible for our patients to receive the supplies they need to heal, regardless of their ability to pay. Just as importantly, you show Daisy and so many others that they are not alone on their cancer journey.



Generous Survivor Joins HOPE Fund Supporters Like You

Coping Together Through the Journey to Healing Patients

Losing your hair during cancer treatment can be heartbreaking.

You, our HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund donors, understand this. Thanks to your support, every McLeod Cancer patient whose treatment is going to result in hair loss is given a voucher for a wig or head covering. They are not alone.

One very special supporter in Longs has joined these efforts in a big way.

In 1991, Marlisa Small, a single mother of three children, was diagnosed with Stage IV cervical cancer. Her survival depended on an aggressive treatment plan which made her very sick.

And, on top of it all, she lost her beautiful hair.

Through her journey, Marlisa sought a personal purpose. She was determined to find a way to help others facing disheartening hair loss.

Marlisa began her career as a nail technician but has now owned her business, a healing center, spa, and nail center, for more than 45 years. Following her cancer treatment, Marlisa added wigs to her offerings, donating them cost-free to cancer patients.

Marlisa started hearing cancer patients praise the care they had received at McLeod Health



Marlisa Small is pictured fitting a cancer patient with a beautiful wig. A McLeod Foundation donor, Marlisa has been inspired by the HOPE Fund vouchers that ensure all patients can look and feel their best when they lose their hair.

Seacoast. She wanted to get involved. She soon became a generous sponsor of the Jockey and Juleps event, which provides essential support for the HOPE Fund at the hospital in Little River.

“I know that providing beautiful wigs and head coverings for cancer patients allows them to face the world with confidence,” Marlisa explained. “It is so gratifying to see how the HOPE Fund vouchers ensure that all patients look and feel their best during treatment.”

Marlisa is honored to join donors like you who

believe in the special care given to cancer patients through the HOPE Fund. And, she will also support the new McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research at Seacoast, the first comprehensive cancer center with all services under one roof in Horry County.

“It does my heart good to see the difference McLeod Health is making in our community,” Marlisa said. “McLeod makes their patients feel like family, knowing we can cope together.”

Treating the Whole Being

Your Support Helps McLeod Pastoral Services Provide Compassionate Care

You, our loyal donors, have generously supported McLeod Pastoral Services for more than 20 years.

You understand that a hospital stay can cause fear, grief, and other emotions. That is why you step up to provide guidance and comfort to our patients through your support of McLeod Pastoral Services.

“When a hospital lacks spiritual care, they are not caring for the whole being,” explained Sam Turbeville, Director of Pastoral Services. “I am thankful that our devoted donors see that and continue to support our program.”

Every time a patient is brought into our trauma center, a chaplain is notified and quickly responds to support the family. Also, our medical and nursing staff value access to a trained pastoral services team, who help patients in distress.

Last year, our chaplains provided more than 27,000 visits to our patients and their families. This team also respects the cultural and religious beliefs of each individual they visit.

One such patient, Maria, faced grief and fear during a recent hospital stay. She was looking for hope and comfort amidst a tough diagnosis.

“When my nurse asked if she could send a chaplain to come see me, I hesitated,” Maria recalled. “I imagined a stuffy man with a dry message. But when my chaplain, Janice, entered my room she instantly became a blessing beyond measure and a friend. Her gift of the



Volunteer Chaplain Janice Jordan is pictured with Care Notes, inspirational booklets to comfort patients, which are fully funded by the support of McLeod Foundation donors.

olive-wood cross means so much to me. It hangs over my bed, a symbol of God’s love for me and His hands that saved me during my time of sickness.”

Your gifts to McLeod Pastoral Services make it possible for patients, like Maria, to find peace and encouragement during times of uncertainty. Your empathy and generosity are truly a blessing.

Lifting the Spirit of Children

How You Join Generous Corporate Sponsors to Brighten Hospital Stays

Being in the hospital can be hard for anyone. For young children, though, fear and anxiety are even more heightened. And, if a stay occurs on a holiday, it can really tarnish something special and fun in their lives.

That is where you and Spirit of Children comes in.

You probably know Spirit of Halloween as the company that sells Halloween costumes and decorations. **But since 2012, the company has also joined with McLeod Health Foundation donors, like you, to brighten hospital stays for our region's children.**

The company has donated more than \$165,000 to support various initiatives within the McLeod Children's Hospital's Child Life Program, and provided an abundance of costumes, accessories, and other party supplies free of charge to help our patients celebrate this holiday.

"Spirit of Children and other donations supporting the Child Life Program make an incredible difference for our children and their families staying in the hospital during October," says Cory Prescott, the McLeod Child Life Coordinator. "Our pediatric patients can pick out costumes for the parties that we offer, and they are often thrilled to choose something that brightens their day."

Since Halloween costumes can be expensive, your support helps bring joy and fun to many more patients than the Child Life Program's budget would allow on its own. Thanks to you, siblings of patients even get to pick out their own costumes.

Spirit of Children is about so much more than just costumes or party accessories. Studies have shown links between patients' mental wellbeing and recovery outcomes. So, the smiles you bring to our patients' faces represent more than just a happy moment during a difficult period -- you are literally helping them get better.

"Putting on a Superhero costume helps our patients feel just brave enough to get through the hard things they have to experience in the hospital," Cory concluded. "And, that can make all the difference."



McLeod pediatric patient Anthony McCrory remained brave during his hospital stay thanks to gifts from McLeod Foundation donors and Spirit of Halloween.