

Grants Funded by the McLeod Angels

Total Funded Since 2009 - \$151,661

2018 - 2019

\$15,000 granted by McLeod Angels

Medication Assistance for Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) Patients - \$2,000

Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) patients are on numerous medications, often these medicines are new and not yet in generic form. Many of these medicines can keep the patient's CHF in a stable state. However, because they are costly or patients are self-pay, patients often have to choose which medicines they can afford. Unfortunately, the ones they need the most for their heart, are often the ones they do not get due to the high cost. For example, one diuretic costs up to \$111 per month for self-pay. The average patient newly diagnosed with heart failure goes home on approximately 5-7 medications just for heart failure in addition to their other medications. These medications are the gold standard to ensure the best survival for patients with heart failure. This medication assistance fund would help provide this critical medication to those patients with limited financial resources.

Pediatric Rehab Outreach - Children's Services - \$1,500

In the Pediatric Rehabilitation Department, we have therapists who provide Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Therapy services for children with varying needs and diagnoses. These diagnoses may include Delayed Milestones, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Traumatic Brain Injury, Cancer, Hearing Impairment, and other developmental and genetic disorders. The children and their families live throughout the Pee Dee region and often spend several hours a week in therapy. Many of our patients are the children who spent months in the NICU, as well as frequent hospitalizations in the PICU and children's floor of McLeod. Our children are considered "miracles" because they are survivors and have beaten the odds. Some of these children were born premature, some have genetic disorders that will affect them throughout their lifetime, some have survived terrible car accidents, and some are struggling to regain skills after a traumatic illness. Often, the focus of each family is on the child and their disability.

This impacts the dynamics of each family, which can include siblings and grandparents. Everyone in the family becomes part of the effort to encourage, motivate, and discipline the special needs child. Our Outreach Project will not only serve our patients, but their families as well!

The Pediatric Rehabilitation Team would like to provide our patients with a variety of activities in which they can interact with one another in a fun, yet developmentally stimulating environment. We would like to provide our patients with the opportunity to participate in age appropriate activities to increase confidence, self-respect, and social skills. Our goal is to help our patients celebrate holidays and special events in an environment that is positive, supportive, and developmentally stimulating. We hope to continue to create a place where both patients and families feel understood and where they can reach out to one another to form support networks. We are requesting grant funding to host celebrations and activities which will bring patients and families closer together.

Pediatric Diabetes Outreach - Children's Services – \$1,900

We are requesting funding to provide diabetes education, tools and resources to encourage children with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) to better self-manage their disease process. This project will be offered to children, ages 0-18, years old and their parents in the service area of McLeod Regional Medical Center. This project would provide access to the latest diabetes knowledge to children and their families through educational camps, health fairs, blood glucose screenings, and the enhancement of current out-patient education. McLeod Diabetes Center continues to service and support children with diabetes both inpatient and outpatients. Having the equipment, support systems and education materials designed just for kids for use in the center allows our educators to tailor our services specifically to children.

Compassionate Cares Behavioral Health - McLeod Health Darlington - \$5,000

The funds will address the recurring needs for Behavioral Health Patients at McLeod Health Darlington. This includes patient transportation, medication procurement and compliance, patient and family education.

This program addresses two concerns. First, McLeod Behavioral Health Services serves patients from across the region. The McLeod Health System has also acquired several local hospitals, and they have become a major source of referrals. Many of these facilities are in impoverished, rural areas where access to transportation is limited and financial resources are few. Grant funding will allow us to provide transportation that ensures our patients do not remain in the hospital unnecessarily, which lowers their treatment costs and allows for the admission of new patients. In addition, we utilize transportation services to assist us in getting patients to necessary testing not available at our facility. Due the growing cost of transportation as well as our increased census, we have noted that the need for transportation provided through this grant has also increased.

