



UP FRONT

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



This month we were delighted to open the [Carol Jenkins Barnett Pavilion for Women and Children](#) to the patients and families we serve. We were overwhelmed by the tremendous support of our community and deeply proud of the work done by the Lakeland Regional Health team to ensure this project came to a successful conclusion.

What makes the Pavilion so incredibly special is how, from the beginning, it has been a community effort. We received valuable insight from patients and their families and our team to ensure that the Pavilion was designed with our community, our patients and their guests in mind. Using this knowledge, our talented team and gifted design and construction partners worked together to make sure the Pavilion offers the best outcomes and safest care in an environment that offers state-of-the-art technology and the privacy, comfort and elegance that redefine personal care.

The new Carol Jenkins Barnett Pavilion for Women and Children offers Polk County's only Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (our state's highest NICU designation), spacious suites for labor and delivery and family bonding after birth, and a kid-friendly care environment for pediatric patients. Further, our colleagues from Nemours Children's Health System are bringing world-class pediatric specialty care and pediatric surgical services to our community. For expecting mothers or for those who are trying to get pregnant, our new Center for Fetal Care collaboratively offers advanced technology, testing and care to assist in diagnosing underlying conditions associated with pregnancy and fetal development. The Pavilion is also home to an expanded and friendly Children's Emergency Department, separate from our Main Emergency Department.

Improving the well-being of mothers, infants and children is vital in ensuring the overall health of the community and that of our next generation. Our new Pavilion helps meet the healthcare needs of women and children in Polk County, as outlined in our [Community Health Needs Assessment](#) (CHNA). I encourage you to review this important document to learn how your health system is working to improve health outcomes for the communities we serve.

As a safety-net provider for Polk County and surrounding communities, we are honored to provide hospital services to all those in need of essential care, regardless of ability to pay. Bringing the Pavilion to life is possible in large part thanks to the generosity of the Barnett Family and many other dedicated benefactors who are committed to helping children successfully develop, grow and learn by providing access to state-of-the-art care in Polk County. More partners are needed to ensure this important work continues. To learn more about philanthropic opportunities related to the Pavilion, visit our [Foundation website](#).

As we enter this next exciting chapter in our history, our shared mission to deliver the best outcomes and safest care can only be enhanced through the refinements of the state-of-the-art Pavilion. We are deeply grateful for the outstanding opportunity we have to offer an even higher level of specialized care for women and children in such a wonderful care environment.