

LHC Group, Inc
Form S-3
June 14, 2006

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 14, 2006

Registration No.

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**Form S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

LHC GROUP, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

*(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)*

8082

*(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)*

71-0918189

*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)*

420 West Pinhook Rd, Suite A, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 233-1307

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Keith G. Myers, President and Chief Executive Officer, LHC Group, Inc.

420 West Pinhook Rd., Suite A, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 233-1307

(Name, address, including zip code and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Peter C. November, Esq., Alston & Bird LLP, 1201 West Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30309,

(404) 881-7000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Securities to be Registered | Amount to be Registered(1) | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(2) | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(3) |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| value | (4) | (4) | (4) |
| value | (4) | (4) | (4) |
| | \$50,000,000 | 100% | \$50,000,000 |

- (1) The securities registered also include such indeterminate amounts and numbers of common stock, as may be issued upon conversion of or exchange for preferred stock that provide for conversion or exchange or pursuant to the antidilution provisions of any such securities.
- (2) The proposed maximum offering price per share will be determined from time to time by LHC Group, Inc. in connection with the issuance by the registrant of the securities registered hereunder.
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act).
- (4) Not required to be included in accordance with General Instruction II.D. of Form S-3 under the Securities Act.

| Amount of Securities to be Registered | Amount to be Registered | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(1) | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| value \$0.01 per share, to be sold | | | |
| orders | 4,000,000 | \$19.695 | \$78,780,000 |

- (1) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act based on the average of the high and low reported sales prices on the Nasdaq National Market on June 8, 2006.

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. No person may sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JUNE 14, 2006

PROSPECTUS

\$50,000,000
Common Stock
Preferred Stock

4,000,000 Shares
Common Stock

LHC Group, Inc. may from time to time offer up to an aggregate of \$50,000,000 in shares of common stock or preferred stock.

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol LHCG. On June 8, 2006, the last reported sale price for our common stock on the Nasdaq National Market was \$19.92 per share. We will apply to list any shares of common stock sold under this prospectus and any prospectus supplement on the Nasdaq National Market. We have not determined whether we will list any series of preferred stock we may offer on any exchange or over-the-counter market. If we decide to seek listing of any series of preferred stock, a prospectus supplement will disclose the exchange or market.

Some of our stockholders may sell up to 4,000,000 shares of our common stock under this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. In the prospectus supplement relating to sales by selling stockholders, we will identify each selling stockholder and the number of shares of our common stock that each selling stockholder will be selling.

When we offer securities, we will provide specific terms of such securities in supplements to this prospectus. The securities offered by this prospectus and any prospectus supplement may be offered directly by us to investors, through agents designated from time to time or through underwriters or dealers. For additional information on the methods of sale, you should refer to the section entitled Plan of Distribution. If any underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities offered by this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, their names, and any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between or among them, will be set forth, or will be calculable from the information set forth, in the applicable prospectus supplement. The net proceeds we expect to receive from such sale will also be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in any of our securities.

Investing in our securities involves risks. Risks associated with an investment in our securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement and certain of our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as described under the section entitled Risk Factors on page 1.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission, nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2006.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| <u>About LHC Group</u> | 1 |
| <u>Risk Factors</u> | 1 |
| <u>Forward-Looking Statements</u> | 1 |
| <u>Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends</u> | 2 |
| <u>Use of Proceeds</u> | 2 |
| <u>Selling Stockholders</u> | 2 |
| <u>Description of Our Capital Stock</u> | 3 |
| <u>Plan of Distribution</u> | 7 |
| <u>Legal Matters</u> | 8 |
| <u>Experts</u> | 8 |
| <u>Where You Can Find More Information</u> | 9 |
| <u>Information Incorporated by Reference</u> | 9 |
| <u>EX-5.1 OPINION OF ALSTON & BIRD LLP</u> | |
| <u>EX-12.1 STATEMENT OF COMPUTATION OF RATIOS</u> | |
| <u>EX-23.1 CONSENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP</u> | |

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is a part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Commission, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$50,000,000. In addition, some of our stockholders may sell up to 4,000,000 shares of our common stock under our shelf registration statement. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we or any selling stockholder may offer. Each time we or any selling stockholders sell securities under this shelf registration, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

We have not authorized any dealer, salesman or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the accompanying supplement to this prospectus. You must not rely upon any information or representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement. This prospectus and the accompanying supplement to this prospectus do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor do this prospectus and the accompanying supplement to this prospectus constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate on any date subsequent to the date set forth on the front of the document or that any information we have incorporated by reference is correct on any date

subsequent to the date of the document incorporated by reference, even though this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement is delivered or securities are sold on a later date.