Second, we make every effort to prescribe medications that the patient can afford. However, patient needs dictate costlier medication at times. Without assistance, some patients will not be able to get their initial supply of medications to last until they can see their outpatient provider or apply for other community resources. For this reason, we use grant money to purchase needed medication, increasing compliance and healthy outcomes.

McLeod Hospice Needs Grant - \$2,500

Years of serious illness often take a toll on a family financially. Many of our patients find their bank accounts depleted due to medical expenses, making them unable to pay their rent, mortgage, or utility bills. They often need air conditioners, fans or heaters. A frequent request is for wheelchair ramps to enable the patient to get in and out of the home. We are the only nonprofit hospice in most of the counties we cover, so many of our patients and families have no insurance and little to no income. We frequently serve families whose homes are insect-infested, so pest control is a less glamorous but very necessary request.

Our Pet Peace of Mind program assists in caring for our patients' pets. We would like to be able to pay for flea and tick control for the pets of our families who can't pay for it themselves. In addition to the basic needs mentioned above, we work hard to address the emotional and spiritual needs of our patients in ways that many organizations cannot. As we care for patients, we often learn of unmet needs or unfulfilled wishes and dreams. This grant would enable us to fulfill some of those wishes, such as renting a boat for a last fishing trip or tickets for a family to attend one last football game.

One Blanket Warmer - Breast Health Center - \$5,000

The purchase of a blanket warmer would be a great benefit to our cancer patients in the Breast Health Center.

As one can imagine, or may have experienced, the anxiety level for a cancer patient is extremely high. Combine this with having to put on a very thin gown when they are having a procedure- they are scared, feel alone and often complain of being cold. Also, when a patient comes to us through the Emergency Room from a trauma, warm blankets can work better than narcotics when calming a patient down.

We feel by having these blanket warmers, we can increase our patients comfort, satisfaction and greatly reduce anxiety. It reminds me of a book I read as a child, "Happiness is a Warm Blanket".

2017-2018

\$16,600 granted by McLeod Angels

Environmental Safety Kit

Unrestricted - Sports Medicine (\$5,000)

This grant will provide funds for protection from health-related illness, cold and wind-chill factor, and other environmental factors such as lightning. This grant would purchase Kestral Meter Heat Stress Trackers along with the Streamer RT subscription for lightning detection to be used at our contracted schools by McLeod Athletic Trainers.

**Patients Served: Approximately 10,000 student athletes.*

Addressing Neonatal Abstinences Syndrome in the Perinatal Region

Women's Services (\$4,900)

The national opioid epidemic is now being experienced throughout South Carolina, including in our region's perinatal population. Dramatic increases in maternal opioid use, often from prescription drug use, is leading to an increase in Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). NAS includes a host of symptoms such as extreme irritability, breathing problems, seizures, and feeding/gastrointestinal difficulties, which can be seen as early as the first day of life. The grant would include 4 simulation dolls that demonstrate characteristics of NAS, such as tremors, manuals, and videos for nursing staff to train on the use of the Finnegan score, videos, and educational materials for the community to learn about the problem of opioid dependence and symptoms of NAS and 2 specialty beds that include rhythmic motion and sounds shown to soothe irritable NAS infants that will be used at MRMC.

**Patients Served: The 6817 births in our perinatal region will benefit from the better educated staff. At MRMC, we care for 3-5 infants at risk or with NAS daily. Every hospital in our region is caring for NAS babies daily. These babies will benefit from the training and the specialty beds.*

Patient Relations Compassionate Fund

Unrestricted (\$5,000)

Patients come to McLeod through a myriad of traumatic situations and from all walks of life. Their crisis can render them completely helpless and needy. McLeod's Patient Relations team often finds themselves reaching into their own pockets to help these patients, calling around to fellow departments/employees or community businesses to help these patients, giving out used items/clothing left from previous patients or sending patients on their way unassisted. This project will help provide urgent non-medical needs for patients and their families when appropriate.

