



Beaufort Memorial  
Foundation

# Giving Well

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## Beaufort Memorial Enhances Security Measures with New Weapons Detection System

To enhance safety at Beaufort Memorial Hospital, a new weapons detection system was installed at the Pratt Emergency Center entrance in February. Funded by the Beaufort Memorial Foundation, the \$150,000 Evolv system was purchased as part of the hospital's commitment to creating a secure environment for patients, staff, and visitors.

The installation comes amid a national rise in workplace violence against healthcare workers. According to recent data, healthcare staff face some of the highest rates of on-the-job assaults, with incidents steadily increasing in emergency departments and other high-stress care areas.

Unlike traditional metal detectors, the Evolv system uses still photography and advanced detection to quickly identify potential threats without disrupting emergency care. Weapons are strictly prohibited on hospital grounds, even for those with concealed carry permits.

"In light of recent violence in healthcare settings nationwide, this is a proactive step to support a safe and respectful environment," said President and CEO Russell Baxley.

Beaufort Memorial may expand the system to other hospital entrances and continues to invest in safety, including a crisis stabilization unit under construction and ongoing reviews of workplace safety policies.



CDO  
CORNER

As we welcome the summer season, I want to take a moment to thank you for your ongoing generosity and unwavering support. Your commitment to Beaufort Memorial continues to fuel meaningful progress—ensuring our patients, staff, and community receive great care in a safe and supportive environment.

In this edition, you'll notice a strong focus on safety—a cornerstone of our mission at Beaufort Memorial. With incidents of violence in healthcare settings on the rise nationwide, we are taking proactive steps to protect our team and those we serve. We're investing in advanced security technology to ensure that everyone who enters our facility feels safe and supported.

But this effort goes beyond technology. It's about sending a clear and powerful message: safety matters. Our caregivers deserve to work in an environment where they can focus entirely on healing others, free from fear or distraction.

We're also proud to share that our unwavering commitment to safety and quality has earned statewide recognition. Beaufort Memorial recently received multiple Zero Harm Awards from the South Carolina Hospital Association—an honor that reflects the dedication of our clinical teams and our ongoing pursuit of excellence in patient care.

On behalf of everyone at Beaufort Memorial, thank you for being such an important part of our journey. Your continued support enables us to keep moving forward—investing in our people, improving outcomes, and building a safer, healthier future for all.

Warm regards,

Kim Yawn, MS  
Associate Vice President &  
Chief Development Officer

## Beaufort Memorial Honored with Statewide Patient Safety and Quality Awards

Beaufort Memorial has been recognized by the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) with multiple Zero Harm Awards, reflecting the hospital's unwavering commitment to delivering safe, equitable, and high-quality care to the Lowcountry community.



These prestigious awards are part of SCHA's statewide initiative to reduce preventable harm in hospitals. They recognize healthcare organizations that achieve exceptional outcomes in patient safety, quality improvement, and workforce well-being. This year, Beaufort Memorial was honored in several critical categories:

**Drive to Zero Suicide Award:** This award underscores BMH's dedication to suicide prevention within its facilities. By implementing proactive screening, staff training, and evidence-based mental health protocols, the hospital has created a safer environment for patients at risk. This recognition reflects BMH's commitment to treating mental health with the same urgency and care as physical health.

**Clinical Zero Harm Awards:** These honors reflect the dedication of BMH's clinical teams to meticulous infection control, surgical precision, and continuous staff education. Beaufort Memorial received multiple clinical awards for achieving zero hospital-acquired infections in several high-risk areas:

- Surgical Site Infection (SSI) – Hip Replacement
- Surgical Site Infection (SSI) – Colon Surgery
- Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI) – 3T and 4T Units

**Drive to Zero Disparities Award:** This award highlights Beaufort Memorial's active role in addressing health disparities and promoting equitable care for all patients, regardless of race, background, or income level. Through data-driven approaches and community engagement, BMH is helping to close gaps in care and ensure all patients receive the highest standard of treatment.

**Drive to Zero Workplace Violence Award:** Recognizing the rising concern of violence in healthcare settings, this award acknowledges BMH's significant steps in protecting its workforce. From enhancing physical security to creating supportive reporting systems, the hospital is fostering a culture where staff can provide care confidently and safely.

“THESE AWARDS ARE MORE THAN JUST RECOGNITION.

*They are a testament to the relentless effort of our staff to provide care that is safe, equitable, and compassionate. They also reflect our deep responsibility to both patients and caregivers as we continue building a healthier future for our region.*

– **Russell Baxley**  
President & CEO  
Beaufort Memorial



## BOARD-CERTIFIED ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON

*Dr. Cory Messerschmidt*

To meet the growing orthopedic needs of the Lowcountry, Beaufort Memorial has added **Dr. Cory A. Messerschmidt** to its Orthopaedic Specialists team. Board-certified and fellowship-trained in sports medicine, Dr. Messerschmidt brings advanced expertise in joint preservation, robotic-assisted joint replacement, and minimally invasive procedures like ACL repairs and shoulder arthroscopy for both adults and children. He will see patients in Port Royal and Okatie.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE.