Unless the context otherwise requires or as otherwise expressly stated, references in this prospectus to LHC Group, we, us, our, and similar terms refer to LHC Group, Inc. and our consolidated subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

ABOUT LHC GROUP

We provide post-acute healthcare services primarily to Medicare beneficiaries in rural markets in the southern United States. We provide home-based services, primarily through home nursing agencies and hospices, and facility-based services, primarily through long-term acute care hospitals and outpatient rehabilitation clinics. Through our wholly and majority-owned subsidiaries, equity joint ventures, and controlled affiliates, we currently operate in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, Texas, and West Virginia. As of March 31, 2006, we owned and operated 80 home nursing locations, of which 77 were Medicare-certified, and four Medicare-certified hospices. Of these 84 home-based services locations, 40 are wholly-owned by us and 44 are majority-owned or controlled by us through joint ventures. We also manage the operations of three home nursing agencies and one hospice in which we have no ownership interest. With respect to our facility-based services operations, as of March 31, 2006, we owned and operated four long-term acute hospitals with a total of seven locations, all located within host hospitals. We also owned and operated four outpatient rehabilitation clinics and provided contract rehabilitation services to third parties. Of these 11 facility-based services locations, four are wholly-owned by us and seven are majority-owned or controlled by us through joint ventures. We also manage the operations of one inpatient rehabilitation facility in which we have no ownership interest.

Our founders began operations in September 1994 as St. Landry Home Health, Inc. in Palmetto, Louisiana. After several years of expansion, in June 2000, our founders reorganized their business and began operating as Louisiana Healthcare Group, Inc. In March 2001, Louisiana Healthcare Group, Inc. reorganized and became a wholly owned subsidiary of The Healthcare Group, Inc., also a Louisiana business corporation. Effective December 2002, The Healthcare Group, Inc. merged into LHC Group, LLC, a Louisiana limited liability company, with LHC Group, LLC being the surviving entity. In January 2005, LHC Group, LLC established a wholly owned Delaware subsidiary, LHC Group, Inc. Effective February 9, 2005, LHC Group, LLC merged into LHC Group, Inc.

LHC Group is a Delaware corporation. Our principal executive offices are located at 420 West Pinhook Road, Suite A, Lafayette, Louisiana, 70503. Our telephone number is (337) 233-1307 and our website address is www.lhcgroup.com. Information contained on our website is not a part of this prospectus.

RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the specific risks set forth under the caption "Risk Factors" in the applicable prospectus supplement and under the caption "Risk Factors" in any of our filings with the Commission pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act, incorporated by reference herein, including, without limitation, our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2006, before making an investment decision. For more information see "Where You Can Find More Information."

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus contain forward-looking statements that are based on current expectations, estimates and projections about our industry, management's beliefs, and assumptions made by management. Words such as "anticipates," "expects," "intends," "plans," "believes," "seeks," "estimates," "variations of such words and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict; therefore, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in any forward-looking statements. The risks and uncertainties include those noted in "Risk Factors" above and in the documents incorporated by reference. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to update publicly any

forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES
AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS**

Our ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the five fiscal years ended December 31, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 and for the three months ended March 31, 2006 are set forth below. The information set forth below should be read in conjunction with the financial information incorporated by reference herein.

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | | Three Months |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Ended |
| | | | | | | March 31, 2006 |
| Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends | 9.6 | 8.0 | 7.9 | 16.7 | 19.7 | 76.8 |

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will use the net proceeds from our sale of the securities for our general corporate purposes, which may include repaying indebtedness, increasing our working capital, funding future acquisitions or for any other purpose we describe in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of common stock that may be sold by selling stockholders.

SELLING STOCKHOLDERS

The selling stockholders may be our directors, executive officers, former directors, employees, former employees or other holders of our common stock. The shares of common stock to be sold by the selling stockholders were originally acquired in one of the following transactions:

as founders shares in connection with our formation;

through private offerings prior to our initial public offering; or

through the conversion of joint venture equity interests or key employee equity participation units in connection with our initial public offering.

