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April 28, 2010

Hospital's local impact estimated at \$39+ million

A fundamental principle of not-for-profit hospitals is that they reinvest in their respective organizations to better meet the healthcare needs of the communities they serve. The value of that reinvestment is found in actual medical services that are available, as well as in how the organization strengthens the local economy.

The Georgia Hospital Asso-

ciation recently released its 2007 Economic Impact Report, which quantifies the impact that Grady General Hospital has on this community. Using the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis methodology, the report showed Grady General Hospital's local economic impact is more than \$39 million, including the creation or sustainment of 325 full-time

jobs.

In many communities, the local hospital is an economic engine creating jobs which, in turn, help support other businesses around town through a ripple effect, both at individual and organizational levels: hospital employees and their families buy clothes, groceries and eat at local restaurants.

Archbold Medical Center-

which includes Grady General Hospital, Archbold Memorial Hospital, three other affiliate hospitals, four nursing homes and Archbold Health Services - is one of the largest employers and economic engines in southwest Georgia. Its regional economic impact exceeded \$630 million in 2007, including the creation or sustainment of 4,987 full-time jobs.

"We are fortunate to be able to provide a positive economic impact for our community," said LaDon Toole, administrator at Grady General Hospital. "Because members of our community - as well as our physicians, Hospital Authority, GGH Support League, Ladies Auxiliary and dedicated employees - use and support our local hospital,

we can make this positive impact."

Community benefit, one of Archbold Medical Center's five "core" values, is another dimension of the network's overall impact.

Community benefits include a range of initiatives designed to meet the needs of the community through

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SHORT HISTORY OF GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL

Truman Lastinger, 2013

Until the great depression and into the WWII years most of the hospitals in rural areas were owned and operated by physicians. During the depression many of the hospitals were closed due to the lack of money to keep them operating.

Because money was in such short supply, bartering was the main source of revenue. Fluoroscopes x-ray machines, and other new necessities could not be purchased with chickens, hogs, or vegetables.

In 1941 the State of Georgia enacted a bill which became known as the Hill-Burton act. The bill gave counties in Georgia the right to establish hospital authorities. The hospital authorities could then purchase, or build, and operate hospitals.

The hospital in Cairo was known as Walker's Hospital. Dr. Rehberg. In the fall of 1946 Dr. Rehberg announced he would keep the hospital from closing the Board of Commissioners under the Hill-Burton act in January 1947. They appointed members to the hospital authority.

The hospital authority was authorized by law to file for a "special valorem tax" in order to ensure the operation of the hospital. The County Commissioners were required to give the hospital authority the "special valorem tax" in order to ensure the operation of the hospital.

The hospital authority purchased Dr. Rehberg's hospital for \$300.00 per month for one year to ensure the hospital's operation. The hospital was known as Grady General Hospital. The hospital was located on Second Avenue S.E. where Ameris Bank is now located. In 1958. It became obvious that a more modern hospital was needed.

With the help of the Roddenbery and Jones families land was purchased on what was then called River Road. In 1959 construction began on a new hospital. It opened in 1960 and the people of Grady County had a new, modern 28 bed hospital. The hospital had five doctors on the medical staff and the public utilized their services.

Grady General Hospital was constructed under the existing Jim Crow laws. There were two entrances, separate but equal. The north entrance was for whites and the south entrance was for colored. The North wing was for white patients and the south wing for colored. Following the civil rights act of 1964 and the voting rights act of 1965 the south or colored entrance was closed. Everyone used the north entrance. The entire hospital was integrated.

During the mid to late 1960s the medical staff began to decline leading to decreased revenues. The resulting decrease in profits required the staff to increase hours and suffer reduced pay. The nurses objected to this and to some other demands from administration. As a result in 1968 Grady General Hospital became the first hospital in the United States to suffer a nurses' strike. Shortly thereafter the pay was reinstated and the strike was over.

6515 Cabell Court
Suwanee, GA 30024

SHORT HISTORY OF GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL

Truman Lastinger, 2013

In an effort to recruit doctors the Hhospital Authority decided that it needed some new office space for them. The authority purchased a lot on Fourth Street S.E. across from the hospital and built five nice modern offices.

