



HEALTH care

By Jenny White

Having two robust and growing health care facilities in the Twin Counties is a testament to the small-town values and relationships in the Twin Counties.

Vidant Edgecombe Hospital is located in Tarboro and Nash UNC Health Care is located in Rocky Mount.

Local governments, partnerships with Vidant Medical and UNC Hospitals and the local residents that make up the impressive employment pool that staff the two health care centers are the backbone that keep community health a top priority in the Twin Counties.

As many small community health care entities struggle to stay open, Nash UNC Health Care in Nash County not only thrives, but continues to grow.

Jeffrey Batts, chairman of the Board of Commissioners for Nash UNC Health Care, recently wrote in a letter to the editor, published in the Rocky Mount Telegram, that the community can count on their health care system to continue to offer top-notch services.

"Our Board of Commissioners recently approved a strategic plan that defines our organization's short- and long-term

priorities for fulfilling our community's health care needs," Batts wrote. "We are focused on solidifying and building upon our improvements through this strategic plan and remaining well-positioned as the health care environment continues to change."

Some of the most recent accomplishments and milestones at Nash UNC Health Care include:

- Via a partnership with medical staff, Nash UNC Health Care has implemented new protocols and improved processes have led to significant improvement in quality of care measures. Care measures for sepsis, heart

attack and strokes have improved impressively in recent years, and Nash UNC receives national recognitions for work in those areas.

- The Nash UNC Emergency Department is one of the busiest in the state with almost 70,000 patient visits a year. Nash UNC has instituted a number of new processes to keep patients and their family members comfortable and better informed throughout their time in the Emergency Department. Statistics show a reduced door to provider wait time of an average of 22 minutes – well under the national benchmark of 30 minutes, and much improved from the 60 minutes average just 18 months ago. Patient experience surveys show that Nash UNC's hard work is making a difference and patients are noticing and commending the changes.

- The Danny Tolbert Comprehensive Cancer Center offers high quality, industry leading cancer diagnosis and treatment plans at a local facility, cutting back on the stress and cost of travelling to the Triangle area for care. Medical staff at the cancer center work in tandem with the world-renowned UNC Cancer Center, offering Twin Counties patients access to the experience and cutting-edge knowledge and technology other cancer patients travel hundreds of miles to get to.

- Nash UNC Health Care has also added a pediatric emergency department, Women's Health Center, Special Care Nursery and a cardiac care unit in the last few years as well.

Vidant Edgecombe Hospital offers compassionate care for residents of Tarboro and surrounding communities. The highly trained staff at the acute-care facility represents more than 20 medical specialties, according to hospital officials. The hospital specializes in comprehensive rehabilitation services, cancer care, birthing and outpatient clinics.

The hospital has a long history of community involvement, including health fairs, screenings and annual events like Pink Power and Heart Truth.

Twin Counties residents have learned you don't have to travel out of town for cutting edge health care. Partnerships with medical schools, researchers and metropolitan facilities in the Triangle area bring the best health care available to our very own neighborhood.

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