The prospectus supplement for any offering of the common stock by selling stockholders will include the following information:

the names of the selling stockholders;

the nature of any position, office or other material relationship which each selling stockholder has had within the last three years with us or any of our predecessors or affiliates;

the number of shares held by each of the selling stockholders before and after the offering;

the percentage of the common stock held by each of the selling stockholders before and after the offering; and
the number of shares of our common stock offered by each of the selling stockholders.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF OUR CAPITAL STOCK

The following description of our capital stock is only a summary. Because it is only a summary, it does not contain all the information that may be important to you. For a complete description, we encourage you to read our certificate of incorporation and bylaws, copies of which are on file with the Commission as exhibits to registration statements previously filed by us, as well as the relevant portions of the Delaware General Corporation Law. See *Where You Can Find More Information*. As of the date of this prospectus, we are authorized to issue up to 40,000,000 shares of common stock, \$0.01 par value, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$0.01 par value.

Common Stock

General. As of June 13, 2006, we had outstanding 16,559,828 shares of our common stock.

Voting Rights. The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders, including the election of directors, and do not have cumulative voting rights. Accordingly, the holders of a majority of the shares of common stock entitled to vote in any election of directors can elect all of the directors standing for election, if they so choose.

Dividends. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any then outstanding preferred stock, holders of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably those dividends, if any, as may be declared by the board of directors out of legally available funds.

Liquidation, Dissolution and Winding Up. Upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of our common stock will be entitled to share ratably in the net assets legally available for distribution to stockholders after the payment of all of our debts and other liabilities, subject to the prior rights of any preferred stock then outstanding.

Preemptive Rights. Holders of our common stock have no preemptive or conversion rights or other subscription rights and there are no redemption or sinking funds provisions applicable to our common stock.

Assessment. All outstanding shares of our common stock are, and the shares of our common stock to be outstanding upon completion of any offering of common stock pursuant to this prospectus will be, fully paid and nonassessable.

Miscellaneous. The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is SunTrust Bank. Our common stock is listed and traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol LHCG.

Preferred Stock

A total of 5,000,000 shares of undesignated preferred stock is authorized, none of which is outstanding. The board of directors has the authority, without further action by the stockholders, to issue from time to time the undesignated preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the number of shares, designations, preferences, powers, and relative, participating, optional or other special rights and the qualifications or restrictions thereof. The preferences, powers, rights and restrictions of different series of preferred stock may differ with respect to dividend rates, amounts payable on liquidation, voting rights, conversion rights, redemption provisions, sinking fund provisions, purchase funds and other matters. The issuance of preferred stock could decrease the amount of earnings and assets available for distribution to holders of our common stock or adversely affect the rights and powers, including voting rights, of the holders of our common stock, and may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of our company.

You should read the particular terms of any series of preferred stock offered by us, which will be described in more detail in any prospectus supplement relating to such series, together with the more detailed provisions of our certificate of incorporation and the certificate of designation relating to each particular series of preferred stock for provisions that may be important to you. The certificate of designation relating to the particular series of preferred stock offered by an accompanying prospectus supplement and this prospectus will be filed as an exhibit to a document incorporated by reference in the registration statement and will describe

Table of Contents

the terms of the series of preferred stock we are offering before the issuance of the related series of preferred stock. This description will include:

the title and stated value;

the number of shares we are offering;

the liquidation preference per share;

the purchase price per share;

the dividend rate per share, if any, dividend period and payment dates and method of calculation for dividends;

whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends will accumulate;

whether dividends may be payable in additional shares of preferred stock and the method of calculation therefor;

our right, if any, to defer payment of dividends and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any;

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any;

the provisions for redemption or repurchase, if any, and any restrictions on our ability to exercise those redemption and repurchase rights;

any listing of the preferred stock on any securities exchange or market;

whether the preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock, and, if applicable, the conversion period, the conversion price, or how it will be calculated, and under what circumstances it may be adjusted;

voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock;

preemption rights, if any;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

whether interests in the preferred stock will be represented by depositary shares;

a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the preferred stock;

the relative ranking and preferences of the preferred stock as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs;

any limitations on issuances of any class or series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the series of preferred stock being issued as to dividend rights and rights if we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our

affairs; and

any other specific terms, rights, preferences, privileges, limitations or restrictions of the preferred stock.

When we issue shares of preferred stock under this prospectus, the shares will be fully paid and nonassessable and will not have, or be subject to, any preemptive or similar rights.

Delaware law provides that the holders of preferred stock have the right to vote separately as a class on any proposal involving fundamental changes in the rights of holders of that preferred stock. This right is in addition to any voting rights that may be provided for in a certificate of designation.

