



2024

Community Report



Higgins
General Hospital

GEORGIA HEART
HOSPITAL PROGRAM
Helping Enhance Access to Rural Treatment



A Letter From the President and CEO of Tanner Health

Your support continues to make a lasting impact through the Georgia HEART Rural Hospital Tax Credit Program. This unique initiative — the only one of its kind in the nation — allows you to reduce your state income tax liability while directly contributing to a cause that touches the heart of our community — rural health care.

Because of your incredible commitment, Higgins General Hospital received over \$3 million in contributions through Georgia HEART in 2024. Since the program's inception in 2016, your support has helped raise more than \$15 million to ensure vital health care services remain accessible to those in need. These contributions, made by 149 individuals and businesses, are not just numbers — they represent lives improved, families supported and communities strengthened.

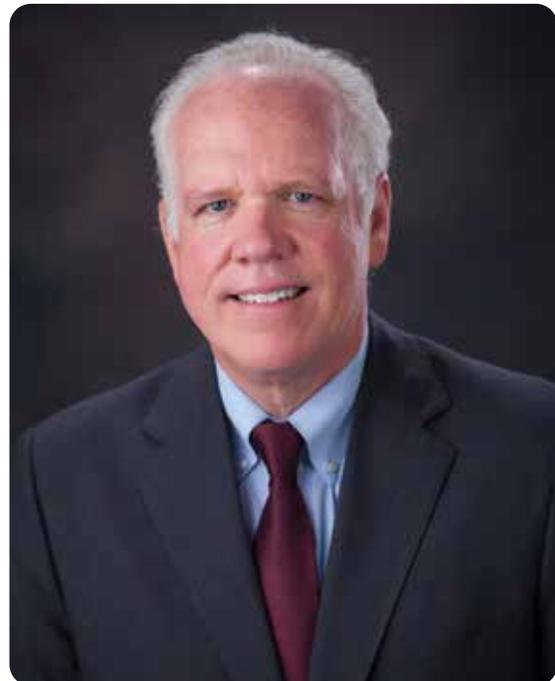
We invite you to continue this meaningful journey with us. Georgia HEART is now accepting applications for the 2025 tax year at GeorgiaHeart.org. With limited tax credits available, we encourage you to secure your spot today and continue making a difference in the lives of thousands of Georgians.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to improving rural health care. Your partnership means the world to us, and together, we are creating lasting change for the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

Sincerely,



Loy M. Howard
President and CEO
Tanner Health



Your Support Through Georgia HEART Has an Impact

The funding received through the Georgia HEART™ Tax Credit Program in 2024 has helped fund critical infrastructure improvements and equipment upgrades, ensuring high-quality care for every patient at Higgins General Hospital.

2024 Funded Projects and Equipment Upgrades

Emergency Department Safety Enhancements

- **Bulletproof glass installation** – Installed in the emergency department (ED) reception area and triage window, increasing safety for staff and patients during critical first interactions (pictured left)
- **Decorative safety bollards** – Added at the ED entrance to protect pedestrians and prevent vehicles from accidentally striking the building (pictured right)



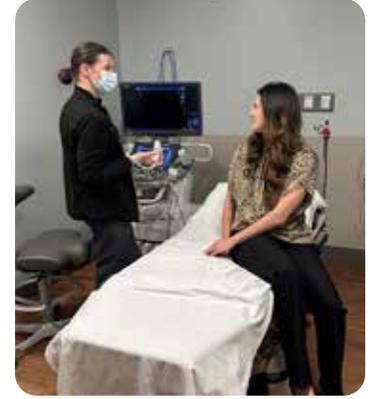
Surgical and Diagnostic Upgrades

- **Stryker Advanced Imaging Modalities (AIM) 4K Platform** – Enables surgeons to perform minimally invasive procedures, including gallbladder removal, using Firefly technology
- **New Stryker cystoscopy instruments** – Seven upgraded sets for improved urological imaging and procedures
- **Steris gi4000 electrosurgery unit (ESU)** – Enhances precision in gastroenterology procedures, improving safety and surgical outcomes
- **Medtronic Digitrapper ph-Z recorders** – Two new units to help meet increased demand for acid reflux testing, ensuring faster diagnosis and treatment



Cardiopulmonary and Patient Monitoring Enhancements

- **Three new electrocardiogram (EKG) machines** – Placed in the ED, Far West and operating room (OR), allowing faster heart monitoring and emergency response (pictured left)
- **Canon ultrasound units** – Replaced outdated models with state-of-the-art imaging for general ultrasounds and echocardiograms, improving diagnostic accuracy (pictured right)



Improving Patient Experience and Care

- **Bladder scanner** – A non-invasive tool that helps avoid unnecessary catheterizations, reducing infection risk and improving patient comfort (pictured top left)
- **Hologic 3Dimensions Digital Mammography System upgrade** – Delivers higher-resolution imaging, allowing for earlier breast cancer detection (pictured top right)
- **Nu Step recumbent ergometer** – Replaced an outdated exercise bike in rehabilitation therapy, providing better patient comfort and engagement (pictured bottom)



