

# ACHAT

2021  
JULY  
AUGUST  
SEPTEMBER

*Tom C. Maynor*  
*August 8, 1939 – August 16, 2021*

Anderson is mourning the loss of Tom C. Maynor, the namesake of the Tom C. Maynor Rehabilitation Center. He passed away at the age of 82 in August.

Following a stroke in 1993, Tom became an advocate for stroke awareness, serving on

the Board of Directors for the American Heart Association and founding the Stroke Support Group at Anderson Regional Medical Center. In 2002, the Tom C. Maynor Rehabilitation Center at Anderson was named in his honor, and he was proudly on staff until his passing.



# Anderson Welcomes New Chief Nursing Officer

---



**D**r. Wes Garrison, a highly accomplished healthcare executive with multi-faceted experience in operations, management and patient care, has been named Chief Nursing Officer for Anderson Regional Health System. He will work alongside Betty Young Cryer, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, who will retire at the end of the year.

“Mrs. Cryer’s retirement leaves big shoes to fill, but I am confident that Dr. Garrison will seamlessly transition into the CNO role and provide strong leadership for our nursing staff,” said John G. Anderson, President and CEO. “We are excited to welcome Wes to the Anderson team and the community. His extensive professional experience and patient centered care background are valuable assets that will strengthen our organization and forward our mission”.

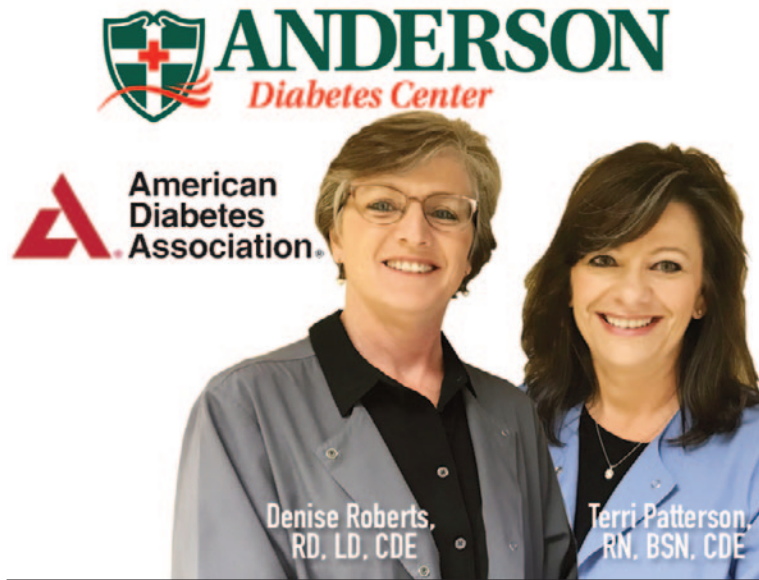
Dr. Garrison received his Doctor of Nursing Practice in Executive Nursing Administration in 2016 from University of South Alabama. He also holds a Master’s of Science in Nursing and Masters of Business Administration from Samford University. Dr. Garrison completed his undergraduate studies at Auburn University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. He is a Board Certified Nurse Executive.

Dr. Garrison most recently worked at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, GA, where he served as Assistant Chief Nursing Officer. Prior to that position, he worked at St. Luke’s Sugar Land Hospital in Sugar Land, TX, as Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services. Dr. Garrison served as Executive Director of Nursing and Surgical Service Line Administrator at St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center in Little Rock, AR, and Executive Director of Cardiac, Medical and Surgical Services at Christus Spohn Hospital in Corpus Christi, TX. He has also worked as a Patient Care Assistant, Graduate Student Resident, Registered Nurse and Nurse Manager.

Dr. Garrison and his wife have four children who look forward to becoming involved in the Meridian community.

