



GEORGIA ALLIANCE OF COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

P.O. Box 1572 · Tifton, GA 31793 · (229) 386-8660/(888) 461-5589 · Fax (229) 386-8662 · E-mail: kchavez@gach.org

Small Hospital Category **Baptist Meriwether Hospital Named ‘Hospital of the Year’ By Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals**

TIFTON, Ga. – October 28, 2003 – Baptist Meriwether Hospital in Warm Springs was named “Hospital of the Year” at the Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals’ annual meeting on Oct. 23 at Callaway Gardens. Baptist Meriwether won the honor in the small hospital category (150 beds or less).

Baptist Meriwether received the award for supporting direct patient care through improving access for indigent populations, displaying innovation and high quality in the range of services offered, and demonstrating support from the local community.

“Baptist Meriwether is an excellent facility providing outstanding care to the residents of Warm Springs and its surrounding communities,” said Alliance President Monty Veazey. “The changes they have made to improve the hospital and the services it provides are remarkable. Baptist Meriwether, and everyone associated with it, is well deserving of this honor.”

The 38-bed Baptist Meriwether Hospital recently completed a \$6.7 million renovation and 8,500 square-foot addition complete with a new emergency department, an obstetric department with birthing suites, a diagnostic imaging center, a modern admitting department, a state-of-the-art surgical suite, private bathrooms for each patient room and a renovated lobby with a chapel.

New equipment and services include a CT scanner, respiratory therapy department, expanded lab services and 24-hour expanded physician coverage. The hospital has also recruited many new specialists to serve its community including a pediatrician, internist/gastroenterologist, OB gynecologist and full-time general surgeon.

In addition to the award, the hospital received a \$1,500 cash prize from awards-sponsor Hayslett Sorrel LLC, the Atlanta-based public relations firm that serves the Alliance and many of its member hospitals.

Representatives from the Florida Hospital Association judged this year's awards.

The Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals works for the best interests of community not-for-profit hospitals and Georgia's health care consumers. Its mission is to foster goodwill among community health care professionals; to advocate the enactment of sound laws, rules and regulations affecting community hospitals; to conduct and disseminate research and to share ideas that improve the health care delivery system in Georgia.

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For more information, contact:

Johanna Blood

Hayslett Sorrel

770.522.8855, ext. 230

jblood@hayslettsorrel.com

Kim Chavez

Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals

229.386.8660

kchavez@gach.org