



McLeod Health Foundation

# ANNUAL REPORT TO DONORS

Inspired  
*by you.*

JANUARY 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019

# We are *Inspired by You*

## – Celebrating a Record-Breaking Year –

Every day, we are inspired by the blessings YOU, our donors, give to our patients. It is through your incredible generosity that we are able to enhance life-saving programs, services, technology and care at McLeod Health.

Thanks to you, the McLeod Health Foundation was stronger than ever in 2019. Your contributions led to a record-breaking year, totaling more than \$8.4 million.

**Together**, we strengthened McLeod Health's commitment to providing a level of care that exceeds expectations. YOUR support of programs like the HOPE Fund directly benefitted the lives of our patients and their loved ones.

**Together**, we created the very best experience that healthcare has to offer. YOUR support of medical advancements provides our patients with the latest technology, such as 3D Mammography.

**Together**, we ensured that our community receives the best medical care possible in facilities that are second to none.



YOUR support has provided specialized programs and services to meet the ongoing needs of our region.

YOU are the reason we are able to better serve our patients. We are grateful for the trust you put in us to do this important work.

This Annual Report to you, our valued donor, is a celebration of your philanthropy and the ways you've helped improve the lives of those whom we are so privileged to serve.

We hope you will take the time to review the stories of amazing

generosity and celebrate with us this year of abundant gratitude.

You are truly changing lives. Thank you for being important partners in our work and for positively affecting the future of healthcare in our community.

Jill M. Bramblett  
Executive Director

Timothy E. Cunningham  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

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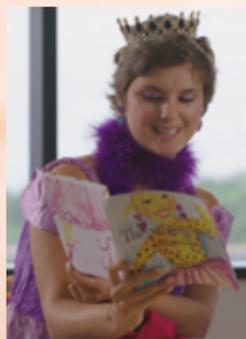
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### ON THE COVER

Diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma at 23, Grace DuBose was determined to find a way to use her cancer journey to help others. During months of treatment, Grace began creating jewelry and wrote a book for children facing the same challenges she was enduring. As a way to give back, Grace donated a portion of the proceeds from both her jewelry sales and her book to the McLeod HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund which supports the direct needs of patients receiving treatment at the McLeod Cancer Center, including head coverings for patients who lose their hair. The inspiring story of Grace's journey is shared on page 21.

# Learning through Giving

## How Direct Mail Opened the Eyes of Longtime Donors

Dr. William and Betty Hester know McLeod Health very well.

Dr. Hester started the McLeod Family Medicine Program in 1979 and served as Medical Director for 33 years.

They are also very familiar with the McLeod Health Foundation. Since 1990, the Hesters have supported an Endowed Scholarship that benefits the McLeod Family Medicine Program.

***The Hesters admit, however, that there are always projects at McLeod needing support -- many they did not know existed.***

“Receiving direct mail from the



Dr. William and Betty Hester feel fortunate to support the programs they learn about through McLeod Foundation direct mail.

“Receiving the Foundation direct mail pieces and newsletters helped us realize how many people in this region are impacted by donations.”

– Betty Hester

Foundation educated us about programs and services we would not have known about otherwise,” Betty explained. “It opened our eyes to what the needs are and helped us realize there are so many other things the Foundation supports.”

When they started receiving mail from the Foundation,

the Hesters began giving to a wider variety of areas, from McLeod Children’s Hospital to McLeod Hospice and the McLeod Cancer Center.

“We started giving where we thought it was needed most,” Betty recalled. “Receiving the Foundation direct mail pieces and newsletters helped us realize how many people in this region are impacted by donations.”

“There are a lot of programs and services that would not be possible without Foundation support, such as transportation assistance and mammography scholarships,” Dr. Hester added. “We feel very fortunate that we are able to help others in need.”

The Hesters hope that you will consider responding to direct mail as they have. As Betty will tell you, a small donation can end up going a long way.

“We see the need every day and do what we can to help,” Betty added.

# Foundation’s Impact Hits Home

## How a McLeod Employee Learned the Value of Giving

Many employees give to the McLeod Health Foundation because they see the impact it has on their patients.

Louise Talbert gives because she has seen the Foundation’s impact on her own family.

After Louise’s father passed away, her mother, Betty, cared for seven children on her own. When Louise’s brother was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig’s disease, Betty partially retired to assist with his extensive care. While the family rallied around their ill brother, their worlds were shaken again when Betty was diagnosed with Glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer.

Because Betty only worked part-time, she no longer had access to health insurance. Through the McLeod Cancer Clinic, which treats all patients regardless of their ability to pay, Betty received state-of-the-art care. She also obtained assistance with her special medication and nutritional needs thanks to the McLeod Foundation’s HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund.

Since McLeod provides the exact same care to uninsured cancer patients as those with insurance, Louise never even realized her mother was receiving special help.



Louise Talbert enjoys the garden at the McLeod Cancer Center where her mother received exceptional care.

Betty soldiered through four months of treatment before being admitted to the McLeod Hospice House. Witnessing the genuine compassion bestowed upon her mother during her last days motivated Louise to become a Hospice Nurse.

After coming to work for McLeod in 2015, Louise became aware of the McLeod Foundation. For the first time, she learned how the Foundation supports cancer

patients at McLeod. She also realized the Foundation helps the very patients she now serves as a McLeod Hospice Nurse.

Louise soon understood that the Foundation had played a vital role in her mother’s care.

“If it wasn’t for the McLeod Foundation, my mom would not have received the support she needed,” Louise shared.

Now a donor to McLeod Cancer Services and the HOPE Fund, Louise shares her story with her fellow Hospice and Home Health team members at McLeod Health Cheraw.

“I tell them the reason that I give. It’s my hope that they will be encouraged to give back as well,” Louise added.

# LIFTING UP OTHERS

## How a McLeod Volunteer Gives Back



Lauren Vause, a dedicated McLeod Health Foundation volunteer and donor, remains committed to lifting up others in their time of need.

From volunteering at events, to serving in community organizations and funding programs out of her own pocket, Lauren Vause has always given back to those in need.

“It’s important to give back so you don’t take what you have for granted,” Lauren explained. “Everyone deserves an opportunity to be lifted up.”

**Lauren knows this because she once needed to be lifted up herself.**

You see, Lauren was a premature baby and spent 60 days in a neonatal intensive care unit. Knowing how important it is to have excellent children’s healthcare close to home, Lauren regularly volunteers at McLeod Children’s Hospital events, most notably the Children’s Hospital Radiothon, where she is happy to answer the phones or do whatever else is required.

Never wanting to take things for granted, Lauren soon went beyond volunteering.

