

IMPACT REPORT

2024



**South Arkansas
Regional Hospital**

in collaboration with UAMSHealth



WWW.SARHCARE.ORG

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Welcome to our 2024 Impact Report

As we present the 2024 Impact Report, we take pride in reflecting on a transformative year for South Arkansas Regional Hospital (SARH). Having officially transitioned to nonprofit status on July 1, 2023, SARH has strengthened its commitment to serving the community and region by providing essential healthcare services and promoting wellness for individuals and families in need. This report highlights our achievements, challenges, and the collective impact of our dedicated staff, volunteers, and community partners as we strive to enhance the health and well-being of everyone we serve. Together, we are committed to building a healthier future for South Arkansas.

Mission: Improve the health and healing of the people of South Arkansas

Vision: To be the regional healthcare provider of choice.

MESSAGE FROM CEO

Brian W. Jones, DHSc

“As we reflect on our annual impact statement for the hospital, we are proud to share the strides we have made in enhancing local patient care, community health, and overall operational efficiency. Our dedicated staff has worked tirelessly to innovate and improve services, ensuring that our patients receive the highest quality of care close to home. This report not only highlights our achievements but also emphasizes our commitment to moving forward, addressing the needs of our community, and striving for excellence in every aspect of our operations. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.”



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

Danna W. Taylor, MHA, FACHE

“As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for what we have accomplished together at South Arkansas Regional Hospital. This inaugural year as a nonprofit healthcare provider has been both challenging and rewarding as we navigated the complexities of establishing our presence in Southern Arkansas.

Throughout this journey, our dedicated staff has tirelessly worked to prioritize patient care and foster a healing environment. We have focused on building strong relationships within the community, addressing healthcare needs, and enhancing services that directly impact the lives of our residents. Looking ahead, we remain committed to our vision of being the regional healthcare provider of choice, and we are actively listening to the needs of our community. We are excited about the future and the opportunity to further enhance our services in the years to come. Thank you for your continued support, trust, and partnership as we work together to create a healthier Southern Arkansas.”



SARH Board of Directors

- Steve Cameron
- Andrew Clyde
- Steve Cossé
- Steve Cousins
- Marcia Ford, APRN
- Stephanie Gardner, Pharm D., Ed.D.
- Chris Hegi
- Brian Jones, DHSc
- Steve Smart, DDS
- Donnie Smith
- Brett Williamson

We employ 402 people, 300 full-time and 102 part-time.

149 Registered Nurses

18 Licensed Practical Nurses

46 Service Awards were given honoring employee milestone service years from 5 - 50 years.

SERVICES AT SARH:



In 2024, SARH solidified its role as a cornerstone of community health by expanding and enhancing its comprehensive medical services. As a new nonprofit institution formed through local community stakeholders, SARH focused on delivering equitable, high-quality care close to home. Key advancements included the introduction of cutting-edge 3D mammography, acquisition of the DaVinci 5 Surgical Robot for minimally invasive procedures, and the expansion of behavioral health services

to better support mental wellness in the region. The hospital also strengthened its emergency services, maintaining a Level III Trauma Center designation and collaborating with UAMS' AR SAVES program to provide telemedicine stroke support. With a dedicated team of healthcare professionals and ongoing investments in technology and infrastructure, SARH continues to meet the evolving needs of south Arkansas residents, ensuring access to comprehensive, compassionate care.

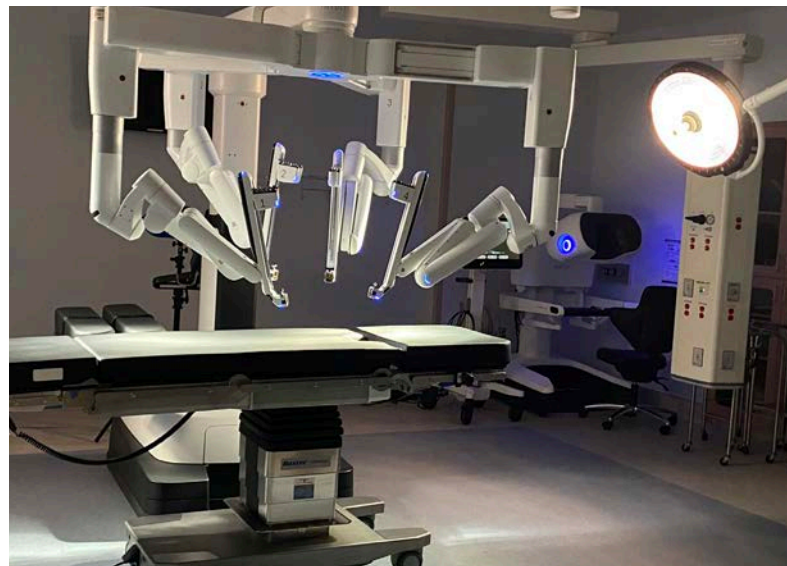
SARH provides multiple services to Southern Arkansas including:

- Behavioral Health
- Critical Care Medicine
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Emergency Services
- Heart Care
- Inpatient Rehabilitation
- Laboratory Services
- Maternity Care
- Orthopedic Services
- Respiratory Care
- Stroke Care
- Surgical Services
- Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine
- Other Services, specialized programs and departments



<p>Licensed Beds: 166-bed facility</p>		<p>ER Visits: 20,509</p>	
	<p>Hospital Inpatient Admissions: 3,483</p>	 <p>We provided \$1,086,000 in uncompensated care.</p>	
<p>Babies Delivered: 608</p>			
	<p>Surgeries: 3,589</p>		

We are committed to enhancing the health and well-being of our community, recognizing that every patient served reflects our dedication to providing compassionate, high-quality care close to home.



DA VINCI 5 ROBOTIC SURGICAL SYSTEM by INTUITIVE

SERVICE HIGHLIGHT:

SARH is the first hospital in Southern Arkansas to offer the Da Vinci 5 Robotic Surgical System. This cutting-edge platform empowers SARH’s surgical team to perform complex procedures with:



Enhanced precision and dexterity through its advanced 3D-HD visualization and state-of-the-art instruments, allowing for smaller incisions, less pain, and dramatically faster patient recovery.



Incredible high computing power and surgeon autonomy, backed by more than 150 internal design innovations built for safer, more efficient operations.

The addition of the Da Vinci 5 Robotic Surgical System to SARH’s services marks a significant advancement in the quality of patient care provided in Southern Arkansas. This state-of-the-art technology enhances surgical precision, minimizes postoperative discomfort, and shortens recovery times for patients, ultimately leading to better health outcomes.

By offering minimally invasive surgical options, SARH not only positions itself at the forefront of medical innovation but also reinforces its commitment to delivering the highest standard of care. The Da Vinci system enables surgeons to perform complex procedures with greater accuracy and control, which can be particularly beneficial

in sensitive areas of the body. This enhancement in surgical capabilities will allow SARH to attract and retain skilled professionals, improve patient experiences, and strengthen its reputation as a leader in advanced healthcare services.



Dr. Thomas Kennedy

SARH is proud to have Dr. Thomas Kennedy leading its general surgery services since he joined the medical staff in 2022. An Arkansas native, Dr. Kennedy brings both local roots and broad surgical expertise to the community, delivering high-quality care with a commitment to innovation.

Dr. Kennedy, a skilled and versatile surgeon, treats patients with various surgical needs, from routine procedures to complex cases. In August 2024, he performed SARH’s first procedure using the state-of-the-art Da Vinci 5 Robotic Surgical System, successfully removing a patient’s gall bladder. This milestone reflects

his commitment to bringing advanced surgical options to the region, offering patients minimally invasive procedures with improved precision and faster recovery times.

Dr. Kennedy’s professional affiliations and ongoing pursuit of surgical advancements help ensure patients at SARH receive care that meets the highest standards in the field.

Through his expertise and dedication, Dr. Kennedy continues to expand access to innovative surgical care for residents of South Arkansas and beyond, making SARH a trusted destination for exceptional general surgery services.



PATIENT HIGHLIGHT: Bubba Robertson

In 2024, Bubba Robertson was the second patient to undergo general surgery at SARH with the new Da Vinci 5 Robotic Surgical System.

According to Bubba, SARH was swift and efficient during check-in. The hospital staff was thorough on keeping his spouse updated throughout the whole process. Dr. Thomas Kennedy had excellent bedside manners and ensured Bubba was comfortable. Bubba stated, “I do believe the use of the Da Vinci allowed me to have an expeditious recovery. The medical team of SARH was outstanding, and I appreciate the care they provided. I was able to have my surgery locally without having to travel out-of-town. I was home within a few hours the same day. I am glad I entrusted SARH with my care.”



Pictured Left to Right: Gerald Curtis-ARORA Donation Development, Mindy Morgan, Audriana Williams, Michelle Doolin, Hiliary Franks, Mary Ann McMurry, and Dr. Becky Parnell, SARH Chief Nursing Officer.