The hospital had two doctors on staff at that time. One of them broke his leg while walking around on the construction site. He was out of work for three months, resulting with the hospital having only one doctor remaining on staff.

There was a shortage of doctors available to recruit. In order to attract some the authority had to guarantee incomes for a year. The authority recruited some doctors. However, as soon as the year was up another hospital would make them an offer with a guaranteed income.

Consequently, they would leave.

In 1975 the Hospital Authority decided a larger and more modern hospital was needed in order to keep doctors on staff. They issued a bond and proceeded to build a nice new hospital across from the north wing of the hospital. It opened in 1976 and was ultra-modern with a new up-to-date ICU. Most of the existing patient rooms were converted to offices.

The renovation helped for a short while. However, there was not enough revenue produced to pay the bonded indebtedness and to operate the hospital.

Efforts by the Authority to get extra money from the County Commissioners were unsuccessful. The County was broke. The commissioners refused to designate even one percent of the ad-valorem tax for use by the hospital despite the fact that the Hill-Burton Act gave them permission to designate up to two percent for the hospital.

The Hospital Authority members recognized that the hospital needed someone with the ability to operate a Hospital. They also needed the purchasing power of a larger operation.

The authority members asked Archbold Hospital and Tallahassee Memorial Hospital to make suggestions or proposals for operating Grady General. Tallahassee Memorial and Archbold presented proposals.

In 1981 the board, after careful consideration, agreed to Tallahassee Memorial's leasing of Grady General for four years with an option to renew the lease for four more years. Tallahassee Memorial was to pay rent in the amount of the bonded indebtedness payment and take over the management of the hospital.

Due to the two hospitals being in separate states, there were problems with insurance companies and state laws. After three years Tallahassee Memorial notified the Hospital Authority that they would not renew the lease for four more years.

In 1986 the hospital authority entered into a lease agreement with Archbold Hospital for a fifteen year period with up to four renewals for fifteen years each. The agreement equals a possible seventy-five year lease. Archbold hospital agreed to pay the bond payments as rent until the bond was retired and then to operate Grady General rent free. The lease also requires Archbold

SHORT HISTORY OF GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL

Truman Lastinger, 2013

to cover all indigent care required by federal and state laws. According to the lease all profits from operations are required to remain in Grady General and to be spent on updating the hospital.

Archbold has been successful in recruiting doctors as well as retaining them. The hospital has prospered with Archbold operating it. The bonded indebtedness was paid in full in 1998.

The exterior of the hospital has since been remodeled. The hospital rooms have been updated and modernized. Grady General Hospital is now recognized as one of the best rural hospitals in the United States.

The hospital just finished the last improvement by enlarging the hospital and moving the Imaging Center inside. This major project contains some of the latest and most sought after equipment available. Grady General Hospital is now second to none in Georgia or the United States.

Grady General Hospital is a thriving and progressive 60 bed hospital. The medical staff is excellent. It is supported by an above average nursing and supporting staff. The hospital is currently valued in excess of sixty million dollars and is debt free.

The Georgia Hospital Association estimates that Grady General Hospital has a local economic impact in excess of \$38 million a year including the creation or sustainment of 327 jobs.

I began my association with Grady General Hospital in 1963 as part time pharmacist. Willie Strickland had been removed as administrator and Leon VanLandingham was named interim Administrator. The hospital was a 28 bed hospital and there were 5 doctors on staff. The hospital stayed full and quite often had patients in beds up and down the hall.

Soon one of our doctors left to pursue further education as a psychiatrist. One had a heart attack and quit practice. One decided he would only do office practice and one went back to Pennsylvania. That left us with only one doctor on staff.

For a while we had doctors recruited with promises of a good salary for a year. They would accept and then after a year leave for greener pastures.

This caused the hospital to get a bad reputation in the county. It became known as a Band-Aid station. The ambulance services for the County were provided by Clark Funeral Home and Cloud Funeral Home. Their drivers were told that "if I get sick, carry me to a real hospital".