The transfer agent, registrar, dividend disbursing agent and redemption agent for shares of each series of preferred stock will be named in the prospectus supplement relating to such series.

Table of Contents

Anti-Takeover Effects of Provisions of our Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws and Delaware Law

Some provisions of Delaware law and our certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions that could make the following transactions more difficult: (1) acquisition of us by means of a tender offer; (2) acquisition of us by means of a proxy contest or otherwise; or (3) removal of our incumbent officers and directors. These provisions, summarized below, are intended to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of us to first negotiate with our board of directors. These provisions also serve to discourage hostile takeover practices and inadequate takeover bids.

Undesignated Preferred Stock. Our board of directors has the ability to authorize undesignated preferred stock, which allows the board of directors to issue preferred stock with voting or other rights or preferences that could impede the success of any unsolicited attempt to change control of our company. This ability may have the effect of deferring hostile takeovers or delaying changes in control or management of our company.

Stockholder Meetings. Our bylaws provide that a special meeting of stockholders may be called only by our President, our Chief Executive Officer or by a resolution adopted by a majority of our board of directors.

Requirements for Advance Notification of Stockholder Nominations and Proposals. Our bylaws establish advance notice procedures with respect to stockholder proposals and the nomination of candidates for election as directors, other than nominations made by or at the direction of our board of directors or a committee thereof.

Elimination of Stockholder Action by Written Consent. Our certificate of incorporation eliminates the right of stockholders to act by written consent without a meeting.

Election and Removal of Directors. Our board of directors is divided into three classes. The directors in each class will serve for a three-year term, one class being elected each year by our stockholders. Once elected, directors may be removed only for cause and only by the affirmative vote of a majority of our outstanding common stock. This system of electing and removing directors may tend to discourage a third party from making a tender offer or otherwise attempting to obtain control of us because it generally makes it more difficult for stockholders to replace a majority of the directors.

Delaware Anti-Takeover Statute. We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law which prohibits persons deemed interested stockholders from engaging in a business combination with a Delaware corporation for three years following the date these persons become interested stockholders. Generally, an interested stockholder is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns, or within three years prior to the determination of interested stockholder status did own, 15.0% or more of a corporation's voting stock. Generally, a business combination includes a merger, asset or stock sale, or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder. The existence of this provision may have an anti-takeover effect with respect to transactions not approved in advance by the board of directors.

The provisions of Delaware law and our certificate of incorporation and bylaws could have the effect of discouraging others from attempting hostile takeovers and, as a consequence, they may also inhibit temporary fluctuations in the market price of our common stock that often result from actual or rumored hostile takeover attempts. Such provisions may also have the effect of preventing changes in our management. It is possible that these provisions could make it more difficult to accomplish transactions which stockholders may otherwise deem to be in their best interests.

Limitations of Liability and Indemnification Matters

We have adopted provisions in our certificate of incorporation that limit the liability of our directors for monetary damages for breach of their fiduciary duties, except for liability that cannot be eliminated under the Delaware General

Corporation Law. Delaware law provides that directors of a corporation will not be personally liable for monetary damages for breach of their fiduciary duties as directors, except liability for any of the following: (1) any breach of their duty of loyalty to the corporation or the stockholders; (2) acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law; (3) unlawful payments of dividends or unlawful stock repurchases or redemptions as provided in Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law; or (4) any transaction from which the director derived an improper

Table of Contents

personal benefit. This limitation of liability does not apply to liabilities arising under the federal securities laws and does not affect the availability of equitable remedies such as injunctive relief or rescission.

Our bylaws also provide that we will indemnify our directors and executive officers and we may indemnify our other officers and employees and other agents to the fullest extent permitted by law. We believe that indemnification under our bylaws covers at least negligence and gross negligence on the part of indemnified parties. Our bylaws also permit us to secure insurance on behalf of any officer, director, employee or other agent for any liability arising out of his or her actions in such capacity, regardless of whether our bylaws would permit indemnification. We have entered into separate indemnification agreements with our directors and executive officers, in addition to the indemnification provided for in our charter documents. These agreements, among other things, provide for indemnification of our directors and executive officers for expenses, judgments, fines, and settlement amounts incurred by any such person in any action or proceeding arising out of such person's services as a director or executive officer or at our request.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We or the selling stockholders may sell securities through underwriters or dealers, through agents, or directly to one or more purchasers or through a combination of any of these methods of sale. A prospectus supplement or supplements will describe the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the name or names of any underwriters, if any;

the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;

any agency fees or underwriting discounts and other items constituting agents or underwriters compensation;

any public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed.

