

Stories to *Live* by.

A COLLECTION OF INSPIRING MEMORIES

McLeod Health

The Language of *Hope Lives* here.

It is spoken by our physicians, nurses, and staff and most importantly by our patients. Throughout our long history of caring and commitment, we have helped patients and their families rise and overcome adversity. Rise to challenges big and small and mend the wounds that can and cannot be seen. Our halls echo with inspiring moments of hope and healing. This booklet is a reflection of some of these moments as well as the expertise, skill, compassion, and grace that helped the human spirit triumph.

Our patients inspire us and give us stories to live by every day.

We didn't just
REPAIR HIS HEART,
we kept others
FROM BREAKING.

When Mike's heart went into persistent Atrial Fibrillation, he said "it was like my heart was running a marathon." Since people who have atrial fibrillation (irregular heartbeat) are five times more likely to have a stroke, Mike was sent to the specialists at the McLeod Heart & Vascular Institute. Our Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Dr. S. Cary Huber, and Electrophysiologist, Dr. Rajesh Malik quickly determined that Mike needed the MAZE procedure, a surgical intervention to redirect the heart's electrical pattern. Mike's condition was complex and required electrical mapping of his heart before surgery was even over to ensure it was beating properly - and it was.

"I am amazed at how much this surgery has changed my quality of life. I no longer worry if I'll be around to play with my grandchildren," said Mike. Because of the work of our talented cardiovascular specialists, Mike's heart wasn't the only one that returned to normal - so did the hearts of those around him.

Mike Cullipher *Heart Attack Survivor*



We turned a
ONE-POUND BUNDLE
into
JOY.

Born 13 weeks premature weighing just one pound, Christina Feistel has been beating the odds since day one. "I couldn't believe someone so tiny could survive. Her faint cry sounded like a kitten," recalls her mother, Abby. Christina was born with severely under-developed and damaged lungs. As Christina entered the world, the expert McLeod Neonatal Intensive Care team went to work facing every challenge head on without ever giving up. Under the skilled care of Neonatologist Dr. Douglas Moeckel, Christina was given the life-saving care and support she needed to survive. Now a thriving three-year-old, Christina has an incredible story to tell and her parents have a bundle of joy to love and cherish.

Christina Feistel *Premature Birth*



EXPERT CANCER CARE *got her back to* CARING FOR OTHERS.

Forty-five year old Melanie Rollings, a dedicated McLeod Radiology Technologist, never dreamed she'd be the one in need of serious medical care. What began as severe, debilitating back pain quickly became a tough fight against cancer. After being referred to McLeod Regional Medical Center, Melanie underwent tests that showed metastatic cancer to the liver and spine that had started in her breast.

The diagnosis left Melanie shocked and scared, but an introduction to the highly-skilled McLeod Oncologist Dr. Sreenivas Rao changed all that. Dr. Rao began an aggressive chemotherapy program and customized treatment plan specifically designed to fight Melanie's breast cancer. It was a complete success, and Melanie has been cancer-free for three years. Today, Melanie is grateful for the ability to do what she loves most - caring for others.

"Cancer will change your life," says Melanie. "I experienced an amazing outcome, and, I could not have done it without God, Dr. Rao, and my family."

Melanie Rollings *Cancer Survivor*



Our orthopedic surgeon gave her
SURE FOOTING
to get back to life.

Betty Board looks forward to her daily strolls through the neighborhood. After a serious ankle injury, she experienced severe pain and swelling that made it difficult to simply walk. Betty met with McLeod orthopedic surgeon Dr. Jason O'Dell, who determined that her entire ankle joint had deteriorated. To give Betty the best chance to maintain movement of the joint, eliminate pain, and preserve surrounding joints, Dr. O'Dell recommended a total ankle replacement.

"I have never regretted going through with the surgery, and I am so glad that Dr. O'Dell was able to replace my ankle," said Betty. Dr. O'Dell's expertise and skill enabled Betty to get the total ankle replacement she needed and she's back to walking with her loved ones.

Betty Board *Orthopedic Patient*



We hit all the
RIGHT NOTES
to help him
MAKE MUSIC AGAIN.

Randy Rouse headed home from rehearsal with the Francis Marion University Concert Band, when he began experiencing confusion and numbness. As he tried to say hello to his wife, his speech became slurred. Rushed to the McLeod Dillon Emergency Department, Randy was immediately diagnosed with a stroke caused by a dangerous brain bleed. When it comes to treating a stroke, every minute counts. The fast-acting McLeod physicians administered life-saving medical care using the latest treatments.

