



Rural Development South Carolina

2002 ANNUAL REPORT



Community Facilities

CareSouth Carolina—Delivering Quality Health Care

From a small, temporary one-physician office opened more than 20 years ago to provide health care to the medically underserved area of Society Hill to six community health centers with nationally recognized programs serving the Pee Dee region, CareSouth Carolina's success is a remarkable story.

In the beginning, Rural Development was able to help the non-profit corporation, Society Hill Family Health Clinic, Inc., through a \$282,000 loan from their Community Facilities program to build a permanent medical facility in Society Hill. This facility opened in 1981 and provided primary health care services to the people of Darlington, Chesterfield, and Marlboro counties.

Recognizing the need to expand their services to meet the health care needs of more people, in 1996 the organization changed its name to CareSouth Carolina and started

state-of-the-art medical facility marked a milestone in the organization's commitment to the people of Society Hill and the surrounding areas.

CareSouth Carolina continued to progress and since opening their first office with a staff of 4 that saw 24 patients their first day, they now have additional community health centers open in Bishopville, Cheraw, Hartsville, Lake View, and McColl. Over 150 employees serve more than 20,000 patients a year, and approximately 40% of these patients are uninsured.

The staff of CareSouth Carolina offers comprehensive health care for all family members including extensive geriatric services. The positive clinical outcomes for patients receiving care for chronic conditions



such as diabetes, depression, and asthma are above and beyond national standards. Two important aspects of their chronic care services include patient education and patient self-

On more than one occasion CareSouth Carolina, operating the Rosa Lee Gerald Center, along with five other centers in the Pee Dee Region, has gained national recognition. In May of 2002, the National Coalition on Health Care and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement recognized CareSouth Carolina in their "Accelerating Change Today (A.C.T.) for America's Health" report for their excellent practices in treating chronic diseases. They were featured as a model that can be adopted by other medical practices across the country.

CareSouth Carolina believes a comprehensive approach to health care must be directly connected to economic development, education, and employment, as well as the availability of social and medical services. Rural Development strives to help with these concerns by targeting their resources to help rural communities develop, grow and improve their quality of life.



construction of the Rosa Lee Gerald Center in Society Hill. Rural Development was again able to assist by providing a \$1.4 million Community Facilities guaranteed loan through Carolina Bank & Trust Company. The opening of this new

management. These approaches allow the patient to become more involved in managing their chronic health care needs.