

# HEALTH CONNECTIONS

*A publication of Good Samaritan*

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battling more  
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# Welcome

Welcome to our 51st volume of Health Connections! For more than 20 years, we have been creating this publication and sharing our patients' stories.

In this edition, we are pleased to share the story of a local hero. You will read about his cancer journey, the amazing support he had from both Good Samaritan and his colleagues, and his unwaivering will to survive.

Also, in this edition we are excited to introduce our newest providers we have welcomed in 2018. The photos and biographies of our new physicians and advanced practice providers will help you gain insight and learn more about the care providers within our organization. We have welcomed many new faces this year and are happy to introduce them to the communities we are privileged to serve.

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of Health Connections. We truly appreciate your trust in us to provide excellent health care to you and your families. We are excited to continue being the region's center of excellence in health and wellness and look forward to what the next year brings.

Sincerely,



Rob McLin  
President & CEO



## Administration

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# A FIREMAN'S BATTLE

As a firefighter with the Vincennes City Fire Department for the past 12 years, Scott Hagood is a self-proclaimed workaholic. Described by his friends as a one-of-a-kind individual with a kind heart, he is dedicated to helping others in their time of need. At 46 years old, living as a single dad of two children, and the owner of multiple businesses, Scott had no intention of slowing down. Unfortunately, he would soon realize that life had other plans in store for him, and that his once hectic lifestyle may be forever changed.

In the middle of August 2016, Scott began to notice a lump in his neck that had been bothering him for a few weeks. Although he had no other symptoms and did not feel sick, he began to worry about what was causing the lump and decided to make an appointment with his family physician, Dr. Scott Stine. After examining Scott, Dr. Stine decided to order some blood work to see if the lab work showed any indication of what was causing the lump. Scott's blood work came back normal. Although there were no red flags as to Scott's current condition, Dr. Stine wanted to find out what was causing the lump in his neck, and ordered a CT for the same day.

"His laboratory tests were normal showing no signs of recent infection and he clinically indicated no recent colds, sinus infections or other head and neck infections," said Dr. Stine. "Those tests being negative made me even more suspicious that his problem could be a malignancy."

To Scott's surprise, the CT scan showed a growth on his lymph node. "When the nurse called me to tell me the news, I asked her what she meant because I felt fine and my blood work came back normal," said Scott. "She told me that they would have to do further testing and made me an appointment to see an Ear, Nose and Throat physician.

*"I tell everyone I see that I truly believe Dr. Stine saved my life. A lot of times you go to the doctor and they give it a few weeks to see if the symptoms go away, but he didn't."*

- Scott Hagood

A few days later, Dr. Sarah Jacob, Good Samaritan Otolaryngologist, performed a biopsy on Scott's throat. Dr. Jacob immediately suspected that the growth was cancer, and the sample was sent to Mayo Clinic to confirm and determine what type of cancer Scott had.

"I had a strong suspicion Scott had cancer after reviewing his CT scan" said Dr. Jacob. "A mass in that location in an adult is often malignant unless proven otherwise. Head and neck cancer is the sixth most common cancer in the United States; however, Scott's cancer was in his nasopharynx when typically the cancer is seen in the tonsils or voice box."

On August 26, just 15 days since his first appointment with Dr. Stine, the diagnosis was confirmed and Scott was told that he had cancer; Poorly Differentiated Nasal Pharyngeal Squamous Cell Carcinoma, to be more precise, an uncommon cancer found in the United States and most commonly seen in patients in China. "I was just in disbelief," said Scott. "I never felt sick or tired, and I had this image in my head of a sick cancer patient, and that wasn't me.

After his diagnosis, Scott had to find a way to tell his children the news. Thanks to one of the guys at the fire station, Scott was given tickets to a Colts football game. On the way to the game with his then 10-year-old son, Gage, he felt that the drive to Indianapolis was as good of a time as any to explain his recent diagnosis. "I was pretty sad when he told me he had cancer," said Gage. "I never expected it to happen to my dad."

"He was upset and a little nervous," added Scott. "He was old enough to know what was going on and he really stepped up and took care of me. Gage stayed with me throughout the majority of my treatments and did things around the house like the laundry, dishes and taking out the trash; and that is a lot for a 10-year-old boy to take on."

