



UNC
HEALTH[®]
Blue Ridge

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Values

UNC HEALTH BLUE RIDGE SYSTEM VALUES

One Great Team

We are better together than we are apart.

Our effective collaboration is key to providing quality care.

We are building an inclusive and equitable culture that encourages and supports the diverse voices of our patients and each other.

Carolina Care

We care holistically about patients and each other.

It is our privilege to serve the people of North Carolina. We demonstrate kindness and compassion in every interaction.

Leading the Way

We make a difference by improving lives every day and training the next generation of health care leaders.

Our research is changing the world.

We provide innovative care.

It Starts With Me

Each of us takes ownership of, and accountability for, doing the right thing.

We empower and trust each other to step up.

We support each other and hold each other accountable in our work.





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UNC HEALTH BLUE RIDGE TRANSITION



UNC Health Transition Seen as Defining Moment of 2022

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO, KATHY C. BAILEY



UNC Health Blue Ridge has remained a strong, viable resource for this community despite 2022's many trials and challenges – COVID, financial strains, and our UNC Health transition.

Just like the COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021,

the UNC Health transition has been a defining moment for our organization in 2022. We set an aggressive timeline to complete the transition, and each person stepped up to do what had to be done while still placing our patients at the forefront. Learning new protocols, equipment, and systems was stressful and nearly overwhelming, but we did it. We completed the bulk of the transition mid-year.

Our Blue Ridge workforce remained committed, brave, and caring while continuing to battle COVID. The dwindling number of patients meant we could finally deactivate our COVID Incident Command in August.

Our financial situation meant we had to take cost-cutting measures throughout the year, but we still gave an across-the-board raise and paid out our Performance Plus Incentive. The end of the year did bring a bright spot as we saw a tiny improvement in operating costs.

Max De Pree, an American businessman, noted leader, and author, says, "It is important to remember that we cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are." UNC Health Blue Ridge definitely did not remain as we were in 2022.

We broke ground for two major construction projects:

\$38.3 million new cancer center in Valdese

\$118 million six-story patient tower in Morganton

- We scored an "A" for both the spring and fall reports from Leapfrog.
- We earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for our Spine Center.
- We earned a 4-Star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- We were named in U.S. News Best Hospitals Report as High Performing in the Treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- American Heart Association's Gold Plus Get With The Guidelines® – Stroke
- Select 2000 Diversity Champion Award for Diversity Equity and Inclusion
- Account of the Year for Morrison Healthcare's O'Brian Division

Read more about these highlights on the following pages ...

I'm personally happy with the results from our first Diversity Equity and Inclusion Survey sponsored by UNC Health. We scored the highest among all UNC Health facilities in overall satisfaction with our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion climate, and we scored second highest on the question regarding our teammates' sense of belonging at Blue Ridge. These are exciting results, and we want our teammates to feel like Blue Ridge is their second home, where they can bring their best selves each day.

As we move forward, there will be other opportunities and challenges as we navigate the ever-changing healthcare landscape and the needs of our community. I know that Blue Ridge will meet these with confidence, grace, and purpose. We will continue to have a positive impact on the community, the families we serve, and those who need us.

Sincerely,

Kathy C. Bailey

Our Leadership

UNC HEALTH BLUE RIDGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



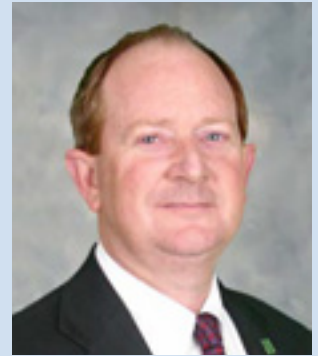
Michael Bridges
Chairman
President and CEO
Bridgeway Solutions



M.H. (Mac) McCrary
Vice Chairman
Retired
Wachovia Bank



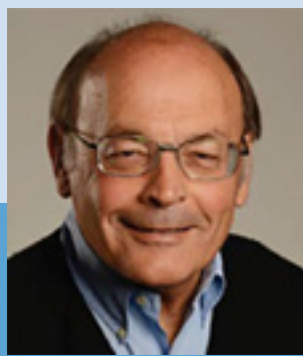
Sherrod Salsbury,
Secretary
Retired - Shadowline
Manufacturing Co.



Jeff Carswell
Treasurer
Executive
First Citizens



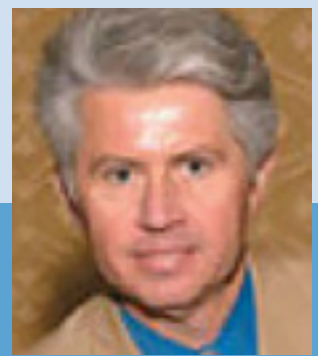
David Bennett
President and CEO
E.J. Victor Furniture



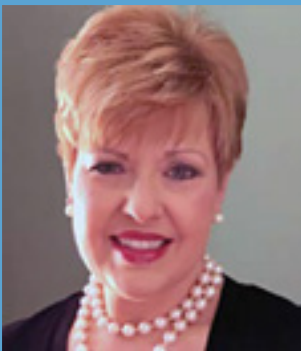
John Branstrom
Financial advisor
MassMutual Carolinas



Andrew Brant, MD
Pathologist
UNC Health Blue Ridge



Alan Griffin
President
Griffin Contractors Inc.



Susan Haire
Partner
Starnes Aycock
Law Firm



Gandhari Loomis, DO
Family Physician
Table Rock Family
Medicine



Allen VanNoppen
President
VanNoppen Marketing



Tea Yang
Values and
Culture Director
The Industrial
Commons.

Senior Leaders

LEADERSHIP AT UNC HEALTH BLUE RIDGE



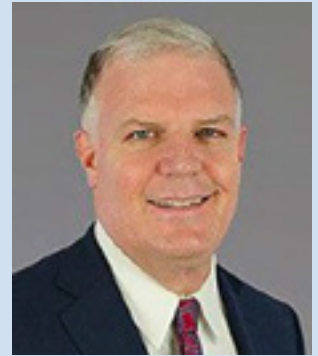
Kathy C. Bailey, RN, MPH, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer



Jon Mercer, FACHE
Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President of Operations



Pat Moll
Chief Financial Officer



Thomas (Thom) L. Eure
Senior Vice President of Corporate Services and General Counsel



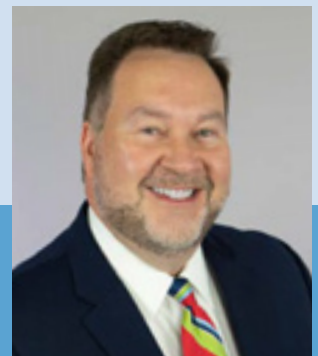
Anthony Frank, Jr., MD, MBA, FACEP, CPE
Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer



Andrew Thomas, FACHE
Chief Ambulatory Officer
VP Medical Group



Barry Nelson, MSN, RN, CENP
Vice President of Nursing/Chief Nurse Executive



Mark Pittman
Chief Human Resources Officer,
Vice President of Human Resources



Our Locations

HOSPITALS

- 1 UNC Health Blue Ridge – Morganton
2201 S. Sterling Street, Morganton
- 2 UNC Health Blue Ridge – Valdese
720 Malcolm Boulevard,
Rutherford College

