

Go and Tell John

NEWS FROM
CHRIST COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES AUGUSTA, GA
INTERNAL MEDICINE AND PEDIATRICS

Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.

-Jesus
Matthew 11:2-3

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CCHSA welcomes Dr. Russ Ayers

By Charlene Young

The newest physician to join the staff at Christ Community Health Services Augusta (CCHSA) is 30-year old Dr. Russ Ayers. A soft spoken man, he is laid back and as relaxed as a lazy boy recliner. But when it comes to his profession, family and faith, he is all business.

"We went to church a lot when I was growing up, but I didn't understand what was going on at the time," says Dr. Ayers who was raised on a beef cattle farm in Carrollton, Georgia, about 20 miles from the Alabama border. He has one older brother, and his parents still live there. His father works for the department

of agriculture, and his mother is a teacher.

"I didn't give my life to Christ until medical school. I started going to the Medical Campus Outreach (MCO) events during medical school at MCG, and I'm still involved."

MCO and God led him to First Presbyterian Church in downtown Augusta. At first he just started visiting, but joined after becoming impressed with the church's mission focus, and the support it gives to several missionaries.

Since then, Dr. Ayers has been on several mission trips himself. He's been to the Philippines, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh. He met his wife



Dr. Russ Ayers

of 5 years, Karen, on the trip to the Philippines. It's ironic. They had been attending the same school for years but didn't meet until the trip. Karen is a pediatric nurse, and they have a 4 month old daughter, Ella, who is a doll.

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\$175,000 Matching Grant!

We are excited to announce that an anonymous donor has given \$175,000 to Christ Community Health Services with the challenge that we match that amount with donations for the Widows Home. That would generate a total of \$350,000.

"We are at an important point in the Widows Home project," said Executive Director Jeff Drake. "The first phase of construction (\$1,800,000) is on schedule to be complete in June. Ideally, the remaining \$700,000 will come in so we can complete the entire project without having to stop construction. This challenge and the momentum it provides could not have come at a better time."

Will you help us meet this challenge? Go to our web site (www.christcommunityaugusta.org) and click the "Give Direct" button or use the enclosed envelope to send your gift today.

Any funds already designated for the Give CCHSA a Lift elevator campaign are included in this match and will be counted toward the \$175,000! Thank you for your support!



As I write this column, I am still trying to shake off the effects of the change to daylight savings time. It's amazing how a change as minor as 'losing' one hour can have such an impact on us.

Lately change seems to be the norm here at Christ Community Health Services. Just since the first of the year we moved our administrative offices to create more exam rooms at our D'Antignac Street health center, upgraded our electronic medical records system (the heartbeat of our operation), installed a new phone system (that will carry over to the Widows Home when we make that move) and expanded our operating hours.

While changes like this always have their challenges, they are also exciting because they allow us to expand our ministry and are setting the stage for the big change that is now only months away: our move to the Widows Home.

In the midst of this, one thing has not changed: Our mission. We are here to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and to demonstrate His love through affordable health care. Part of the reason our mission does not change is because the foundation of our ministry, Christ Himself, does not change. Hebrews 13:8 reminds us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."



So, while we are changing our clocks, wrestling with new medical records systems, and trying to figure out how to equip the Widows Home, we can take comfort in the unconditional certainty that Christ is with us whatever else may come our way.

[We recently received this letter from a patient.]

Dear Christ Community Health:

My letter to you is about giving thanks to all who work for or with Doctor's Robert Campbell and Grant Scarborough. This letter is to thank all of the staff and all the Nurse Practitioners who work here as well.

This letter is to say thank you all for the nurses, Practice Administrator, Billing Manager, Patient Care Assistant, to Administrative Assistant. I could go on but at the risk of missing someone I'll stop at this point.

When I first came to CCHSA, I thought I was going to die fairly soon. I was lucky enough to find Dr. Grant Scarborough. Well, I thought at the time it was luck. I soon realized that it was not due to luck at all. It was GOD who had put me at CCHSA and I found myself with the warm glow of GOD's love all around me. This for me was something I had never been a part of. I was so surprised when I realized, that this place was not just a place that a Doctor said to you, "You have this wrong with you and take this and you will be ok in a few weeks."

Not at all, this was a place of healing the sick and for people who needed more to live for. This was a place where the staff prayed for me to get better. This was a place that called you to see if you were getting better and if not, what could they help with? If it was to see a very overworked doctor and staff, or if they could pray for you over the phone and let you know that not only did they love and care about you, but that GOD cares about you too. They are all angels of the LORD as far as I can see. I am now 63 and these wonderful and loving folks (southern for people) are the reason I feel that I may live to be 100, or maybe not a 100, but a real long time. I could go into all my war stories but you will not have time to read all of that.

Please let me say thanks again to you all for your prayers and all you do for me. I have been trying to get over being shy and not been able to talk. If I could say thanks to Mr. Clay Boardman for your new future home and to MCG. I really see all of you on a mission for and with GOD to help as many people as you can. Thank you all for caring.
C.W.

Give CCHSA a LIFT!

The "Give CCHSA a Lift" campaign has raised more than \$10,000 for the Widows Home elevator. That has been doubled to \$20,000 with the Matching Grant (see page 1).

R.W. Allen (our contractor) has identified a vendor who will provide and install the elevator at a reduced cost of \$60,000. We're 1/3 of the way there!

There is still time to participate in this special campaign. Will you make a donation today? To give online just go to our web site and click "Give Direct" or use the enclosed envelope and help Give CCHSA a Lift!