“My wife, Debra, told me that as lifesaving decisions were being made, she was confident that McLeod was making choices that were best for me,” said Randy. The harmonious symphony of care provided by the medical professionals at McLeod Dillon allowed Randy to return to work - and to playing his trumpet - only days later.

Randy Rouse *Stroke Survivor*



We gave him the
STRENGTH
to breathe deep and
SOAR HIGH.

Fred Kristensen had a passion for flying planes until he began having difficulty breathing. He was diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and was put on oxygen. Fred was told that his only long-term hope was to receive a lung transplant. Before being eligible for a lung transplant, he was referred to McLeod Health Cheraw for pulmonary rehabilitation to improve his lung function and condition him for the transplant. Under the skilled care of Sonny Usher, Director of McLeod Pulmonary Rehabilitation in Cheraw, a customized exercise and training program was designed to help Fred achieve the best results.

“Because of Sonny and the McLeod team, I was properly conditioned and ready to receive my new lung,” says Fred. After a successful lung transplant, Fred continues maintenance rehabilitation with McLeod and is able to breathe easy while in his pilot seat.

Fred Kristensen *COPD Patient*



After Anne discovered she had a
BRAIN TUMOR,
we removed it with
LASER PRECISION.

When Anne found out she had a brain tumor, she had no idea what was involved in treatment. She could only imagine that it would mean brain surgery and a long recovery. After meeting with Radiation Oncologist Dr. Rhett Spencer, Anne received some astounding news. Due to the advanced technology and expertise available at McLeod, Anne was a perfect candidate for a leading-edge, non-invasive, extremely targeted radiation treatment using the STx Linear Accelerator. These treatments require extreme precision to deliver radiation utilizing multiple laser beams that intersect with a single point in the brain. Using advanced imaging technology that allowed them to scan each millimeter of the brain, our talented team engineered a precise treatment plan that resulted in the removal of Anne's tumor - in one treatment.

"I did not feel a thing during the procedure. When it was over, I went home, rode my golf cart and played with my grandson like it was any other day," said Anne. Because of our team's laser focus, Anne was able to focus on more important things - her family.

Anne Kirby *Cancer Survivor*



Our expertise in
ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY
helped get Will back to the
WORK AT HAND.

As an Information Technologist, Will Williams uses his hands to perform important computer tasks. So when he suffered a severe break in his finger, it affected his ability to work. Will was referred to McLeod Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Christopher Litts, who specializes in hand and upper extremity surgery. To make sure Will's finger healed properly with no loss of mobility or function, Dr. Litts performed CRPP (Closed Reduction Percutaneous Pinning), a surgical procedure using pins to stabilize the bone. After surgery and an occupational therapy program at McLeod, Will returned to full duty at work.

"I depend heavily on the use of my hands and wanted the best treatment available," said Will. "I found that in the expert care I received from Dr. Litts and McLeod Health."

Will Williams *Orthopedic Patient*



Faced with the match of his life,
COACH NELSON WAS GLAD
we were
ON HIS TEAM.

When the unexpected happens, you need a strong team behind you. No one knows that more than Charlie Nelson, a retired teacher and tennis coach in Florence. What started as a feeling of pressure and back pain, quickly became a matter of life or death. Coach Nelson went to the nearest emergency department where tests revealed a tear in his aorta, resulting in critical blood supplies being cut off from major organs. The McLeod HeartReach ambulance quickly transported him to McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence, where Dr. Christopher Cunningham, a top McLeod Vascular Surgeon, went to work. Using x-ray imaging, Dr. Cunningham skillfully guided a catheter through the artery and sealed the tear with a stent graft. Thankfully, when Coach Nelson was in the match of his life, our vascular expertise served up the healthcare ace he needed.

Coach Nelson *Cardiovascular Patient*



We mended
HER HEART,
so she could tend
TO HER GARDEN.

Pasty knew something was wrong when she couldn't catch her breath and walk the forty yards to her beloved garden. Shortly after, Pasty experienced a heavy chest and was rushed to McLeod Loris where doctors determined she had suffered a heart attack. Pasty's condition required critical attention and the skilled team at McLeod Loris quickly transferred her to McLeod Regional Medical Center, where renowned McLeod Cardiothoracic Surgeon Dr. Scot Schultz told Pasty she required a quadruple bypass. Utilizing the latest techniques and leading edge technology, Dr. Schultz and his team skillfully performed the complex bypass and had Pasty up walking the very next day.

"To all of my physicians and nurses at McLeod, I've never had such wonderful care from any other hospital. Thank you for giving me a second chance at life," said Pasty. Today, the only thing taking Pasty's breath away is her beautiful garden.

Pasty Simmons *Heart Attack Survivor*





McLeod Health

McLeodHealth.org