SHORT HISTORY OF GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL

Truman Lastinger, 2013

In 1977 I was appointed to the hospital board. Elwin Childs, Howard Drew and Kermit Brinson were on the Board of Commissioners. At the time the hospital was broke and so was the county. That prompted the Hospital Authority to eventually enter into a lease agreement with Archbold.

Bobby VanLandingham and I hammered out a lease agreement that protects Grady General at no cost to the county. Archbold's subsequent agreements with Brooks County and Mitchell County required payments to be made to Archbold by these counties.

Grady general has been associated with Archbold hospital for 27 years. We now have a 60 bed hospital.

The Georgia Hospital Association estimates that Grady General Hospital has a local impact in excess of 38 million dollars a year. The Hospital creates or sustains 327 jobs. It is valued in excess of 60 million dollars and is debt free.

I am proud to tell you that we do have a 'real hospital'.

Gentlemen, after 50 years of being associated with our hospital it is with deep regret that I must resign due to health issues.

SHORT HISTORY OF GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL

Truman Lastinger, 2013

UNTIL THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND INTO THE WWII YEARS MOST OF THE HOSPITALS IN RURAL AREAS WERE OWNED AND OPERATED BY PHYSICIANS. DURING THE DEPRESSION MANY OF THE HOSPITALS WERE CLOSED DUE TO THE LACK OF MONEY TO KEEP THEM OPERATING.

BECAUSE MONEY WAS IN SUCH SHORT SUPPLY, BARTERING WAS THE MAIN SOURCE OF REVENUE. FLUOROSCOPES, X-RAY MACHINES, AND OTHER NEW NECESSITIES COULD NOT BE PURCHASED WITH CHICKENS, HOGS, OR VEGETABLES.

IN 1941 THE STATE OF GEORGIA ENACTED A BILL WHICH BECAME KNOWN AS THE HILL-BURTON ACT. THE BILL GAVE COUNTIES IN GEORGIA THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES. THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES COULD THEN PURCHASE, OR BUILD, AND OPERATE HOSPITALS.

THE HOSPITAL IN CAIRO WAS KNOWN AS WALKER'S HOSPITAL. AT THE TIME IT WAS OPERATED BY DR. REHBERG. IN THE FALL OF 1946 DR. REHBERG ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS CLOSING THE HOSPITAL. IN ORDER TO KEEP THE HOSPITAL FROM CLOSING THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN GRADY

COUNTY ADOPTED THE HILL-BURTON ACT IN JANUARY 1947. THEY APPOINTED MEMBERS TO THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WAS AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO FLOAT BONDS. ACCORDING TO THE HILL-BURTON ACT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WERE REQUIRED TO GIVE THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY "UP TO TWO PERCENT OF THE AD-VALOREM TAX" IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE OPERATION OF THE HOSPITAL.

THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY PURCHASED DR. REHBERG'S HOSPITAL. THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GUARANTEED \$300.00 PER MONTH FOR ONE YEAR TO ENSURE ITS OPERATION. THE HOSPITAL THEN BECAME KNOWN AS GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL.

THE HOSPITAL WAS LOCATED ON THE CORNER OF BROAD STREET AND SECOND AVENUE. S.E. WHERE AMERIS BANK IS NOW LOCATED. IT WAS IN OPERATION AT THAT LOCATION UNTIL 1958. IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT A MORE MODERN HOSPITAL (WITH MORE ROOMS AND BETTER EQUIPMENT) WAS NEEDED.

WITH THE HELP OF THE RODDENBERRY AND JONES FAMILIES LAND WAS PURCHASED ON WHAT WAS THEN CALLED RIVER ROAD. IN 1959 CONSTRUCTION BEGAN ON A NEW HOSPITAL. IT OPENED IN 1960 AND THE PEOPLE OF GRADY COUNTY HAD A NEW, MODERN 28 BED HOSPITAL. THE HOSPITAL HAD FIVE

DOCTORS ON THE MEDICAL STAFF AND THE PUBLIC UTILIZED THEIR SERVICES.

GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL WAS CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE EXISTING JIM CROW LAWS. THERE WERE TWO ENTRANCES, SEPARATE BUT EQUAL. THE NORTH ENTRANCE WAS FOR WHITES AND THE SOUTH ENTRANCE WAS FOR COLORED. THE NORTH WING WAS FOR WHITE PATIENTS AND THE SOUTH WING FOR COLORED. FOLLOWING THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 AND THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 THE SOUTH OR COLORED ENTRANCE WAS CLOSED. EVERYONE USED THE NORTH ENTRANCE. THE ENTIRE HOSPITAL WAS INTEGRATED.

DURING THE MID TO LATE 1960S THE MEDICAL STAFF BEGAN TO DECLINE LEADING TO DECREASED REVENUES. THE RESULTING DECREASE IN PROFITS REQUIRED THE STAFF TO INCREASE HOURS AND SUFFER REDUCED PAY. THE NURSES OBJECTED TO THIS AND TO SOME OTHER DEMANDS FROM ADMINISTRATION. AS A RESULT IN 1968 GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL BECAME THE FIRST HOSPITAL IN THE UNITED STATES TO SUFFER A NURSES' STRIKE. SHORTLY THERAFTER THE PAY WAS REINSTATED AND THE STRIKE WAS OVER

IN AN EFFORT TO RECRUIT DOCTORS THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY DECIDED THAT IT NEEDED SOME NEW OFFICE SPACE FOR THEM. THE AUTHORITY PURCHASED A LOT ON

FOURTH STREET S.E. ACROSS FROM THE HOSPITAL AND BUILT FIVE NICE MODERN OFFICES.

THE HOSPITAL HAD TWO DOCTORS ON STAFF AT THAT TIME. ONE OF THEM BROKE HIS LEG WHILE WALKING AROUND ON THE CONSTRUCTION SITE. HE WAS OUT OF WORK FOR THREE MONTHS, RESULTING WITH THE HOSPITAL HAVING ONLY ONE DOCTOR REMAINING ON STAFF.

THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS AVAILABLE TO RECRUIT. IN ORDER TO ATTRACT SOME THE AUTHORITY HAD TO GUARANTEE INCOMES FOR A YEAR. THE AUTHORITY RECRUITED SOME DOCTORS. HOWEVER, AS SOON AS THE YEAR WAS UP ANOTHER HOSPITAL WOULD MAKE THEM AN OFFER WITH A GUARANTEED INCOME. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY WOULD LEAVE.

IN 1975 THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY DECIDED A LARGER AND MORE MODERN HOSPITAL WAS NEEDED IN ORDER TO KEEP DOCTORS ON STAFF. THEY ISSUED A BOND AND PROCEEDED TO BUILD A NICE NEW HOSPITAL ACROSS THE NORTH WING OF THE HOSPITAL. IT OPENED IN 1976 AND WAS ULTRA MODERN WITH A NEW UP-TO-DATE ICU. MOST OF THE EXISTING PATIENT ROOMS WERE CONVERTED TO OFFICES.

THE RENOVATION HELPED FOR A SHORT WHILE. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH REVENUE PRODUCED TO PAY THE BONDED INDEBTEDNESS AND TO OPERATE THE HOSPITAL.

EFFORTS BY THE AUTHORITY TO GET EXTRA MONEY FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. THE COUNTY WAS BROKE. THE COMMISSIONERS REFUSED TO DESIGNATE EVEN ONE PERCENT OF THE AD-VALOREM TAX FOR USE BY THE HOSPITAL DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE HILL BURTON ACT GAVE THEM PERMISSION TO DESIGNATE UP TO TWO PERCENT FOR THE HOSPITAL.

THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS RECOGNIZED THAT THE HOSPITAL NEEDED SOMEONE WITH THE ABILITY TO OPERATE A HOSPITAL. THEY ALSO NEEDED THE PURCHASING POWER OF A LARGER OPERATION.

THE AUTHORITY MEMBERS ASKED ARCHBOLD HOSPITAL AND TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS OR PROPOSALS FOR OPERATING GRADY GENERAL. TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL AND ARCHBOLD PRESENTED PROPOSALS.