The HOPE Fund

Cancer Services - \$5,000

The HOPE ("Helping Oncology Patients Everyday") Fund will provide funding for cancer patient support services and would provide oncology staff with improved access for immediate assistance needs. The ultimate goal would be to improve and enhance the oncology patient and caregiver experience at McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research.

The HOPE Fund will address multiple needs within the oncology population, including the following:

- Transportation assistance (either through gas cards or through van transport) for oncology patients who must travel great distances to reach McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research for appointments, such as chemotherapy, radiation, or doctor's visits.
- Medication assistance for oncology patients who cannot afford much-needed medications associated with their cancer diagnosis or the side effects of cancer treatment, such as pain and nausea medicines.
- Educational materials for patients, such as written books, pamphlets, videos, and cancer models. Some of these materials would be distributed to patients through the oncology navigators, while other materials would be housed within the Cancer Center Library and replenished as appropriate.
- Replenishment of HOPE Cart materials. The HOPE Cart offers items to help patients pass the time while enduring lengthy outpatient treatments in the Cancer Center. Examples of such items include coloring books, crayons, head phones, magazines, and light snacks.
- Other immediate needs that may arise for individual oncology patients. Examples might include transportation out of state to family, shoes, glasses, dentures, home medical equipment, etc.

The HOPE Fund will serve all oncology patients throughout the cancer journey, including diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship, while under the care of McLeod Regional Medical Center.

2016-2017

\$18,856 granted by McLeod Angels

McLeod Diabetes Center for Pediatric Patients - \$5,000

This grant provides diabetes education, tools and resources to encourage children with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) to better self-manage their disease process. This project will be offered to children, ages 0-17, years old and their parents in the service area of McLeod Regional Medical Center. This project would provide access to the latest diabetes knowledge to children and their families through educational camps, health fairs, blood glucose screenings, and the enhancement of current out-patient education. McLeod Diabetes Center continues to service children with diabetes both inpatient and outpatients. Having equipment, support systems and education materials for use in the center designed just for kids allows our educators to tailor our services specifically to children.

Safe Sleep for Infants - \$5,000

Safe sleep is the infant Alone in bed, on their Back, in their own Crib. A task force determined that role modeling safe sleep to our parents during the hospital stay is one very important way to get the message across. We will do this by the use of safe sleep sacks, or wearable blankets during the hospital stay. These are used instead of loose blankets which can lead to suffocation. Many educational offerings, from classes to posters and flyers, to a book about safe sleep that can be read to the parents is also included in the program. Also, one wearable blanket will be given to each infant at time of discharge so that they can continue to safe sleep after discharge.

Stop the Bleeding - \$3,856

We are requesting \$3,856 to provide nurses, principals, and administrators at every school in Florence School District One with the knowhow and equipment needed to save lives in an active shooter/mass casualty situation. The threat from an intentional mass casualty event remains high. One of the most common causes of preventable death during these events is uncontrolled bleeding. The two-hour training program includes didactic information along with skill demonstration in the recognition and treatment of uncontrolled bleeding. We would also like to provide an emergency kit for each of the thirty School Nurses to take back to their schools for use in an intentional casualty event. The contents of emergency box are: 1 CAT tourniquet, 1 roll gauze, non-sterile 4x4's, non-sterile gloves, emergency Mylar blanket, marker (stored in zip lock bags) inside plastic box. This project is a response to a request from the School Superintendent.

It's Time Capital Campaign Funding Opportunities - \$5,000

Continuing a commitment to excellence and access inspired by Dr. F.H. McLeod in 1899, McLeod Health is embarking on this extraordinary campaign to provide the latest and most up to date technology including 3D Mammography, Endovascular Robot and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Monitors as well as to enlarge and expand the Emergency Department at McLeod Regional Medical Center. These important enhancements will ensure that McLeod Health offers the most contemporary facilities and highest quality care close to home.