“Hearing the amazing stories live from the DJs, staff, and families at the Radiothon moved me deeply,” she explained.

“I knew I wanted to do more.”

That is when Lauren learned about monthly giving. She chose to become a monthly donor because “giving one time is a gift, but giving monthly is special.”

Soon, Lauren found herself supporting McLeod Hospice through the Hospice Tree Lighting, honoring her husband’s aunt and the memory of his late uncle.

“You never know when you will need the wonderful services offered at McLeod Health,” said Lauren. “There are so many areas McLeod supports and several have touched loved ones in my family.”

Despite having helped in such a variety of ways, Lauren continues to expand her philanthropy. She recently joined the Circle of Excellence, a new McLeod Health Foundation Young Giving Society.

“The Circle of Excellence is a wonderful way to get more intimately involved while building new relationships,” Lauren explained. “It’s so exciting to join from the beginning because I can help build the program and get other young people involved.”

## The Circle of Excellence

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Abbott  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Allen  
Ms. Meggie Baker\*  
Ms. Elizabeth Battle  
Dr. Brian Blaker and  
Ms. Caroline Bascom  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bolick  
Ms. Mallory Brayboy\*  
Dr. Cary and  
Dr. Mary Sue Brewton  
Ms. Erin Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Gunter Bullock  
Mr. Darren Youmans and  
Dr. Vicki Chung\*  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Collins  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Collins  
Dr. and Mrs. Eric Coughlin  
Ms. Courtney Cribb  
Mr. John S. DeBerry, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Curt Derrick  
Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Duncan  
Mr. and Mrs. Jule Eldridge  
Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Faile  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Fast  
Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Foster  
Ms. Reba Gaskins  
Mr. and Mrs. Cody Goodwin

Mr. John and  
Dr. Candice Greenan  
Mr. and Mrs. Barnett  
Greenberg\*  
Mr. and Mrs. William  
Hardaway  
Mr. and Mrs. Derek  
Hemmingsen  
Mr. Robby Hill  
Mr. and Mrs. Alec Hogsette\*  
Dr. and Mrs. Jason Howard  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hunter  
Mr. and Mrs. Casey Hydro  
Mr. and Mrs. Kendall Jackson  
Dr. and Mrs. Will Jackson  
Mr. and Mrs. Andy Jeffords  
Mr. and Mrs. Phil Jones  
Mr. and Mrs. Gregg Jones  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Jordan  
Mr. Laithe and  
Dr. Jamie Kenney-Kalbuneh  
Ms. McCall Hyman and  
Mr. Thomas Kennedy  
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Lee  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Marsh  
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Moore  
Mr. and Mrs. Ashley Nance\*

Dr. Erin and Dr. Will Patton  
Dr. and Mrs. Carmen Piccolo  
Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Rishmawi  
Mr. and Mrs. Gantt Sawyer  
Mr. and Mrs. Seth Sherard  
Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Snipes  
Mr. Rhett Spencer and  
Ms. Eliza Truett  
Mr. Kyle Srimoungchanh and  
Ms. Courtney Moore  
Mr. and Mrs. Clay Swaggard  
Mr. and Mrs. Adam Swindler  
Dr. and Mrs. Chad Thurman  
Dr. Jarrod Tippins  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Toniolo  
Mr. and Mrs. Derick Urquhart  
Dr. and Mrs. Vivek Vasuki\*  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Vause  
Dr. and Mrs. Johnson Walker  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher  
Wentzell\*  
Dr. Jill Wilkes  
Mr. and Mrs. Dikran  
Yacoubian\*

\* Circle of Excellence Executive Committee

The Circle of Excellence, a young giving society of McLeod Health Foundation, is comprised of individuals and couples 45 and under who give \$500 annually to the Foundation. This dynamic group funds specialized programs and services that benefit patients and their families served at McLeod Health. To become a member of The Circle of Excellence, contact the McLeod Foundation at (843) 777-2694.

# Doubling Your Gift

## How a Florence Resident -- and His Employer -- are Expanding Care for Children

In 1983, Clary Rawl's job with GE Healthcare Systems brought him and his wife, Nancy, to Florence. Since then, the two have been deeply involved in the Florence community, especially McLeod Health.

This past year, when Nancy and Clary learned about the McLeod Children's Hospital expansion, they immediately knew they wanted to support the initiative through the McLeod Health Foundation.

**Clary decided to make the company with which he worked for more than 36 years, work for McLeod.**

The GE Foundation's corporate matching gift program supports employees in their personal philanthropy. For every donation an employee makes to a non-profit organization, GE provides a one-to-one monetary match.

### MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

Be sure to see if your company has a matching gift program. You could double your gift like the Rawls.



Through a corporate matching gift program, Clary and Nancy Rawl have been able to double the impact of their giving.

"We're able to double our gifts to the charities that mean the most to us -- our church, schools and local hospital," Clary explained. "It's very simple. We just go on their website and select the organization we want to support, and then GE matches our gift. This helps us make a much larger impact in our community."

The gift the Rawls -- and GE -- made were in honor of their two precious grandchildren, Edward and Margaret Harris.

"We know that children are our future, and we want to make sure the best possible resources are available in our community," Nancy said.

"We want McLeod to thrive and always be there for our healthcare needs. In turn, a strong hospital like McLeod recruits physicians, other families and great employers to the Pee Dee Region," added the ever business-minded Clary.

# UNEXPECTED TEARS

## Survivor Inspires Pharmacist to Give

A lifelong resident of Lake City, Jarrod Tippins always knew he wanted to return to the Pee Dee after pharmacy school and own an independent pharmacy. In 2016, he took a leap of faith and fulfilled his ultimate dream by opening The Pharmacy in Florence, South Carolina.

This past year, Jarrod attended the McLeod Health Foundation's An Evening of Hope Cancer Benefit. This inspirational event benefits the HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund, which provides direct support for patients undergoing cancer treatment.

Standing in the restroom at the event, Jarrod noticed a gentleman gathering tissue to take into the theatre. The gentleman explained that the stories of cancer survivors always bring his wife to tears.

**Little did Jarrod know that he too would be brought to tears.**

That evening, he was deeply moved by the survivor stories,



By supporting the HOPE Fund Endowment, Pharmacist Jarrod Tippins ensures the critical needs of cancer patients are met now and in the future.

especially that of Roddy Huntley, a young man Jarrod's age. Listening to Roddy's voice quiver with the fear of not knowing his loved ones when he awoke from brain surgery, touched Jarrod's heart. He was amazed by Roddy's story of recovery and healing.

"As I watched the videos that night, I thought to myself, this could be me or one of my family

members one day," Jarrod said.