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

- 3 Grace Ridge Retirement Community
500 Lenoir Road, Morganton

FAMILY MEDICINE

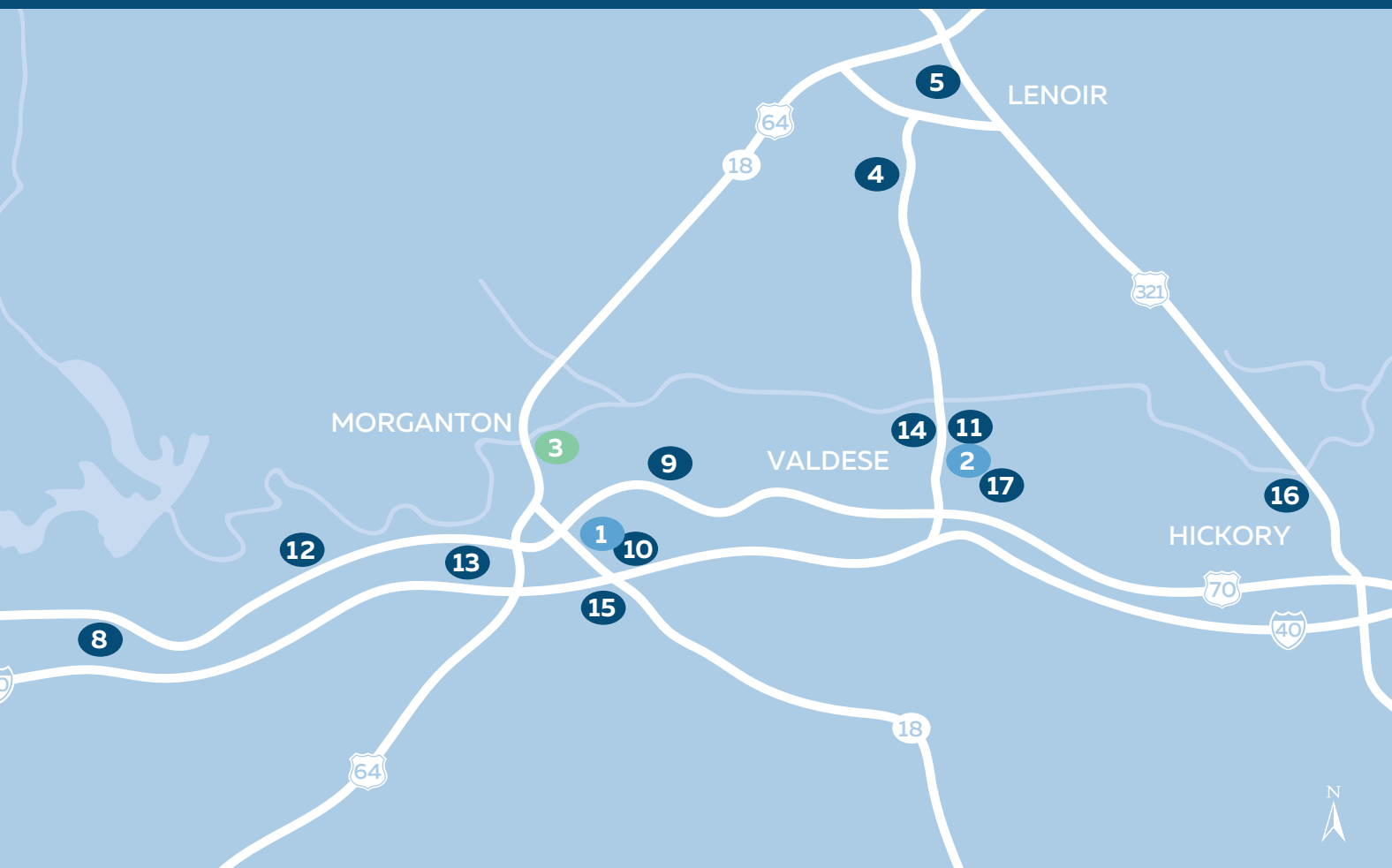
- 4 Cajah's Mountain Medical Associates
and Express Care
1766 Connelly Springs Road, Lenoir
- 5 Lenoir Family Medicine and Express Care
Medical Office Building-Lenoir
1208 Hickory Blvd. S.W., Lenoir
- 6 McDowell Family Practice
20 S. Medical Court Drive, Marion
- 7 McDowell Medical Associates-Marion and
McDowell Express Care
2293 Sugar Hill Road, Marion
- 8 McDowell Medical Associates-Nebo
5920 US 70 East, Nebo
- 9 Drexel Medical Practice
2659 US 70 East, Valdese
- 10 Family Medical Associates
Medical Office Building-Morganton
2209 S. Sterling St., Morganton
- 11 Rutherford College Medical Care Center
Medical Office Building-Valdese
730 Malcolm Blvd., Rutherford College
- 11 Valdese Medical Associates
and Express Care
Medical Office Building-Valdese
730 Malcolm Blvd., Rutherford College
- 12 Table Rock Family Medicine
301 Linville Street, Morganton
- 10 Mountain Valley Health Center
117 Foothills Drive, Morganton
- 13 Blue Ridge Urgent Care-Morganton
695 West Fleming Dr., Morganton

SPECIALTIES

- 14 Alan F. Jacks, MD Surgery
845 Malcolm Blvd., Rutherford College
- 15 Carolina Digestive Care
107-B Mica Ave., Morganton
- 10 Blue Ridge ENT and Allergy
352B E. Parker Road, Morganton

- 10 Blue Ridge Infectious Disease
117-D Foothills Drive, Morganton
- 1 Blue Ridge Radiology-Morganton
2201 S. Sterling St., Morganton
- 2 Blue Ridge Radiology-Valdese
720 Malcolm Blvd., Valdese
- 1 J.I. Patel, MD Surgery
2201 S. Sterling St., Morganton
- 2 UNC Health Blue Ridge Cancer Center
720 Malcolm Blvd., Valdese
- 16 Blue Ridge Digestive Health-Hickory
Medical Office Building-Hickory
2134 14th Ave. Circle NW, Hickory
- 16 Blue Ridge Radiology-Hickory
Medical Office Building-Hickory
2134 14th Ave. Circle NW, Hickory
- 16 Women's Health-Hickory
Medical Office Building-Hickory
2134 14th Ave. Circle NW, Hickory
- 16 Pain Management-Hickory
Medical Office Building-Hickory
2134 14th Ave. Circle NW, Hickory
- 5 Blue Ridge Cardiology-Lenoir
Medical Office Building-Lenoir
1208 Hickory Blvd. S.W., Lenoir
- 5 Blue Ridge Digestive Health-Lenoir
Medical Office Building-Lenoir
1208 Hickory Blvd. S.W., Lenoir
- 5 Blue Ridge Geriatrics-Lenoir
Medical Office Building-Lenoir
1208 Hickory Blvd. S.W., Lenoir
- 5 Blue Ridge Urology-Lenoir
Medical Office Building-Lenoir
1208 Hickory Blvd. S.W., Lenoir
- 7 Blue Ridge Cardiology
Medical Office Building-Marion
2293 Sugar Hill Road, Marion
- 7 Blue Ridge Geriatrics-Marion
Medical Office Building-Marion
2293 Sugar Hill Road, Marion
- 7 Blue Ridge Pulmonary and
Sleep Medicine-Marion
Medical Office Building-Marion
2293 Sugar Hill Road, Marion
- 7 Blue Ridge Surgery-Marion
Medical Office Building-Marion
2293 Sugar Hill Road, Marion
- 7 Blue Ridge Digestive Health-Marion
Medical Office Building-Marion
2293 Sugar Hill Road, Marion





- | | |
|---|---|
| 7 Women's Health-Marion
Medical Office Building-Marion
2293 Sugar Hill Road, Marion | 10 Blue Ridge Urology-Morganton
Medical Office Building-Morganton
2209 S. Sterling St., Morganton |
| 10 Blue Ridge Cardiology-Morganton
Medical Office Building-Morganton
2209 S. Sterling St., Morganton | 10 Women's Health-Morganton
Medical Office Building-Morganton
2209 S. Sterling St., Morganton |
| 10 Blue Ridge Digestive Health-Morganton
Medical Office Building-Morganton
2209 S. Sterling St., Morganton | 11 Blue Ridge Digestive Health-Valdese
Medical Office Building-Valdese
730 Malcolm Blvd., Rutherford College |
| 10 Blue Ridge Geriatrics-Morganton
Medical Office Building-Morganton
2209 S. Sterling St., Morganton | 11 Blue Ridge Surgery-Valdese
Medical Office Building-Valdese
730 Malcolm Blvd., Rutherford College |
| 10 Blue Ridge Neurology
Medical Office Building-Morganton
2209 S. Sterling St., Morganton | 11 Blue Ridge Urology-Valdese
Medical Office Building-Valdese
730 Malcolm Blvd., Rutherford College |
| 10 Blue Ridge Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine
Medical Office Building-Morganton
2209 S. Sterling St., Morganton | 2 Pain Management-Valdese
720 Malcolm Blvd., 4th floor, Valdese |
| 10 Blue Ridge Surgery-Morganton
Medical Office Building-Morganton
2209 S. Sterling St., Morganton | 2 The Comprehensive Wound Healing Center at Valdese
722 Malcolm Blvd., Valdese |
| | 17 Women's Health-Valdese
110 Hilltop Street, Rutherford College |