2015-2016

\$17,600 granted by McLeod Angels

McLeod Cardiac Services, Cardiac Rehabilitation Scholarships - \$5,000

Cardiac Rehabilitation Scholarships are for patients who are uninsured and/or unable to pay. The scholarships ease the financial burden so they can participate in cardiac rehabilitation which decrease hospital readmission rates and ER visits and is crucial for their health and recovery.

Sports Medicine CPR Outreach - \$1,320

The funds were granted to Sports Medicine to purchase 15 adult manikins and the AHA Friends and Family CPR DVD, which allows Sports Medicine to plan and teach outreach CPR classes at any time. Access to these manikins extends CPR training into the schools for students as well, further increasing the number of people within the Pee Dee area who are trained in CPR. This would provide CPR certification for students to improve skills for babysitting and lifeguarding.

Compassionate Cares - Behavioral Health Services McLeod Darlington - \$2,500

The Compassionate Cares grant provides transportation to our indigent patients, pill minders for patients on multiple medications, and journals for patients to use as part of their treatment. Because of the Compassionate Cares Grant, we are able to provide needed Behavioral Health Services to patients without respect to ability to pay. This grant allows us to care for the behavioral health patients across the ever growing McLeod Health system.

McLeod Cancer Services, Lung Screening Scholarships - \$2,000

Lung Screening Scholarships offer life saving screenings to those who are uninsured and/or unable to pay. When lung cancer is detected prior to symptoms it can be caught in its earliest stages. When detected in stage I or II treatment includes surgery to remove the tumor which dramatically increases the chance for survival.

Nurse-Family Partnership of Florence, Marlboro, Dillon and Darlington Counties (Special Needs Fund) - \$5,000

Nurse-Family Partnership nurses work closely with first-time, low-income mothers starting early in pregnancy and continuing until the child turns two years old. Through regular home visits, nurses work to achieve the following main program goals, among other milestones:

- Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good preventative health practices, including getting prenatal care, improving their diet, and reducing their use of cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances.
- Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care.
- Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education, and find work.

The program serves mothers in Darlington, Dillon, Florence and Marlboro counties and is implemented by McLeod.

Home Safety Box - SafeKids - \$1,780

The Home Safety Boxes are tools and educational materials to make parents aware of dangers that are around their home. SafeKids is working with the Nurse Family Partnership nurses who work with the lower income families. In most cases these families would not be able to obtain these safety devices. When visiting the home, the nurse will go through the materials, explain how to use them and leave the box with the family to keep their children safe

2014-2015

\$17,300 granted by McLeod Angels

The HOPE Fund - \$5,000

The HOPE ("Helping Oncology Patients Everyday") Fund will provide funding for cancer patient support services and provide oncology staff with improved access for immediate assistance needs. The ultimate goal is to improve and enhance the oncology patient and caregiver experience at McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research

HOP-IT Fund - \$5,000

This program, Healthy Outcomes Program Indigent Transportation Fund (HOP-IT), will assist indigent patients identified through the McLeod Healthy Outcome Program (HOP) who have little or no means of transportation for visits to their Primary Care Physician in order to improve their health and decrease unnecessary and costly Emergency Room visits.

Reach Out and Read - \$5,000

Reach out and Read is an evidence-based program endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics for improving childhood literacy and providing appropriate guidance regarding healthy development. This approach involves three steps during well child visits with Pediatricians at McLeod Family Medicine from ages 6 months through 5 years. Give each child a developmentally and culturally appropriate book as part of each pediatric visit, provide appropriate guidance about how best to enjoy the book with the child and emphasize that reading aloud stimulates language development

SafeKids Safety Town Kit - \$1,150

Grant funding will be used to purchase Safety Town, a comprehensive educational program that introduces safety awareness and preventative procedures to children in the setting of a miniature village. This interactive classroom can be used either indoors or outdoors and features a miniature road layout with a street with a crosswalk, a traffic signal, a walk/don't walk signal, as well as several two-dimensional stand-up vehicles such as a fire truck, a school bus, a police car and an ambulance.