Technology and Infrastructure Improvements

- **Pharmacy refrigerator replacement** – Ensures nurses have 24/7 access to refrigerated medications, protecting \$277,000 in essential drugs (pictured top left)
- **Epic Rover and Zebra phones** – Allow clinical staff to use mobile devices for real-time patient documentation, barcode scanning and communication, improving workflow and reducing errors (pictured top right)
- **Blood Bank testing upgrade** – New Grifols and BTM Blood Typing System automates blood test readings, reducing human error and significantly shortening transfusion wait times (pictured bottom left)
- **Emergency power system overhaul** – Upgraded automatic transfer switches (ATS) for seamless backup power, keeping the hospital fully operational during outages (pictured bottom right)



These investments enhance patient safety, expand services and improve healthcare access for the entire community.

Partnership and Investment From Our Business Community

Businesses participating in the Georgia HEART Tax Credit Program have played a crucial role in improving rural health care. By contributing, businesses reduce their state tax liability while supporting life-saving projects that benefit their employees, families and communities.

Thank you to our 2024 business participants:

Advantage Office Solutions

CWT Enterprises, Inc.

Southwire Consolidated, LLC

Ameris Bank

Fairview Partnership, LLP

Summit Radiology Services

Bank OZK

Joanie Lowe, LLC

SynchroNet, Inc.

Beacon Communities

R.K. Redding Construction, Inc.

Synovus Bank

C.M. Tanner Grocery Co. Inc.

RaLin and Associates

CWD Properties, Inc.

Raymond James and Associates, LLP



Bank OZK participated in the 2024 Georgia HEART Hospital Tax Credit Program benefiting Higgins General Hospital. Pictured from left are: Kay Gann, Bank OZK; Shelby Harbison, Bank OZK; Cindy Putzek, Bank OZK; Anna Berry, Tanner Health board member; Dr. Tressa Kelly, former Tanner Health Foundation trustee; Fred O'Neal, Tanner Health board member; Loy Howard, president and CEO, Tanner Health; David Price, president of commercial banking for west Georgia, Bank OZK; Tom Crawford, Bank OZK; Kristy Allison, senior vice president and commercial banker, Bank OZK; Jerry Morris, administrator of Higgins General Hospital; Trey Fleck, Tanner Health Foundation Board of Trustees Chair; Jennifer Medellin, Bank OZK; and Allison Donald, associate chief nursing officer at Higgins General Hospital.



SynchroNet Inc. participated in the 2024 Georgia HEART Hospital Tax Credit Program benefiting Higgins General Hospital. Pictured from left are: Kitty Cusick, director of development, Tanner Health Foundation; Steve Sailors, SynchroNet; Preston Williamson, SynchroNet; Rebecca Johnson, SynchroNet; Kaleigh Bagwell, SynchroNet; Kaitlyn Bagwell, SynchroNet; Michelle Hendrix, SynchroNet; Geert VanLimbergen, SynchroNet; Kevin Turner, SynchroNet; Kyle Williamson, SynchroNet; Michelle McLeroy, SynchroNet; Ingrid Williamson, SynchroNet; Carol Crews, CFO, Tanner Health; and Nichole Fannin, executive director, Tanner Health Foundation.

Higgins General Hospital: A Part of Tanner Health

Higgins General Hospital is a 25-bed critical access hospital serving Haralson, Polk and Carroll counties. Over the past 25 years, Higgins has benefited from continuous investments in facility upgrades, state-of-the-art equipment and exceptional patient care.

Key Services at Higgins General Hospital:

- 24-hour emergency department, staffed with board-certified emergency physicians
- The only facility in the region with Acute Stroke Ready Hospital Certification
- Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program for helping patients recover from injury and illness

Higgins General Hospital Receives 2024 Press Ganey Human Experience(HX) Pinnacle of Excellence Award

Higgins General Hospital has received the 2024 Press Ganey Human Experience (HX) Pinnacle of Excellence Award, recognizing the hospital's consistent leadership in patient experience within the healthcare industry. This accolade reflects the hospital's ongoing commitment to implementing innovative practices that enhance patient care and satisfaction, year after year.



Read more about the
Pinnacle of Excellence Award



Looking Ahead: Tax Credit Program Updates for 2025

The Georgia HEART Tax Credit Program has made a significant impact on Higgins General Hospital, allowing us to expand services, improve technology and provide exceptional care close to home.

- 2025 pre-applications open **May 15, 2025**.
- Tax credits fill quickly, so early applications are encouraged.
- To learn more or apply, visit **GeorgiaHeart.org**.





**Support healthcare
excellence in our community**
by giving through Tanner Health
Foundation, helping advance
innovative care, close to home.