Project Forward



NEW PATIENT TOWER | MORGANTON



NEW CANCER CENTER | VALDESE

Project Forward



MORGANTON

- \$118 million 6-story patient tower with 220,560 SF
- New Emergency Department
- New Ambulance Bay
- Rooftop Helipad
- 30 Critical Care beds
- Groundbreaking held June 2022
- Projected to be completed early 2024

Hospital Construction Projects Bring New Level of Care

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Burke County in 2020, UNC Health Blue Ridge put future building plans on hold indefinitely. "Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we focused our attention on taking care of critically ill patients," says Kathy Bailey, President and CEO of UNC Health Blue Ridge.

As the number of patients who were deathly ill from COVID began to ebb, restrictions eased, and our thoughts again turned toward the future. This time, plans would take into account the October 2021 affiliation with UNC Health and its focus on community and rural healthcare.

Blue Ridge announced last year that over the next two years, it would invest \$156 million into "Project Forward: Your Hospital, Your Future" with construction and infrastructure upgrades for both Morganton and Valdese campuses.

"This is a dream that was not decided last week; it

wasn't decided last year; it wasn't decided three years ago," said J. Michael Bridges, President of the Board of Directors. "It's been something a lot of good, dedicated people have worked long and diligently on making a plan."

Construction started in June on a \$118 million, six-story tower to the right of the Morganton hospital near the Emergency entrance. The 220,560-square-foot addition will house a newly expanded Emergency Department, 30 critical care beds, and a rooftop helipad. Three floors will be used immediately; the other three will be shell floors that can be outfitted for future use.

"When finished, this new building will stand as a loving memorial to those who have gone before, as proof that we are building upon a firm foundation so that future generations may reap the rewards," Bridges said. "Our community looks to UNC Health Blue Ridge for high-quality care, for the expertise

Project Forward



VALDESE

- \$38 million, 34,272 SF Cancer Center
- Two linear accelerators
- 18 Infusion chairs
- 6 Private infusion rooms
- Multiple exam pods
- Therapy and group space
- Groundbreaking held May 2022
- Projected to be completed late 2023



of the care teams, and for advanced technology. I'm proud to say we provide that, and I'm proud to have been a part of it."

The new critical care rooms are nearly double the size of those available now which date back to 1983. "During the pandemic, we asked a lot of this old building and it served us well," Bailey says. "But we did not forget the lessons we learned during this pandemic and our new building reflects that. Our existing ICU has only two airborne infection isolation rooms but the new unit will have 10. In addition, we have designed the space to achieve a negative pressure wing if needed for future pandemics – that I hope never comes again."

Negative pressure is needed to prevent airborne microorganisms in the room from entering the hallway or corridors. This form of infection control was used extensively during COVID but can also be used with measles, tuberculosis, and

other airborne diseases. The air pressure inside the hospital room is lower than the air pressure outside the room so when the door is open, contaminated air will not escape.

The rooftop helipad will be more convenient for patients who need to be transferred for more specialized care. Currently, patients have to ride in an ambulance to a landing pad behind the hospital. Bailey says the helipad on the roof is another step for UNC Health Blue Ridge to become a western region hub for UNC Health.

"This project is ambitious and advanced for this area," Bailey said. "It shows we are moving forward and committed to providing the very best in healthcare in this region. I am excited about our future. I hope the community is, too."

Chief Operating Officer Jon Mercer says plans for this particular project have been in the works since 2020. "A lot of time has gone into developing these

plans," Mercer said. "We have taken input from a diverse group of teammates. They have been active participants in the planning and design."

Parts of the future construction plans finished up in 2022. The Professional Office Building that was located to the left of the hospital has been demolished and replaced with a gated parking lot for employees. The sixth floor of the Medical Office Building in front of the hospital was renovated for the Cardiopulmonary Rehab Department. A ribbon-cutting for that new space was held in May 2022. Some departments, such as the lab and pharmacy inside the hospital, have received upgrades as well.

Construction on the Morganton campus is expected to wrap up in the spring of 2024.

"As the Chief Nurse Executive, I could not be more excited about what this new addition will mean to my team," said Barry Nelson, MSN, RN. "The nursing team could not be more thankful for the investment that this organization has made, and we truly appreciate the support."

As Bailey said during the ground-breaking ceremony in June 2022, "You may not recognize this hospital in the next decade or beyond but be assured that it will remain true to the legacies set by the founders and others who have come before us."

On the Valdese campus, most of the funds are going to build a \$38 million, 34,272-square-foot Cancer Center. Officials broke ground there in May 2022.

"COVID may have put the actual implementation on hold for a short time, but even so, this campus was a beacon of hope for many during the dark days of the pandemic," Bailey said. "Our infusion center provided life-saving monoclonal antibodies to folks to help them fight off the virus. In all, we treated more than 2,000 patients."

The new Cancer Center will have innovative examination, consultation, and treatment rooms for Medical and Radiation Oncology, a new infusion therapy and treatment area, and space for education, support, and group therapy. Two new Linear Accelerators, CT Simulator, and a Superficial X-ray – all essential in treating cancer – will be

added as well. To address the more spiritual aspect of healing, a serenity garden will provide an area of respite for patients, families, and caregivers.

"Everyone has been touched by cancer," Bridges said. "Whether personally or holding the hand of spouse, parent, child or a dear friend as they walk this path. This is our way of shortening that path, making that journey a little easier for those impacted by this disease. We will be even better equipped to deliver technologically advanced cancer treatment right here close to home."

The Valdese cancer center already has an outstanding reputation. In 1971, then known as Valdese General Hospital, it became the first private hospital in North Carolina to gain approval for its cancer program from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons. The cancer center has maintained that accreditation continuously ever since.

"It's remarkable how such a small hospital has been able to touch the lives of so many. You know everyone at some point has been touched by cancer either themselves, their families, or their friends," said Dr. Greg Jones, a radiation oncologist who came to Valdese in 1992. "When this new cancer center is complete, I know our community and region will be able to receive the high-quality cancer treatment that they deserve right here, where they will have access to some of the best doctors, nurses, and health care professionals in the nation."



Project Forward

TOPPING OUT CEREMONY LEAVES LASTING LEGACY

Brasfield & Gorrie construction partners took part in signing the last steel beam to be placed on the new cancer center as part of a Topping Out Ceremony on October 20. At the event, Chief Operating Officer Jon Mercer said, "As I watched many of you signing that top beam today, I can tell that you know we are not just building an ordinary structure. It's more than that. This building and especially the people who work here will have an impact on our patients and their families for generations to come by offering a full range of healing and supportive techniques to help patients."

TOPPING OUT | VALDESE

LAYING OF THE STONES CEREMONY

Our teammates at the Cancer Center held a moving ceremony called "Laying of the Stones." During the ceremony on September 30, led by our Chaplain Francisco Risso, participants placed engraved rocks in a specially prepared hole in the foundation. "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control," Risso said. "We must take for our own and use each of these gifts to continue our work in the healing ministry."

