



**VALLEY**  
**HEALTHCARE**  
S Y S T E M

## **High-Quality Care that Saves Community Healthcare Dollars.**

Over the years, Valley has served thousands of Chattahoochee Valley residents with high quality, affordable health care. Of the 222,845 people in the Columbus Area, 8,877 were Valley patients in 2012.

### **What are FQHCs?**

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) or Community Health Centers (CHCs) . . . are organizations receiving grants under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act, CHCs are local, non-profit, community-owned health care providers serving low-income and medically underserved communities.

### **What is the Role of Valley Healthcare System in the medical community?**

- Valley is the only FQHC in the Chattahoochee Valley Region. We receive an annual federal grant that, on a sliding scale, helps offset 67% of costs of patient treatments. The remainder, \$1,379,221 in 2012, has to be made up from other sources of revenue.
- Other community healthcare centers that are not federally qualified are certified as “Look Alike” organizations. These centers are not in a position to leverage Health Center Program federal dollars to help the community.
- Valley’s medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and optical services are open to all residents, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. Charges for services are on a sliding fee scale based on patient or family income.
- Community Health Centers began through the efforts of community health and civil rights activists working in low-income communities during the 1960s.

### **Local Emergency Room Savings through the use of Valley.**

Regular users of FQHCs are far less likely to go to an ER for an avoidable event. As the only FQHC in the region, Valley saved the Columbus Area’s ERs over \$938,000 in 2009 or \$1,263 per patient.

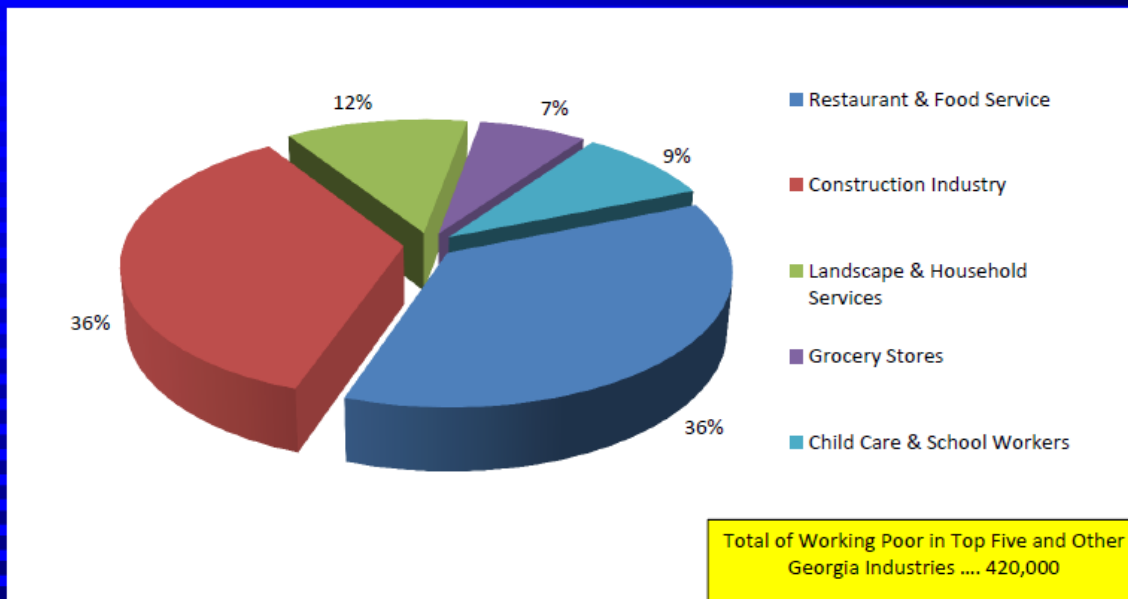
### **Area Hospital Savings Due to Valley Healthcare Systems.**

Research has demonstrated that regular users of FQHCs have lower rates of Emergency Room usage and lower odds of potentially avoidable hospitalizations. Valley eases the burden on stressed hospitals and ERs in the region by providing services that are lower than the average hospital visit of \$18,237 in 2009 saving the community an estimated \$3,507,495 annually.

### **An Economic Opportunity for Columbus Region Families, Businesses, and Government In 2009 Valley Healthcare System, Inc.:**

- Directly contributed **over \$3,882,000 to the region’s economy**, resulting in over \$2,236,216 in income to local households and 31 jobs.
- Indirectly **added \$2,334,568 to the county’s economy** through indirect and induced economic activity, including \$769,955 in household income and a total impact of 20 Columbus Area jobs.
- Brought over **\$1.60 in economic activity for every dollar spent**. For every 10 health center jobs, 17 additional jobs were created.

# Working Poor in Georgia



Information provided by **The Georgia Association For Primary Health Care**, 315 West Ponce de Leon Ave., Decatur, GA 300300. Copies of the Economic Impact Study are available on the Valley Healthcare System website.