



RUTHERFORD REGIONAL
HEALTH SYSTEM

Duke LifePoint Healthcare

2025 Community Update

with CEO Sudandra Ratnasamy

LIVE Your
Healthiest **LIFE**



Our Mission

Making communities healthier®

Our Vision

*At Rutherford Regional Health System,
we want to create places
where people choose to come for
healthcare, physicians and providers
want to practice, and employees
want to work.*

Our Core Values

Champion patient care

Do the right thing

Embrace individuality

Act with kindness

Make a difference together



LIVE Your Healthiest **LIFE**

About Us

- 143-bed acute care facility
- Serving Rutherford County for more than 118 years
- Employ more than 500 staff and 120 physicians and advanced practice providers
- Key Service Lines: Orthopedics, General Surgery/GI, OBGYN, and Cardiology
- Recent Additions: STEMI services, Ortho robotic-assisted surgery, midwifery services, 5 Rural Health Clinics, IOP, FMOBs, Wound Care & Hyperbaric (2026)



Physician Practice Facilities

- *Chase Family Care
- *Forest City Family Care
- FryeCare Cardiology – Rutherford
- Polk Medical Specialties
- *Rutherford Children's Care
- *Rutherford East Family Care
- *Rutherford Family Care
- Rutherford Occupational Medicine
- Rutherford Orthopedics
- Rutherford Premier Primary Care
- Rutherford Premier Women's Care
- Rutherford Surgical Associates



Enhancing Quality & Patient Safety



- Fully accredited by The Joint Commission
- American College of Cardiology Chest Pain Accreditation
- Primary Stroke Care Center
- American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Rural Recognition Gold Award (2025)
- American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Certification
- American College of Radiology Mammography Accreditation
- BCBS Blue Distinction Center+ for Knee and Hip Replacement (2025)

America's Best by Specialty

- One of Healthgrades America's 100 Best Hospitals for Joint Replacement™ in 2026
- Recipient of the Healthgrades Joint Replacement Excellence Award™ for 2 Years in a Row (2025-2026)
- Five-Star Recipient for Total Knee Replacement for 2 Years in a Row (2025-2026)
- Five-Star Recipient for Total Hip Replacement for 2 Years in a Row (2025-2026)
- Five-Star Recipient for Treatment of Stroke for 6 Years in a Row (2021-2026)
- Five-Star Recipient for Treatment of GI Bleed for 3 Years in a Row (2024-2026)



Care Close to Home

- Behavioral Health
- Cardiac Rehab
- Emergency Services
- Family Care
- Gastroenterology – Endoscopy
- General Surgery
- Heart & Vascular
- Imaging Services
- Intensive Care Unit
- Laboratory Services
- Nutrition Counseling
- Orthopedics & Sports Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Rehabilitation Services (Speech Therapy, Inpatient PT and OT)
- Women's Health



LIVE Your Healthiest *LIFE*

**Robotic-assisted
orthopedic surgery.
Personal touch.**



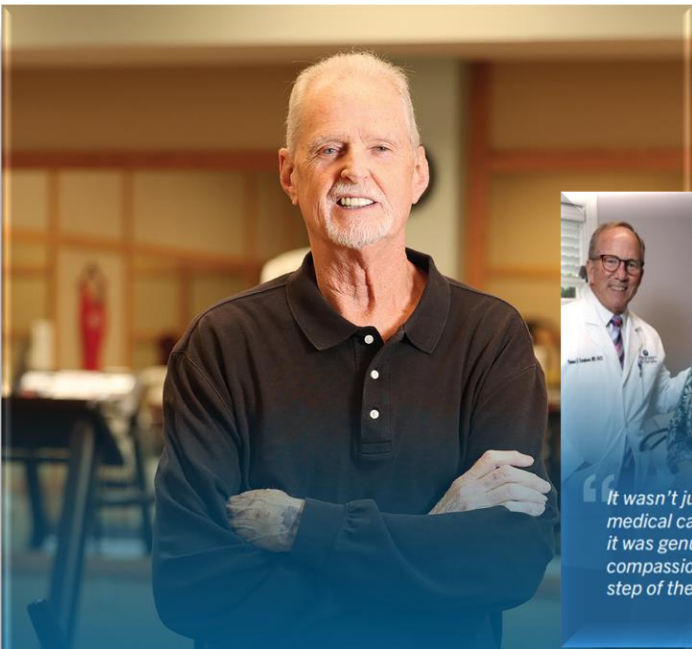
To learn more visit
MyRutherfordRegional.com/robot