During the following weeks, the appointments and consultations with his physician, former Good Samaritan Oncologist, Dr. Mark Pajeau, and his radiation oncologist soon followed. Scott's cancer seemed to grow rapidly. A third tumor had started to appear and one of the previous tumors had grown a centimeter within a week. Noticing that this was an aggressive cancer, it was decided by all that they had to move quickly with chemotherapy and radiation.



Scott and his two children, Mia and Gage



Pictured from left to right: April Mayall, Oncology Physician Office LPN; Scott Hagood; Dr. Scott Stine; and Jana Tracy, Infusion Center Nurse

“Dr. Pajean told me that treatment can be rough for most head and neck cancer patients, but I did not believe him. I thought it would be just like having the flu for a couple months and I told him that, since I was a workaholic and younger than most patients, that I would be his first patient to continue working through the treatments. Boy, was I wrong,” chuckled Scott.

His radiation treatments began with a high dose of Cisplatin, an intravenous cancer medication that is given to patients by infusion. Although all the side effects listed of Cisplatin are not experienced in most patients, Scott seemed to have them all. He faced nausea and vomiting, low blood counts, kidney toxicity, hearing loss, neuropathy, loss of appetite, taste changes and decreased liver function. “Within the first week of treatments, I already could not taste food,” said Scott. “It is amazing how quickly the chemo and radiation affects your taste buds.”

A short month later, Scott was beginning to feel more ill and was experiencing a sore, burning throat. His physicians recommended a feeding tube and port early on to help sustain his energy and increase his nutrient intake, but Scott wanted to continue without one for as long as he could. “I was getting so weak that I was passing out in the shower and living off of Ensure® and frozen GoGurt®,” he said. “I

wasn’t getting enough calories and it was taking everything I had to even walk to the doctor’s office from my car and back.”

Finally deciding to get the feeding tube, Scott was scheduled for surgery. Normally performed as an outpatient procedure, the surgeon wanted Scott to stay overnight to keep an eye on him as a precaution due to his already weak state.

Three days after his surgery, Scott was feeling a lot of discomfort in his abdomen. Thinking it was just his body getting used to the feeding tube, he decided to wait and see how he felt in the morning. But the discomfort was getting worse and Scott was starting to worry that there could be something serious going on. His children were staying with him that evening, so he called his in-laws to come pick them up and he went to the Emergency Room. Once he arrived, the physicians knew exactly what was going on and he was rushed to surgery. There was a complication with Scott’s feeding tube that needed to be fixed immediately.

The emergency surgery went well, but Scott had to stay in the hospital for three weeks to recuperate. During this time, he was too weak to continue his cancer treatments and had to stop them while he was in the hospital, resulting in him having to start all over at the beginning. “I was so far into the radiation that I didn’t want to start all over,” he said. “But my white blood cells were looking bad, I had just been through two surgeries in less than a week, and my body could not handle any more radiation at that point, so we stopped the treatment and I took a month off.”

Scott’s immune system was getting so weak, in fact, that when his daughter had a cold, she was not allowed to visit him while he was in the hospital. “It was hard not being able to go see him,” said his daughter Mia, who was 7 years old at the time of Scott’s diagnosis. “I felt sad watching him go through his treatments and get sick all the time.”

“I felt like a guy in a bubble,” added Scott. “I couldn’t see my daughter, be around certain foods or even fresh flowers. I had to receive eight units of blood just to get my blood count back up. I thought I was taking a turn for the worst.”

Eventually, Scott regained some of his strength and was able to begin chemotherapy and radiation once again. This time, he was started on a new medication called Erbitux. Erbitux is also administered through an infusion and is a form of targeted therapy that attacks the cancer cells without damaging the normal cells, leading to fewer side effects. However, this medication would soon bring new hurdles for Scott to overcome.

Within a week of starting Erbitux, Scott’s throat had become increasingly sore. He went to the doctor’s office and it was thought that Scott was experiencing oral thrush, a common side effect of cancer treatments. He was given medication to treat the thrush, but by the next Monday, Scott’s throat had become worse and his mouth was now filled with bleeding sores. “A friend of mine works in the Oncology office so I sent her a picture in which she then showed my doctor,” said Scott. “I went back to

the doctor and they took some blood work to see if they could figure out what was going on. In the meantime, I am hanging out at the fire station and my mouth is starting to bleed really bad.”