# Anderson Recognized by American Diabetes Association

---



Anderson Diabetes Center received recognition from the American Diabetes Association for outstanding service as a Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support program. The ADA's Education Recognition Certificate is a prestigious honor that represents the center's ability to provide high-quality education, which is an essential component of an effective diabetes treatment program.

The Education Recognition Certificate is awarded to centers that have a staff of knowledgeable health professionals who can provide participants with comprehensive information about diabetes management. This recognition provides diabetes programs with a national standard by which to measure service quality and assures patients that they will receive high-quality service. Anderson Diabetes Center voluntarily applies for this recognition every four years.

Terri Patterson, Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist and Program Coordinator, said, "Since 1991, Anderson Diabetes Center has offered a comprehensive diabetes treatment and education program. We find great value in maintaining our ADA accreditation and education certification as benchmarks for providing high quality service to our patients."

Anderson President and CEO, John G. Anderson, said, "The team at Anderson Diabetes Center is second-to-none. This is demonstrated by their dedication to stay on the forefront of knowledge in evidenced-based practices for diabetes management and helping patients achieve an optimal level of health."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2020 National Diabetes Statistic Report, more than 3,900 people are diagnosed with diabetes each day. Mississippi ranks highest in the nation for diabetes prevalence with over 308,000 people living with the disease.



# GETTING THE WORD OUT



## Lunch & Learn

Anderson and the Community Health Improvement Network (CHIN) joined forces to provide COVID vaccines during a free community wide “Lunch and Learn” event at Freedom Rock Fellowship Church. Anderson Hospital Medicine Specialist Dr. Hatem Mourad gave valuable information to the attendees, dispelling the myths behind the COVID vaccine.

---



## COVID Health Fair

Calvin Bennett, Leslie Brown and Rachel Tisdale provided information about monoclonal antibody infusion and COVID-19 vaccines to health fair attendees at the Pentecostal Church of God.

---

# Carmichael Named Director of Development

---



With a growing focus on community partnerships, Anderson Regional Health System is more philanthropic-minded than ever before. To support and enhance these efforts, Anderson is pleased to announce that Laura Carmichael has been named to serve as the organization's Director of Development.

John Anderson, President and CEO, said, "Carmichael's knowledge, experience and established relationships throughout this area will enable us to more fully serve and support our patients and community, in essence, strengthening our goal of 'Standing Together' with our community."

Carmichael will manage the development of fundraising initiatives designed to enhance various aspects of the organization:

- The "Standing Together Fund" is a general fund that assists in advancing technology and services, acquiring state of the art medical equipment, and improving and building necessary facilities.
- A pediatric fund, "It's All About Kids," enhances, upgrades and supports pediatric services.
- Donations made to the "Guardian Angel Fund" are tribute gifts made in honor of a physician, nurse or staff member and will assist with focused needs throughout the hospital.

Carmichael will also provide support for the Cancer Patient Benevolence Fund, a fund that assists local cancer patients with special needs not covered by insurance.

"I am very proud to join the Anderson Regional Health System team. My passion is building a stronger community, and I'm excited to begin a new chapter focused on engaging with the community through philanthropic initiatives," Carmichael said.


Prior to joining Anderson, Carmichael served as the City of Meridian's Community Development Director and Cultural Affairs Manager. She also served as the Executive Director for Meridian Council of the Arts. Carmichael worked for Rush Health Systems as Business Development and Marketing Manager, and she served as the Public Relations and Communications Coordinator for Meridian Community College.

In addition to her professional duties, Carmichael volunteers her time as a board member for many community organizations. She is currently on the board of directors for Meridian Community College Foundation, Community Health Improvement Network, Meridian Museum of Art, MUNA Federal Credit Union and Meridian Navy League.


Carmichael is a graduate of Meridian Community College, where she received an Associate's of Arts degree. She then attended Mississippi State University, where she received a Bachelor's of Science, and she recently graduated from MSU-Meridian with a Master's of Business Administration.