NURSERY ALLIANCE

Gold Award from ARORA:

In 2024, SARH received the prestigious Gold Award from the Arkansas Organ Recovery Agency (ARORA). This recognition, part of a national campaign sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), celebrates hospitals that go above and beyond to support organ and tissue donation.

SARH ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Accreditations and Quality Recognitions:

SARH earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval, Safe Sleep nursery certification, a CMS four-star quality rating, the highest Leapfrog safety score in South Arkansas ("B"), the Arkansas Stroke Registry Pearl Award, and a 3M gold star for sterilization practices.

Community Engagement and Advisory Governance:

SARH established an Advisory Board composed of patients, staff, and community leaders to guide quality initiatives and operational strategies.

Patient-Centered Program Enhancements:

SARH launched inpatient hospice services in partnership with Arkansas Hospice to provide comprehensive care at the end of life. Strengthened stroke care capabilities via continued participation in UAMS ARSAVES telemedicine and recognition with the American Heart Association Stroke Gold Quality Award.

These milestones reflect SARH's robust commitment to enhancing health and well-being across the region through leadership, innovation, technology, and unwavering quality standards.

In 2024, SARH became a proud partner of the Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) through the Maternity Care Nursery Alliance. This alliance is a statewide collaboration that aims to improve the quality of neonatal care by coordinating care between ADH's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and physicians

in other hospitals' NICUs and newborn nurseries. The benefits of the alliance are to improve the quality of newborn care, create networking and learning opportunities, and assist member hospital team members in the care of infants and high-risk newborns.

PHOTO CREDIT Insider Magazine _ Dero Sanford



ADVANCING SARH

In 2024, SARH made significant strides in advancing our healthcare services, furthering our commitment to providing high-quality care to our patients.

NEW AT SARH:

- Inpatient Hospice Rooms
- Chaplaincy Services
- SARH Advisory Board (Community Members)

MAJOR EQUIPMENT ENHANCEMENTS- SINCE 2023:

- Coronary CTA
- Nuclear Medicine
- Echocardiology
- Ultrasound
- Portable Xray
- 3D Mammography
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Chambers
- BacTec Microbiology
- Surgical C-Arm

We proudly introduced dedicated inpatient hospice rooms, designed to offer comfort and dignity to patients and their families during a critical time. Additionally, we expanded our chaplaincy services, recognizing the importance of offering spiritual support and compassionate care as part of the healing process. The establishment of the new SARH Advisory Board has also been pivotal, bringing together diverse voices and expertise to guide our strategic initiatives and enhance the overall patient experience.

To complement these advancements, we invested in cutting-edge equipment that positions SARH at the forefront of healthcare innovation in Southern Arkansas. The installation of the Da Vinci 5 Robot has enabled us to perform minimally invasive surgical procedures with greater precision, while the addition of 3D mammography and advanced ultrasound imaging technologies enhances our ability to detect and diagnose conditions early. Mobile x-ray units have improved accessibility for our patients, allowing for convenient imaging services, and the implementation of nuclear medicine imaging expands our diagnostic capabilities. Together, these enhancements not only elevate the standard of care we provide but also reaffirm our commitment to meeting and evolving needs of our community with compassion and excellence.



CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS:



The SARH Foundation Advisory Board successfully raised **\$250,000** in its first campaign, which wrapped up in February 2024, to help purchase a new 3D Mammography machine for the hospital. Thanks to the incredible generosity of community members at all giving levels, this vital equipment is now in use, helping patients every day. To recognize this support, an honorary plaque featuring donor names is proudly displayed at the hospital.



The **First Financial Bank/SHARE Foundation Benefit Golf Tournament** celebrated its 31st annual fundraiser tournament in September which raised **\$53,250** in proceeds thanks to generous sponsors, participants, volunteers, and various community support. The proceeds benefited SARH Foundation's Hearts Close to Home capital campaign to improve cardiology and surgical services for the hospital with the goal to improve the heart health of South Arkansas.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

In 2024, SARH proudly strengthened its dedication to working hand in hand with our community. We know that real change happens when people and organizations come together with a shared goal: to make our community healthier, stronger, and more connected. Throughout the year, we partnered with local schools, nonprofits, locally owned businesses, corporations, and civic groups on a variety of projects aimed at supporting the well-being of our neighbors.

Together, we hosted community events, sponsored programs, led educational workshops, attended health fairs, and shared resources to tackle important issues and community concerns. These partnerships didn't just expand what we could offer; they also built lasting trust and a spirit of teamwork that will continue to uplift our community for years to come.