The blood work came back and showed that not only was Scott severely dehydrated, but that he was also suffering through mucositis, a condition that occurs in cancer patients. Mucositis can lead to several problems such as an increased risk of infection, pain, and the inability to eat resulting in nutrition problems, all of which Scott was experiencing. The recent diagnosis of mucositis resulted in Scott having to once again stop his chemotherapy and radiation treatments for the second time.

Scott's pause in cancer treatments was around Christmas and the Vincennes Firefighter's New Year's Eve celebration. The Vincennes Fire Fighters Association – IAFF Local 664 organized the event and decided that all proceeds from the night would be donated to Scott and his family to provide financial relief during his cancer treatments.

“At first it was a major, major shock,” said Sonny Pinkstaff, Vincennes City Fire Department Chief, recalling when he was told Scott had cancer. “One of the first things I told him was that whatever he needed we would make it happen. We wanted to be his family and we are. The guys all banded together and did what they could to help Scott.”

Throughout his cancer journey, Scott received a great amount of love and support from his “family” at the fire station. “There were many times one of the guys would take me to one of my appointments or take me home since I was too weak to drive,” he said. “Even their wives pitched in and bought groceries for myself and my kids so I wouldn't have to worry about it. It meant a lot because I don't have any family nearby and I was trying to do all of this on my own.”

After the holidays, Scott started treatment once again with a new chemotherapy medication and injections of Neupogen, a support medication used to stimulate the growth of white blood cells in the bone marrow. Even with the new injections, Scott was still continuing to lose weight and his white blood cell count was too low. Because of the strain on his liver and kidneys, Dr. Pajeau discontinued Scott's treatment. “Once I was no longer doing chemo and radiation, I noticed I was getting stronger and began to feel better,” said Scott. So much better, in fact, that he is now cancer free.

Now Scott sees Oncologist, Dr. Reneé Bartlett for his follow up appointments. He was seeing her every three months, but recently, Dr. Bartlett gave him the most amazing news - his test results are looking great and he is now able to schedule his appointments every six months. “I took that as a good sign,” said Scott. He now has a new approach to how he lives his life. “This whole journey was rougher than I thought it was going to be,” said Scott. “It has been a learning experience and I have a whole new appreciation for those who are battling cancer. But despite the side effects and rough journey I had, I am extremely grateful to be here today.”

Scott looks at his life a little differently now after his battle with cancer. He decided to sell a bar he owned and some rental properties in Washington, Indiana and tries to spend his extra time he would have previously spent working, with his kids. “I just decided that I had way too much on my plate with no family close by to help and it just wasn't what I wanted to do anymore,” he said. “I want to go a different direction in my life because you never know what tomorrow might bring.”

When he tells others about his cancer journey, he makes sure to mention the amazing care he received at Good Samaritan. Whether it was the state-of-the-art infusion center, caring staff and nurses, or the convenience of being close to his home and kids, he wouldn't have went anywhere else for his care. “Some of the nurses were cancer survivors themselves and they would tell you their stories and encourage you to keep on fighting,” said Scott. “I tell everyone I see that I truly believe Dr. Stine saved my life. A lot of times you go to the doctor and they give it a few weeks to see if the symptoms go away, but he didn't.”

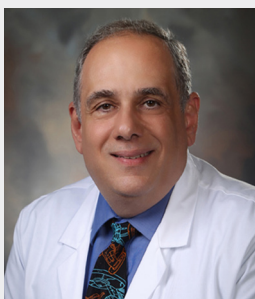
“I certainly appreciate Scott's gratitude; however, I did not save his life,” responded Dr. Stine. “He saved his own life by coming in for an evaluation at an appropriate time. Just as Scott would have pulled me from a wrecked car or rescued my family from a burning building, I was there at the right time to do my best based on my training.”

Looking at the group of guys at the fire station, one can truly see how much of a family they really are. As they share stories and joke around with each other, Scott sits there with a smile on his face taking it all in. They all remember Scott's battle and how each of them came together to be by his side. “It was a collaborative team effort,” said Pinkstaff. “Everybody did what they could, but he was the one who had to fight the battle. He did and he won. And that was a win for all of us.”