**Seeing those who so bravely faced their cancer journeys motivated Jarrod to support the HOPE Fund Endowment.**

As an owner of an independent pharmacy, Jarrod interacts with individuals every day who cannot afford their medicine.

"I think everyone should have access to care or medicine," Jarrod explained.

Today, Jarrod feels blessed with his success. He lives by the verse, "to whom much is given, much is expected" (Luke 12:48).

His generous commitment will ensure access to services for cancer patients far into the future.

### THE HOPE FUND ENDOWMENT

The HOPE Fund supports the direct needs of patients receiving treatment at the McLeod Cancer Center. This includes assistance with medication, travel, nutrition and other needs patients face along their cancer journey.

The HOPE Fund Endowment ensures that these funds are available for patients now and in the future.

# EXPANDING CHILDREN'S CARE

## Bank Gives to Help Future Generations

Brian Fast, Senior Vice President/Market Executive of First Citizens Bank, and his wife Patricia, know firsthand the importance of having a premier local Children's Hospital.

When their son, Henry, was 15 months old, he had a seizure in his mother's arms. Unresponsive and not breathing, Henry was rushed to the McLeod Emergency Department and later admitted to McLeod Children's Hospital.

"This is a parent's worst nightmare," said Brian. "We felt helpless."

McLeod physicians and staff worked tirelessly to stabilize Henry. They determined the cause of the seizure was high fever and began immediate treatment. Time was of the essence.

After two days of excellent care, Henry was on the mend and healthy enough to return home.

"It was a great experience," Brian recalled. "Patricia and I are so grateful we had access to quality physicians and staff when we needed it most."

The local connection of McLeod Children's Hospital made Brian and his family extremely comfortable. They were happy to entrust their child's care to local physicians.

First Citizens Bank, Brian's employer, shares this sentiment. A longtime supporter of McLeod Health, the organization has witnessed the positive impact McLeod Health Foundation has made on the community. Through Brian's experience, they also saw how important the Children's Hospital in particular is to the health of the region.



Brian Fast, Senior Vice President/Market Executive of First Citizens Bank, tours the construction site for the McLeod Children's Hospital expansion.

"Supporting the McLeod Children's Hospital expansion campaign through the Foundation is an opportunity to directly help future generations and provide the resources they need in their most critical times," Brian said, speaking on behalf of First Citizens. "Our customers, employees, and the community at large will all benefit from this much needed expansion."

**"No one wants their child to be hospitalized. But, if the need arises, you want to know the best possible care is available."**

**- Brian Fast**

# Pee Dee Roots Run Deep

## A Life of Service Leads to a Legacy of Care

Dr. Tarek (Trey) Bishara, a native of Mullins, South Carolina, left the Pee Dee in 1988 to attend medical school at The University of South Carolina. After serving in the Air Force, completing his residency in Texas, practicing a few years in Kentucky, and -- most importantly -- getting married, it was time to come back home.

"Having grown up in the Pee Dee, I feel very connected to this community," explained Dr. Bishara, who has practiced at McLeod Health since 2003.

While being close to family weighed heavily in the decision to come back, the opportunity to work at McLeod played a huge role as well.

Over the past 16 years, Dr. Bishara has not only contributed to the health and well-being of the Pee Dee through his work as a McLeod Pathologist, but also served on the McLeod Health Board of Trustees and McLeod Health Foundation Board.

**"I grew up with McLeod as my hospital," Dr. Bishara said. "I know the importance of this organization to the community I care so much about."**

Particularly meaningful for Dr. Bishara was seeing firsthand the compassion and quality care his beloved mother and mother-in-law received through McLeod Hospice.

These experiences further underscored his desire to do more.

Motivated by their deep connection to McLeod and their fellow Pee Dee residents, the Bisharas recently decided to make a legacy gift to the McLeod Health Foundation by leaving a bequest in their will.

"It comes down to believing in the mission of the organization," Dr. Bishara said. "We have been committed to McLeod and this community throughout our life, and we want to continue that commitment long after we are gone."

### WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

By leaving bequests in a will, donors can impact their communities long after they are gone. Legacy giving can also provide more significant support than an individual is able to make in his/her lifetime.

If you are interested in leaving a legacy to the McLeod Foundation, please call (843) 777-2694.



In addition to their legacy gift, Dr. Trey and Dr. Lisa Bishara supported the Hospice House addition by naming a room in memory of his mother.

# SIMPLIFIED GIVING

## WITH A LASTING IMPACT

*Investing in the Health of Our Community*



Pat and Grace Patterson support McLeod Hospice through their Donor-Advised Fund.

Giving has always played a profound role in the lives of Pat and Grace Patterson. Starting in his childhood years, Pat remembers receiving his allowance of ten nickels. Half went to the church, and half went to savings. Grace recalls giving her time as a volunteer candy striper at McLeod in the 1960s.

As adults, both took a spiritual gifts survey at their church to determine what their ideal form of service was -- hospitality, teaching, encouragement, etc. The two had the same result: GIVING.

Seven years ago, Pat and Grace created a Donor-Advised Fund

(DAF) as a way to give back to McLeod Hospice, a cause which holds great meaning for the couple.

Grace's late mother, Bettie MacMillian, was a McLeod Hospice volunteer for 32 years. Grace recalls finding her mother's notebooks in which she recorded every visit and every conversation with the patients and families she cared for. Knowing her heart and passion for these families, Pat and Grace are motivated to give back in her memory through the McLeod Health Foundation.

"We are very appreciative of the care McLeod Hospice ministers

not only to the patients, but also the family members," Pat said.

"McLeod plays such a vital role in Florence and we believe in the mission," Grace added. "As our invested funds continue to grow over the years, we will be able to provide a meaningful and lasting impact."

A Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) is a charitable giving account designed exclusively to invest, grow, and give assets to charities for meaningful and lasting impact.

## *Providing Wings to Those in Need*

### *Men's Group Joins Forces to Impact Lives*

In 2014, a group of 60 men joined forces to become the McLeod Men -- a philanthropic organization partnered with the McLeod Health Foundation. More than five years after its inception 120 men have joined, increasing the group's impact each year.

The McLeod Men, who meet quarterly, annually review McLeod Health programs and decide what their membership dues will support. In the past, the group has supported lung screening scholarships and funded equipment used to enhance the patient experience.

The McLeod Men membership is open to all men who are interested. If you would like more information on membership, please contact the McLeod Health Foundation at 843-777-2694 or email Kendra Collins at [kendra.collins@mcleodhealth.org](mailto:kendra.collins@mcleodhealth.org).

