

# ❖ Wayne Memorial Hospital

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## **Wayne Memorial Hospital Receives \$100,000 in Georgia HEART funds From PrimeSouth Bank**

**Jesup, GA** – Through the Georgia Rural Health Tax Program, Georgia HEART, Wayne Memorial recently received \$100,000 from PrimeSouth Bank. Pictured from left to right are Hospital Chief Financial Officer Greg Jones, Hospital Chief Executive Officer Joe Ierardi, PrimeSouth Market President Dylan Brinkley and PrimeSouth Branch Manager Autumn Carter at the check presentation.

Georgia HEART (Helping Enhance Access to Rural Treatment) is a state tax credit program that allows Georgia taxpayers to direct their tax dollars locally, supporting rural hospitals within the state. For years, Georgia's rural hospitals have faced significant financial challenges driven by demographic shifts, economic pressures, and changes within the health care industry—threatening access to essential health care services for rural communities. To address this critical issue, the Georgia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 258 in 2016, which was signed into law by then-Governor Nathan Deal. The legislation provides Georgia income tax credits to individual and corporate taxpayers who contribute to qualified rural hospital organizations across the state.

“At PrimeSouth Bank, we believe strong communities are built through meaningful relationships and local partnerships,” said Dylan Brinkley, Jesup Market President. “As we celebrate 135 years of serving communities across Georgia, we’re proud to support Wayne Memorial Hospital through Georgia HEART and invest in the health and well-being of the people who call this area home. Supporting our local hospitals is one way we continue showing up for our communities in a meaningful way.”

Participation in the Georgia HEART program is limited to qualifying rural hospitals in Georgia that meet specific criteria established by law. Eligibility requirements include serving a population of 50,000 or fewer residents, excluding military personnel; operating as a tax-exempt organization or under a public hospital authority; and participating in both Medicare and Medicaid programs. In addition, eligible hospitals must provide a minimum level of indigent or uncompensated care. To qualify for the program, rural hospitals are also required to submit a five-year strategic plan to the Georgia Department of Community Health.

“We are ever so grateful for this very generous gift from PrimeSouth,” Ierardi said. “This significant donation is in accordance with their mission of making a positive impact on the communities they serve by offering creative solutions. When PrimeSouth’s mission is added to our mission of caring for the community, we are able to increase that care for the community as a whole,” Ierardi shared. Jones added, “Gifts such as this help our small, rural hospital in a big way by providing an avenue for us to buy necessary but unbudgeted equipment that benefits all of our patients and ultimately, community.”

Wayne Memorial Hospital, whose mission is to provide high quality health care services to all patients, built a state-of-the-art facility in 2007. It is the third largest employer in Wayne County with 500 employees, 84 beds and is a three-time winner of the Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals Small Hospital of the Year Award.

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