LAYING OF THE STONES | VALDESE

Our Finances

FINANCIAL, WORKFORCE AND AT A GLANCE

2021 TOTAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT



2022 Community Benefits*

Operating Costs	YTD 2022 \$146,732,591 2021 \$286,969,457
Total Community Benefits	YTD 2022 \$37,290,411 2021 \$72,325,544
Total of Charity, Uninsured, and Bad Debt	YTD 2022 \$12,143,597 2021 \$20,015,500
Charity Care Cost	YTD 2022 \$6,019,841 2021 \$9,480,569
Uninsured Discount Cost	YTD 2022 \$2,488,225 2021 \$4,097,815
Bad debt costs by patients who do not pay for services	YTD 2022 \$3,635,531 2021 \$6,437,116
Losses incurred by serving Medicare patients	YTD 2022 \$24,520,302 2021 \$35,633,351
Losses incurred by serving Medicaid patients	YTD 2022 \$1,305,166 [†] 2021 \$13,560,293

* (rounded to nearest dollar) As part of the transition to UNC Health, Blue Ridge has moved to a June 30 fiscal year-end. Provided here are Calendar Year 2021 numbers and Year to Date through June 2022 numbers.

[†] Beginning in July 2021, NC moved to a Medicaid Managed Care model for providing Medicaid coverage. The base rates for Medicaid Managed Care now includes MRI/GAP (Medicaid Reimbursement Initiative/Gap Assessment Program) amounts. Previously these amounts were excluded from the Medicaid calculations. For 2022 Medicaid reflects a gain which is the result of the higher base rate.

Our Numbers

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2022

2022 Community Benefits*

Costs of community-building activities and other services that meet a strong community need, but do not pay for themselves and would normally be cut based on financial considerations alone

YTD 2022 **\$137,994**
2021 **\$235,180**

Other Community Benefits YTD 2022 **\$1,793,684**
2021 **\$2,881,220**

Total value of uncompensated care and other community benefits YTD 2022 **\$37,290,411**
2021 **\$72,325,544**

Total value of uncompensated care and other community benefits as a percentage of operating expenses..... YTD 2022 **26.4%**
2021 **25.2%**

Number of patients classified as "charity" YTD 2022 **4,721**
2021 **6,698**

Number of uninsured patients served..... YTD 2022 **3,590**
2021 **5,490**

Number of Medicare and Medicaid patients served YTD 2022 **40,401**
2021 **81,724**

Number of Emergency Department visits YTD 2022 **22,598**
2021 **44,686**

* (rounded to nearest dollar) As part of the transition to UNC Health, Blue Ridge has moved to a June 30 fiscal year-end. Provided here are Calendar Year 2021 numbers and Year to Date through June 2022 numbers.

Medicare and Medicaid programs do not reimburse hospitals in a manner that compensates for the actual cost of treating their beneficiaries. Hospitals cannot turn these patients away or negotiate higher reimbursements. Government payers recognize this fact and expect hospitals to make up the difference through efficiencies and from other revenue sources. The financing of this unpaid government debt is considered a community benefit.

Our Numbers

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2022

1,566

Inpatient
Surgeries

4,413

Outpatient
Surgeries

Number of Surgeries Performed

49,475

Number of Emergency
Department Visits

240,812

Number of Clinical
Visits (BRMG)

946

Number of Deliveries

79%
FULL TIME

21%
Part Time
and PRN

Status

Our Workforce

Workforce by Role

Registered Nurses.....	398	■
Physicians and Advanced Care Practitioners	226	■
Employed Physicians	107	■
Employed NP or Midwife	48	■
Employed PA	24	■
Employed Residents.....	28	■

1,728
Total Employees

Our Workforce

EMPLOYEE SNAPSHOT

Workforce by Role

RN	22%	
Professional/Management	12%	
Patient Care Assistants	6%	
Physicians	8%	
LPN	2%	
Clerical Admin Support	25%	
Financial	1%	
Allied Health	21%	
Technical Support	1%	
Service Support	1%	



**41.75
YEARS**

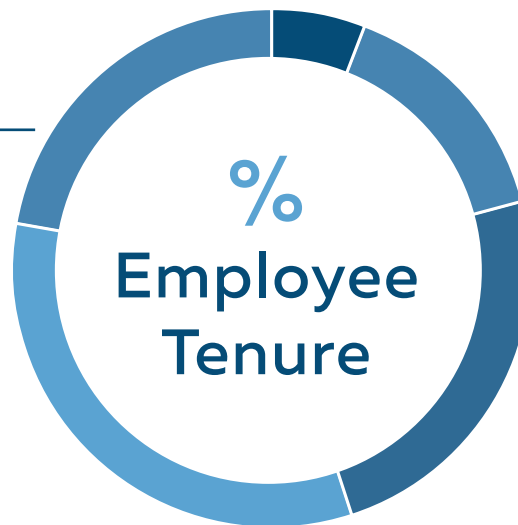
Average age

**6.2
YEARS**

Average Years
of Service

Employee Tenure

20+ years	6%	
11-20 years	15%	
5-10 years	24%	
1-4 years	33%	
Less than 1 year	22%	



7%
of the workforce

is near or at
retirement
(62+)

Race/Ethnicity

American Indian or Alaska Native	.06%	
Asian	3.15%	
Black or African American	3.33%	
Hispanic or Latino	2.10%	
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	.18%	
Two or more races	.53%	
White	85.9%	
Other/Unknown	.05%	



80%
Female

20%
Male

Commitment to Excellence

"Motivation is doing what the head tells us needs to be done. Inspiration is doing what the heart tells us needs to be done. While you were certainly motivated to get the essential actions done I was most impressed with your inspiration to do it for the greater good of the patients we serve." – Kathy C. Bailey

Quality Awards

- We scored an "A" for both the spring and fall reports from Leapfrog.
- We earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for our Spine Center.
- We earned a 4-Star Rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- We were named in U.S. News Best Hospitals Report as High Performing in the Treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- We earned the American Heart Association's Gold Plus Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke

All A's on Leapfrog Report Cards – UNC Health Blue Ridge earned an "A" for the spring and fall 2022 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, according to the Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization committed to health care quality and safety.

"The safety grade recognizes our team's heroic efforts over the last two years. Throughout the pandemic, they have fought for patient safety and the reduction of avoidable harm," said Kathy Bailey, President and CEO of UNC Health Blue Ridge. "We are very proud of this achievement and all the work our teammates put into taking care of patients every day."

The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization with a 10-year history of assigning letter grades to general hospitals throughout the United States, based on a hospital's ability to prevent medical errors and harm to patients. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent, and free to the public. Hospital Safety Grade results are based on more than 30 national performance measures and are updated each fall and spring.



Spine Center Earns Gold Seal from The Joint Commission –

UNC Health Blue Ridge has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for the

Spine Center by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a healthcare organization's commitment to providing safe and quality patient care. The certification recognizes healthcare organizations that provide clinical programs across the continuum of care for the spine. The certification evaluates how organizations use clinical outcomes and performance measures to identify opportunities to improve care and educate and prepare patients and their caregivers for discharge.

Blue Ridge's Spine Center of Excellence underwent a rigorous review where a team of Joint Commission reviewers evaluated compliance with related certification standards. These standards are developed in consultation with healthcare experts and providers, measurement experts, and patients.

"We have put a lot of time and effort into this certification to assure patients of our quality standards," said Jill Ryan, CPHQ, CPPS, Director of Accreditation and Regulations at UNC Health Blue Ridge. "The excellence of our spine surgeon, Jason Zook, MD, and our team of clinicians was validated through this survey experience."

The team particularly worked on creating more substantial educational materials for patients, establishing a straightforward process for managing patients allergic to penicillin-based antibiotics, and pain control for post-operative patients.

U.S. News "Best Hospitals" Report

UNC Health Blue Ridge rated "High Performing" in one adult procedure and condition

US News Best Hospitals Report – UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill is ranked nationally across four adult specialties in US News' 2022-23 "Best Hospitals" report and UNC Health Blue Ridge was rated high performing in the treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

4 Stars from CMS – UNC Health Blue Ridge earned 4 out of 5 stars from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The overall star rating for hospitals summarizes quality information on important topics, such as readmissions and deaths after heart attacks or pneumonia. The overall rating, between 1 and 5 stars, summarizes a variety of measures across 5 areas of quality into a single-star rating for each hospital. The 5 measure groups include:

- Mortality
- Safety of Care
- Readmission
- Patient Experience
- Timely and Effective Care

The overall rating shows how well each hospital performed on an identified set of quality measures compared to other hospitals in the U.S. The more stars, the better a hospital performed on the available quality measures. CMS developed the program to help consumers make more informed decisions by giving them a way to compare hospitals based on quality ratings. "I am very pleased with our rating and the excellent care we provide," said Dr. Anthony Frank, MBA, FACEP, CPE, Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer. "Our teammates and physicians are committed to providing the best care and ensuring that patients and their families choose UNC Health Blue Ridge."

