

# A Closer Look

with HopeHealth's Dr. Harmeet Gill



**Dr. Harmeet Gill** is an infectious diseases specialist at the HopeHealth Medical Plaza in Florence providing services such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C treatment. “We are kind of like the FBI,” Gill explains, “We have to look for all possible causes, treating [cases] like a mystery, examining head to toe to treat the whole patient.” Dr. Gill has vast experience managing rural health initiatives, running the national polio eradication program in India and receiving a state-level award for efficiently managing a 600-person cholera outbreak. “Our response was so well-coordinated that even with [few] resources, we were able to prevent any deaths,” shares Gill. Dr. Gill is fluent in English, Hindi, and Punjabi, is a member of The Infectious Disease Society of America and the American Medical Association, and, “I even break dance,” jokes Gill, “when I dance, everything breaks around me!”

On January 12, **HopeHealth in Orangeburg** hosted an open house event to celebrate its facility expansion and the addition of **HopeHealth Pharmacy Orangeburg**. The event featured speakers including HopeHealth staff and Michael Butler, mayor of Orangeburg. Staff provided tours of the facility, and Edisto High School musicians Zion Phelps and Khristian Sprinkle played jazz.



## Dedication for the Streater Building Project



On February 27, HopeHealth held a dedication for the **Streater Building project** at the Hyatt Place Downtown featuring refreshments from local Black-owned businesses and an overview of the building's future. The Streater building is the last remaining African American architectural landmark of the downtown business district in Florence. HopeHealth purchased the building in 2018 in the hopes of utilizing it as a place to provide value-based community services outside of the traditional scope of health care. Upon completion of its revitalization, this HopeHealth project will strengthen community engagement and decrease barriers to care by enhancing programs focused on serving seniors, Veterans, and Black men.



In February, members of the **HopeHealth development team** partnered with the American Heart Association to host **Heart Healthy Barbershop Tours** in Florence, Lake City, Manning, and Orangeburg. Staff visited local barbershops to educate on blood pressure management, providing blood pressure information and free lunch at each location. To keep this initiative moving forward in each community, the participating barbershops also received a free blood pressure monitor and training on how to check their customers' blood pressure.

## NEW PROVIDERS



Aiyanna Johnson, FNP

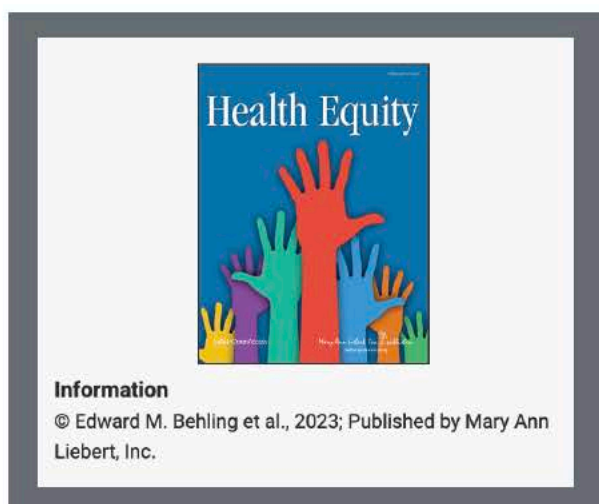
Aiyanna Johnson is a family nurse practitioner providing care at the HopeHealth Medical Plaza. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing/Nurse Practitioner from Francis Marion University in Florence, SC. Her clinical interests are preventive health, holistic medicine, and patient-centered and culturally competent care.



