

The **HEART** of the Matter

# You Make a Difference

Your neighbors. Your friends. Your loved ones.  
Maybe even you.

Everyone in our community benefits from having access to great health care, especially when a serious illness strikes.

Unfortunately, many of Georgia's rural hospitals have faced financial challenges, preventing them from remaining open. Since 2010, seven rural hospitals in Georgia have closed, making health care access a challenge for some families. However, if you pay Georgia income taxes, you can help dramatically improve the outlook for local health care.

How? Through the Georgia HEART (Helping Enhance Access to Rural Treatment) Tax Credit Program.

## Help keep health care local

The Georgia HEART tax credit program boosts funding to rural hospitals in Georgia, like the Southeast Georgia Health System Camden Campus. It allows individuals and corporate taxpayers to receive a dollar-for-dollar state income tax credit when they donate money to a qualifying hospital instead of paying their Georgia income taxes.

"The communities we serve deserve access to quality health care, close to home," says Michael D. Scherneck, president and CEO, Southeast Georgia Health System. "Funding provided through the Georgia HEART program increases our ability to add vital services and lifesaving technologies to the

### DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2010,



**RURAL HOSPITALS IN GEORGIA HAVE CLOSED,** making access to health care a challenge for some families.

### How you can help

It's very easy! It takes only a few minutes for you to improve access to local health care for your friends and family. For more information or to submit an application, visit [sghs.org/ga-tax-credit](http://sghs.org/ga-tax-credit) or [georgiaheart.org](http://georgiaheart.org).

Camden Campus, such as a Wound Care Center, so that patients won't have to travel to Brunswick or Jacksonville for wound treatments, which can sometimes require daily appointments."

Mr. Scherneck adds, "It's very important to us to be able to meet our communities' health needs, and the individuals and businesses who contribute to the HEART program play a significant role in helping us accomplish this, while at the same time receiving full credit on their state taxes for each dollar they contribute. It really is a win-win situation."

