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PRESS RELEASE:
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Pardee Hospital offers new LSVT/BIG therapy program

(Hendersonville, N.C.) Movement disorders are among the leading causes of neurological disability in the U.S. It is estimated that one in every 100 seniors suffers from Parkinson's disease, a chronic and progressive movement disorder which causes such symptoms as tremor, rigid muscles, difficulty initiating movement, impaired balance and a host of speech issues including soft voice and imprecise articulation.

In 1987, speech language pathologists in Scottsdale, Ariz. developed an innovative, intensive treatment known as the Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT). Named after Lee Silverman, a woman who had communication deficits resulting from Parkinson's, the well researched approach targets improving vocal volume and clarity by focusing on increasing vocal loudness.

Earlier this month, a physical therapist at Pardee started to use a new program known as LSVT/BIG, which employs many of the principles of LSVT/LOUD (the initial program) to address the physical deficits associated with Parkinson's by changing patients' sensory awareness of their movements.

Pardee has offered LSVT/LOUD for more than three years and the graduates of the program maintain skills by attending monthly “Loud Crowd” meetings. The physical therapist and speech pathologist will also offer a collaborative LSVT/BIG and LSVT/LOUD approach when appropriate. Pardee Hospital is one of the few providers of LSVT/BIG in the state of N.C. For more information on this therapy, please contact the Pardee Rehab & Wellness Center at (828) 698-6774

Pardee Hospital is a not-for-profit community hospital founded in 1953. The main hospital is licensed for 222 acute care beds and is the second largest employer in Henderson County. The hospital has several locations separate from the main campus, including an adult day services center, a health education center in the Blue Ridge Mall, home care services, a rehab and wellness center, a midwifery program, various family and internal medicine practices, and an urgent care facility. For more information or to find a physician, call 1-866-790-WELL (9355) or visit www.pardeehospital.org.

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