



## PROVIDER HIGHLIGHT

# Georgia Scroll



### Archbold Medical Center

In this day and age when we have all been hit hard from the economic environment, it is especially pleasing to hear about a hospital that is doing something to help the community and give back in times of need. Such a hospital is Archbold Medical Center.

Archbold Medical Center is a five-hospital, four nursing-home system with more than 800 beds. It employs more than 2,500 people and boasts an outstanding medical staff of more than 200 qualified specialists. The flagship hospital is John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital in Thomasville, Georgia, with 264 beds. Affiliate hospitals, also in Georgia, are Brooks County Hospital in Quitman, Early Memorial Hospital in Blakely, Grady General Hospital in Cairo, and Mitchell County Hospital in Camilla.

Since 1925, Archbold Medical Center has been synonymous with high-quality, compassionate medical care. Their dedicated staff and exemplary facilities have helped them maintain an excellent reputation. Their facilities are accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

If you look on their website and see any of their printed advertisement or publications you see the words, "Care. Commitment. Community." At face value, it's a slogan. But it's really a way of life at Archbold. It's an expectation that its employees exemplify the highest of standards in a patient-first healing environment. This commitment to care, commitment and community has led to the Georgia Hospital Association recently awarding its prestigious Community Leadership Award to Archbold Medical Center. The award is based on the community outreach Archbold provides and its collaborations with community partners such as the Thomasville Community Resource Center (TCRC), YMCA and Thomas County Health Department. This award was one of just two community leadership awards given in Georgia and highlights hospitals that reach beyond their walls to make a difference in their community.

"What makes this award particularly meaningful is that we were recognized amongst our peers for our success with one of our Core Values — Community Benefit," said Perry Mustian, President/CEO of Archbold Medical Center. "Our outreach efforts are designed to improve access to healthcare in poor and underserved areas and to improve the health of our community. We also focus our education and free screenings on diseases of concern in our area, including heart and vascular disease, cancer, kidney disease, diabetes."

Almeda Simpson, RPh, Archbold's Assistant Vice President for Clinical and Community Outreach, coordinates the hospital's outreach efforts. To improve access to care, Mrs. Simpson plans educational programs and free screenings at community centers, churches, Housing Authority areas,

schools, community events and more. In 2008 alone, more than 20,000

free screening tests were performed at 94 community events throughout the Archbold service area. This includes monthly cancer and cardiac screenings at the TCRC and vascular screenings in Archbold's Heart and Vascular Center.

"Archbold Medical Center has gone above and beyond to improve the health status of its community," said Joseph Parker, president of GHA. "We applaud the staff's dedication to providing local residents with first-rate, compassionate healthcare. They are deserving recipients of this prestigious award."

"We want to continue raising awareness and offering free screenings throughout our community for diseases that are far too common here, most notably cardiac disease, vascular disease, cancer, kidney disease and diabetes," said Mrs. Simpson.

Archbold's health education and screenings focus on these diseases and are available at no cost for anyone in the community. Vascular screenings are held throughout the month at Archbold's Heart and Vascular Center and include an abdominal aortic aneurysm screening, ankle brachial index test, stroke screening and a screening for venous insufficiency. Members of the community are invited to call the Heart and Vascular Center to schedule your appointment. Cardiac screenings are offered monthly at the Thomasville Community Resource Center, as well as screenings for breast, oral, skin, and colorectal cancers.

For more information on Archbold's Clinical and Community Outreach program, call 229.228.2751.

So, in difficult times as these are, it is gratifying to hear of the types of programs Archbold offers their local communities. Their values of care, commitment and community resound with all their programs. Congratulations Archbold Medical Center for being presented with this prestigious award.