# Birth Center Receives High Rating from CDC



## 2020 mPINC Hospital Report




The Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) Survey is a national survey of newborn feeding practices in hospitals in the United States and territories that provided maternity services in the last year. Battelle Health conducted this survey for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Information about the mPINC survey and interpreting your scores is available here: [cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/mpinc](https://cdc.gov/breastfeeding/data/mpinc)

**Anderson Regional Health System**  
2124 14th Street  
Meridian, MS 39301  
H12226

Hospital Total Score	
<b>97</b>	
TOTAL AVERAGE SCORES	
United States	81
Region (Southeast)	78
Similar-Sized Hospitals (Hospitals with 1000-1999 births per year)	83

Understanding your scores: Your Subscore for each section is the mean of the items in that section. Subscores are not provided if half or more of the items in that section do not have a score. Your Total Score is the mean of the six Subscores and is not provided if any Subscore is not scored. Any missing responses are indicated by "—" on this report. "NS" indicates that an item score, Subscore, or Total Score could not be calculated. Definitions for Region and Similar-Sized Hospitals can be found on page 8 of this report.

Page 1 of 8 | [View your subscores on the following pages →](#)



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion  
Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity

The Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) Survey is a national survey of newborn feeding practices in hospitals in the United States and territories that provided maternity services in the last year. Anderson Regional Birth Center exceeded the national average in every category.

Immediate Postpartum Care.....	100
(National Average 83)	
Rooming-In .....	90
(National Average 76)	
Feeding Practices .....	90
(National Average 82)	
Feeding Education .....	100
(National Average 93)	
Discharge Support .....	100
(National Average 79)	
Institutional Management .....	100
(National Average 71)	

## Cuddle Cots Give Grieving Families a Bit More Time

A Newton County mother has used her grief over losing a baby to help others. On June 15, 2020, Heather Ferguson gave birth to a son, baby Grant, who survived only a few hours due to a kidney disorder. To honor the first year of his birth, Heather came up with an idea for a fundraiser for Cuddle Cots. This unique device cools a deceased baby's body, allowing the family to spend a little more time to take pictures, and make hand prints and foot prints.

"There is a group on Facebook that I follow that has other mothers that had children that passed away," said Heather. "I wanted to do something for Grant this year for his birthday, so I decided to look into purchasing a cuddle cot. I started a fundraiser on Facebook and it blew up. People started donating — parents, grandparents, sisters — because everybody has someone they know that has lost a child." Heather has raised almost \$3,500 in only a month, and she hopes to continue her efforts.



Donator Heather Ferguson (left) is pictured above with (from left) Patti Ball, RN; Dr. Elizabeth Trest; and DeAnna Richmond, RN, Nurse Manager L&D/OB.

# DAISY AWARDS



July

Makayla Jenkins, RN

Makayla Jenkins, Registered Nurse, CCU, was recognized as our DAISY Award recipient for the month of July. The family of one of Makayla's patients wrote her nomination, which read: "My mother was in CCU with COVID at the beginning of January. During one of the scariest times in our family life, Makayla made it easier. She was so compassionate with Mom and reassured us every time we called to check in. Makayla cared for Mom as a person, not just a patient in a bed. She realized Mom needed interaction and she put herself at risk to make that happen. She was a joy to talk to and her kind spirit was evident in how she cared for Mom and our family. Makayla went above and beyond to make sure my Mom was reassured of healing possibilities — so much so that Mom's facial expression and demeanor were different on days that Makayla was her nurse. Mom is moving her left arm and both legs now and is no longer on a trach. She mouths words and squeezes our hands to say yes and no. She has smiled when we laugh, and she puckers her lips to give us kisses when we lean down to her. She even squeezes us between her head and shoulder when we hug her. Mom has a lot of life left. Anderson, through nurses like Makayla, gave that to her. We are forever thankful. Makayla set the bar high, and we pray blessings upon blessings on her, her family and Anderson. Thank you all, but most of all, thank you a million times, Makayla! We love you forever!"