Investments in Our Facility & Technology Upgrades

YTD estimated at \$4.6 million

- 500 Ton Chiller
- New Podiatry/OR Power Saw
- New Patient Monitoring System for MRI
- New Cardiopulmonary Equipment:
 - Stress Testing System
 - Five New EKG Carts
 - PFT Equipment
- New Cold Feed Interface – Enhancing clinical data transfers between software.
- New Central Sterile Drying Cabinet
- Aging Equipment Replacements (Nuclear Medicine, IT Data Center, etc.)
- Wireless Fetal Monitoring System – L&D
- New Lab Analyzer
- BH IOP – Expansion & Transportation
- CORI Surgical System – Knee replacements
- Hana Table – Anterior Hip Replacements
- Campus improvements (interior and exterior)

LIVE Your Healthiest **LIFE**



“I feel lucky. If they hadn’t been so close, or the team hadn’t been so good, who knows if I’d still be here?”



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Overcoming the Unexpected: How Compassionate Surgical Care Made All the Difference

After a lifetime of hard work, Rutherford County resident Virginia Whitner never expected to face one of her toughest battles in retirement. When she began experiencing sudden stomach pain, the care team at Rutherford Regional Health System worked diligently to uncover the cause. That’s when general surgeon Dr. Eisenhauer stepped in and changed everything. With his compassion, skill and clear communication, Virginia found comfort and confidence through a frightening diagnosis and recovery. Today, she’s stronger than ever and deeply grateful for the care she received. Her story is one of perseverance, healing and the power of compassionate care.

See Virginia’s full story and
learn more about Rutherford
Regional Health System at
MyRutherfordRegional.com.



“I don’t think the experience
could have gotten any better.”
— Daphne, Labor & Delivery patient



A Full Continuum of Care — Right Here at Rutherford Regional

When 73-year-old Joe Frady began experiencing sudden chest pain, he trusted his instincts and drove himself to **Rutherford Regional Health System’s Emergency Department**. Within moments, our care team recognized a STEMI heart attack and activated the **Cardiac Catheterization Lab**, where **Dr. Hearon** and team quickly opened a 95% coronary blockage and placed a stent, saving Joe’s life.

Following his procedure, Joe was closely monitored in the **Intensive Care Unit**, then transitioned to our **Cardiac Rehabilitation Program**, where he completed 12 weeks of guided recovery. He now continues his follow-up care in our **Outpatient Cardiology Clinic** with **Tara England, NP**, feeling strong and grateful.

Joe calls our team “a NASCAR crew” — moving with speed, precision, and compassion. He says, “*I can’t imagine going to any other hospital.*”

LIVE Your Healthiest LIFE

Expanding Our Care Team

Providers added in 2025:

- Behavioral Health
- Cardiology
- Family Medicine
- Family Medicine with Obstetrics
- General Surgery
- Hospital Medicine
- Neurology
- Orthopedics



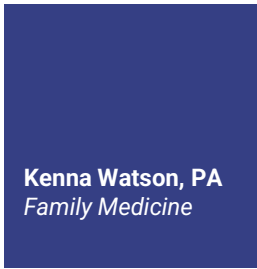
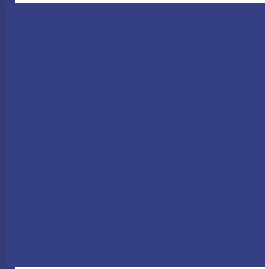
Dietrich Kayser, MD
Ortho Surgery



Cameron Ludwig, MD
Family Medicine with OB



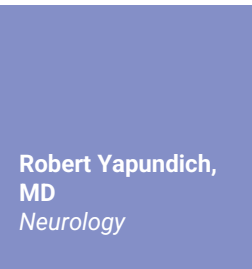
Natalie Bublitz, MD
Family Medicine with OB



