

Duplin Hospital Foundation

While many young people leave the community to seek a better future elsewhere, others are working to improve opportunities for young people. The story of one such community organization begins with four childhood friends, all from the small rural town of Greenevers in Duplin County, population 759, who shared a common vision of improving their community.

Four young men who grew up together in Greenevers formed a vision of doing something together for their community. The four men are not related but have been so close for so long the name "4Brothers" seemed to fit. Out of that shared vision came the 4Brothers Community Outreach organization, a local non-profit with which Vidant Duplin Hospital is building a close relationship through the Community Benefits Grants program. "We started with a mission to improve the academic achievement of the youth in our community," recounted Harry Sutton, Jr., the president of the organization. Their first fundraising venture was a back-to-school drive where they gave out backpacks and school supplies.

The partnership with Vidant Duplin started when 4Brothers learned the hospital had begun providing cancer care in the region and expressed interest in holding a fundraising event to promote breast cancer awareness, a special health concern in their community. They held an October "Zumbathon," which is now an annual event, and sold breast cancer awareness t-shirts, with the proceeds going to the hospital's foundation in support of cancer care.

The new partnership led to 4Brothers applying for and receiving their first Community Benefits grant, with the focus being an after-school mentoring and physical activities program for youth. The activities have now grown to include a basketball camp and summer lunch program. The group also has begun a Thanksgiving project to feed needy families during the holiday. Last Thanksgiving, they provided over 600 turkey breasts to needy families in the community.



VIDANT™
Duplin Hospital



(L to R): John Carr, Harry Sutton, Jr., Keith Brinson, Bruce McCallop

"We've gotten more awareness now in the larger community because of our association with the hospital and the media coverage it generates," said Sutton. "That, in turn, is helping us build our networking and bringing in more donations."

Sutton said the whole experience has been a very humbling one for him and the other "brothers," working in the community where they grew up and trying to provide something to make it better. "When we were young, our parents taught us the importance of being grateful and of giving back," said Sutton. "We want to make sure we live up to what we were taught growing up."



\$26,450

**Provided for the Purchase of Stretchers
for the Emergency Department**



> \$100,000

**Provided Over-the-Counter Medicines to 667
on-site attendees, public school nurses,
home-bound groups and migrant camps**

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Not pictured: **Debra Hernandez** – president, Vidant Duplin Hospital; **Wayne Branch**; **Barbara Harris**;
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