August

Crystal Watkins, RN

Crystal Watkins, Registered Nurse, works on 4 East and was recognized as our DAISY award recipient for the month of August. One of Crystal's patients wrote her nomination which read: "Two months ago, despite increasing pain in my back and trouble breathing, I was living my normal life. About 4-5 weeks ago, the pain in my back became so intense that I called 911 and was taken to the hospital. My diagnosis was stunning and shocking: Stage IV lung cancer metastasized to my spine. Dr. John Voss recommended two weeks of daily radiation to prevent paralysis and reduce pain. Unfortunately, the paralysis from the thigh down occurred anyway, but there was some reduction of pain temporarily. It was there in the 4-East Wing of Anderson Regional Medical Center that I found myself blessed to be under the compassionate and kind care of Nurse Crystal Watkins. Her professional perfectionism and patient manner soothed me and never failed to calm my highest levels of agitation and anxiety. Whenever Crystal entered with her sweet smile, my spirit heightened and I knew things were going to be better. I always trusted her to take care of me. I thank God that I was put under the care of Crystal during the most difficult time of my life. She more than deserves the DAISY Award for her compassionate care."



## Jones Named Health Care Hero

Congratulations to Carol Jones, RN, for being named a Mississippi Hospital Association “Health Care Hero.” Carol works on the COVID-19 Unit, where she serves as Charge Nurse. As her co-worker said, “She is a very compassionate, gentle, knowledgeable nurse who goes above and beyond to make sure the patients receive everything they need. Carol is greatly appreciated by the physicians because she knows everything there is to know about the patient and can provide any information they need. She speaks to numerous family members on a daily basis and is extremely kind and reassuring to them about the care their loved one is receiving. Carol has worked many long hours past her normal shift to make sure the patients and families receive the communication they need. She is always willing to assist with training new nurses to care for the incredibly sick COVID-19 patients.”

---



## Bohl Receives Mentor Award

Congratulations to LeAnn Bohl, who recently received the Mentor Award during the Mississippi Health Information Management Association Annual Convention. The Mentor Award honors individuals with long records of encouraging students or colleagues to realize their full potential who have helped others find ways to achieve their best. LeAnn is the Coding Assistant Director and has worked at Anderson for 21 years.

---



## Top 20 Under 40

The Meridian Star and Meridian Home and Style Magazine’s Top Twenty Under 40 class of 2021 included Melanie Jones, PhD, PMHNP, RN and Dr. Hatem Mourad, Hospital Medicine Physician. Congratulations and thank you for representing Anderson so well!

---



---

## Dilworth Retires

The staff of Anderson Urology Clinic of Meridian celebrated with Dr. Robert Dilworth his retirement after 46 years of service to Anderson Regional Health System. During his career, Dr. Dilworth cared for thousands of patients in our area, providing skilled and compassionate care to each individual. His dedication to his medical career has been inspiring to all who know him.





# GENEROUS DONATIONS TO CPBF



## Total Pain Care

Total Pain Care presented \$1,000 to the Cancer Patient Benevolence Fund in honor of “their hero,”

Dr. Eric Pearson. The money was raised through book sales at the clinic.

---



## Give Hope Designs

Thank you to Amanda Cassell, with Give Hope Designs, for her donation of \$2,500 to the Cancer Patient Benevolence Fund! The money was raised from the sale of her artwork.

---



## Citizens National Bank

Anderson Regional Cancer Center's Cancer Patient Benevolence Fund recently received a \$5,000 donation from Citizens National Bank. The funds were raised from the sale of World's Finest Chocolate bars to employees and customers in Meridian Region branches.

---



## EMEPA

Randy Carroll, CEO of EMEPA, presented a check for \$1,858 on behalf of the employees of EMEPA to the Cancer Patient Benevolence Fund in memory of their long time employee, Jerry Grady, who passed away recently after a battle with cancer. The funds were raised by donations from EMEPA employees to honor Jerry.

