

# Medical News

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## GrandRounds

### St. Barnabas awarded \$25,000 training grant

*State funds will provide employee training*

CHATTANOOGA — St. Barnabas received a \$25,000 training grant from the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development.

The Incumbent Worker Training Program, funded by the Federal Workforce Investment Act and administered by the state, assists employers with specific expenses in upgrading the skills of its full-time employees. The program awards a maximum of \$50,000 to for-profit companies and \$25,000 to non-profit healthcare-related organizations, according to the Tennessee Government Web site.

Roger Haston, St. Barnabas human resources director, said that an organization's ability to attract and retain good workers is directly related to its current employee retention rate, affected in large part by the training programs it provides.

### AMA Foundation Honors Chattanooga, TN Physician for Volunteerism

CHICAGO – Robert Bowers, MD, of Chattanooga, Tenn., is the recipient of the 2011 Jack B. McConnell, M.D. Award for Excellence in Volunteerism. Presented by the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation, in association with Pfizer Inc., the award recognizes senior physician volunteers who increase access to healthcare in the U.S. The award was presented on Tuesday, February 8, at the 2011 Excellence in

Medicine Awards Ceremony, in conjunction with the AMA National Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C.

An activist in organized medicine and community outreach his entire career, Bowers decided he was not going to slow down as a senior physician. At age 79, he has continued his commitment to increase access to healthcare for the uninsured of Hamilton County by serving as the Medical Director of Volunteers in Medicine, Chattanooga, Inc. (VIMC). In this volunteer position for over six years, Bowers played a key role in

establishing the clinic's medical policies, securing medical equipment, implementing electronic medical records, creating partnerships in the health care community and recruiting volunteers. VIMC operates on the model established by Jack B. McConnell, MD, where people donate their time to help individuals who have no insurance and cannot afford medical care. Patients are qualified based on residency in Hamilton County, have no insurance and have a household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.