Commitment to Excellence

AHA Recognizes Stroke Care – UNC Health Blue Ridge continues to be successful in applying evidence-based protocols in dealing with stroke patients. The American Heart Association and American Stroke Association recently awarded Blue Ridge a Get with the Guidelines Stroke GOLD PLUS Award.

As a participant in Get With The Guidelines programs, Blue Ridge qualified for the award by demonstrating how their organization has committed to improving quality care and minimizing the long-term effects of a stroke.

In addition to following treatment guidelines, Get With The Guidelines participants also educate patients to help them manage their health and recovery at home.

"We are committed to improving patient care by following to the latest treatment guidelines and streamlining processes to ensure timely and proper care for strokes," said Sarah Van Horn, RN, Certification Coordinator at Blue Ridge. "Get With The Guidelines-Stroke makes it easier for our teams to put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis to improve outcomes for stroke patients. The end goal is to ensure more people in our community experience longer, healthier lives."

This year, UNC Health Blue Ridge received these achievement awards:

Stroke Gold Plus

- Target: Stroke Honor Roll – "Hospitals achieving Time to Intravenous Thrombolytic

Therapy less than 60 minutes in 75 percent or more of applicable acute ischemic stroke patients to improve quality of patient care and outcomes."

- Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll – "Hospitals that qualify for Silver level or higher achievement award in Get With The Guidelines – Stroke and achieve an Overall Diabetes Cardiovascular Initiative Composite Score of greater than 80 percent."



Our Partnerships and Sponsorships



UNC Health Blue Ridge Helps EMS Roll Out New Service To Community – UNC Health Blue Ridge has provided EMS agencies in McDowell, Burke, and Caldwell with blood products so EMTs can administer blood in the field in case of traumatic injuries. Thank you to everyone who made this project happen. Our EMS partners were very appreciative.



Blue Ridge Greets NCSSM Students – In August, Blue Ridge Medical Group opened a new clinic on the campus of the Morganton campus of the North Carolina School of Science and Math to provide care to about 150 students.

Cleared to Compete Provides Free Physicals for Student-Athletes – UNC Health Blue Ridge had 233 students take advantage of getting a free sports participation physical that included EKGs. Three students received echocardiograms but no abnormality was found; one tested positive for eating disorder and met with the behavioral health team but no follow up needed; and seven athletes were not cleared and referred back to their primary care provider due to pre-existing medical conditions.



YMCA of Catawba Valley and UNC Health Blue Ridge Form Partnership

– UNC Health Blue Ridge has been unique in having its own medical wellness center. Now, the YMCA will begin managing Phifer Wellness Center.



Trauma Kits Provided to Burke County

Public Schools – UNC Health Blue Ridge, in partnership with Burke County Public Schools, provided compact trauma kits for each school in the system. The kits are equipped with tourniquets, compression bandages, and special gauze to prevent excessive blood loss. “We felt compelled to purchase these kits for our schools,” said Drew Thomas, Chief Ambulatory Officer and VP of the Medical Group. “These kits can be used if a child gets hurt in any situation, like playing sports or in an active shooter setting. We hope school personnel never have to use these, but it gives us peace of mind to know each school has one and can respond as quickly as possible in the event of life-threatening bleeding. A few seconds can be the difference between life and death.”

Our Partnerships and Sponsorships



Nursing and Other Departments Come Together to Make Christmas Bright – Instead of hosting a Christmas party, the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Council at UNC Health Blue Ridge chose to sponsor children for Christmas for a fourth consecutive year. Council members voted and unanimously decided that giving back to children in our community would be more meaningful and rewarding than hosting a party. All departments were invited to participate, and the response from departments was overwhelmingly positive. This year, we sponsored a record high of 62 children from Burke County Public Schools and children of teammates within the organization.



Emergency Department Gives Back – The emergency department staff at UNC Health Blue Ridge wanted to show support to their hospital colleagues in Texas after a school shooting in May killed 19 children and two adults. The team sent an “Emotional Support” basket to Uvalde Memorial Hospital ED. The note said, “From our Hospital to Yours, Our hearts are with you!”

Team Creates Necessity Bags for Homeless –

Three departments at UNC Health Blue Ridge – Radiology, Lab and Cardiopulmonary – partnered to gather items for Burke United Christian Ministries to give to the homeless. Thanks to a Facebook post, Crystal Johnson and Nancie Taylor organized the effort after recognizing the need. More than 50 bags were collected and taken to BUCM. The bags included items such as deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, socks, nail clippers, sunscreen, wash cloths, soap, snacks, razors, feminine products, encouraging literature, etc. The items were placed in plastic bags and then into backpacks adorned with reflective tape. Once the bags were prepared, several team members prayed over them.



Relay for Life Sponsor – We were proud sponsors of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event that combined four counties into one event.

Our Partnerships and Sponsorships

A Muddy Good Time

– UNC Health Blue Ridge sponsored and had a team participating in the Rotary Club of Morganton's Ohana Mud Run in August. Ohana means family and our Blue Ridge family got down and dirty! The one-mile obstacle course is a great team-building event for our community. Funds go back into lifting the community, foster care support, local food and clothing needs, rising youth scholarships, and more.



ASU Game Day Sponsor – For the third year, UNC Health Blue Ridge was a Game Day Sponsor for Appalachian State University football. The sponsorship included scoreboard banners, wraps and more featuring our logo prominently.

Hickory Crawdads Minor League Baseball – UNC Health Blue Ridge sponsored the Hickory Crawdads this year as the team's hospital of choice. As part of our sponsorship, we provided coverage for the First Aid Room during April and got to spotlight our system on the outfield jumbo screen. In May, we promoted Stroke Awareness Month. We provided coverage for home games every other month during the Minor League Baseball Season.



Blue Ridge Hosts Students – UNC Health Blue Ridge took part in Career and Technical Education camps for students in cooperation with Burke County Public Schools. Our camp was called Camp Hero. The students learned about the different career opportunities in healthcare. They participated in activities focusing on physical therapy and surgical services.

Our Partnerships and Sponsorships



Sponsorships - UNC Health Blue Ridge was proud to be one of the main sponsors of the Waldensian Festival in Valdese in August and the Historic Morganton Festival in September. We also participated in the Mountain Glory Festival in Marion, where we gave out free flu shots (even to Big Foot), the Burke County Health Department Family Fall Festival in Morganton, Latinx Health Fair in Morganton, Western Piedmont Community College employee health fair, Senior Center Health Fair and more. We have many wonderful teammates who are willing to be our outreach ambassadors!

Blue Ridge Volunteer Highlights

50
Active Volunteers
at the close
of 2022

10,424
**Volunteer
Service Hours**
in 2022

221
Service Hours
for volunteer
chaplains in
2022

(Does not include Grace Ridge Retirement Community volunteer numbers. Those are included in the Grace Ridge section.)

Volunteers are critical to UNC Health Blue Ridge's success and play a vital role at both the Morganton and Valdese campuses, Grace Ridge Retirement Community, and some physician offices. In addition to other duties, the volunteers run the gift shops and take care of the buying, selling, inventory and restocking. The profits from the gift shops and special sales held throughout the year are used to address the needs of patients, purchase equipment and provide college scholarships for healthcare students.