IN 1981 THE BOARD, AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, AGREED TO TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL'S LEASING OF GRADY GENERAL FOR FOUR YEARS WITH AN OPTION TO RENEW THE LEASE FOR FOUR MORE YEARS. TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL WAS TO PAY RENT IN THE AMOUNT OF THE BONDED INDEBTEDNESS PAYMENT AND TAKE OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL.

DUE TO THE TWO HOSPITALS BEING IN SEPARATE STATES, THERE WERE PROBLEMS WITH INSURANCE COMPANIES AND STATE LAWS. AFTER THREE YEARS TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL NOTIFIED THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY THAT THEY WOULD NOT RENEW THE LEASE FOR FOUR MORE YEARS.

IN 1986 THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY ENTERED INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ARCHBOLD HOSPITAL FOR A FIFTEEN YEAR PERIOD WITH UP TO FOUR RENEWALS FOR FIFTEEN YEARS EACH. THE AGREEMENT EQUALS A POSSIBLE SEVENTY-FIVE YEAR LEASE. ARCHBOLD HOSPITAL AGREED TO PAY THE BOND PAYMENTS AS RENT UNTIL THE BOND WAS RETIRED AND THEN TO OPERATE GRADY GENERAL RENT FREE. THE LEASE ALSO REQUIRES ARCHBOLD TO COVER ALL INDIGENT CARE REQUIRED BY FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS. ACCORDING TO THE LEASE ALL PROFITS FROM OPERATIONS ARE REQUIRED TO REMAIN IN GRADY GENERAL AND TO BE SPENT ON UPDATING THE HOSPITAL.

ARCHBOLD HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN RECRUITING DOCTORS AS WELL AS RETAINING THEM. THE HOSPITAL HAS PROSPERED WITH ARCHBOLD OPERATING IT. THE BONDED INDEBTEDNESS WAS PAID IN FULL IN 1998.

THE EXTERIOR OF THE HOSPITAL HAS SINCE BEEN REMODELED. THE HOSPITAL ROOMS HAVE BEEN UPDATED AND MODERNIZED. GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL IS NOW

RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE BEST RURAL HOSPITALS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE HOSPITAL JUST FINISHED THE LAST IMPROVEMENT BY ENLARGING THE HOSPITAL AND MOVING THE IMAGING CENTER INSIDE. THIS MAJOR PROJECT CONTAINS SOME OF THE LATEST AND MOST SOUGHT AFTER EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE. GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL IS NOW SECOND TO NONE IN GEORGIA OR THE UNITED STATES.

GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL IS A THRIVING AND PROGRESSIVE 60 BED HOSPITAL. THE MEDICAL STAFF IS EXCELLENT. IT IS SUPPORTED BY AN ABOVE AVERAGE NURSING AND SUPPORTING STAFF. THE HOSPITAL IS CURRENTLY VALUED IN EXCESS OF SIXTY MILLION DOLLARS AND IS DEBT FREE.

THE GEORGIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION ESTIMATES THAT GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL HAS A LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT IN EXCESS OF \$38 MILLION A YEAR INCLUDING THE CREATION OR SUSTAINMENT OF 327 JOBS.

Truman Hastings
Sept 19, 2013

I BEGAN MY ASSOCIATION WITH GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL IN 1963 AS PART TIME PHARMACIST. WILLIE STRICKLAND HAD BEEN REMOVED AS ADMINISTRATOR AND LEON VANLANDINGHAM WAS NAMED INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR. THE HOSPITAL WAS A 28 BED HOSPITAL AND THERE WERE 5 DOCTORS ON STAFF. THE HOSPITAL STAYED FULL AND QUITE OFTEN HAD PATIENTS IN BEDS UP AND DOWN THE HALL.

SOON ONE OF OUR DOCTORS LEFT TO PURSUE FURTHER EDUCATION AS A PSYCHIATRIST. ONE HAD A HEART ATTACK AND QUIT PRACTICE. ONE DECIDED HE WOULD ONLY DO OFFICE PRACTICE AND ONE WENT BACK TO PENNSYLVANIA. THAT LEFT US WITH ONLY ONE DOCTOR ON STAFF.