Scott takes a moment to capture a photo with a few of the guys he works with at the Vincennes City Fire Department. Pictured left to right: Rookie Billy Evans; Firefighter Jeff Latta; Firefighter Scott Hagood; Captain Chad Winkler; and Captain Brant Yochum.

# Meet Our New Physicians



**Robert D. Ficalora, MD**  
*IU Residency Program  
and Internal Medicine*

**Medical Degree:** Stony Brook University - SUNY  
**Residency:** Baystate Medical Center

**Good Samaritan**                      **812.882.5220**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Robert Ficalora, MD, comes to Good Samaritan from Billings, Montana. He is the Program Director of the hospital's Internal Medicine Residency Program and is an internal medicine physician. Dr. Ficalora has previously been the Associate Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic and has been directly involved with the management of 20 ACGME accredited fellowship programs, along with other numerous director positions and associations. With an emphasis on education, Dr. Ficalora is a wonderful addition to Good Samaritan as the hospital begins its own residency programs. "Much of medical education is a very personal process," said Dr. Ficalora. "Mentoring students, residents and faculty through their respective career challenges is a role that I consider most important, and a most pleasant challenge."

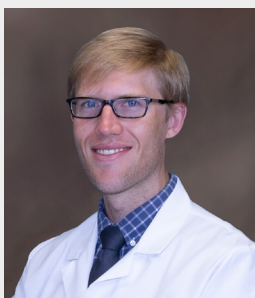


**Margaret Beliveau-Ficalora, MD**  
*IU Residency Program  
and Internal Medicine*

**Medical Degree:** New York Medical College  
**Residency:** Baystate Medical Center

**Good Samaritan**                      **812.882.5220**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Margaret Beliveau-Ficalora, MD, graduated summa cum laude from Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut and attended medical school at New York Medical College. She served in the U.S. Navy, where she was ICU director for her three-year tenure. She began one of the first General Medicine Consultation services in the nation, directed student clerkships, and was an associate program director for both an internal medicine residency program and a geriatric fellowship at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. "My professional passions include medical education, the breadth of ambulatory general internal medicine, medical consultation/perioperative medicine, and continuing medical education," said Dr. Beliveau-Ficalora. She and her husband, Dr. Robert Ficalora, have five children and currently reside near Evansville, Indiana. In her free time, she and her family enjoy antique shopping and working outside in the yard. Dr. Beliveau-Ficalora also likes to stay active by swimming and running.

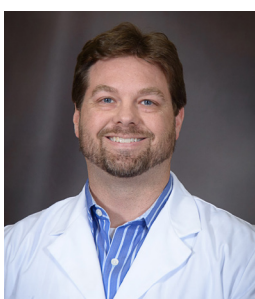


**Brian Gebhardt, MD**  
*Radiation Oncology*

**Medical Degree:** Medical College of Georgia  
**Residency:** University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

**Good Samaritan Cancer Pavilion**    **812.885.3939**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Good Samaritan is excited to announce the arrival of our new radiation oncologist, Brian Gebhardt, MD. Dr. Gebhardt received his medical degree from the University of Georgia and recently finished his residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He decided to become a physician so he could make a positive impact on his patients and the community. "I have personally seen the impact cancer can have on a person and their family," he said. "The specialty of radiation oncology allows me to utilize the latest technology while caring for my patients during a very difficult time in their lives. Dr. Gebhardt chose to practice at Good Samaritan because he loved the feeling of community and the availability of providing his patients with the latest cutting edge treatments. He and his wife, Ana, reside in Vincennes. In his free time, Dr. Gebhardt enjoys spending time outdoors, traveling, exercising, cooking and watching Georgia football.

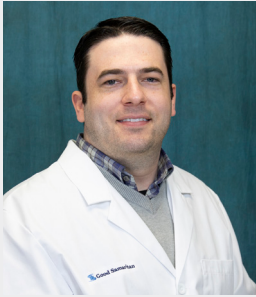


**Johnathan Grant, DO**  
*Pulmonary Care*

**Medical Degree:** Pikeville College School of  
Osteopathic Medicine  
**Residency:** Garden City Hospital

**Dayson Heart Center**                      **812.885.3243**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Good Samaritan is pleased to announce the return of Johnathan Grant, DO to its medical staff. Dr. Grant specializes in pulmonology and critical care. Wanting to help and serve others in their time of need, Dr. Grant decided to become a physician. He earned his medical degree from Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine in Pikeville, KY. He completed his fellowship in pulmonary/critical care at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, MI and his residency in internal medicine at Garden City Hospital in Garden City, MI. In his free time, Dr. Grant enjoys being outdoors, exercising, watching college football and basketball and spending time with his wife, Dr. April Cox, who is also a physician at Good Samaritan. The couple reside in Vincennes.



