



BAPTIST EASLEY FOUNDATION

To our beloved Easley community and Hospital Foundation supporters:

We, like so many of you, have been hard at work and deep in prayer during this time of great uncertainty for our state, nation, and world. The **Prisma Health Baptist Easley Foundation's** board of directors wanted to take a moment to share several of the important decisions being made by your community hospital foundation, as the COVID-19 pandemic places extraordinary stress on our health care system and our area health care workers.

The impact of this pandemic has been very real and very difficult for many of our local families and businesses. At the same time, we remain Prisma Health's second-largest community hospital in the Upstate. That means our people and our facility have and will continue to play a significant role in this crisis. For that reason, our Foundation has taken immediate steps to alter course with our funds, while still staying firmly focused on our reason for being: this community, and more specifically, the people who call it home.

Our primary and single-largest fundraiser, the annual Baptist Easley Foundation's summer gala — previously scheduled for June 13 at the Green Valley Country Club — has been cancelled. We do not anticipate being able to safely gather in large groups by then, and as a health care organization we will always err on the side of caution. This fundraiser brings in around \$75,000 annually, and this year the funds raised were set to go to the new **Larry Winn, MD Cancer Care Unit** capital campaign. Thanks to the generous donations that already have been made, we are close to halfway to our \$1.3 million capital

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**PrismaHealth.org**

campaign goal for Pickens County's first-ever cancer treatment center within the hospital.

**There is still much more work to be done on our cancer center, but that must happen at a later time. Now is when we must focus on the people of Baptist Easley Hospital – those who serve our community and our hospital in ways large and small; those who we are relying on right now in the face of COVID-19, and those we will rely on when this crisis eases and more normal operations resume.**

Our board voted (electronically) last week to temporarily redirect our available unrestricted funds for the "current greatest needs" at Baptist Easley Hospital. During a time of enormous need, this will permit us to help local health care workers pay bills, buy groceries, pay pharmacy expenses, etc. We plan to look at refocusing on raising funds for the Cancer Unit in November, when, hopefully, the worst of this pandemic is behind us.

At this critical time, there is something else our board, and I, want you to know: here in Pickens County, Prisma Health Baptist Easley Hospital, is prepared for the worst if and when it arrives on our doorstep. The hospital has a surge plan in place, and we stand ready to increase our caseload for Pickens County patients with employees, supplies, and preparedness.

**Here is what we ask of you: We know that your homes and businesses may be among those facing financial hardship. But, if you have the ability to give, would you consider directing your gifts to your community hospital? Because the work happening here not only takes care of our families, it takes care of yours.**

We still do not know the extent of this virus or how we will finally win the battle against COVID-19. But as our hospital President Todd Walker shared with employees recently, **Prisma Health Baptist Easley knows how to care for patients.** That is where our focus has always been. That is where our focus will remain.

“In the coming days and weeks, our responses will need to be fluid,” Walker said, “but our focus on great patient care will be constant.”

Here are a few things that you can do right now to support health care workers close to home here at Baptist Easley, while also safely sheltering in place at home:

- Pray: Lift up the sick, the scared, and all those who provide care
- Engage: Follow us on [Facebook](#) to learn more about the important work happening and meet some of the people who are doing it
- Donate: The easiest way to give is online. Please visit our [website](#) and encourage friends and family to do the same. No amount is too small or too great in support of our people
- Inspire: For an individualized gift or outreach effort for health care professionals, please reach out directly to me. I would be happy to bring your idea to life

Our website remains an easy and safe way to give, find it at:  
[www.ghsgiving.org/givebe](http://www.ghsgiving.org/givebe)

You can also send a check directly to the foundation by mailing it to:  
Prisma Health Baptist Easley Foundation  
c/o Candi Forester-Smith  
PO BOX 1988  
Easley, SC 29641

I look forward to updating you about the support we receive in coming weeks and months. It is the greatest honor to care for our community in such meaningful ways, and it is a privilege to serve alongside the men and women who are called to walk through our doors each day.

Yours in philanthropy,



Candi Forester-Smith  
Foundation Manager

P.S. Save the date for Sept. 25, 2020, for our fall event at Greenbrier Farms, "Celebrating our Health Care Heroes." Funds raised will continue to support our hospital's greatest needs and will honor our medical professionals serving on the frontline of this crisis. Stay tuned for more details.

Find us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/BaptistEasleyFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/BaptistEasleyFoundation)  
Find us online at: [www.ghs.org/locations/baptist-easley-medical-campus/baptist-easley-foundation](https://www.ghs.org/locations/baptist-easley-medical-campus/baptist-easley-foundation)