Last year, the volunteers donated \$19,028:

- Lights of Love sponsor
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors Benefit Gala sponsor
- Lake James Dragon Boat Festival sponsor
- Putting for the Pink sponsor
- Floral arrangements provided at no cost to patients
- Gift shop merchandise provided to patients and families at no cost
- Volunteer hosted "Sweet Treat" social as part of teammate engagement
- Code Lavender and teammate support initiatives



They awarded six \$1,000 scholarships to local individuals who were rising first-year college students pursuing careers within the healthcare field. These scholarships are offered to Burke County high school graduates, Burke County home-schooled graduates, sons and daughters of UNC Health Blue Ridge employees, and sons and daughters of the Blue Ridge Volunteers.



Expedition – Comfort. Cuddle. Cope. Companion. It's a time-honored tradition for UNC Health Blue Ridge volunteers to provide stuffed animals during the holiday season for staff in the Emergency Departments to distribute to children being treated in the emergency room. This year, with donations made by not only volunteers; but teammates and Grace Ridge Retirement Community residents as well, volunteers were able to share a substantial number of stuffed animals.

Graduate Medical Education Highlights



The UNC Health Blue Ridge Internal Medicine Residency program is a small training program designed to provide broad-based training for physicians who want to practice in rural areas. The program promotes growth in the core competencies through the three years of training with an emphasis on both inpatient and outpatient general internal medicine. First-year residents provide the majority of direct patient care, while second- and third-year residents assume increasing responsibilities of teaching and supervising.

Currently, the program accepts eight residents per year through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).

The residents practice at Mountain Valley Health Clinic, a continuity clinic located on the UNC Health Blue Ridge campus. The ambulatory facility houses a phlebotomy lab, a pharmacy-run anticoagulation clinic, and also has a pharmacist on-site during a portion of the week. It also employs a patient care coordinator to assist patients with transportation, paperwork and other issues. The residency clinic works closely with the transition of care team in the hospital and runs a high-risk hospital follow-up clinic aimed at improving readmissions.



- 8 Internal Medicine
- 2 GI Fellows
- 1 Geriatrics Fellow

DESIGNATED INSTITUTIONAL OFFICIAL

Anthony J. Frank, Jr., MD, MBA, FACEP, CPE
Chief Medical Office
Senior Vice President,
Medical Affairs

INTERNAL MEDICINE FACULTY

Rahul Sampath, MD, FACP
Program Director

Carolyn Gordon, MD
Associate Program Director

David Burnette, DO
Associate Program Director

Ellen Collett, MD, MPH
Core Faculty

Golnush Sharafsaleh, MD, MS, FAAFP, AGSF
Geriatrics Fellowship Program
Director/Core Faculty

Benjamin Field, DO
Core Faculty

2022 INTERNAL MEDICINE GRADUATES

Ali Ayyash, MD

Allergy and Immunology Fellowship
Mt. Sinai Hospital
New York, NY

Jessica Boldridge, MD

Nephrology Fellowship
Brown University
Providence, RI

David Brooker, DO

3rd Year Chief
Nephrology Fellowship
Allegheny Health Network
Pittsburgh, PA

Anmoldeep Ghuman, DO

Hospitalist
Fauquier Hospital
Warrenton, VA

Laura McCourt, DO

Geriatric Fellowship
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

David Moore, DO

Hospice/Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program,
University Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Steven Tilem, DO

Hospitalist
Catawba Valley Medical Center
Hickory, NC

Samuel Werne, DO

Hospitalist
IU Health Ball Memorial
Muncie, IN



Graduate Medical Education

GASTROENTEROLOGY FELLOWSHIP FACULTY

Gerald W. Mank III, MD

Program Director

Suneel Mohammed, MD

Associate Program Director

Nathaniel Ryan Krogel, DO

Core Faculty

Matthew T. Mishoe, DO

Core Faculty

GERIATRICS FELLOWSHIP FACULTY

Golnush Sharafsaleh, MD, MS, FAAFP, AGSF

Program Director

Anne Gonzalez, MD

Core Faculty

Edward Plyler, MD

Core Faculty

Jayme McKenzie Cannon, DO

Core Faculty

Allison Combs, DO

Core Faculty

GASTROENTEROLOGY FELLOWSHIP

Our Gastroenterology Medicine Fellowship is open to Internal Medicine doctors from ACGME or AOA residencies completed within the United States. Doctors in the program work at the gastroenterology clinic, located on the UNC Health Blue Ridge Morganton campus. Each fellow has a weekly clinic session where they will participate in establishing care and managing chronic gastrointestinal diseases with a subset of patients assigned to them. Additionally, they also participate in clinics with attendings in ambulatory settings in Marion, Valdese, and Morganton.

2022 GASTROENTEROLOGY FELLOWSHIP GRADUATES

Kellen Hipp, DO

Gastroenterologist
Southern Maine
Healthcare
Biddeford, ME

Dustin Kilpatrick, DO

Gastroenterologist
UNC Health Blue
Ridge
Morganton, NC

GERIATRIC MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP

The one-year fellowship program was created to help compassionate, patient centered physicians who want to work in rural and under-served areas. Geriatric fellows see firsthand the difficulties faced by patients lacking access to health care and the direct impact on quality of life, disease burden, mortality and the community. Further, our fellows gain an understanding of the barriers faced by physicians in rural communities and navigating care.

2022 GERIATRIC MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP GRADUATE

John Kriese, DO

Geriatrician
Blount Senior Care Partners
Maryville, TN



Blessing the hands ceremony with Chaplain Dennis Stamper

Graduate Medical Education

GME News

GME Awards – The Graduate Medical Education program leadership team presented awards to outstanding residents and preceptors:

Intern of the Year:

Kasey Shallenburg, DO

PGY-2 Engagement Award:

Muhannad Kurtom, DO

PGY-3 Excellence in Mentorship Award:

David Moore, DO

Lecturer of the Year: **David Burnette, DO**

Hospitalist Preceptor of the Year:

Michael Drewno, MD

Specialist Preceptor of the Year:

Steven Isserman, MD

Excellence in Scholarship Award (faculty selected): **Rachel Belliveau, DO**

Resident Leadership Award (faculty selected): **William Costello, DO**

David Burnette, DO, has been promoted to Associate Program Director for Graduate Medical Education effective February 1, 2022. His new position involves assisting the Program Director, Dr. Rahul Sampath, in the overall administration of the internal medicine residency at UNC Health Blue Ridge, in addition to his existing duties as a physician and medical educator. He also will be overseeing the continued development and deployment of Blue Ridge's internal medicine curriculum in collaboration with Dr. Sampath and the GME office while ensuring compliance with requirements of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

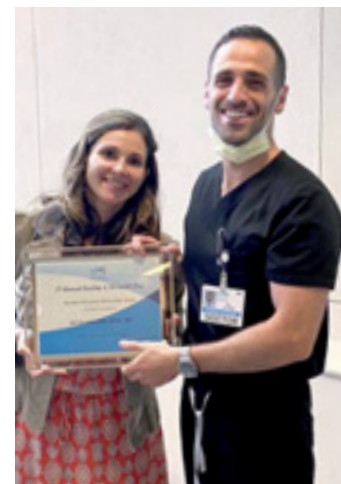


Four Earn Recognition at Quality and Research Day

The 5th Annual Quality and Research Day at UNC Health Blue Ridge was held June 10. The day is to celebrate research and improvement efforts across our system. One winner from each of the following categories: Research and Scholarly Activity, Quality and Process Improvement, and Case Presentation, will be chosen. Each year, the number of entries increases.

We had 14 submissions this year with Graduate Medical Education and teammate involvement. The A3s directly affected patient outcomes. The posters on display featured research, quality, and case presentations. Four physicians received recognition for their work:

- **Dr. William Costello** received the Resident Research Champion Award for his involvement and support on multiple projects this year.
- **Dr. Ali Ayyash** received the Resident Mentorship Award for assisting residents and faculty with research over the last three years.
- **Dr. Ed Bujold** received the Attending Research Mentorship Award for organizing the COVID virtual hospital research team, networking and connecting the team with the AAFP. He was keynote speaker at North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG), an organization of researchers in family medicine, primary care, and related fields, including epidemiology, the behavioral sciences, and health services research.
- **Dr. Gandhari Loomis** received the Attending Research Champion Award for her involvement with the COVID-19 research team, speaking at MAHEC and AHEC.



