

# HOPEFUL CONNECTIONS

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## WELCOME

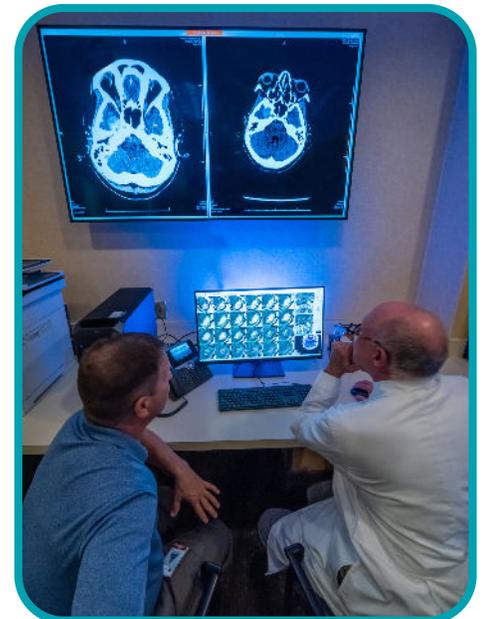
Welcome to Vidant Health Foundation's new and improved newsletter! We hope you find this informative and beneficial. We want you to have access to the happenings both here at the foundation and across Vidant Health. With each edition, we'll share brief updates that will keep you in the loop on all of the ways we are working to provide HOPE to the people of eastern North Carolina.

## IN THE NEWS

Vidant Health recently announced it had performed 2,000 Gamma Knife® procedures at Vidant Medical Center (VMC), marking an important milestone in Vidant's journey to provide state-of-the-art cancer care to those living in eastern North Carolina.

"I am incredibly proud of this important milestone in Vidant's collective work to realize a life without cancer," said Dr. Stuart Lee, chief, division of neurosurgery, Vidant Health and medical director of The Gamma Knife Center, Vidant Medical Center. "Our teams work passionately to support those battling cancer. Those across our region can access advanced technology close to home, which reduces the need to travel elsewhere to receive treatment. By performing 2,000 Gamma Knife® procedures, we are delivering on our mission to improve the health and well-being of eastern North Carolina."

The Gamma Knife® at VMC is one of only two in North Carolina and the newest version, the Gamma Knife®Icon, was installed in 2018. The Gamma Knife® works by destroying cells so they do not grow, which shrinks the size of brain tumors over time.



# SERVICE LINE SPOTLIGHT

It's hard to believe that the doors of the East Carolina Heart Institute at Vidant Medical Center opened more than 10 years ago. Before COVID, the occasion was marked by tours of the facility, updates from leadership, and special recognition of Dr. Randolph Chitwood who helped put Greenville on the map as one of the leading heart-care centers in the world.

Chitwood also recently received the American Association for Thoracic Surgery Scientific Achievement Award. This award honors individuals who have achieved scientific contributions in the field of cardiac surgery worthy of the highest recognition the association can bestow. Although he has stepped away from clinical surgery, he continues to lead the way in education across the world with a busy schedule leading virtual conferences and a new eBook from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. Congratulations, Dr. Chitwood!

The Vidant Heart and Vascular service line continues to focus on bringing the latest and most effective therapies to the patients of eastern North Carolina. Keeping care local by offering access to experts who pioneer heart and vascular surgical care solidifies our commitment to providing world class heart care close to home.

The heart and vascular program has celebrated many achievements throughout the last couple of years. Of particular note, our innovative robotic cardiac surgery program has been expanded to include advances in minimally invasive coronary bypass surgery, also known as beating heart surgery which eliminates the use of the heart-lung bypass machine and improves patient recovery times. We also continue to see great success with several of our other treatment programs. Recent data places our TAVR (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement) in the top five percent of all programs in the country for clinical results.

For the rest of the article, click [here](#).



Dr. Randolph Chitwood

# COVID-19 VACCINE INFO

Vidant Health is offering the COVID-19 vaccine to everyone 16 and older. You can view appointment availability by location and schedule vaccine appointments by clicking [here](#) or by visiting [www.vidanthealth.com/vaccinate](http://www.vidanthealth.com/vaccinate).