This year, Maureen Byrd, a nurse practitioner with the McLeod Home-Based Palliative Care Team, presented an exciting new effort to the McLeod Men -- the Butterfly Fund.

The Butterfly Fund will provide immediate support for Hospice and Palliative Care patients who struggle to afford basic items necessary for their care. This includes medication,

nutrition, minor medical equipment, and other needs requiring urgent assistance.

"In her compelling presentation, Maureen explained how providing critical support for patients can drastically change their medical outcome," said Dr. Charlie Jordan, Chairman of the McLeod Men.

When it came time to vote, it was clear that this presentation had touched hearts. As a group, the Men approved funding to establish the Butterfly Fund.

"It took less than five minutes for us to realize the critical importance of this program," recalled Dr. Jordan. "We knew that this is exactly what the McLeod Men are here to support."

*Through the generosity of the McLeod Men, the Butterfly Fund will provide patients with the "wings" necessary to journey through an especially difficult chapter in their life.*



Dr. Charlie Jordan discusses with Mike Reichenbach and Barry Wingard how the McLeod Men's support of the Butterfly Fund will benefit McLeod Hospice and Palliative Care patients.

# Building A Healthy Community

## Local Pharmacist Works to Improve Healthcare

Rock Ouzts has been a pharmacist in Manning for nearly three decades. Like many who call the area home, Rock knew that the success of the partnership with McLeod Health would be crucial for the future of Clarendon County.

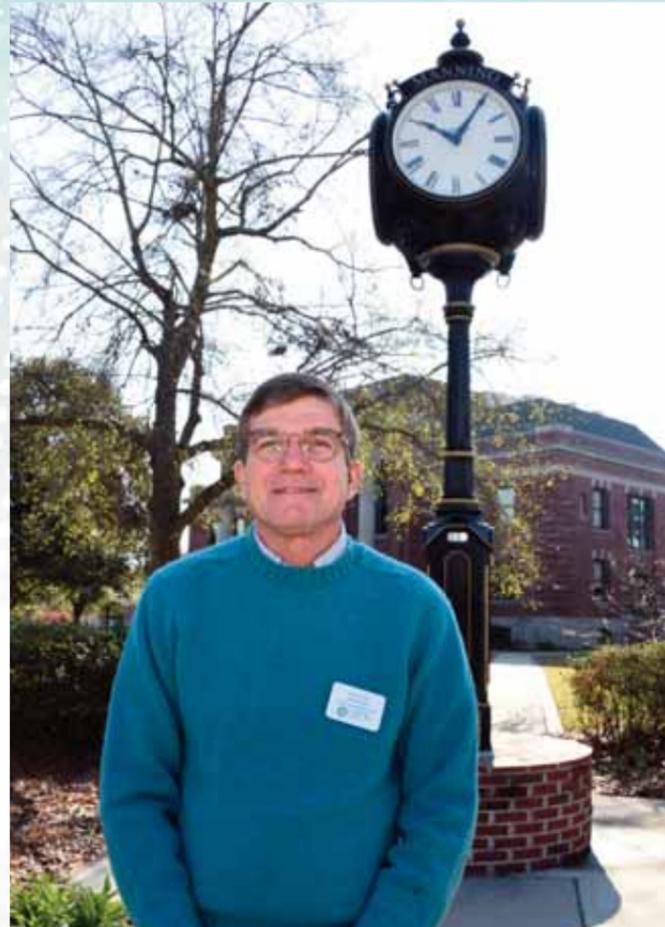
That is why Rock volunteered to serve on the McLeod Health Clarendon Foundation Advisory Board.

“McLeod Health has ensured access to quality healthcare in our community,” Rock said. “Investing in our hospital improves our community. The programs and services supported by the Foundation better the future of healthcare in Clarendon County.”

Rock’s generous support is helping provide McLeod Health Clarendon with a new 32-Slice CT Scanner. This crucial technology can detect cancer, determine if a patient is having a stroke and ensure accurate diagnoses of traumatic injuries in minutes rather than hours.

Rock takes his role on the McLeod Foundation Advisory Board seriously. He believes that his duties go far beyond simply attending board meetings. Rock acts as an ambassador for the Foundation in the community and constantly works to make connections with potential Foundation donors.

“As a pharmacist, I see the importance of McLeod’s mission and the value of having quality healthcare locally,” Rock explained. “A community



Inspired by a passion to improve healthcare in Clarendon County, Rock Ouzts works diligently with the McLeod Foundation to meet the needs of his community.

hospital is not only crucial for residents, but also impacts a thriving business community in Clarendon County.”

In addition to his tireless volunteer work on behalf of the Foundation, Rock gives generously out of his own pocket as well.

**“We feel blessed to give back to the hospital that has graciously invested in our community,” he added. “It is indeed an honor and privilege to support the McLeod Foundation.”**

# Giving HOPE

## Business Leader Commits to Giving Back

Benjy Hardee, a native of North Myrtle Beach and owner of AO Hardee & Son Construction, places great value on supporting the local community.

Over the years, Benjy and his wife, Lynda, have given financially to many McLeod Health Foundation events. Most recently, they sponsored the McLeod Health Cancer Golf Classic, which supports the HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund.

“McLeod Health has saved lives in our family,” Benjy recalls emotionally. “Our daughter with heart complications, my mother and father with a variety of ailments, would not be here without the specialized care provided by McLeod Health Seacoast.”

Lynda, who lost both her grandfather and best friend to cancer, feels that the specialized cancer care McLeod Health provides is priceless.

“Cancer is a demon to which all of us can relate,” Lynda said. “The more funds we raise locally for the HOPE Fund, the more we can help cancer patients. We are blessed and want to give back to help those in need.”

From a business owner’s perspective, Benjy also has a deep relationship with McLeod.

“McLeod has been very good to us,” Benjy explained. “They have given AO Hardee & Son Construction opportunities to be part of their expansion efforts. McLeod also recognizes the importance of using local companies.

**“By choosing a local company,” Benjy continues, “McLeod is helping the community in more ways than just providing healthcare. They are providing financial stability for AO Hardee & Son Construction’s more than 200 employees.”**

The Hardees are honored to continue giving HOPE to McLeod patients long into the future.



Benjy Hardee and his wife, Lynda, understand the importance of giving back to their community, and are passionate about supporting the McLeod Health Foundation.

## McLeod Health Cancer Golf Classic

The McLeod Health Cancer Golf Classic supporting the HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund appeals to individuals from all over the Grand Strand to help raise funds for cancer patients and their families. The funds raised from this event provide direct support such as medications, transportation, nutrition, and hair coverings to cancer patients struggling to overcome financial barriers.