We or any selling stockholder may sell securities from time to time in one or more transactions:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed,

at market prices prevailing at the time of sale,

at prices relating to the prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

The distribution of the securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions, by means of one or more of the following transactions, which may include:

block trades;

at-the-market offerings;

negotiated transactions;

put or call option transactions relating to the securities;

under delayed delivery contracts or other contractual commitments; or

a combination of such methods of sale.

The selling stockholders may also sell shares under Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, if available, rather than under this prospectus.

Only underwriters named in the prospectus supplement are underwriters of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement.

If underwriters are used in the sale, they will acquire the securities for their own account and may resell the stock from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. We or the selling stockholders may offer the securities to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. Subject to certain conditions, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities offered by the prospectus supplement. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may change from time to time. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship, which we will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement, naming the underwriter.

If a dealer is used in the sale of the securities, we, the selling stockholders or an underwriter will sell the securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by the dealer at the time of resale. The prospectus supplement will set forth the name of the dealer and the terms of the transaction.

Table of Contents

We or the selling stockholders may sell securities directly or through agents we designate from time to time. We will name any agent involved in the offering and sale of securities and we will describe any commissions we will pay the agent in the prospectus supplement. Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, any such agent will act on a best-efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We or the selling stockholders may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by certain types of institutional investors to purchase securities from us or the selling stockholders at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. We will describe the conditions to these contracts and the commissions we or the selling stockholders must pay for solicitation of these contracts in the prospectus supplement.

We and the selling stockholders may provide agents and underwriters with indemnification against civil liabilities related to this offering, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the agents or underwriters may make with respect to these liabilities. The prospectus supplement will describe the terms and conditions of indemnification or contribution. Agents and underwriters may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

Any underwriter may engage in overallotment, stabilizing transactions, short covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Overallotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Short covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution is completed to cover short positions.

Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer is purchased in a covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time.

Any underwriters who are qualified market makers on the Nasdaq National Market may engage in passive market making transactions in the securities on the Nasdaq National Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the securities. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, Alston & Bird LLP, Atlanta, Georgia, will provide opinions about certain legal matters with respect to the securities. Any underwriters will also be advised about legal matters by their own counsel, who will be named in the prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of LHC Group, Inc. appearing in LHC Group, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their report thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such report given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the Commission. You may read and copy any document we file at the Commission's public reference room located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our filings with the Commission are also available to the public at the Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also inspect copies of these materials and other information about us at the offices of the Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc., National Market System, 1735 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006-1500.

INFORMATION INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The Commission allows us to incorporate by reference in this prospectus the information in other documents that we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the Commission will automatically update and supersede information contained in documents filed earlier with the Commission or contained in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made with the Commission under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, between the date of this prospectus and the termination of the offering and also between the date of the initial registration statement and prior to effectiveness of the registration statement:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005, filed on March 31, 2006.

our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2006, filed on May 15, 2006.

our Proxy Statement relating to the annual meeting of stockholders to be held on June 13, 2006, filed on April 28, 2006.

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 4, 2006, January 23, 2006, March 16, 2006, May 5, 2006, May 23, 2006, and June 7, 2006.

the description of the shares of common stock contained in the Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on June 6, 2005 (File no. 000-51343).

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 we have filed with the Commission under the Securities Act. This prospectus does not contain all of the information in the registration statement. We have omitted certain parts of the registration statement or the exhibits and schedules thereto, as permitted by the rules and regulations of the Commission. You may inspect and copy the registration statement, including exhibits, at the Commission's public reference room or website. Our statements in this prospectus about the contents of any contract or other document are summaries of the terms of such contracts or documents and are not necessarily complete. You should refer to the copy of each contract or other document we have filed as an exhibit to the registration statement for complete information.

We will furnish without charge to you, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents incorporated by reference, including the exhibits or schedules to these documents. You should direct any such requests to the Company's secretary at LHC Group, Inc., 420 West Pinhook Road, Suite A, Lafayette, Louisiana 70503 or by telephone at (337) 233-1307.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

**\$50,000,000
Common Stock
Preferred Stock**

**4,000,000 Shares
Common Stock**

, 2006

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date of this prospectus. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN THE PROSPECTUS****Item 14. *Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.***

The expenses to be paid by us in connection with the distribution of the securities being registered are as set forth in the following table. All amounts shown are estimates except for the Commission registration fee.