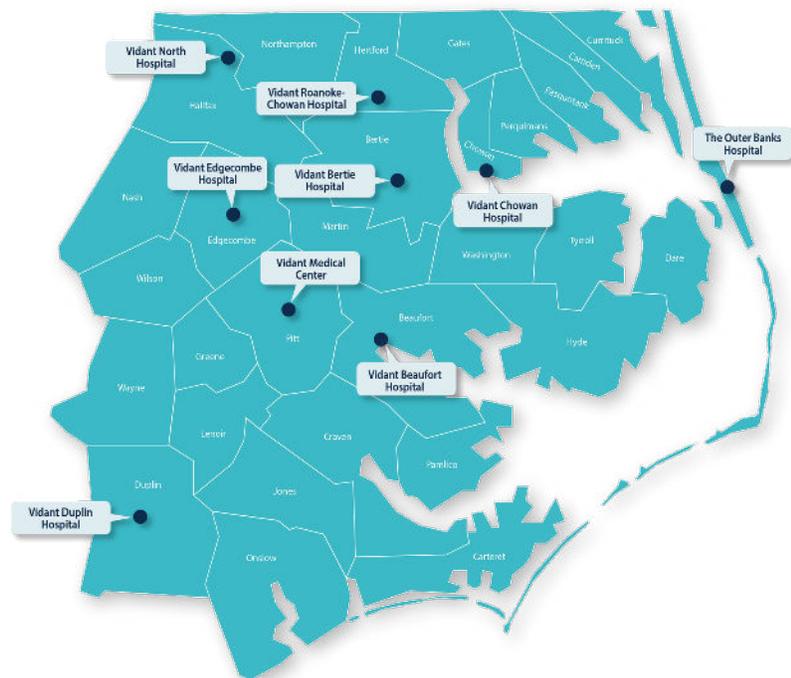
Vidant vaccine clinics are located in Ahoskie, Belhaven, Edenton, Greenville, Kinston, Roanoke Rapids, Tarboro, Wallace, Washington, Wilson, Windsor, and potentially others. If there is not availability at your desired location, we recommend you consider other locations or check back periodically for new appointments to be added.



## REGIONAL PARTNERS

In ways large and small, the Vidant Health Foundation raises funds and channels them toward health-related projects throughout eastern North Carolina. Gifts to the Foundation are making better health within reach for 1.4 million people in this region. And the best part is that your gift stays local — every penny. It helps fund leading-edge equipment, new facilities and programs, meaning your friends and family can receive the care they need in their home community.

To learn more about our regional development councils and foundations, click [here](#).



# GIVING SOCIETIES

Partners of Hope is a giving society made up of like-minded donors who value the importance and rich tradition of philanthropy. Your outstanding support and generosity affords you membership into the Partners of Hope which recognizes in various ways donors who contribute \$10,000 or more.



You join a select group of individuals who have a shared dedication and commitment to bringing HOPE to the people of eastern North Carolina. Currently, our Partners of Hope giving society includes nearly 500 donors. If you would like more information about Partners of Hope, please call 252-847-5626.

# VHF TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Lou Flora, senior secretary, will soon celebrate 31 years of service with Vidant Health! We are lucky she has been with us for the past nine of those years. She is an invaluable member of our team.



Make welcome to Heidi Johnson who joined us at the beginning of this year. She comes to us with a wealth of knowledge in financial operations, project management and accounting. She has joined us part-time as a gifts processor.



# CMN UPDATE

Listeners from all over the east phoned in their support for children and raised \$101,451 during the 24th annual "Music for Miracles" radiothon in March on 107.9 WNCT.

These generous donations bring the all-time giving for the event to more than \$3.6 million. One hundred percent of the funds raised through Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospital events such as this directly support programs and services at the James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital at Vidant Medical Center.

This year's radiothon included all of the Inner Banks Media radio stations. In addition to 107.9, these include: 103.7 WTIB (Talk of the Town); 96.3 WRHT The New Talk; Groovin' Oldies 94.1 and 97.9; and 94.3 The Game.

## UPCOMING EVENT:

- 36th Annual Celebration Broadcast will air on WITN June 6 from 6 – 9 am and 7 - 11 pm. The 2021 broadcast has been re-designed to keep everyone safe and healthy, while continuing to share with you, our loyal donors and supporters, the impact your donations and efforts make in the lives of thousands of sick and injured children throughout eastern North Carolina. Be sure to tune in on June 6 or donate today at [givetocmn.com](http://givetocmn.com).



**CHANGE KIDS' HEALTH**  
**CHANGE THE FUTURE**

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the Vidant Health Foundation's 40-year history, with the support of our generous donors, we have funded the construction of a state-of-the art heart center, the James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital, and the Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Tower, home of Vidant Cancer Care. We have also opened the Service League of Greenville Inpatient Hospice House and the Service League of Greenville Interfaith Chapel. Additionally, we have funded numerous programs and services that benefit patients of all ages who suffer from various disease states and chronic illnesses. In order to keep care as close to home as possible, we have helped fund the latest and greatest in healthcare technology and equipment so our patients don't have to travel.

We couldn't do what we do without you. And for you, we are grateful.

For more information or to donate online, visit [www.vidanthealthfoundation.com](http://www.vidanthealthfoundation.com).



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