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Recognitions for service, compassion, and leadership

In 2024, three exceptional SARH employees retired after serving a combined **135** years at the hospital in their respected departments.

35
YEARS

PAMELA LIVINGSTON

Throughout her career, Pamela has delivered compassionate, high-quality care to her patients and has become a trusted advocate and mentor to students and new graduates alike. As one of our most seasoned therapists, Pamela is admired for her critical thinking skills and her motto of “working smarter, not harder.” Her dedication to excellence and unwavering commitment to our community is truly inspiring.



44
YEARS

DIANE PURVIS

Diane served a remarkable 27 years in nursing and 17 years in rehab. Prior to nursing, Diane had a successful career as a pharmaceutical chemist, later becoming a certified quality engineer and project manager. After taking a ten-year break to raise her children, she made the decision to pursue nursing, which eventually led her to SARH. Throughout her time at SARH, she earned the a strong reputation among her peers for her strength, leadership, and exceptional care.



56
YEARS

GLADYS DAVIS

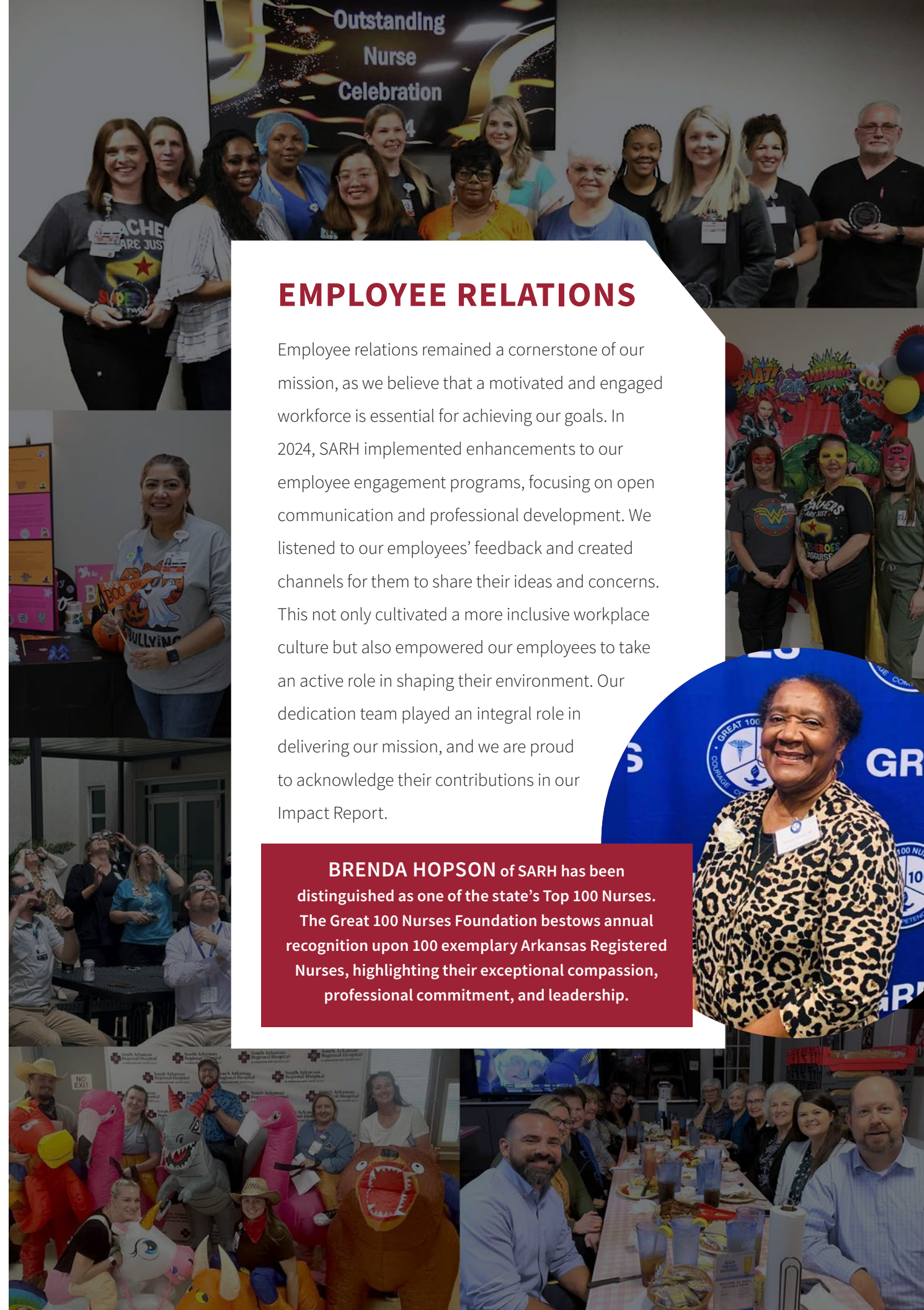
Gladys began her full-time career at Union Memorial Hospital in July 1968, working in intensive care and obstetrics, and eventually becoming the night-side house supervisor. Over the years, she witnessed many changes, including the implementation of privacy laws (HIPAA) and technological advancements. Around 100 people attended her retirement party, which concluded with the presentation of a diamond-filled cross necklace to Gladys.



EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Employee relations remained a cornerstone of our mission, as we believe that a motivated and engaged workforce is essential for achieving our goals. In 2024, SARH implemented enhancements to our employee engagement programs, focusing on open communication and professional development. We listened to our employees’ feedback and created channels for them to share their ideas and concerns. This not only cultivated a more inclusive workplace culture but also empowered our employees to take an active role in shaping their environment. Our dedication team played an integral role in delivering our mission, and we are proud to acknowledge their contributions in our Impact Report.

BRENDA HOPSON of SARH has been distinguished as one of the state’s Top 100 Nurses. The Great 100 Nurses Foundation bestows annual recognition upon 100 exemplary Arkansas Registered Nurses, highlighting their exceptional compassion, professional commitment, and leadership.





SARH held a special ceremony in October to dedicate its chapel in honor of Reverend Barry Lamar Dobson. Over 100 guests, including family, friends, hospital staff, and individuals who knew Barry, gathered to pay tribute to him, who passed away on June 10, 2024. Rev. Dobson served as the SARH Chaplaincy Coordinator since February 2022, offering spiritual care and emotional support to patients, families, and staff. Although his time at the hospital was short, his impact was significant. His legacy of service continues to inspire those he touched.



DR. STEVE SMART BOARD ROOM

In April 2024, the SARH Foundation hosted a dedication reception for Dr. Stephen Smart at the SARH Robert C. Tommey Conference Building. Before the hospital transitioned to SARH in 2023, the most recent MCSA Board of Directors voted to rename their board room in his honor. Therefore, the glass-walled board room inside the conference building was renamed “Stephen Smart, DDS Conference Room” to honor his long-term service and commitment to our hospital.



ARTWORK INSTALLATION

In March 2024, SARH welcomed a monumental 8’ x 30’ mural originally from the old Warner Brown Hospital lobby into its new home at the Robert C. Tommey Conference Center.

Although this piece does not have a recorded name, it is described generically as “wood panel, relief mural.” The painted images represent the circle of life, specifically in Arkansas with crafts, music, the food that was grown, and the type of people that live in Arkansas.

The panels were commissioned by the Artistic Development Program at Warner Brown Hospital in 1980. The artist of this piece is Susan Bright Lautmann Hertel (1930-1993), an American painter celebrated for her poetic portrayals of everyday life and animals.

This piece, part of the SHARE Foundation art collection, completes a journey. “This artwork was

intended to be in a hospital. Now that the hospital is back into the hands of the community, back into local ownership, we were able to put this piece back into the hospital,” said Dr. Brian Jones, CEO of SHARE Foundation.

“How thrilling it is to have seen it when it was first installed, and now to see its rebirth in the community,” said Gay Bechtelheimer, a respected artist and arts educator in El Dorado, AR.

The return of this mural to a community-centered space is more than just a restoration of art; it’s a restoration of history, culture, and connection. As it now graces the walls at the conference center, this piece continues to inspire reflection on the values, traditions, and people that define Arkansas. Its presence is a powerful reminder that art, like community, endures and finds its way home.



LOOKING FORWARD – OUR FUTURE

As we look towards the future, SARH is dedicated to continuing our mission to improve the health and healing of the people of South Arkansas. We continue to invest in advanced medical technologies and expand our services to meet the evolving needs of our patients. We are actively exploring partnerships and innovative programs focusing on preventative care, chronic disease management, and mental health support. Additionally, we remain committed to nurturing a skilled workforce

through ongoing education and training opportunities for our staff, ensuring they are equipped to provide exceptional care. By embracing change and prioritizing the health and well-being of our community, SARH is poised to emerge as a leader in healthcare excellence in South Arkansas for years to come.





South Arkansas Regional Hospital

in collaboration with UAMS Health



700 West Grove St, El Dorado, AR 71730
870-863-2000

www.SARHCare.org