NICU Quilts - \$1,150

In the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) it is required that unless an infant is being assessed or under phototherapy light, that there be a cover over the isolette they are in. Bright light is very over stimulating to even babies at 33-35 week gestation, much more so in the tiniest 24-25 weekers. These covers block out this light pollution. Many quilts and blankets donated to the NICU cannot be used on the isolettes or in the unit due to infection control issues. This grant will fund the materials and a group of women who would love to make quilts will prepare these quilts specific to the NICU isolettes and according to specific infection control guidelines.

2013-2014

\$17,135 granted by McLeod Angels

MRMC Cancer Services, McLeod Angels Cancer "HOPE Cart" - \$1,702

Oncology patients typically spend a great deal of time receiving treatment in a hospital or physician office setting during the course of their treatment. McLeod oncology patients are no exception. The "McLeod Angels HOPE Cart" would provide an alternative way to spend the long hours patients spend at the McLeod Center for Cancer Treatment and Research.

The cart will include multiple items of potential interest, such as paperback books, magazines, puzzles, coloring books with crayons, puzzle books, music, and a few snacks. With such a variety, oncology patients could select a different item for each of their multiple visits; therefore passing the time more quickly and making the overall visit more pleasant.

MRMC Cancer Services, Oncology Wheelchair Scale - \$3,813

Obtaining an accurate height and weight is essential for the oncology population because these data elements are required to calculate the chemotherapy dose specific for the patient's body size. This is critically important in order to ensure that therapeutic levels of chemotherapy reach the targeted tumor and provide the patient with the best possible outcome.

The electronic "Stow-A-Weigh" scale will accommodate most wheelchairs with a maximum weight up to 880lbs. It can be used as a chair scale or a stand-on scale. However, because it mounts to the wall and has only a 4" profile when not in use, it does not require much floor space. This scale would allow ambulatory and wheelchair-bound oncology outpatients to be easily weighed, providing an exact electronic weight, and with minimal fall risk.

McLeod Cancer Services, Wheel Chairs for Cancer Center - \$4,800

With the volume increases in the number of patients in the new Infusion Services Area and the Oncology and Pulmonology Physician offices which are all located in the new Cancer Center, there is a critical need for additional wheelchairs. Many patients are very ill and endurance and mobility are major obstacles for them as they arrive for physician visits and their treatments. It is a comfort to patients to be able to offer a wheelchair. When a wheel chair is available, patients are not just transported to an area and the wheelchair returned for use by the next patient. They often must remain in the wheelchair for the entire visit which may be several hours.

Pastoral Services, The C.A.R.E Channel - \$3,120

The C.A.R.E. Channel consists of beautiful nature imagery accompanied by original instrumental music. The C.A.R.E Channel is a therapeutic tool that reduces anxiety, alleviates pain, assists with sleep and restfulness, and minimizes the harmful effects of hospital noise. By offering continuous relaxation and aesthetic beauty, The C.A.R.E Channel reflects the healing intention of the hospital staff even when patients are alone in their room.

The Benefits of this Service are:

- Instills a familiar, restful feeling when a patient returns from a procedure;
- Provides increased privacy;
- Reduces stress/distraction during a procedure;
- Improve restfulness at night;
- Assists with pain management;
- Alternative to commercial television

McLeod Children's Hospital, The Atwood Children's Fund - \$1,930

The Atwood Children's Fund was established to honor the many years of service of the PICU founding physician Gerald Atwood. These funds will be used for families who do not have access to this equipment that is critical for their child. The Atwood Fund is able to provide the injured child pediatric crutches, pediatric wheelchair, and all necessary home equipment needed to promote a rapid recovery.