## Beaufort Memorial *Breaks Ground* on New Bluffton Community Hospital

More than 150 community members, officials, and business leaders gathered on May 7 to celebrate the groundbreaking of Bluffton Community Hospital, a \$103 million, 28-bed facility that marks a major milestone for Beaufort Memorial Hospital and the growing Bluffton region.

Located at 10 Innovation Drive, the 90,000-square-foot hospital will feature a full-service emergency department, surgery center, cardiac cath lab, 28-bed inpatient unit, and imaging services. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of 2026.

"We need more accessible care," said BMH President and CEO Russell Baxley. "This facility allows us to meet patients where they are by offering a more convenient option for the approximately 20 patients per day who choose to travel to Beaufort for care."

The new facility will also create 250 new jobs in its first year and provide opportunities for local nursing graduates to work in the Lowcountry.

Bluffton Community Hospital is part of a broader expansion strategy. This summer, BMH is also breaking ground on a

new ER/urgent care facility on Hilton Head Island, launching the LiveWell Terrace by BMH workforce housing project in Bluffton, and advancing multiple renovation projects on its main Beaufort campus, including a \$24 million Surgical Pavilion upgrade and a new crisis stabilization unit.

"This is a huge step forward for healthcare access throughout the Lowcountry," said Baxley.

### Support the Vision for a Healthier Lowcountry

The Bluffton Community Hospital is just one part of Beaufort Memorial Foundation's Vision Campaign—a comprehensive initiative to expand access, improve quality, and reimagine healthcare delivery across the region.

Your support can help bring our vision to life. Join us in building a healthier future with a gift today. To learn more or make a gift, visit [www.beaufortmemorial.org/vision](http://www.beaufortmemorial.org/vision) or contact the Beaufort Memorial Foundation at **843-522-5774**.

Together, we can ensure exceptional care is never out of reach—for anyone in our community.





## Devon Jacobs: Turning Her Journey Into Purpose

**For Devon Jacobs, receiving the Marmo Nursing Scholarship is more than just financial assistance—it's the realization of a dream nearly two decades in the making.**

Devon, a nursing student at the Technical College of the Lowcountry has endured an extraordinary journey to get where she is today. Diagnosed with kidney disease in 2006, her life was suddenly filled with the harsh realities of dialysis, surgeries, kidney cancer, and ultimately, a life-saving transplant.

"It was painful, exhausting, and sometimes terrifying," Jacobs shared. "But through every dark moment, there were nurses—kind, compassionate, dedicated nurses—who saw me, cared for me, and helped me keep going. They inspired me. They planted a seed in my heart that one day, I could do for others what they had done for me."

That seed grew into a calling. Devon has completed her first year of the Associate Degree in Nursing program and has

already set her sights on earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Georgia Southern University in 2027. Her ultimate goal is to become a Transplant Nurse, and eventually a Kidney Transplant Coordinator—a role deeply rooted in her personal experience.

"I know what it's like to be the patient waiting, fighting, hoping," she said. "And I know what it's like to watch a loved one—a caregiver—carry that weight right alongside you. I want to be there for people going through what I went through."

Devon's story is one of resilience and purpose. She's driven not just by her experiences as a patient, but by a deep desire to bring empathy and hope to others.

"This career means everything to me," she said. "It's about being present in the moments that matter most, comforting someone through fear, and reminding them they're not alone. It's about showing up every day with empathy and strength, and making sure that even in the hardest times, people feel human, valued, and seen."

### Help Build the Workforce of Tomorrow—One Dream at a Time

Devon's journey is just one example of how access to education and support can transform lives—and entire communities. Through your philanthropic support, we can empower more individuals like Devon to overcome challenges, pursue meaningful careers, and make a lasting impact on healthcare.



INVEST IN PEOPLE. INVEST IN PURPOSE. INVEST IN THE FUTURE.

## Two Communities, One Cause

Each year, Dataw Island and Hampton Hall community members host fundraising events to support cancer services at Beaufort Memorial. This year, the two communities combined raised nearly \$35,000! A big thank-you to the committee heads, their dedicated committees and the entire Dataw Island and Hampton Hall communities for making an incredible impact on cancer services in the Lowcountry!



**Beaufort Memorial**  
Foundation

**Physical Address:** 990 Ribaut Road 3rd Floor Beaufort, SC 29902

**Email:** [bmhfoundation@bmhsc.org](mailto:bmhfoundation@bmhsc.org)

**Mailing Address:** BMH Foundation P.O. Box 2233, Beaufort, SC 29901

**Phone:** 843-522-5774 • [BMHFoundationSC.org](http://BMHFoundationSC.org)