# GAME ON!

## *Gamers Join Together to Raise Funds for Children*

Play games, heal kids. That's the motto for Extra Life.

Since 2008, the video gaming community has joined forces with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals through a program called Extra Life. Participating gamers work year-round, gathering sponsors before a single day of non-stop gaming known as "Game Day." Extra Life now supports 170 Children's Hospitals throughout the nation, including McLeod Children's Hospital.

It's kind of like a walkathon... but without the walking.

You may think this sounds fun, but how much money can really be raised by playing videogames?

***This past year, for McLeod Children's Hospital, the answer was \$64,000.***

Most of these funds were raised on a single day: Game Day 2019. After months of finding sponsors, on Saturday, November 2, local gamers playing for McLeod Children's Hospital picked up their controllers. When they put them back down, the gamers had raised more than \$43,000.

This year also saw a brand new way of fundraising through Extra Life. Longtime Extra Lifer, Erik Polak, set up his gaming station on-site at the McLeod Children's Hospital Radiothon. As the calls poured in to the telephone bank, Erik gamed and streamed to an online audience, raising more than \$1,200.



*Erik Polak games on location at the 2019 Radiothon to benefit McLeod Children's Hospital.*

To date, Extra Life has raised more than \$200,000 for the McLeod Health Foundation in support of McLeod Children's Hospital. Game Day for 2020 is set for Saturday, November 7. You can join in by visiting [www.Extra-Life.org](http://www.Extra-Life.org). When it comes to saving and improving the lives of McLeod's youngest patients, as the gamers will tell you, **"This Game is Not Over!"**

When it comes to saving and improving the lives of our youngest patients, as the gamers will tell you, "This Game is Not Over!"

# GIVING TIME AND TALENT

## *Local Architect Delivers Delicious Sweets in Difficult Times*

When local architect Mark Palmer assisted with the construction of the McLeod Hospice House, he never realized how it would one day become a large part of his life. Years later, when he joined the McLeod Health Foundation's McLeod Fellows program and toured the Hospice House, Mark saw firsthand the great work that takes place in this special facility.

He was amazed.

In addition to the staff's extraordinary level of care and compassion, Mark was inspired by the way the local community banded together to help serve the patients. He took particular interest in how local restaurants and caterers provide lunch to patients, families and staff every Wednesday.

"I thought, 'I could bake cakes for them,'" Mark recalled.

You see, Mark is not only an architect. He is also a locally-renowned baker and owner of SweetLeighs Cakes and Treats.

After a quick discussion with the Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, Tuesday Treats



*Every month, Mark Palmer sweetens the day for patients, families, and staff at the McLeod Hospice House with delectable desserts.*

was born. For a year and a half now, Mark has treated patients, families and staff at the Hospice House to freshly-baked cakes one Tuesday per month.

"Both my aunt and uncle received hospice care," explained Mark. "It is difficult for everyone

involved, but I learned that taking time for 'little positives' can make a big difference."

It is these "little positives," these brief escapes from stress, that Mark hopes his cakes bring to those at the Hospice House -- whether it is a visiting family member sitting down for a quick slice or a patient who needs a sweet respite.

"In that moment you're enjoying a cake, your only thought is 'this is good.' Cake doesn't always make things better, but it never hurts," Mark said with a smile.

The Hospice House staff also looks forward to Tuesday Treats.

"Caring for hospice patients is such a unique field," Mark explained. "The amount of heart required to do this work is amazing. Anything I can do to help, I'm happy to be involved."

"God has given us all gifts. This is how I'm able to help."

You can give the gift of your time or talents to McLeod Hospice. Volunteer at McLeod Hospice by contacting Courtney Sullivan, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, at (843) 777-5667.

# YOU Can Be A HERO

## Removing Obstacles for Children

“Life’s a peach.” It’s more than a slogan for the McLeod family of McBee, South Carolina. Peaches have grown on McLeod Farms since 1916. Owner Kemp McLeod represents the fourth generation to work the family orchards, providing the Pee Dee Region with its fill of peaches every year.

*But, it’s through corn that the McLeods are now helping children in the region.*

Sitting around the family table one evening discussing the farm’s upcoming Corn Maze, Kemp suggested they use it to impact others. After some discussion, the family decided half of the proceeds from the 2019 Corn Maze would

support McLeod Children’s Hospital through the McLeod Health Foundation.

In particular, proceeds would help establish the new HERO (Help Eliminate and Remove Obstacles) Fund to provide assistance for immediate needs, such as diapers, transportation and medications.



Kemp and Gaye McLeod, along with their children Spencer McLeod and Rachel McCormick, recently visited the campus of McLeod Regional Medical Center to spend time with the heroes of McLeod Children’s Hospital.

“The HERO Fund will help children going through difficult situations,” said Kemp. “My daughter-in-law is a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurse and sees the need every day.”

Prompted by his grandson’s love of super heroes, Kemp began Googling comic book characters. He became intrigued by the Avengers Super Heroes, to whom he compared the heroic children and staff at McLeod Children’s Hospital, where all of his grandchildren were born.

Thus, the “AMAZERS” Corn Maze was born.

“We cut the McLeod Children’s Hospital logo into the AMAZERS Corn Maze,” explained Rachel McCormick, Kemp’s daughter. “Facts about the Children’s Hospital were placed throughout the maze. We wanted people to understand what the Maze was supporting so they would be willing to support my Dad’s vision to help the children.”



“We cut the McLeod Children’s Hospital logo into the AMAZERS Corn Maze. Facts about the Children’s Hospital were placed throughout the maze. We wanted people to understand what the Maze was supporting so they would be willing to support my Dad’s vision to help the children.”

– Rachel McCormick

In the end, 4,292 people explored the AMAZERS Corn Maze.

“My father has always been a big dreamer,” Rachel said.

“The incredible turnout for the Corn Maze made his dream of helping children come true.”

This is how YOU can help. The McLeod family has decided to support the HERO Fund (Help Eliminate and Remove Obstacles) for children treated at McLeod Children’s Hospital...and YOU can too!

If you are interested in supporting the HERO Fund or would like to host your own event to make a difference in the life of a child treated at McLeod Children’s Hospital, please call the McLeod Foundation at (843) 777-2694 or visit [www.McLeodFoundation.org](http://www.McLeodFoundation.org).

# A Place to Lay Your Head

## Guest House Experience Leads to Two Decades of Support

Imagine a loved one -- your spouse, your parent -- requiring immediate life-saving hospital care. Consumed with fear and confusion, you want to be by their side. Now, picture living an hour away -- not knowing what will happen to your loved one, or where you will sleep that night.