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Two Hospital Grade Double Electric Pumps - \$1,770 (\$885 each)

Extensive research has proved that Breast Feeding has lifesaving benefits for very small babies born under 1500 grams. These benefits include reduced infections, lower death rates and overall better health for the baby.

When a mother is admitted for delivery she expects a smooth delivery and to begin breast feeding immediately after the baby is born. This is not always the case. If a baby is born too small, too early or with other complications, they are admitted to the NICU separating the Mom and baby. To ensure that this process begins immediately these pumps will be available in the patients room and used for Mother's who do not have a pump of their own.

2012-2013

\$16,470 granted by McLeod Angels

Safe Kids, "Safe Scripts" - \$4,220

"Safe Scripts" is a program which assists people in the community by providing a medicine reconciliation form for them to list all important life saving information. The completed form is placed into a labeled medicine bottle that is provided. The potential patient's name is placed on the bottle and then put into the refrigerator. First responders in the Pee Dee and Coastal areas are trained to look for the "Safe Script" magnet, which signals them to open the refrigerator and look for the medicine bottle with the corresponding logo. Inside the bottle is the critical medical information the first responders need. When the patient is treated with this vital information the risk associated with drug reactions, unintentional overdosing, and drug interactions are drastically reduced.

McLeod Hospice, Video Journaling - \$1,250

Allows McLeod Hospice volunteers to film patients who desire to leave their stories, advice, and good-bye messages for their families and friends to cherish forever.

McLeod Cancer Services, Pharmacological Assistance for Oncology Patients - \$5,000

Pain is a common and potentially devastating complication of cancer. Many oncology patients are underinsured or do not have any health insurance. Therefore, the purchasing of prescriptions carries a heavy burden. Many of these patients have to choose between which medicines to get filled. This grant assists oncology patients with purchasing pain medicines.

The Guest House at McLeod - \$5,000

This grant sponsors 25 families to stay at The Guest House at McLeod, a home away from home for families of patients who live outside of the Florence area.

McLeod Cancer Services, Cancer Survivorship Tool Book - \$1,000

The Survivorship Guidebook is a working resource that will improve the health and quality of life of cancer survivors.

2011-2012

\$12,000 granted by McLeod Angels

McLeod Cancer Services, Transportation for Radiation Oncology Patients - \$5,000

Radiation Therapy patients are scheduled to receive on average about 25 - 28 treatments which are given everyday Monday through Friday. Patients are pulled from 12 counties so it can be very costly for those who travel back and forth daily. This grant provides gas assistance for patients, relieving the burden for those who may have to miss treatments due to lack of gas money.

McLeod Children's Hospital, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Breast Pump Scholarships - \$7,000

NICU moms need access to a breast pump the entire time their infant is in the hospital. Many of these moms have limited financial resources and are unable to purchase pumps. These funds provide scholarships that would allow these moms to purchase a pump from the McLeod Resource Center giving them the opportunity to breast feed their baby, which is vital to their growth and development.

2010-2011

\$11,700 granted by McLeod Angels

Safe Kids, Cribs for Kids - \$5850

A program developed by Safe Kids that provides needy families with one of the most basic of needs for their babies: cribs to help prevent unnecessary and tragic deaths. Education about safe sleep is a very important component of this program.

McLeod Family Medicine, the Drug Assistance Grant administered by the Indigent Drug Program - \$5850

The Indigent Drug Program allows patients who can't afford their medications a way to get their medications at no charge by preparing needed documentation to take advantage of existing programs sponsored by the pharmaceutical companies.

2009-2010

\$9,000 granted by McLeod Angels

McLeod Cancer Services, Mammography Scholarships - \$2,500

Scholarships for women who do not have insurance coverage so they can get have the mammogram that they need without the financial burden.

McLeod Cancer Services, Loving Initiative for Transportation (LIFT) Program - \$6,500

The LIFT program provides assistance to patients diagnosed with cancer who do not have any other means of transportation so they are able to receive their life-saving cancer treatments.