---

# GENEROUS DONATIONS

Highland Baptist Church  
Many thanks to Highland Baptist Church members, who delivered baked goods to Anderson caregivers.

---



State Farm  
Thank you Jeffery Wilson of State Farm for providing treat bags for our critical care and vaccine clinic staff!

---



Gideons International  
Thank you to the gentlemen of The Gideons International for supplying Bibles to our facility.

---



Love Out Loud  
Love Out Loud visited Anderson two times during their week of promotions. The first time with goody bags for our nursing staff. Each bag was filled with snacks and words of encouragement. The second times recognizing the vital role our environmental services staff members play in keeping our facilities safe and clean. This time they brought pizza.

---



# GENEROUS DONATIONS



## MUNA Federal Credit Union

MUNA Federal Credit Union recently contributed \$14,700 to the Anderson Regional Health System COVID-19 Fund to help create an "Oasis Room" for frontline medical staff. COVID-19 continues to place emotional and physical challenges on physicians, nurses, technicians and staff. Pictured are, from left, Joseph Lamberth, MUNA Executive Vice President; Bo Pittman, MUNA President & CEO; and from Anderson, Betty Cryer, RN, MSN, Chief Nursing Officer; Melia Goodman, RN, ICU/CCU Nurse Manager; John G. Anderson, President & CEO; and Laura Carmichael, Director of Development.

---



## Dora Thornton

Thank you to Dora Thornton of MeMaw's Ceramics for making the beautiful ceramic angels for our frontline employees.

---



## John O'Neil Johnson Toyota

John O'Neil Johnson Toyota treated frontline staff with delicious smoothies.

---



## Poplar Springs Drive

## United Methodist Church

PSDUMC treated frontline staff with goodie bags.

---



## 2021 Volunteer of the Year Named

Sarah Crenshaw has been named 2021 Volunteer of the Year by Anderson. Sarah has been a volunteer for 16 years and said she knew God was calling her to be a volunteer and she “has never looked back.” Sarah relies on the Holy Spirit to guide her on how to help patients, their families and Anderson employees. She is a selfless lady that puts others' needs before her own.

You can catch Sarah walking a patient to the Medical Towers or anywhere around the hospital. Sarah has made the rounds as a volunteer, working at the North Lobby, helping in Human Resources and filling in at the Information Desk at the South Campus. Sarah is always wearing a smile and her loving, gentle spirit is contagious. Sarah is a mother and grandmother. We celebrate Sarah as our Volunteer of the Year!

---

## SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

---

The following departments/centers had the highest increase in their YTD score in 2021 (January – August).

4-East • Anderson Family Medical Center - Enterprise  
Horizons Geri-Psych Center • Ultrasound

---

## CELEBRATING NATIONAL EVENTS

---

Labor & Delivery Surgical Technicians Week





# EMPLOYEES OF QUARTER JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER

## Mission

To continue our heritage of healing and improving life for the people we serve.



**Leslie Brown** is a Registered Nurse who works at Tom C. Maynor Rehabilitation Center. She has worked at Anderson for three years. Her coworkers said, “One of Leslie’s patients shared how much he appreciated Leslie checking on him frequently and tending to his needs. He rarely had to use the call bell because he knew she would be back soon. • Patients love her and say they feel safe and cared for when she is their nurse. Leslie was a key player in the preparation and success of our Joint Commission survey. • During the height of the pandemic, Leslie was one of several nurses on the rehab unit who took on the responsibility of caring for COVID positive patients. She stated, ‘It’s my responsibility and duty to take care of people who need my help.’ • Leslie has a great personality, a wonderful rapport with her patients and is always willing to go the extra step. She always has a smile on her face even when she’s not feeling her best. • She truly loves her job.” In her spare time, Leslie serves as the Minister of Music at her church and has taught CPR classes for 18 years. She has served as a certified volunteer firefighter for over 20 years with Center Ridge Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. She has two beautiful grown daughters and a handsome grandson. She loves to travel, work in her yard, play the piano, work at her church, and spend time with her family.”