When Elisabeth McNiel's mother-in-law, Jane, suffered a heart attack in 1995 and was admitted to McLeod Regional Medical Center, the entire family knew they needed to be with her. But with half the family living in Bennettsville and the other half in Dillon County, the family worried where they would stay.

A patient representative recommended The Guest House at McLeod, a home away from home for patient families, which had opened earlier that year.

"We enjoyed the ease, comfort, and security of the Guest House," Elisabeth said. "The staff treated us like family. The compassion that McLeod is known for truly extends across the street to the Guest House."

Little did the Guest House staff know, the kindness they showed the McNiels would lead to two decades of generous support. You see, Elisabeth is the Chairman of The Kinney Foundation, a charitable organization that supports many organizations benefitting Marlboro County residents.

"Funding the medical needs of our community is important to us," said Elisabeth.

For the past 20 years, The Kinney Foundation has made gifts to the McLeod Health Foundation to cover



Elisabeth McNiel, Chairman of The Kinney Foundation, visits The Guest House at McLeod. The Kinney Foundation has supported The Guest House since 1997.

the cost of Marlboro County residents unable to afford a stay at The Guest House at McLeod.

"Since most individuals with major medical issues receive care at McLeod Regional Medical Center, we want their families to have a place to stay," Elisabeth said.

**"Being close by your loved one helps with the healing process. Families in that position have enough to worry about without having to worry about where they will lay their head," added Elisabeth.**

For the past 20 years, The Kinney Foundation has made gifts to the McLeod Health Foundation to cover the cost of Marlboro County residents unable to afford a stay at The Guest House at McLeod.

# Determined to Find Purpose

## Using Her Cancer Journey to Help Others

At age 23, Grace DuBose was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Despite facing several grueling months of chemotherapy and radiation, she was determined to find purpose in this challenge.

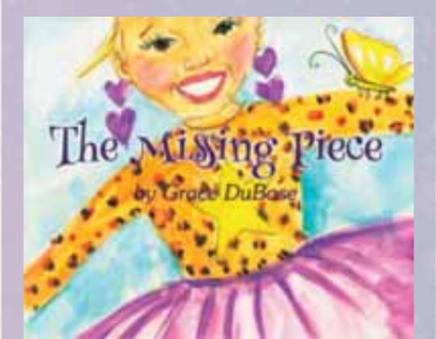
"It was the weirdest thing because I remember I had no fear," Grace recalled. "In that moment, I just knew I was meant to go through this and use my experience to help others."

So nauseous that she could not even read books or watch TV, Grace turned to jewelry making. She soon realized that her jewelry could help women overcome one of the biggest challenges they face during cancer treatment, self-confidence.

"As I experienced changes in my appearance, making jewelry helped me feel beautiful," Grace explained. Thus began her handmade jewelry company, Glam & Grace, which now sells earrings in retail stores across the state.

Also during her treatment, Grace wrote a book for children facing the same challenges she was enduring. *The Missing Piece*, now for sale on Amazon, tells the story of a little girl with cancer who lost her hair and dreams of being a princess.

**As a way to give back, Grace donated a portion of the proceeds from both her jewelry sales and her book to the McLeod HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund through the McLeod Health Foundation.**



Grace DuBose wrote *The Missing Piece* book for children facing the same challenges she was enduring.

Grace also soon began visiting McLeod Children's Hospital to read *The Missing Piece* to pediatric patients.

"I wanted to go to the hospital dressed as a princess, when I still had no hair, to show them they could be a princess despite their medical challenges," said Grace.

Now in remission, Grace continues her commitment to helping others along their cancer journeys.

"I see that kids are learning from the book," Grace said with excitement. "I continue to receive messages from parents who have read the book and say it has helped them talk to their children about cancer or any other illness. Moments like those make it all worthwhile."



Grace DuBose uses her cancer journey to encourage children who are facing medical challenges. Above, she reads *The Missing Piece* to a patient during a recent visit to McLeod Children's Hospital.

# 2019 FOUNDATION EVENTS



Overall winners of the 2019 McLeod Children's Hospital Golf Classic were Luke Lucas, Jon Weiss, Sr., Dr. Carroll Player and Dr. Keith Player. Proceeds from the golf classic support specialized services in the McLeod Children's Hospital.



Dr. Amit Pande, with McLeod Cardiology Associates in Little River and Loris, made a commitment to name the new Cardiac Catheterization Lab at McLeod Health Seacoast. He is pictured with his wife, Dr. Meenakshi Pande, and their children, Aditya and Madhura.



Charlie Allen, CEO of Black River Electric Cooperative, presents Rachel Gainey, McLeod Health Clarendon Administrator, with a donation to the CT Scanner Major Gift Initiative for the hospital. Pictured from left to right: Frank Jones, McLeod Foundation Clarendon Advisory Board Chair; Gainey; Allen; Elizabeth Lowery, Director of Radiology; and Carrie Anna Strange, McLeod Foundation.



Anish Jona held a Ping Pong Tournament to raise money for the HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Everyday) Fund. After the event, he presented a check for \$2,600 to Robin Aiken, HOPE Committee Chair; Lauren Snipes, HOPE Coordinator, and David Poston, Associate Vice President.

Team members from Walmart Neighborhood Markets at Market Common and Ocean Lakes Campground on Business 17 participate in the 2019 McLeod Children's Hospital - Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' Campaign Kick-Off meeting at 810 Bowling.



(Pictured from left to right) Darlington natives Sumter Langston, Ronnie Ward, Tommy Bryant and Buddy Bryant pause for a picture before a meeting of the McLeod Men.



Cancer Survivor Roddy Huntley, at center, is pictured with his family at the 20th Annual An Evening of Hope Cancer Benefit.

# 2019 FOUNDATION EVENTS



In May of 2019, Costco raised \$46,953 for McLeod Children's Hospital. One of their fundraising activities for the Children's Miracle Network Hospital Campaign included asking the public to donate to get Costco Employee Josh Marchese down from a lift.



McLeod Cardiothoracic Surgeon Dr. Robert Messier and McLeod Vascular Surgeon Dr. Carmen Piccolo are pictured with the McLeod Fellows Class of 2019 in the Hybrid OR at McLeod Regional Medical Center following their presentation on the types of cases treated in this highly specialized surgical suite.



The Chapel at McLeod Health Seacoast was dedicated in loving memory of Frank V. (Buddy) Boulineau, IV, by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank V. Boulineau, III, who are pictured with their family and friends during the event.



As a way to give back during the holidays, Duke Energy employees delivered stuffed animals to the pediatric patients being treated at the McLeod Children's Hospital.