**Benjamin Krasin, MD**  
*Hospitalist*

**Medical Degree:** University of Washington  
School of Medicine

**Residency:** IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital

**Good Samaritan**                      **812.882.5220**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Benjamin Krasin, MD, has always had a desire to help people. That quality combined with the love of solving puzzles, helped him decide he wanted to be a physician. “I wanted to have meaning derived from my work,” said Dr. Krasin. “And you can’t be a physician without the desire to help people.” Offering a broad spectrum of care, he chose to pursue the specialty of internal medicine. Dr. Krasin completed his residency in Indiana and enjoyed the community hospital setting. Also impressed with the Apogee Physicians group, he decided to join them and practice here at Good Samaritan. Dr. Krasin and his wife, Kateryna, currently live in Evansville, Indiana. In his free time, he enjoys playing chess, poker, basketball and skiing. He also loves to read, study philosophy and inventions. At home, he spends a great amount of time with his German Shepards and his kittens.



**Cassandra Lacher, DO, MHA**  
*Oncology / Hematology*

**Medical Degree:** A.T. Still University - Kirksville  
College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Residency:** McLaren Greater Lansing

**Good Samaritan Cancer Pavilion**      **812.885.6565**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Good Samaritan is proud to welcome a new physician to their oncology team, Cassandra Lacher, DO, MHA. Her love for science and people led her to becoming a physician. “I’ve come to appreciate that the specialty of hematology and oncology really allows me to do all the things that I love,” said Dr. Lacher. “I am able to care for people during vulnerable and difficult times, manage complicated illnesses, evaluate for underlying genetic predispositions, provide people with the support they need to meet their goals, and provide comfort and hope even in the most dark and scary situations.” Becoming a part of the community and the Good Samaritan family was an obvious choice for Dr. Lacher and her family. She is impressed with the relationships between all members of the patient’s care team and the emphasis placed on quality of life in managing patient disease processes. Dr. Lacher and her husband, Marcus, reside in Vincennes with their two sons and dogs. When she is not seeing patients, Dr. Lacher enjoys being involved with her church, singing and playing the bass guitar, playing board games, spending time with her family and watching St. Louis Cardinals games.



**Peter Lipsy, MD**  
*Hospitalist*

**Medical Degree:** New Jersey Medical School  
**Residency:** University of Kentucky Medical Center

**Good Samaritan**                      **812.882.5220**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Peter Lipsy, MD, has joined the medical staff of Apogee Physicians, a hospitalist group that sees Good Samaritan patients while they are in the hospital. He was inspired to become a physician by missionary doctors he had read about and one in particular that he knew personally. “As a Christian believer myself, I felt that medicine was a practical way I could share the love that Christ has shown me,” said Dr. Lipsy. “Within internal medicine, I am attracted to the freedom we have in hospitalist medicine to follow the responses of our treatments in real-time and help patients make rapid progress in the conditions that brought them into the hospital.” After a recommendation from a colleague, Dr. Lipsy decided to come practice at Good Samaritan. Dr. Lipsy and his wife, Amanda, have three children: Adrielle, Elijah, and Arulai. When they are not in Vincennes, he and his family like to spend time in Kentucky with his wife’s family. He also enjoys spending time outdoors hiking, swimming, completing projects around the farm, and taking trips to explore national and state parks, and historic sites.



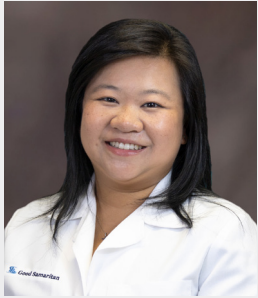
**John Pidgeon, MD**  
*Neurology*

**Medical Degree:** Upstate Medical University  
**Residency:** University Hospitals of Cleveland -  
Case Western Reserve University

**Good Samaritan Sleep Disorders Center**  
**812.885.6860**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

John Pidgeon, MD, always knew he had the personality to become a physician. He enjoys taking care of patients, as well as, the challenge of figuring out complex cases. He chose to specialize in Neurology because of his fascination with the science. “After speaking with other physicians and hearing their positive comments about Good Samaritan, I knew I wanted to practice here.” When he is not in Vincennes seeing patients, Dr. Pidgeon enjoys spending time at home in Boise, Idaho and traveling.

