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### **The Medication Assistance Program at Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital Receives \$40,000 Grant from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation**

DUNN, NC (**March 6, 2008**) – The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) Foundation recently awarded Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital a twelve-month grant of \$40,000 for the Medication Assistance Program. The grant is intended to help provide medications for uninsured people in the area.

The program began with a grant from the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund and employs Part-time Pharmacists Lori Duke and Alyce Holmes; and Prescription Assistance Coordinators Medina Getter-Apkins and Megan Lockamy.

Medication Management of Harnett County works with community physicians to obtain medications from drug companies for those individuals who are unable to pay for medications, but do not qualify for other assistance. Currently, over 180 patients are participating in the program and they have received \$850,000 in free medications.

The program not only helps patients in need of assistance in obtaining medications at no cost, it also allows for a practitioner to review each patient's medication profile to search for possible problems such as drug interactions or duplicate therapies.

"Each year, more and more Harnett County residents find themselves in need of prescription assistance," said Ken Bryan, president and CEO of Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital. "With this grant, we will be able to reach an additional 75 patients. Doing so will lead to a healthier community, and, hopefully improve the quality of life for our patients."

"We believe that by supporting the Medication Assistance Program, we are continuing to align our foundation with organizations, programs and people capable of improving the health and well-being of North Carolinians," said Kathy Higgins, President of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation.

Statewide, the BCBSNC Foundation invested more than \$690,000 in grants to 14 organizations as part of this most recent grant cycle. More information can be found at [www.bcbsncfoundation.org](http://www.bcbsncfoundation.org).

For more information about Medication Management of Harnett County, please call 910-892-1000 ext. 4092.

Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital, a 101-bed private not-for-profit hospital based in Dunn, North Carolina, offers emergency, primary and specialty care services to Harnett, Cumberland, Johnston, and Sampson County residents. Serving patients since 1940, the hospital has nearly 100 affiliated physicians and over 700 employees. For more information, visit [www.bjrh.org](http://www.bjrh.org).

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