

October 21, 2019

THE DOCTOR IS “IN” AT THE NEW HILSMAN HEALTH CENTER

Athens Piedmont Regional Foundation Turns Donation into a Doctor’s Office to Serve Clarke County Students

Athens, Georgia — The Doctor is “in” at the new Hilsman Health Center, the doctor’s office at Hilsman Middle School. The health center will provide annual wellness visits, flu shots and immunizations, sick visits (for strep throat, ear infections, etc.), dental services, behavioral health counseling, and more to students and staff from Hilsman Middle and Gaines Elementary. Sick and injured students can be treated quickly (regardless of their ability to pay) and then return to class. The center is not open to the public.

“Our team championed the dream of Sharon Pendley, the previous nursing director for the Clarke County School District, who wanted to make it easy for students to receive medical services at school and allow parents to stay at work,” states Amy Roark, the current director of nursing. “The district was awarded a planning grant from Emory University’s PARTNERS for Equity in Child and Adolescent Health program, enabling us to create a detailed needs assessment and business plan, and partner with a medical provider to staff the center. Then the stars aligned and local community partners made the dream a reality.”

The United Way of Northeast Georgia brokered a partnership between the school district and Piedmont Athens Regional Foundation, knowing the foundation wanted to support student health services. The foundation awarded \$300,000 to help build and equip the health center.

“Piedmont-Athens Regional is celebrating 100 years of service to the people of Athens-Clarke County and Northeast Georgia. It is most appropriate at this time in our history that we direct medical assistance to a Health Center embedded in our local public school system with the primary purpose of addressing student health needs so that their school pursuits are not sidelined,” states Tom Landrum, Chair of the Piedmont Athens Regional Foundation Board. “The Piedmont Athens Regional Foundation is proud to partner with the Clarke County School District, Athens Neighborhood Health Center, and Advantage Behavioral Health to make this initiative possible.”

Between 2010 and 2017, PARTNERS for Equity in Child and Adolescent Health awarded planning grants to 40 sites representing 44 counties around the State of Georgia to explore the creation of a school-based health center in their area. “We started the planning process in October 2018, and a year later, we are opening the doors to the 39th comprehensive school health center in operation in the state and the first in NE Georgia. This has been an amazing partnership within our community, and we have high hopes of recreating this model to serve more students in more schools,” added Amy Roark.

About The Clarke County School District

At the Clarke County School District, we believe in tomorrow. We believe that by preparing students for the new and broadening opportunities ahead, we are strengthening our community. Our passionate faculty and staff work tirelessly to help ensure our students grow academically, socially, and emotionally. We are dedicated. We are committed. We work hard to be better every day.

The CCSD has 21 schools and more than 13,000 students. We have 2,288 days to make a difference that will last a lifetime. But we do not just count the days—we make the days count.

For more information about the Clarke County School District, please visit www.clarke.k12.ga.us.

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About The Athens Piedmont Regional Foundation

The mission of the Piedmont Athens Regional Foundation is to inspire the generosity of a caring community with opportunities to improve lives through better healthcare. For over 34 years, the Foundation has improved healthcare by enhancing the programs and services offered by Piedmont Athens Regional. Through the generous support of individuals, corporations, and foundations, the Piedmont Athens Regional Foundation has funded The Guest Houses, Loran Smith Center for Cancer Support, Breast Health Center, Griffin-Dubose Healing Lodge, renovations of the NICU and Pediatrics units, the Piedmont Athens Regional Child Development Center, and the Piedmont Athens Regional Auxiliary Healing Garden. The Foundation is currently in a \$10 million campaign in celebration of Piedmont Athens Regional's Centennial Year.

For more information about the Athens Piedmont Regional Foundation, please visit www.piedmontathensgive.org.

About Emory University's PARTNERS for Equity in Child and Adolescent Health

In 2009, Dr. Veda Johnson, along with Dr. Terri McFadden, was successful in obtaining a multi-year grant to develop the PARTNERS for Equity in Child and Adolescent Health (formerly the Urban Health Program within the Department of Pediatrics at Emory) with the intent to increase access to quality primary health care and to improve the delivery of primary care health services for at-risk children and adolescents living in the Atlanta Metropolitan area and throughout the state of Georgia.

For more information on the PARTNERS for Equity in Child and Adolescent Health program, please visit <https://www.pediatrics.emory.edu/centers/PARTNERS/index.html>.

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