McLeod Children's Hospital Ambassador Caydence Quesada represented the hospital during the 2019 Speedway Miracle Tournament in Dayton, Ohio. On her return to South Carolina, Caydence and her family received a special welcome home celebration at the Myrtle Beach Airport from Speedway District Managers.



Friends and family of the late Allyn Lunsford gathered in July to dedicate a garden bench at McLeod Regional Medical Center in her memory. The dedication recognizes a generous gift made by Raceway Ford of Darlington, Raceway Ford of Hartsville, Raceway Chevrolet, Quality Auto Sales of Hartsville and SPC Credit Union to support services in the McLeod Cancer Center.



Dr. and Mrs. Deepak Chowdhary are pictured at the 2019 Chef & Child Dinner and Auction. Bobbie Chowdhary served as Chair of the 2019 Chef & Child Committee.

# McLeod News

## Foundation Announces New Board Members

The McLeod Health Foundation recently announced the addition of two new members to its Board of Trustees.



**Bobbie Chowdhary** is the incoming President Elect for the South Carolina Medical Association Alliance. She recently served a two-year term as President of the Florence County Medical Alliance. Chowdhary's involvement with the McLeod Health Foundation includes serving on the Foundation's Grants Committee. She is also a member of the McLeod Angels and a graduate of the McLeod Fellows Class of 2019. Additionally, Chowdhary served as Chair of the 2019 Chef & Child Dinner and Auction. In the community, she serves on the Board of Directors for The School Foundation and the Florence Regional Arts Alliance. She and her husband, Dr. Deepak Chowdhary, have three daughters.



**Robb Sasser** is the Managing Director for Crescent Advisory Partners of Raymond James. His involvement with the McLeod Health Foundation includes serving as Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee. He is also a member of the Professional Advisory Council and a graduate of the McLeod Fellows Class of 2019. In his community, Sasser serves on the boards of the Boys and Girls Club of the Pee Dee and the Kiwanis Club of Florence. He is also Vice Chair and on the board of trustees for Blue Ridge School. Sasser and his wife, Daryn, have two children.

## Foundation Names Spirit of Giving and Volunteer of the Year at McLeod Loris Seacoast

Each year, the McLeod Health Foundation honors special volunteers whose consistent leadership has contributed significantly to the work of the organization. Volunteers are instrumental in helping the Foundation

raise funds needed to support the programs and services of McLeod Health.

In 2019, the McLeod Foundation at McLeod Loris Seacoast honored Ed Prince as Volunteer of the Year. Prince has served on the Foundation Board at McLeod Loris Seacoast since its inception in 2006. He has also participated in two capital campaigns and several annual Foundation events.

"Ed is committed to the work that we do in Horry County," explained Frank Boulineau, Chair of the McLeod Health Foundation Board at McLeod Loris Seacoast. "He gives freely of his

time for the betterment of the Foundation, McLeod Health and the patients we serve. His commitment helps pave the way for future funding and involvement."

The McLeod Foundation also honored Kayla and Mickey Thompson with the Spirit of Giving award.

"The intent of this award is to recognize those individuals who, through their giving, have made a remarkable difference in our community," said Christina Jackson, Director of the McLeod Foundation. "This award is being given to a Kayla and Mickey Thompson who dedicate their time and resources to support McLeod Loris Seacoast in so many ways including serving on the Foundation Board, supporting events and being an advocate and ambassador for McLeod Health."



From left to right: Mickey and Kayla Thompson are pictured with Frank Boulineau and Ed Prince following the announcement of the Spirit of Giving and Volunteer of the Year awards.

# McLeod News

## Employee Giving Continues to Rise

Since the establishment of the McLeod Health Foundation in 1986, McLeod employees have been the organization's most loyal supporters raising more than \$12.5 million through the Annual Employee Campaign. In 2019, these special donors achieved an historic level of giving, raising more than \$1,509,335 for patient services and programs.

The support of McLeod employees demonstrates how dedicated they are to serving patients in ways beyond their job description. The donations, which total the largest amount for a single Employee Campaign in the history of the McLeod Foundation, will benefit the

McLeod Cancer Center, Hospice Services, Children's Hospital, the Diabetes Center, and many other programs that the Foundation funds to care for the well-being of people living in the 18-county region McLeod Health serves.

"The participation of our employees and the amount of money raised, indicates how much the members of our McLeod Health family believe in and support the mission of the McLeod Foundation," said Jill Bramblett, Executive Director. "Many services and programs would not be available without the support of our own people who give from their hearts to make a difference for our patients."

To wrap up the Annual Employee Campaign, the McLeod Foundation recently honored those individuals who inspired participation in the 2019 campaign.

### EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR:

**Doug Fraser**  
McLeod Regional Medical Center

**Tara Montgomery**  
McLeod Health Cheraw

**Tim Smoak**  
McLeod Health Darlington

**Regina McCullough**  
McLeod Health Dillon

### DIRECTORS OF THE YEAR:

**Patricia Taylor**  
McLeod Regional Medical Center

**Cynthia Pernell**  
McLeod Health Dillon

**Coreen Konopka**  
McLeod Loris Seacoast

**Karen Corker**  
McLeod Health Loris

**Adriane Gaff**  
McLeod Health Clarendon

### VICE PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR:

**Ken Beasley**  
McLeod Physician Associates

### SPIRIT OF GIVING:

**Kathy Sims**  
McLeod Regional Medical Center



Beverly Owens, a volunteer for the McLeod Foundation, recently was honored by the McLeod Regional Volunteer Auxiliary as Volunteer of the Year. Beverly has been instrumental in helping new employees sign up to be a part of the McLeod Foundation Employee Campaign during orientation.

