



Russell Medical

MEMBER OF **UAB** HEALTH SYSTEM

Russell Medical Announces Campus Expansion Thanks to a Benjamin Russell Legacy Gift

Alexander City, AL – Jim Peace, President and CEO of Russell Medical announced today the development of a multi-facility expansion project made possible by a generous \$25 million donation by Ben and Luanne Russell. The gift, the largest in the history of Russell Medical, will go towards the large-scale project components which are centered upon geriatric medicine and enhanced opportunities for senior citizens.

The transformational Russell Legacy Project will be located on the hospital campus in Alexander City and include an independent living community consisting of 26 single-family cottages, as well as an Assisted Living facility with 32 residential units. This donation will cover the cost of constructing and equipping the Benjamin Russell Center for Advanced Care, which will provide comprehensive geriatric health care and specialty health care services, and the creation of the Benjamin Russell Endowed Chair in Geriatrics, by the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees pending an approval process, to be held by the medical director of the Advanced Care facility.

The announcement was made following a called meeting of the Russell Medical Board of Directors on Wednesday, February 24. The board's formal resolution to commence with Phase I of its master plan, collectively called the Russell Legacy Project, was a culmination of a strategic planning process which began in 2011.

"We are overwhelmed and thrilled to make this momentous announcement," states Peace. "Ben and Luanne's extraordinary act of generosity reflects a caring family who are great supporters of Alexander City, the Lake Martin area, and the medical community in Alabama. The Russell Legacy Project allows us to grow services centered on the largest sector who are in need of healthcare services, those citizens 65 years and older," he continued. "As a long-standing member of our hospital board, Mr. Russell has been instrumental in our strategic plan and steadfastly supports our vision to become a regional hub for geriatric medicine. With his family's legacy gift, this vision will become a reality."

Peace indicated the Benjamin Russell Center for Advanced Care will be built in front of the cancer center with frontage on Highway 280 and house Gerontology, Women's Health and other specialty clinics. Dr. Cynthia J. Brown, Director for the Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care at UAB says the Russells' generosity in creating an endowed chair in Geriatrics will help meet the escalating demand for this specialty and is a huge win for the area. "Each day for the next 20+ years, approximately 10,000 adults will turn 65, and with this trend, the demand for Geriatricians is expected to skyrocket," states

Brown. “Having an endowed chair in Geriatric Medicine will allow Russell Medical to recruit an outstanding geriatrician, one of only 6,500 in the nation, who can serve the older adult population of the area.”

Both the Benjamin Russell Center for Advanced Care and the Benjamin Russell Endowed Chair in Geriatrics are to be named in honor of Mr. Russell’s grandfather, Benjamin Russell (1876 – 1941). Mr. Ben, as he was known to all, was the early patriarch of the Russell family and a legendary entrepreneur who began many businesses in the area, most notably Russell Corporation and Russell Lands Inc. The Russell family has provided opportunities for economic prosperity for thousands of Alabamians, and their work has enhanced the beauty of the state dramatically.

Speaking on behalf of his family, Ben Russell, Chairman of the Board of Russell Lands, said, “As lifelong residents of Alexander City, Luanne and I have supported the Lake Martin area and this hospital and are pleased to be able to make this gift, honoring my grandfather, Benjamin Russell. Mr. Ben did much for this state and its people. This gift is one way Luanne and I can recognize his contributions.”

“This is a red-letter day in the life of Russell Medical,” states Hugh Neighbors, III, Chairman of the hospital Board of Directors. “We are grateful to Ben and Luanne Russell for their generosity and believe this legacy gift will have a significant and lasting positive impact on our community by offering premier care for the aging population.”

Peace added, “We are excited and eager to commence with this transformational initiative and look forward to revealing the full scope and breadth of the Russell Legacy Project during our groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for late summer 2021.” All three facilities are slated for completion in the fall of 2022.

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About Russell Medical

Russell Medical, located in Alexander City, is a progressive, not-for-profit, 81-bed acute care facility serving the healthcare needs of east Central Alabama since 1923, and boasts 53 active staff physicians covering 27 medical specialties, and approximately 640 employees. Amenities include: all private rooms; LDR birthing suites; seven OR suites, Obstetrics; Cardiology & Vascular Services; Robotic Surgery; Oncology Services; Transitional Care Unit; Sleep Disorders Center; Women’s Center and Total Fitness exercise & rehabilitation center. Russell Medical operates three rural health clinics: Health Partners of New Site, Health Partners of Goodwater, and Medical Park Family Care in Dadeville. Campus facilities include; Total Healthcare; UAB Medicine – Russell Medical Cancer Center; Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine; and Russell Medical Urgent Care. In January 2021, Russell Medical became a member of UAB Health System. For additional information, visit www.russellcares.com

About Benjamin Russell

Benjamin Russell (1876 - 1941) was a pioneering entrepreneur and businessman who left his mark on the state of Alabama. He founded several businesses in central Alabama including a local bank, phone company and power company, all supporting his largest operation which would become textile and apparel giant, Russell Corporation. In 1963, the company's land business was separated from the textile operation as Russell Lands Inc. Today, his grandson, Ben Russell, is the Chairman of Russell Lands, which has significant land holdings in central Alabama including a large amount of shoreline frontage on Lake Martin. The company has developed residential real estate for over 35 years and has completed several upscale neighborhoods on Lake Martin. The company's other operations include several hundred lakeside for-lease cabins; Russell Marine's four full-service marinas on Lake Martin, marine and outdoors dealership in Alexander City, and marine dealership at Smith Lake; and nine Russell Do it Center and Russell Building Supply stores. Russell Lands also owns and operates several amenities in the Lake Martin community, including Willow Point Golf & Country Club, Catherine's Market, SpringHouse, Kowaliga Restaurant, The Stables, and Lake Martin Amphitheater. For more information, visit www.russelllands.com.

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