Grace Ridge Retirement Community

HIGHLIGHTS

125

Teammates

2022 RA Executive Council

President
Bob Mallory

Vice President
Jeanne Byrne

Secretary
Jean Horton

Treasurer
Loetta Haigler

Member-at-Large
Robert McNeely

Member-at-Large
John Greene

Member-at-Large
Carol Stephan

196

Residents

83%

Independent Living
Occupancy Rate



Vision Statement

Where dreams and expectations are reality.

Our Mission is to create a secure environment supportive of an individual's choices and preferred way of life. To uphold our mission, we live by these core values:

- We believe in being truthful with every interaction and adhering to high moral principles and professional standards.
- We believe in treating others with respect, courtesy, attentiveness and sensitivity, and we do so with a high level of enthusiasm.
- We believe a good mood is integral to wellness and key to enjoying your retirement.

Grace Ridge Retirement Community

UNC Health Blue Ridge has an unusual component to its system – a continuous care retirement community. Grace Ridge offers assisted living, a memory care support unit, and a skilled nursing facility.

Assisted Living

Access to 24/7 assistance in a secure setting

Memory Care

When special care and attention are needed to address memory and cognition challenges

Skilled Nursing

Access to 24/7 registered skilled nursing care for residents in our on-site care center for a few days or long-term care.



Excellence Award – Charity Elliott, Grace Ridge Social Worker, was awarded the UNC Health Blue Ridge Quarterly Excellence Award. She was nominated for her dedication to living out UNC Health Blue Ridge’s core values in the way she serves residents and supports staff.



Account of the Year – Grace Ridge Dining Services was named Morrison Healthcare’s “Systems Division” Account of the Year, one of five Account of the Year winners chosen from more than 950 accounts nationwide. “We have been extremely pleased with Grace Ridge Dining Services and have heard that residents are, too,” said Jon Mercer, Chief Operating Officer at UNC

Health Blue Ridge. “I’ve had the privilege of dining there on several occasions. They certainly make every meal feel like a fine dining experience.” Winners were selected based on performance metrics with a focus on patient safety and satisfaction. This year, Grace Ridge had a perfect safety claims record and a near-perfect health inspection score, all while completing a significant kitchen and dining room renovation and hosting numerous community and holiday events. “While we are proud to deliver the highest quality food and service,



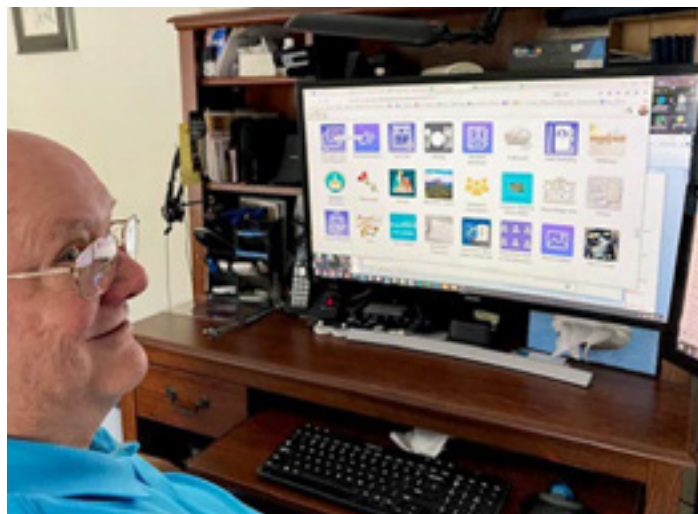
it's what goes on behind the scenes that truly makes our team top-notch," said Dorothy Clarke, Regional Vice President of Morrison Healthcare. "Exceeding client expectations. Increasing resident satisfaction. Maintaining a safe work environment. Retaining the most talented staff. That's what truly sets the Grace Ridge team apart."

Grace Ridge Residents Volunteer at Food Distribution

- In what is being called "seniors helping seniors," residents and staff at Grace Ridge have participated in monthly food distributions at the Outreach Center since July. They helped pack, organize, and load food boxes for about 100 Burke County residents each time. "It's a true example of 'friends and neighbors taking care of friends and neighbors,'" added Charity Elliott, a social worker at Grace Ridge Retirement Community in Morganton. "Our residents look forward to coming and the staff looks forward to coming and we're just happy to be here."



Jon Mercer, UNC Health Blue Ridge's chief operating officer, said while the partnership with The Outreach Center is new this year, the desire to keep residents connected to the community is not. "The residents at Grace Ridge are a wonderful part of our family," Mercer said. "While they have always been active in our community, we are proud to claim them as part of our 'neighbors helping neighbors' motto and thank them for their service."



App Designed for Lifecare Retirement Communities

- Communication is the key to a successful retirement community and Grace Ridge has it covered with an app designed for Lifecare Retirement Communities called Touchtown. This comprehensive community app aids administration and residents in the exchange of information. The app works on just about any modern device including smartphones, tablets, computers, and Amazon's Alexa. Information such as menus, activities, announcements, and much more is accessible to residents and staff almost instantly with the tap or click of an icon. Grace Ridge resident Bob Mallory was instrumental in researching and executing this project.

Educational Opportunities - Western Piedmont Community College and Grace Ridge Retirement Community partnered in fall 2022 to create new learning opportunities for residents. The first class was Joara History, following the Spanish conquistadors as they traveled through this area with concentration on Fort San Juan and Joara.

Volunteer Hours - Grace Ridge's group of volunteers were honored in April for giving a total of 3,738 service hours recorded from the following volunteers: Jane Avery, Sue Bormuth, Chris Bruinsma, Kim Crawford, Marita Eden, Betty Anne Elmore, Rosemary Enos, John Greene, Loetta Haigler, Roberta Hall, Coleen Haynes, Buddy Helton, Lee Helton, Jeanne Hendrickson, Nancy Hendrickson, Dick Hull, Betsy Humphreys, Kenneth Humphreys, Nancy Juliano, Ruth McNeely, Robert Malloy, Holly Restel, Ted Restel, Carol Scudder, and Marilyn Settlemeyer.

Grace Ridge Retirement Community



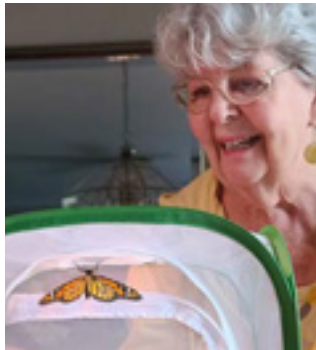
Pollinator Garden

Residents Establish Pollinator Garden

- When Grace Ridge residents noticed an unused area of the grounds, they asked the administration if they could install a pollinator garden to support bee and butterfly populations in 2019. In 2022, the garden was registered as an official "Pollinator Pitstop" with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation and as a "Monarch Waystation" with the organization Monarch Watch. Grace Ridge also became a sponsor of the NC Wildlife Federation's Butterfly Highway.

Residents Carol Hamilton and Lee and Buddy Helton were instrumental in registering the 10-foot by 40-foot garden which features native plants most attractive to pollinators, including goldenrod, milkweed, and sedum. More plants are added or deleted depending on how successful they are in attracting the bees and butterflies.

The pollinator garden led to another successful venture for residents – raising monarchs for release. Three residents raised and released 31 monarchs in



2022. Then, six residents participated in an "Adopt-a-Chrysalis." Over a five-day period, they watched the butterflies emerge and they personally released them in our pollinator garden.

Residents also learned about beekeeping and sampled local honey. In early 2022, a resident found an interesting caterpillar on a blueberry bush that turned out

to be a red-spotted purple butterfly larva. The resident collected the caterpillar, raised it in an indoor habitat, and released the butterfly into the pollinator garden.

"The transformation was amazing. We love our pollinator garden and were so excited about this first butterfly release of the year," said Lisa Miller, marketing and sales assistant, who earned status as "queen bee." As a hobbyist beekeeper, she held a honeybee party, educating residents about beekeeping and how to make honey. The party ended on a sweet note, with honey samples, bread and cookies.



Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation



Our Vision and Mission

Vision: To provide resources for healthy lives through inspired giving

Mission: To enhance the work of UNC Health Blue Ridge to improve the quality of life for those served

2022 Foundation Board

Travis Mull – Chair
Dr. D.J. Costic – Vice Chair
Mark Rostan – Treasurer
Amber Bernard-Gantt – Secretary
Catherine Bell
Thomas O. Blackwell “Tod”
Greg Bunner
Dr. Dustin Houser
Leah Link
Mary Katherine Mull
Elizabeth Thomas

Kathy Bailey – President and CEO of UNC Health Blue Ridge

Traci Riebel – Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation Executive Director

Dr. Patricia Amoako – Treasurer, UNC Health Blue Ridge Medical Staff Board

Ed Pickert – Member, UNC Health Blue Ridge Volunteer Advisory Committee

BRHC Foundation Community Members

Alison Azbell, Janna Kropelnicki, Kelly Messenheimer, Tal Stephanides, Jean VanNoppen

UNC Health Blue Ridge support provided by:

Thom Eure – Senior Vice President of Corporate Services and General Counsel
Barry Nelson – Vice President of Nursing/Chief Nurse Executive
Traci Clark – Controller

Highlights

Total revenue for 2022 events:

Pro-Am Invitational Golf Tournament	\$66,500
Putting for the Pink	\$19,800
Neighbors Helping Neighbors	
Benefit Gala	\$203,000
Lights of Love	\$24,200

HOPE (Helping Our Patients and Employees)

Campaign a Success – HOPE (Helping Our Patients and Employees) Campaign a Success – The 2022 Employee Giving Campaign was a great success thanks to teammates’ support. The breakdown for each fund is listed below:

Granting HOPE	\$69,111.33
Patient Assistance Fund	\$40,005.33
Project Forward	\$17,477.16
United Way	\$ 15,076.17
Other Funds	\$10,195.00

In 2022, the Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation provided:

- 88 mammograms for women in need
- 470+ prescription medication assistance
- 12 pieces of equipment for UNC Health Blue Ridge Departments
- 300 personal care bags for behavioral health patients upon discharge
- 15 scholarships to students pursuing a healthcare degree
- Robes for new mothers to assist in nursing their newborns.

Total Disbursed in 2022: \$445,970.45

Granting Hope – The Granting HOPE fund allows teammates to apply for grants to improve their departments or patient safety initiatives. In 2022, the foundation funded 15 UNC Health Blue Ridge departments, awarding more than \$73,000 in grant funding including the following:

Behavioral Health – Rocking chairs to help provide a therapeutic environment for healing by reducing stress and improving mood.

Drexel Medical Practice – Bariatric chairs that serve patients who may not be able to sit comfortably in traditional chairs in exam rooms.

Emergency Department – Safe pediatric supplies for pediatric/adolescent patients to play with while in the ED.

Family Center – Hospital-grade breast pumps for use by postpartum mothers during formula shortage; Panda Warmer to stabilize newborns and their temperatures during respiratory distress.

McDowell Family Practice – A1C machine to increase the efficiency of tests in office and eliminate delay in information from test to physician and patient.

McDowell Medical Associates – Audiometer for hearing screenings for pre-employment physicals and well checks for children; ABI Doppler/vascular probe to provide readings to determine vascular abnormalities in extremities.

Mobile Integrated Health – Vein finder to help the team quickly locate veins.

Radiology Department – Stryker wheelchair to assist transporters with patient maneuverability.

Rehabilitation – Support walker to support patients with postural deficiency in forearms and elbows versus hands allowing for better posture, ease of movement, and more confidence in treatment.

Security/Emergency Management – Radios that allow for communication with other agencies within the state during emergencies.

Morganton Surgical Services – Recliners for pre/post-operative area to improve alertness and oxygen saturation in patients due to increase in movement; Vascular doppler to obtain pulse post-surgery in those who have peripheral vascular disease and babies.

Valdese Medical Associates – Butterfly IQ Ultrasound for rapid, more accurate diagnosis in-office and expedited treatment.

Valdese Pain Management – An iPad interpreter to assist care team members and patients with communication.

Valdese Surgical Services – Mobile lift that is ergonomically safe for teammates and assists patients where needed.

Women's Health Group – Colposcope to perform cervical biopsies on patients in the office.



Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation



Foundation Awards \$15,500 in Scholarships –

The Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation awarded \$15,500 in scholarships to nine student recipients. Six of these recipients are UNC Health Blue Ridge teammates or family members of teammates. These scholarships will assist in the formal education and training of individuals entering or advancing in the various fields of nursing healthcare related degrees. The funds come from the scholarship endowments.

Recipients were:

MyKenzie Wagner – Patricia Early Puett Scholarship for nursing

Lauren Crump – G.T. Cornwell Scholarship for nursing

Catherine West – G.T. Cornwell Scholarship for ADN Degree

Gracie Lane – G.T. Cornwell Scholarship for BSN

Kristen Cline – VanNoppen; PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders

Alexis Crump – VanNoppen; Communication Sciences and Disorders/ Speech Pathology

April James – VanNoppen Scholarship to pursue a PhD in Education in Health Professions

Stevee McGee – J. Grayson Brothers Scholarship for Bio-Medical Engineering

Connor Rudisill – J. Grayson Brothers Scholarship for Bio-Medical Engineering

Foundation Funds “I Gave Birth” Bracelets – All women who give birth at UNC Health Blue Ridge will receive an “I Gave Birth” bracelet thanks to a partnership with the Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation. The program began in June 2022. Mothers are encouraged to wear the bracelet for at least 6 to 10 weeks after giving birth.

Wearing the bracelet lets emergency healthcare personnel consider postpartum complications in caring for the mother in crisis. Early recognition and timely treatment are critical when dealing with postpartum complications, so hospital officials hope the bracelets will play a role in catching problems more quickly.

Recent mothers may have complications such as significant blood loss (postpartum hemorrhage), extremely high blood pressure (hypertension/preeclampsia), or blood clot in the lung (pulmonary embolus).

“My focus is to care for the patient and educate them as much as possible,” said Francia Mendez, BSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, maternity navigator. “The purpose of the bracelet is for awareness, a means for education. We have had great feedback. A few patients have told me that they were able to identify these issues and seek medical help immediately, ultimately saving their lives.”



Foundation Events

Pro-Am Golf Tournament

Golf Tournament Benefits Cancer Center

Garden: The Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation held the 16th annual UNC Health Blue Ridge Pro-Am Golf Invitational on April 29 at Mimosa Hills Golf Club. This annual tournament has raised more than \$1 million over the years and has supported initiatives such as the School Nurse program, diabetes education, women and children's services, patient care needs and enhancements, and much more.

This year, the \$66,500 in proceeds will support the new UNC Health Blue Ridge Cancer Center serenity garden on the Valdese campus. This outdoor garden will provide an area of respite for these patients, families, and caregivers. You can support the development of the outdoor garden by purchasing an honorary or memorial brick to help create a path.

Putting for The Pink Chips in for the Cause:

This golf tournament held in September raised more than \$19,800 for the Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation's Making Pink Possible fund. These proceeds will provide 175 mammograms to uninsured women.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Gala: The Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation raised a little over \$203,000 at the gala – held for the first time since 2019. Proceeds will go toward building a six-story patient tower at UNC Health Blue Ridge Morganton.

Lights of Love: The Lights of Love ceremony is a Blue Ridge HealthCare Foundation annual fundraiser where 100 percent of the proceeds go to assist the UNC Health Blue Ridge Cancer Center and its patients. A tree-lighting ceremony is held each year where the names of loved ones purchased in honor or in memory are on display. This year's ceremony took place Thursday, Dec. 1, at UNC Health Blue Ridge Valdese and was dedicated to the memory of India Rutherford, whose family was on hand to light the tree. Rutherford died of cancer in August at age 37. Lights of Love raised a little more than \$24,000 in 2022.





THANK YOU

To all of our HealthCare Heroes!