Special thanks to **St. John United Methodist Church** in Augusta. The February 20 **Concert with a Cause** to benefit CCHSA raised **more than \$2,000**. The concert featured an incredible performance by piano duo Marina Lomazov and Joseph Rackers. For more information on the Concerts with a Cause series, check the St. John UMC web site www.stjohnaugusta.org.



Widows Home Construction



CCHSA welcomes Dr. Russ Ayers

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“Going on mission trips helps you to see how big God is when you see Him work among people with so little



and so different from ourselves,” Dr. Ayers says.

This summer, Dr. Ayers and many students from MCG, are taking a missionary journey into the Peruvian Amazon. The jungle covers more than 60% of Peru, yet only 5% of Peruvians live there. It is second in size only to the Brazilian Amazon. As the medical director of the trip, Dr. Ayers is in

charge of making all medical decisions.

Since finishing school last June as a board certified specialist in family medicine, Dr. Ayers spends one week each month at University Hospital and his other time at CCHSA. In his chosen field, he focuses on primary care for the entire family as a unit, not just individuals, from birth to death.

At the same time it provides an opportunity to share the gospel of Christ with others, and to pray for their renewed health. Each day at CCHC is begun with prayer and worship.

“Patients do get saved here,” says Dr. Ayers. “We are here to build spiritual relationships with people as well as help them in their sicknesses, so we can speak the truth of the gospel into their lives, wherever they are in

their current situation.”

To emphasize that fact, Dr. Ayers says the latest scripture God laid on his heart is Isaiah 61: 1-4. But the first verse is the good doctor in a nutshell.

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of prison to them that are bound.”

Medical Director Robert Campbell said, “We enjoyed having Russ here as a resident and were hoping he would come and join our staff. Now, that hope has been realized. He has already become a key part of our provider team. He and Karen moved into the neighborhood near the Widows Home which is an indication that they take to heart the incarnational aspect of our ministry.”



2010 Year in Review

Dear Family and Friends,

I am pleased to report that the return on your investment in Christ Community Health Services in 2010 includes thousands of opportunities to share the love of Christ with our patients, a staff that is dedicated to caring for those with limited access to affordable health care and significant progress on the Widows Home renovation project.

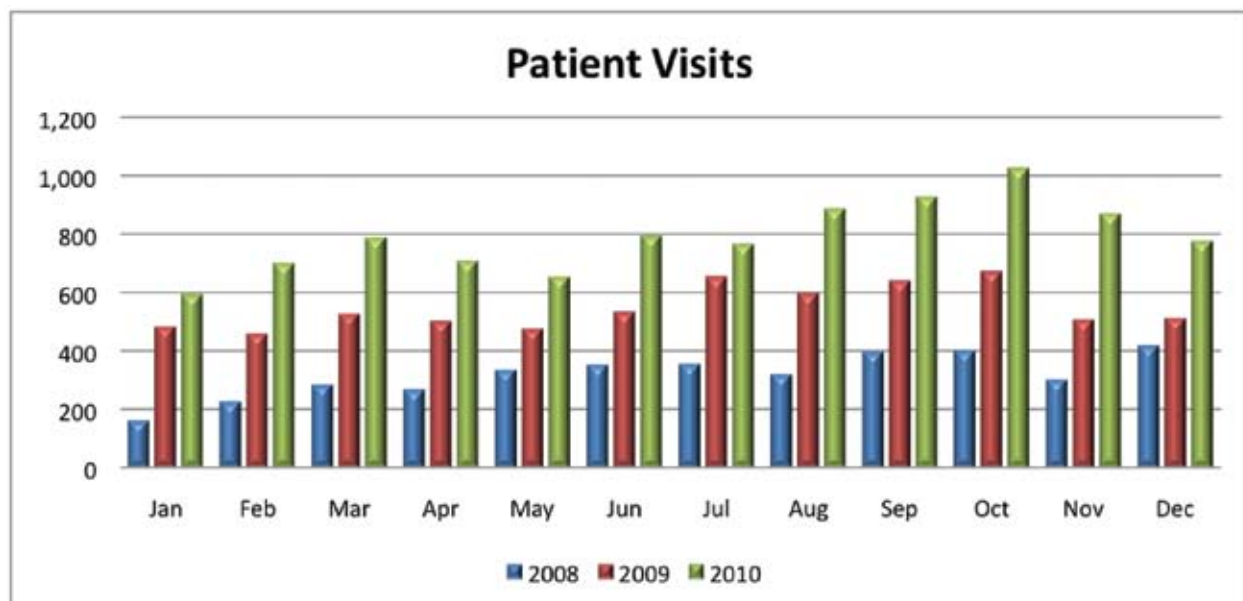
It is easy to get caught up in the number of patients, the number of lab draws, or the number of staff members we have. But the important thing to remember is that your investment in Christ Community Health Services made it possible for us to touch more than 5,000 individuals with the love of Jesus Christ. Those encounters often have eternal results. It is hard to imagine a better return for your investment.

We appreciate your generosity as we raise funds to complete the Widows Home and for our day-to-day operations. On behalf of the staff and the board of directors, thank you for your support, your prayers and your encouragement.

Jeff Drake
Executive Director

2010 Highlights

- Completed almost 9,500 patient visits
- Touched the lives of more than 5,000 individual patients with the love of Christ
- Added Russ Ayers, M.D. to our provider staff in August
- Began the renovations at the Widows Home
- Conducted multiple health screenings in Augusta Housing Authority neighborhoods and at other community events
- Submitted our application to become a Federally Qualified Health Center



“Thanks to all CCHSA 2010 Donors”

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Widows Home Update

- Exterior brickwork on the addition complete
- First floor framing complete



Mission: Christ Community Health Services Augusta exists to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and to demonstrate His love by providing affordable quality primary healthcare to the underserved of Augusta.

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