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Commission registration fee | \$ 13,780 |
| Printing expenses | 50,000 |
| Legal fees | 200,000 |
| Accounting fees | 75,000 |
| Transfer Agent fees | 50,000 |
| Blue Sky fees and expenses | 5,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 21,220 |
| Total | \$ 415,000 |

Item 15. *Indemnification of Directors and Officers.*

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law permits a corporation to include in its corporate documents, and in agreements between the corporation and its directors and officers, provisions expanding the scope of indemnification beyond that specifically provided by the current law. Our certificate of incorporation provides for the indemnification of directors to the fullest extent permissible under Delaware law. In addition, our bylaws provide for the indemnification of officers, directors and third parties acting on our behalf if such person acted in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in and not opposed to our best interests, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, the indemnified party had no reason to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. We have entered into indemnification agreements with our directors and executive officers in addition to indemnification provided for in our charter documents, and we intend to enter into indemnification agreements with any new directors and executive officers in the future. We intend to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director or officer against any loss arising from any claim asserted against him or her and incurred by him or her in any such capacity, subject to certain exclusions.

Item 16. *Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules*

(a) *Exhibits.* The list of exhibits is set forth beginning on page II-6 of this Registration Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

(b) *Financial Statement Schedules.* Not applicable.

Item 17. *Undertakings*

*(a) We hereby undertake:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the

II-1

Table of Contents

form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement.

Provided, however, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities: The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

II-2

Table of Contents

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

*(b) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

*(e) To deliver or cause to be delivered with the prospectus, to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the latest annual report to security holders that is incorporated by reference in the prospectus and furnished pursuant to and meeting the requirements of Rule 14a-3 or Rule 14c-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and, where interim financial information required to be presented by Article 3 of Regulation S-X are not set forth in the prospectus, to deliver, or cause to be delivered to each person to whom the prospectus is sent or given, the latest quarterly report that is specifically incorporated by reference in the prospectus to provide such interim financial information.

*(h) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

* Paragraph references correspond to those of Regulation S-K, Item 512.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Lafayette, State of Louisiana, on June 14, 2006.

LHC GROUP, INC.

By: /s/ BARRY E. STEWART

Name: Barry E. Stewart

Title: Senior Vice President and

Chief Financial Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Keith G. Myers and Barry E. Stewart, and each of them acting individually, as his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, each with full power of substitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including pre-effective and post-effective amendments) to this registration statement and to sign any registration statement (and any post-effective amendments thereto) effective upon filing pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully for all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact, agents, or their substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| Signature | Title | Date |
|--|--|---------------|
| /s/ KEITH G. MYERS Keith G. Myers | President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors (Principal Executive Officer and Director) | June 14, 2006 |
| /s/ BARRY E. STEWART Barry E. Stewart | Senior Vice President, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer) | June 14, 2006 |
| /s/ JOHN L. INDEST John L. Indest | Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Secretary and Director | June 14, 2006 |
| /s/ NANCY G. BRINKER Nancy G. Brinker | Director | June 14, 2006 |

/s/ TED W. HOYT

Director

June 14, 2006

Ted W. Hoyt

II-4

Table of Contents

| Signature | Title | Date |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| /s/ GEORGE A. LEWIS George A. Lewis | Director | June 14, 2006 |
| /s/ RONALD T. NIXON Ronald T. Nixon | Director | June 14, 2006 |
| /s/ DAN S. WILFORD Dan S. Wilford | Director | June 14, 2006 |
| /s/ W. PATRICK MULLOY, II W. Patrick Mulloy, II | Director | June 14, 2006 |
| /s/ W. J. BILLY TAUZIN W.J. Billy Tauzin | Director | June 14, 2006 |

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1.1 | Form of Underwriting Agreement.* |
| 3.1 | Certificate of Incorporation of LHC Group, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of our Form S-1/A, filed on February 14, 2005). |
| 3.2 | Bylaws of LHC Group, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of our Form S-1/A, filed on May 9, 2005). |
| 4.1 | Specimen Stock Certificate of LHC's Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (previously filed as Exhibit 4.1 to our Form S-1/A, filed on February 14, 2005). |
| 4.2 | Specimen Stock Certificate of LHC's Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share.* |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Alston & Bird LLP. |
| 12.1 | Statement of Computation of Ratios. |
| 23.1 | Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm. |
| 23.2 | Consent of Alston & Bird LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1). |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (included on the signature page hereto). |

* To be filed by amendment or by a report filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and incorporated herein by reference.