

## THE HEART OF THE MATTER

## We want to offer our patients even more.

Our nationally-accredited Chest Pain Center already offers the region's best heart attack survival rates and the latest cardiovascular technology, like the world's first fully robotic cardiac catheterization lab. Now we are responding to the needs of the community by requesting the state's approval to add an Open Heart Surgery Program to our suite of award-winning cardiac services.

But we can't do it without your help.



## Reasons to Support our Open Heart Surgery Program:



**Growth.** We are proud to serve Chesapeake, the second largest city in Virginia, as well as the growing areas of southwestern Virginia Beach and northeastern North Carolina. We want to be ready to meet the health care needs of our burgeoning community now and into the future.



**Demand.** Heart disease is the No. 1 cause of death in Hampton Roads. It is projected that, in Chesapeake alone, the number of patients in need of cardiac surgery will increase by 9.5% over the next five years. We need to prepare for the future.



**Proximity.** Having an open-heart surgery program in Chesapeake will give our community comprehensive cardiac care close to home. This will reduce worrisome travel and wait times for our patients and their families. For many of them, the closest hospital with an open heart surgery program is 30-45 minutes away, and many patients are traveling much further. We need a local option for care.



**Surgical delays.** At existing area open-heart surgery programs, patients are facing delays getting into surgery and, in many cases, longer hospital stays. More patients are choosing to travel greater distances for open-heart surgery. Care delays can increase the risk of complications and the cost of care.



**Choice.** In addition to deserving access to life-saving services, such as those offered in an open-heart surgery program, patients are also entitled to choice. Competition provides choice and leads to improved care.

## **HOW TO HELP**

Please write a letter describing why you support CRH's Open Heart Surgery Program application. Feel free to include any positive CRH experiences or heart care-related testimonials and information.

We will help pass it along to the State Health Commissioner. Address your letter to:

Colin M. Greene, MD, MPH, State Health Commissioner c/o Chesapeake Regional Healthcare Administration 736 Battlefield Blvd., North Chesapeake, VA 23320

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