

HUMAN RELATIONS



MARTHA SWINDELL BROWN

Department of Health
and Human Services,
Cherry Hospital

Martha Swindell Brown has served as a chaplain at Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro since 2015, offering spiritual and religious care to patients and connecting with the community as the program transitioned to its current location in 2016. She was especially involved with patients experiencing anxiety or grief related to the move, using her skills as a filmmaker to provide videos that help them better understand challenging situations.

She constantly looks for ways to improve her care for patients. Brown created and distributed a survey to determine her patients' spiritual and religious needs. The findings from the survey led to the creation of SHARE (Spiritual Holistic and Recovery Enlightenment), where community volunteers and advocates engage patients in faith-based music and dance representing a wide scope of spiritual practices. Brown embraces the hospital's rich musical history, recruiting eastern North Carolina artists to perform their music. A highlight of her efforts was a collaboration with the North Carolina Arts Council to present the Sherry Winston Trio, featuring North Carolina Heritage Award recipients Dick Knight and Bill Myers.

Brown's deep love for her community is evident in the time and energy she invests to improve the lives of her patients. As a Certified Brain Injury specialist, she advocates for patients and uses her relationship with the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina to raise awareness at the hospital. She's earned the nickname "Chaplain Extra" because her support and advocacy for people with brain injuries extends well beyond the hospital campus.



Martha Swindell Brown works selflessly to help those in the Cherry Hospital community and is considered a beacon of light and hope to everyone she serves.