



Communities of
COASTAL GEORGIA FOUNDATION

IN HER HONOR

by Valerie Hepburn, President & CEO Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation



This is a love story. It begins with a couple's shared vision to improve the health and well-being of their adopted community and it carries forward as a family's ongoing celebration of the life and legacy of their wife and mother.

Miriam and Hugh Nunnally built a home on Sea Island in 1973. A highly respected businessman, Mr. Nunnally commuted between Atlanta and Sea Island while his family enjoyed summers and most holidays in the Golden Isles. After selling his company, Miriam and Hugh made Sea Island their primary residence. Their children – Hugh III,

Lee and Mary – all live in Atlanta and have successful lives of their own. They count Coastal Georgia – the home at Sea Island and the family retreat in McIntosh County – as their second home.

Miriam and Hugh had a long history of generosity and volunteerism in the Atlanta area. Together, they crafted the idea of a significant philanthropic gift in Glynn County to help families at the time when it matters most – at birth. They agreed to help finance the construction and outfitting of a new maternity center at Southeast Georgia Health System. Tragically, Miriam passed away in 2008 before (*continues*)

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the new facility would be completed. Yet, Miriam's spirit and joy for life still thrives through her husband of fifty-five years and her children. Though he misses her every day, Hugh Nunnally has engaged himself in health care philanthropy as a means to honor Miriam.

In October 2010, the Miriam and Hugh Nunnally Maternity Care Center was officially opened at the Southeast Georgia Health System, Brunswick Campus. The 6,500 square foot center provides state-of-the-art facilities, services and technology to support mothers, babies and families during childbirth. A portrait of the Nunnallys graces the main lobby of the Center.

Through his work with the health system, Hugh Nunnally quickly recognized the important role of well-educated and compassionate nurses. Hugh's own health care experiences – and those of his wife – were made bear-

able because of the high quality and thoughtful care they had received from nurses, nurses who had gotten their first years of education at the growing College of Coastal Georgia. In early 2011, Hugh Nunnally decided that ensuring a steady stream of outstanding nurses, at both the associate and baccalaureate levels, would be the logical next step to honor Miriam. He reasoned that top-notch health care facilities need top-notch nurses to be truly effective and successful. He founded the Miriam and Hugh

Nunnally Center for Nursing Education, dedicating a portion of the new health and science building to the finest in nursing education.

By 2012, Hugh Nunnally had made an investment in all three stories of the building, from laboratory sciences and radiologic technology to chemistry and anatomy and physiology. And,



TOP: The Miriam and Hugh Nunnally Health and Science Building;
ABOVE: The Miriam and Hugh Nunnally Center for Maternity Care

the Miriam and Hugh Nunnally Health and Science Building was dedicated, ensuring a high quality teaching facility for aspiring nurses, physicians, pharmacists and a full range of therapists who might begin their education in their local community and ultimately travel the path to provide care at the Miriam and Hugh Nunnally Center for Maternity Care and the Southeast Georgia Health System only block away.

The Nunnallys weren't done, however. Hugh had long been im-

pressed by the work of his sister, Mary Lee Nunnally Farrior, who had founded a home for abused children in Tampa, Florida. Mary Lee's House and its collaborative approach in housing children, clinicians and supportive families gave him the idea for another project. He and his family had crafted outstanding clinical facilities and education of care providers, but now they considered how they might help patients and families with more basic needs.

In May of this year, Nunnally House was dedicated on the Brunswick Campus of the Southeast Georgia Health System. Newly constructed and tastefully appointed, Nunnally House offers 40 short-term residential rooms and common areas, which provide comfortable housing for patients receiving cancer care, families of longer-stay hospital patients and medical students on rotation at the health system. Since opening, Nunnally House has had a steady stream of

lodgers – from physicians in training, who might one day establish practice in this community, to families in need.

Miriam and Hugh Nunnally, along with their very supportive children, have made lasting gifts to Glynn County and the whole of Coastal Georgia. Hugh knows that Miriam sees everything that has been done. Ending each day in a conversation with the brightest star in the sky, he hears Miriam saying, "Hugh, we did good again."

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