



# U P F R O N T

WITH ELAINE C. THOMPSON, PHD, FACHE  
PRESIDENT AND CEO



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May is National Trauma Awareness month. Each May we celebrate this important time with trauma survivors from across Polk County and beyond. It is a privilege to take time to share stories of appreciation with first responders and the entire trauma team that helped them through some of life's most trying moments. We are always deeply inspired by the wonderful individuals who return, sometimes years later, to share their triumphs.

It only takes seconds for one's life to change because of an accident or injury. Evidence shows that those with a traumatic injury have the greatest chance of survival if taken immediately to the closest trauma center for the right care, at the right time. Lakeland Regional Health is the only State of Florida Level-II Trauma Center serving the population of Polk County and surrounding areas.

Of the trauma patients receiving care at LRH, 96% percent survive their injuries. Our success is largely based on our expertly trained emergency department team, trauma surgeons, advanced practitioners, nurses and other clinical team members who have dedicated their lives to saving others. As a safety-net provider for Polk County and surrounding communities, Lakeland Regional Health provides hospital services to all those in need of essential care, regardless of the ability to pay. We are proud and privileged to provide this care to the patients and families we serve.

In 2017, not-for-profit Lakeland Regional Health cared for approximately 3,000 trauma patients; over the last five years, we have cared for more than 10,000 such patients. Our comprehensive and collaborative approach throughout the continuum of care ensures that patients are connected with the services they need to ensure optimal outcomes. Further, our Bannasch Institute for Advanced Rehabilitation Medicine provides patients and families with opportunities to continue recovery under the care of our expert physicians, therapists and clinicians using leading-edge technology and industry best practices.

While we are privileged to have cared for so many, we are also being proactive to take the necessary steps to help reduce injury and trauma in our area. As part of our 2018-2021 Community Health Needs Assessment, we are actively working on injury prevention. Our organization plans and leads community education and strengthens our relationships with other providers and organizations like the Coalition on Injury Prevention (CIP) to help promote safety and injury prevention.

Recently, the Lakeland Regional Health trauma team launched monthly "Stop the Bleed" Bleeding Control Courses (BCON) offered to the general public at no charge. Click [here](#) to

learn more or register. Additional educational programs we offer on an ongoing basis and at community events held throughout the year are bicycle safety, drowning prevention, falls prevention, and balance and strength improvement.

Our hope is that you and your loved ones will never be in a situation where you need trauma services. However, you can take comfort knowing that should you need us, our trauma care team is here for you, 24/7.