FOR A WHILE WE HAD DOCTORS RECRUITED WITH PROMISES OF A GOOD SALARY FOR A YEAR. THEY WOULD ACCEPT AND THEN AFTER A YEAR LEAVE FOR GREENER PASTURES.

THIS CAUSED THE HOSPITAL TO GET A BAD REPUTATION IN THE COUNTY. IT BECAME KNOWN AS A

BANDAID STATION. THE AMBULANCE SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY WERE PROVIDED BY CLARK FUNERAL HOME AND CLOUD FUNERAL HOME.THEIR DRIVERS WERE TOLD THAT "IF I GET SICK, CARRY ME TO A REAL HOSPITAL".

IN 1977 I WAS APPOINTED TO THE HOSPITAL BOARD. ELWIN CHILDS, HOWARD DREW AND KERMIT BRINSON WERE ON THE BOARD OF COMISSIONERS. AT THE TIME THE HOSPITAL WAS BROKE AND SO WAS THE COUNTY. THAT PROMPTED THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY TO EVENTUALLY ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ARCHBOLD.

BOBBY VANLANDINGHAM AND I HAMMERED OUT A LEASE AGREEMENT THAT PROTECTS GRADY GENERAL AT NO COST TO THE COUNTY. ARCHBOLD'S SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENTS WITH BROOKS COUNTY AND MITCHELL COUNTY REQUIRED PAYMENTS TO BE MADE TO ARCHBOLD BY THESE COUNTIES.

GRADY GENERAL HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH ARCHBOLD HOSPITAL FOR 27 YEARS. WE NOW HAVE A 60 BED HOSPITAL.

THE GEORGIA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION ESTIMATES THAT GRADY GENERAL HOSPITAL HAS A LOCAL IMPACT IN EXCESS OF 38 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR. THE HOSPITAL CREATES OR SUSTAINS 327 JOBS. IT IS VALUED IN EXCESS OF 60 MILLION DOLLARS AND IS DEBT FREE.

I AM PROUD TO TELL YOU THAT WE DO HAVE A REAL HOSPITAL.

GENTLEMEN, AFTER 50 YEARS OF BEING ASSOCIATED WITH OUR HOSPITAL IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT I MUST RESIGN DUE TO HEALTH ISSUES.

Local hospital is named state's best by magazine

► HONOR from Page A1

to earn recognition for their commitment to providing outstanding care," said Perry Mustian, President and CEO of Archbold Medical Center.

"I'm very proud of our Grady

General team and physicians. I know the Grady County community is also proud to have local access to award-winning care."

Grady General has made

the magazine's Top Georgia Hospital list consistently in recent years, most recently reaching the number three ranking.

Grady General named state's best small hospital

Georgia Trend Magazine has named Grady General Hospital the best small hospital in the state. The magazine lists the Archbold operated facility as the highest ranked small hospital (fewer than 100 beds) in its annual Top Hospital rankings.

The information used to compile the lists was based on publicly reported data acquired from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, which administers the nation's Medicare and Medicaid programs.

The data analyzed specifically relate to quality of care, patient satisfaction, mortality, readmission statistics and data on hospital acquired infections and conditions.

"It is such an honor to be recognized as Georgia Trend's number one small hospital in the state," said Crystal Wells, administrator at Grady General. "Our staff is dedicated to providing the citizens of Grady County the best care possible every time



CRYSTAL WELLS is the administrator at Grady General Hospital.

they walk through our doors. We're honored to be recognized for this sustained focus."

Earlier this year, Grady General Hospital was one of only two hospitals in the region, including Archbold Memorial Hospital, to earn a "double 4-star" award for Overall Rating and Patient Experience by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"Grady General continues

➤ See HONOR, Page A7



HAPPY STAFF at Grady General Hospital are celebrating their top ranking. Pictured, l-r: Sherry Lewis, Vivian Harris, Charles Burgess, Lacresha Garland, Shanna Lovin, Bailey Edwards, Kaysee Maxam, Braxton Harrell, Courtney Groves, Mae Lois Dorn, Dori Griffin and Jessica Spires.