Amanda Cieluch, AGNP

Amanda Cieluch is a nurse practitioner providing care at the HopeHealth Medical Plaza. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, and a Master of Science in Nursing/Nurse Practitioner from South University in Columbia, SC, and is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

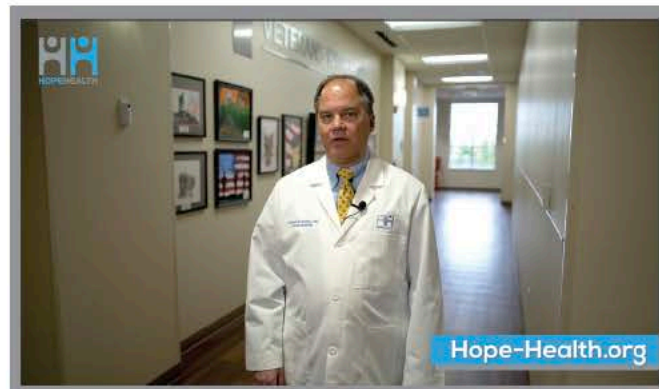
## Dr. Ed Behling published in Health Equity Journal...



Congratulations to Dr. Ed Behling, chief medical officer, for having work published in Health Equity online! Health Equity is a peer-reviewed open access journal published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. that addresses health disparities and health equity among vulnerable populations. Tammy Garris, clinical data controller, and Vicky Blankenship, clinical policy and education controller, were credited alongside Dr. Behling for "Improvement in Hypertension Control Among Adults Seen in Federally Qualified Health Center Clinics in the Stroke Belt: Implementing a Program with a Dashboard and Process Metrics."

## ...and featured in a Super Bowl commercial!

Dr. Behling also served as the focal point of a regional Super Bowl commercial intended to raise awareness about how diabetes and other hormone-related complications can keep you from feeling your best. The commercial featured several ways to keep these endocrine-related issues under control, including controlling blood sugar, taking medications, and ensuring you stay up-to-date with vaccines, including COVID-19.





Charlee Rhodes has only served as **HopeHealth events and development coordinator** since January, but has already made a big impact, playing an integral role in HopeHealth's **Streater Building dedication**. A native of Lake City, Rhodes's passion for development was fostered through her years of involvement with Dramatic Coffee Beans, a non-profit focused on youth development, while her love for events served as the catalyst for opening her yoga side-business. When asked about her vision for HopeHealth's future, she shared her hope for continued community partnerships, expanded access to care, and further expansion of the compassionate care fund to continue serving our patients. Welcome to HopeHealth, Charlee!

## compassionate care fund

HopeHealth patients may experience barriers to their health care needs that cannot be met directly by our providers. The compassionate care fund exists to contribute to these unmet needs, such as the cost of specialty care and emergency assistance.



- \$20     
  \$50     
  \$100     
  \$500  
 \$1000     
  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I've enclosed a check payable to HopeHealth.

Please charge my credit card:

- Visa     
  AMEX     
  Master Card

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number Expiration Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cardholder Name CVV Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

This gift is in memory of (name of deceased):

\_\_\_\_\_

This gift is a tribute to (name of individual):

\_\_\_\_\_

to commemorate \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

HopeHealth is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations to HopeHealth are tax-deductible according to current IRS laws. Mail donations to: HopeHealth Community Relations, 360 North Irby Street, Florence, SC 29501.

Yes, I would like to make a donation to the HopeHealth compassionate care fund.



Florence-based HopeHealth staff are invited to volunteer with local non-profit **My Brother's Keeper**. Located at the Trinity Annex (124 W. Darlington Street, Florence), My Brother's Keeper serves over 200 meals a day to the homeless and others in need throughout our community. Food is boxed up and taken to local parks for distribution seven days a week.

This staff opportunity is presented by **HopeHealth Volunteers**, which provides lots of chances for community members to give their time. HopeHealth volunteer Janice Bynem recently reached 300 volunteer hours spent with the community relations department and was congratulated with a tote bag! When asked about her favorite part of volunteering, Janice shared that she loves working with a great crew!



On January 25, HopeHealth partnered with PDRTA and the Williamsburg County Transit System to host **Connecting Communities: The Williamsburg Transit Symposium**. Community organizations met to discuss plans to expand transportation access and provide additional service stops for medical facilities, work, and other amenities. Transportation is an important social determinant of health, and this important development ensures community members receive the care they need while accessing other services. 79% of Williamsburg County citizens lack access to a vehicle, making this expansion much-needed.