

HealthSmart

The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce VISION 2030 program identified healthcare as a significant issue in planning for the future of Gainesville-Hall County. Specifically, this statement was composed as one of the major VISION 2030 initiatives:

Gainesville-Hall County is a model for providing high-quality, affordable healthcare to its residents. An important part of this initiative is an innovative set of wellness programs that involve residents managing their own health.



To develop the VISION 2030 health and wellness initiative, the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce formed the Healthcare Committee in 2007. The committee includes representatives from our hospital, physician groups and health-related organizations, and other Chamber businesses. The committee oversees a set of community-wide programs and events and meets monthly to discuss access to healthcare, wellness programs and benefits, healthcare services, legislative issues, health insurance and other important health and wellness topics.

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Interactive Health & Wellness EXPO

Now in its 8th year, the **Annual HealthSmart Wellness Expo** features some 60 booth exhibits providing interactive wellness services. The event, free and open to the public, focuses on community health and wellness and continues to be one of VISION 2030's most successful initiatives. Dozens of services are provided at the Expo including FREE Community Health screenings.

As part of the VISION 2030 HealthSmart Community Challenge, the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce conducts a survey to seek the "**Most Fit Companies**" in Gainesville-Hall County. Judging criteria for the contest includes Wellness, Nutrition and Physical Activity that the company provides for its employees. The award is presented in three categories for large companies (251+ employees), medium (51-250 employees) and small (50 employees or less). The Chamber's Healthcare Committee initiated this program to raise company wellness awareness and promote healthy workplaces in our community.



The Annual Chamber Chase 5K & Wellness Walk includes corporate and community teams. The event includes education and training opportunities for the participants focusing on physical activity and nutrition. The Chamber Chase has become one of the community's most successful wellness programs. In April 2014, over 2,000 people participated in some aspect of the race. The 8th Annual Chamber Chase is March 26, 2015.

Instead of gathering at the company water-cooler for a post-work chat session, thousands of employees descend upon Riverside Military Academy to get a little exercise. The event consists of two, separate 5K races, one for runners and one for walkers. The goal of the annual race is to encourage businesses to create company-based wellness programs for employees.

"Hall County's Largest Office Party" at the end of the race course provides an opportunity for employees of different businesses to mix and mingle and unwind after the race. There

is food, live music along with prizes to the Fastest Corporate Team, Fastest Community Team, Fastest CEO, Most Spirited Team and T-Shirt Design Team Winner.



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