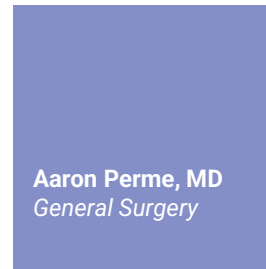
Kenna Watson, PA
Family Medicine



Dawne Akuneme, FNP
Family Medicine



Robert Yapundich, MD
Neurology



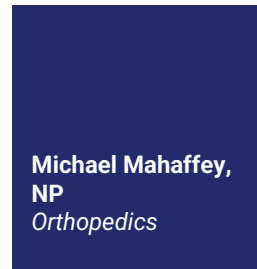
Aaron Perme, MD
General Surgery



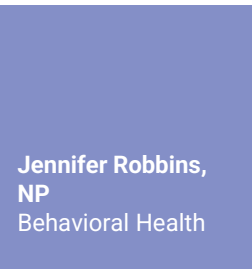
Anatole Hounnou, DO
Hospital Medicine



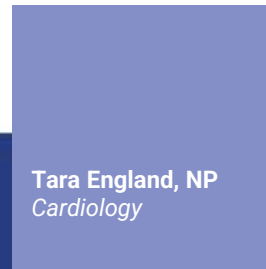
Ahmed Omran, MD
Hospital Medicine



Michael Mahaffey, NP
Orthopedics



Jennifer Robbins, NP
Behavioral Health



Tara England, NP
Cardiology





Duke LifePoint Healthcare

2024 Community Impact



Added 140 employed and independent providers



Made more than \$1.5 million in capital improvements



Distributed a payroll of \$46.3 million to approximately 515 employees



Donated more than \$23.2 million in services to those in need



Paid \$10.2 million in taxes

LIVE Your Healthiest *LIFE*



First-Aid Kit Donations to Local Sports & Athletic Associations



Presenting Sponsor - 2025 Hilltop Festival



School Collaborations for Educational Programs



Dr. Alcala Storytime at Norris Library



Donated Supplies to Underserved Assisted Living Facilities



Free Student Athlete Sports Physicals

Coming to Your School. 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. No appointment necessary.

- Chase Middle School
Tuesday, April 29
- Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy
Wednesday, April 30
- East Middle School
Thursday, May 1
- R-S Middle School
Tuesday, May 6
- East High School
Wednesday, May 7
- Chase High School
Tuesday, May 13
- R-S Central High School
Wednesday, May 14
- Lake Lure Classical Academy
Thursday, May 15



Provided 1,224 free sports physicals for all county Middle & High Schools

What's Ahead?

- **Advanced Wound Care & Hyperbaric Services** - Launching in 2026, bringing innovative treatment options for chronic wounds.
- **Expanding Services to Polk County-** General Surgery, Gynecology, Orthopedics, Neurology, and Mental Health
- **Expanding Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)** - Physically expanding the program with the addition of another therapy room for SUD to accommodate more patient appointments.
- **Provider Recruitment Efforts** – General Surgery, Cardiology, Pain Management, Urology, Orthopedics, and other key specialties.
- **Retention & Recruitment** – Investing in our future workforce through extern programs for allied health, a nurse residency program, and enhanced employee engagement and recognition initiatives.



2026 Key Operational Growth Strategies

- Expand Orthopedic Services
- Grow General Surgery & GI
- Expand Cardiovascular Services
- Implement Wound Care Services
- Expand Primary Care Presence in PSA and SSA
- Emergency Department Growth
- Inpatient BHU and IOP Growth



How to get involved

- **Join our Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC):** Contact Kim Bridges or visit our website to learn more.
- **Become a volunteer:** Make a difference with us by giving your time and talents.
- **Stay connected:** Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.
- **Explore more:** Visit our website for updates, services, HRAs, and stories.
- **Stay informed:** Check the “News” section of our website for the latest happenings.
- **Get involved:** Join us at community events and outreach activities.



Thank you!

Questions?