## Vision

To be the healthcare provider of choice.

**Sherika Walker** is a Patient Care Tech who has worked at Anderson for 14 years. She has worked on 5-East, 4-East and is now working on 3-East. Her coworkers said, “Sherika is a pleasure to work with. • She cares for her patients and her co-workers. Never has she been asked to do something that she didn’t do right that moment. • She takes pride in her work, and she wants her patients to be cared for as if they were her family. • During the pandemic, she provided exceptional care to patients who were lonely from not having their family members visit. • She didn’t let the fact they had COVID-19 get in the way of her job. She is a true asset to our organization.” In her spare time, Sherika enjoys being with family and she is currently getting settled in her new home with her two sons. She has served as an active member of Bethel Baptist Church since her childhood.



## Values

We recognize: Respect, Trust, Dignity and Responsiveness.



**Heather Durham** is an Executive Administrative Assistant and has worked at Anderson for four years. Her coworkers said, “Heather is very professional, helpful and resourceful. She multi-tasks all day long, fielding phone calls, handling issues, setting up meetings and compiling reports, just to name a few. • She is not afraid to do things that are totally outside her job description if she sees something that needs to be done. For instance, there was a large spill near administration and instead of tracking down a housekeeper, Heather cleaned it up herself. She said she knew it would take less time to clean it up herself and it would prevent people from slipping. • Heather also figured out the reason our sink was leaking and is keeping an eye on our mini-fridge to be sure it doesn’t freeze up again. • She is a jack of all trades and we are so fortunate to have her in the administrative office.” In her spare time, Heather enjoys spending time with her two daughters, Brooklyn and Kynzlee. They attend House of Presence in Collinsville.



## 2021 Readers' Choice Awards

# Best Hospital

### *Cardiologist*

- 1st .....Dr. David Geer  
2nd .....Dr. Jennifer Rodriguez  
3rd .....Dr. Dale Touchstone

### *Doctor*

- 1st .....Dr. Doug Phillips  
3rd .....Dr. Asif Lala

### *Gift Shop*

- 1st .....Anderson Pharmacy

### *Health & Fitness Center*

- 1st .....Anderson Health  
& Fitness Center

### *Internal Medicine*

- 1st .....Dr. William Reid  
2nd .....Dr. Muzaffar Rahat

### *Nurse*

- 1st .....Natalie Beddingfield, RN  
3rd .....Lizzie Mason, RN

### *OB/GYN*

- 2nd .....Dr. Elizabeth Trest  
3rd .....Dr. Ronnye Purvis

### *Optometrist/Ophthalmologist*

- 2nd .....Dr. Jonathan Moore  
3rd .....Dr. Cassie Confait

### *Pain Specialist*

- 1st .....Dr. Eric Pearson  
2nd .....Dr. Azhar Pasha  
3rd .....Dr. Charles "CC" Martin

### *Pediatrician*

- 1st .....Dr. Deanna Price  
2nd .....Dr. Robert Justice

### *Pharmacist*

- 1st .....Erin Dewease

### *Pharmacy*

- 1st .....Anderson Pharmacy

### *Physical/Outpatient Therapist*

- 1st .....Bonnie Holloman  
2nd .....Scott White

### *Plastic Surgeon*

- 1st .....Dr. Lee Thornton  
2nd .....Dr. Mark Elliott

### *Podiatrist*

- 1st .....Dr. Leigh White  
2nd .....Dr. Scott Hanegan

### *Primary Care Physician*

- 2nd .....Dr. Doug Phillips

### *Rehabilitation Center*

- 1st .....Tom C. Maynor  
Rehabilitation Center

# Thank You!

*AndersonRegional.org*