# YOUR GENEROSITY

## A Record-Breaking Year in Review

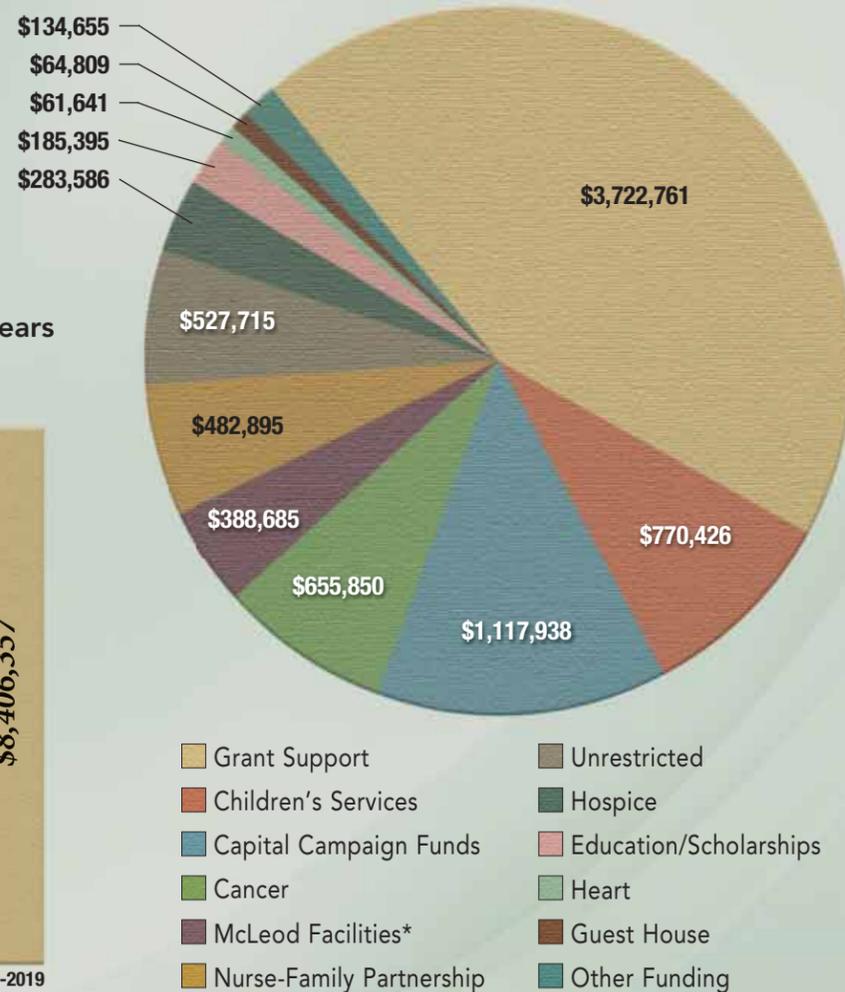
# 2019

Total Amount Raised by the McLeod Foundation  
**\$8,406,357**

Years of Growing Philanthropy for McLeod Health  
**34**

Total Number of McLeod Foundation Donors  
**6,722**

### Your Contributions to Healthcare Services



### Your Gifts Growing Through the Years



\*McLeod Facilities: McLeod Health Cheraw, McLeod Health Clarendon, McLeod Health Darlington, McLeod Health Dillon, McLeod Health Loris Seacoast

These figures are based on the McLeod Health Foundation fiscal year of October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019.

The following list represents members of the McLeod Foundation's Founders' Society. Our entire list of donors are recognized on the McLeod Foundation's website: [www.mcleodfoundation.org](http://www.mcleodfoundation.org).

The McLeod Health Foundation is pleased to honor YOU, our donors who generously support the Foundation. Your gifts help make it possible for us to support McLeod Health in providing healthcare for the people of our region.

## Centurions

Gifts reflect donations made between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Centurions of the Founders' Society provide annual gifts totaling \$10,000 and up in support of the mission of the Foundation. Centurions include individuals, corporations, organizations and other foundations that make a major charitable investment in the health of our region. Through their partnership with the McLeod Foundation, Centurions are closely involved in changing the quality of life throughout the region.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Aycock  
**Balfour Beatty Construction**  
 David Stanton  
 Mike Baumbach

**Barefoot Resort & Golf**

**Robert C. Becker and Family**  
**Blue Cross & Blue Shield of SC**  
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 Patrick Giusto  
 Shawn Stinson

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Boulineau

Mr. Bernard and  
 Rev. Kathy Campbell

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 Dr. Stephen R. Christian  
 Dr. Gregor G. Cleveland  
 Dr. Wesley S. Conwell  
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 Dr. Samuel C. Hill  
 Dr. Jason L. Howard  
 Dr. Joshua C. Leighton  
 Dr. Mary Beth Lewis  
 Dr. Timothy A. Macfall  
 Dr. Cheney M. Meiere, Jr.  
 Dr. Bradford D. Moore  
 Dr. Noel L. Phipps  
 Dr. Alan G. Sechtin  
 Dr. Andrew R. Smith  
 Dr. Stephan Stamato  
 Dr. J. Scott Williams

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**Children's Trust of SC**  
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**Health Facilities Federal Credit Union**  
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 Jeff Helton  
 Michele Pridden

Dr. Vera C. Hyman

James P. King



The family of Charlotte Jones, including her children, Dr. Gregg Jones, Sterling Zalweski, Dr. Webb Jones, Faith McMillan and Stewart Jones as well as other family members lit the trees in honor and memory of all those touched by McLeod Hospice during the 34th Annual McLeod Hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Dr. and Mrs. Fred M. Krainin

Harry L. Logan

**MagMutual Insurance Company**  
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**McLeod Volunteer Auxiliary**

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**Moore & Van Allen, PLLC**  
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*Centurions continued*

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Flave H. Rogers

**Zander Insurance**  
Rebecca Jobe

\*Deceased

## Benefactors

*Gifts reflect donations made between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Benefactors provide annual gifts of \$5,000 ~ \$9,999 for the work of the Foundation. Benefactors include individuals, corporations, and organizations; several of whom sponsor many Foundation events.*

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Marvin Owen

**Aiken & Company Insurance & Real Estate**

Lynn Owens

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Dr. and Mrs. Ray Thomas

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**West Florence High School**  
Janice Howard

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*Gifts reflect donations made between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Patrons of the Founders' Society provide annual gifts totaling \$2,500 ~ \$4,999 to help fulfill the vision of the Foundation. Like Benefactors, Patrons are closely involved in the work of the Foundation.*

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Jim Hanley

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Reginald A. T. Armstrong

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**Chesapeake Homes of South Carolina, Inc.**

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*Boulineau's Food Plus presented a \$7,500 check from the "ACE Hardware Round Up" campaign to the McLeod Foundation to benefit McLeod Children's Services at McLeod Loris Seacoast.*

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Amanda Porter, whose son Lawton received care in the McLeod Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, shared their story with Mudflap and Palmer on New Country 99.3 The Cat during the 2019 McLeod Children's Hospital Radiothon. The event raised \$115,365 for the treatment of critically ill and injured children at McLeod Children's Hospital.

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## McLeod Health Foundation

*The Mission of the McLeod Health Foundation is to generate philanthropic and community support  
to perpetuate medical excellence at McLeod Health.*

*The Vision of the McLeod Health Foundation is to help provide the very best healthcare resources.*

The audited financial statement of the McLeod Health Foundation is filed each year with the Attorney General of the State of South Carolina.  
In accordance with the law the financial statement is available upon request.

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