



Welcome to our

# SUMMER

NEWSLETTER EDITION

Summer has arrived in Northeast Georgia, bringing longer days, time spent with family and friends, trips to Lake Hartwell, and lots of ways to enjoy the outdoors. It's also a season that reminds us to prioritize our health: staying hydrated on hot days, playing it safe in and around water, using sunscreen, and taking every opportunity to stay active and eat well.

At Stephens County Hospital, summer is also a busy season of service and community engagement. You might have seen some of our team at Ida Cox sharing education on stroke care, or our EMS department offering safety information at places like Walmart and Home Depot, or even at your workplace providing biometric screenings.

Over the past few months, our team has continued to work to expand access to care and strengthen the health services you depend on every day. In this edition of our newsletter, we're excited to share updates, celebrate milestones, highlight the people who make our mission possible, and offer resources to help you and your family stay healthy all summer long.

## STEPHENS COUNTY HOSPITAL

# Takes the Gold!

(And the Silver, and the Bronze.)

**Stephens County Hospital** recently earned three awards through the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® program, highlighting our commitment to providing evidence-based care close to home:

- Get With The Guidelines®-Rural Stroke Gold** award, the program's highest level of recognition for rural hospitals. This achievement reflects two consecutive years of meeting nationally recognized stroke care standards and demonstrates our team's dedication to delivering high-quality treatment when every minute matters.
- Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Silver Plus with Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll**, recognizing a full year of excellence in stroke care and specialized support for patients managing Type 2 diabetes.
- Get With The Guidelines®-Coronary Artery Disease STEMI Referring Bronze Plus**, which recognizes hospitals that follow evidence-based guidelines for the rapid identification and coordination of care for patients experiencing severe heart attacks.

These achievements reflect the hard work of our physicians, nurses, clinicians, and support staff, as well as our ongoing commitment to improving patient outcomes throughout Northeast Georgia.

RURAL STROKE

2026 GOLD

GET WITH THE GUIDELINES.

STROKE

2026 SILVER PLUS

TARGET: TYPE 2 DIABETES HONOR ROLL

GET WITH THE GUIDELINES.

CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE STEMI REFERRING

2026 BRONZE PLUS

GET WITH THE GUIDELINES.

3 earned awards

## Improving Excellence through Continuous Education

### STEPHENS COUNTY HOSPITAL

is committed to expanding access to and improving the quality of our local healthcare. One way we do this is by participating in trainings and pursuing ongoing education. Our Respiratory Team recently traveled to Macon for hands-on learning as part of our [KidsABC](#). Trainings like these help our team bring new skills, best practices, and high-quality care back to the families we serve here at home.

## Advancing Emergency Heart Care

**Stephens County Hospital** recently earned the designation as a Level III Emergency Cardiac Care Center by the Georgia Department of Public Health, recognizing our ability to provide rapid, life-saving care for patients experiencing heart attacks and cardiac arrest. This achievement reflects the dedication of our emergency department, physicians, nurses, EMS partners, and support teams who work together to ensure **our community has access to high-quality cardiac care when every second counts.**

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE

has designated STEPHENS COUNTY HOSPITAL as a Level III ECC

## STEPHENS COUNTY HOSPITAL

### Earns Platinum Safety Award

Stephens County Hospital has been recognized with the 2025 Platinum Safety Award from the Georgia Hospital Association Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Fund. The award honors organizations that demonstrate outstanding workplace safety through low accident frequency, low injury severity, and effective claims management. Our entire team remains committed to creating a safe environment for employees, patients, and visitors alike.

## Supporting Healthy Aging

**Stephens County Hospital** brought valuable health information and resources to the Amedisys Community Health Fair and the WNEG Senior Expo. Teams from multiple departments and practices connected with seniors to discuss services available close to home. We value these opportunities to answer questions and support healthy aging.

## CELEBRATING

—the **PEOPLE** of caring—

Every day, our health system depends on people with different skills, talents, and responsibilities working together toward one shared mission. We've had the privilege of celebrating many of the dedicated professionals who make that possible, including Occupational Therapy Month, Nurses Week, Hospital Week, EMS Week, and other special recognitions. Each celebration offered an opportunity to say thank you to the individuals whose compassion, expertise, and commitment make a difference every day.

[VIEW MORE PHOTOS FROM NURSES WEEK](#)

[VIEW MORE PHOTOS FROM HOSPITAL WEEK](#)

It truly takes a village to provide exceptional care. To every member of our team, thank you for the unique role you play in helping our patients, our families, and our community thrive.

If you've had a great experience with our hospital, [consider leaving us a review and sharing your story.](#)

## SCH welcomes Front Door Coffee!

They offer a variety of hot and cold coffee drinks, teas, lemonades, and snacks. Open to the public Monday through Friday, 6:30 AM until 2:00 PM.

Visitors to Stephens County Hospital will notice some new faces in our front lobby area. Front Door Coffee is officially open on our main campus, located across from the gift shop.

## Taking Local Healthcare Into The Workplace

We recently visited Patterson Pump, ASI Global, and Stephens County employees to provide screenings that help employees better understand important health indicators such as blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar. These services give participants valuable information about their current health and encourage preventive care before small concerns become bigger challenges. We've also enjoyed connecting with community members at industry health fairs throughout the region. These events create opportunities to share health resources and highlight the services available right here in Toccoa.

We're grateful to our local businesses and organizations for inviting us to support their wellness programs and for helping us build a healthier community together.

If you're a business interested in employee health screenings, reach out to Joley Strickland at [joley.strickland@stephenscountyhospital.com](mailto:joley.strickland@stephenscountyhospital.com).

**NOW OPEN!**

Georgia HEART is now accepting pre-applications for unlimited 2026 tax credits.

Apply now at [georgiaheart.org/](http://georgiaheart.org/)

Scan code to get started!

## GEORGIA HEART HOSPITAL Program

Did you know you can turn your Georgia state income taxes into direct support for local healthcare? After June 30, individual taxpayers can make unlimited contributions to Stephens County Hospital and receive a 100% Georgia state income tax credit (while credits last). And if you've already applied this year, you can apply for additional HEART tax credits. This program directly supports our local hospital, ensuring that family, friends, and neighbors receive timely, high-quality care close to home.

Contact Ann Mariee Knight at 706-282-4354 or [annmariee.knight@stephenscountyhospital.com](mailto:annmariee.knight@stephenscountyhospital.com) to learn more.