## Meet Our New Physicians



**L. Abigail Qin-Nelson, DO**  
*Interventional Cardiology*

**Medical Degree:** Nova Southeastern University  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
**Residency:** St. John Providence Health System

**Dayson Heart Center**      **812.885.3243**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Joining us from Sterling Heights, Michigan, Good Samaritan is proud to welcome L. Abigail Qin-Nelson to the Dayson Heart Center team. Dr. Nelson specializes in interventional cardiology. She earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and recently completed her fellowship in interventional cardiology from the St. John Providence Health System in Warren, Michigan. Fascinated by the heart's anatomy and physiology, Dr. Nelson decided to pursue a specialty in cardiology. She chose to practice at Good Samaritan so she could make a visible difference in the community. "Good Samaritan focuses on community and patient care, which will allow me to really help my patients," said Dr. Nelson. When she is not seeing patients, Dr. Nelson and her husband, Tom, enjoy spending time with their family and friends, cooking and trying new recipes, reading, knitting and crocheting.



**Oluwagbenga Serrano, MD**  
*Gastroenterology*

**Medical Degree:** University of Lagos, Nigeria  
**Residency:** State University of New York Health  
Sciences Center

**Good Samaritan Gastroenterology**  
**812.882.2703**  
1813 Willow Street | Suite B  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Good Samaritan is excited to announce the arrival of our newest physician, Oluwagbenga Serrano, MD. Dr. Serrano specializes in gastroenterology. He earned his medical degree from the University of Lagos in Nigeria and completed his fellowship in gastroenterology at the State University of New York Health Sciences Center. Becoming a physician was an easy choice for Dr. Serrano since he wanted a profession where he could make a difference in the lives of others. "I decided to practice at Good Samaritan because it is a non-profit organization that is committed to helping its community," stated Dr. Serrano. He and his wife, Hazel, have two children; a daughter who is attending Indiana University and a son who is at Purdue University. When he is not caring for his patients, Dr. Serrano enjoys traveling to historical places.

## Meet Our New Advanced Practice Providers



**Josette Jovero-Clodfelter, NP-C**  
*Internal Medicine*

**Bachelor's Degree:** University of Santo Tomas-  
Manila, Philippines  
**Master's Degree:** Purdue University Global

**Good Samaritan**      **812.885.6990**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Josette Jovero-Clodfelter, NP-C, is one of our newest nurse practitioners. She is working as a hospitalist nocturnist nurse practitioner for ScrubDoc and is also in the internal medicine clinic of Drs. Avena and Gatchalian. Josette has been a registered nurse for more than 25 years and began her career at Good Samaritan in 2003 in the Cardiovascular Recovery Unit. Wanting to pursue personal and professional growth, she made the decision to return to school to become a nurse practitioner. With her vast experience in the ICU, she wanted to gain experience in other fields of health care, but wanted to stay within the organization. "Good Samaritan has provided me with opportunities for growth," said Josette. "I've formed some lasting friendships that have shaped who I am today as a person and as a provider." Josette and her husband, Brad, reside in Olney, Illinois with their two children, Colin and Danielle. In her free time, she enjoys watching her daughter play sports, working outside in her yard, napping in the hammock and catching up on her reading.



**Kelsey Cummins, NP-C**  
*Palliative Care*

**Bachelor's Degree:** Vincennes University  
**Master's Degree:** University of Southern Indiana

**Good Samaritan Hospice**      **812.885.8035**  
601 S. Ninth Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Kelsey Cummins, NP-C, specializes in palliative care. She previously worked at Good Samaritan as a staff nurse on the Hospice Unit and, most recently, was the nurse manager of Hospice and Palliative Care. Having experience working at the hospital, Kelsey knew she wanted to stay at Good Samaritan as a nurse practitioner. "I have always loved science and how the human body works," said Kelsey. "I enjoy the day-to-day challenges of providing individualized care. Good Samaritan is home to me and the staff working here are my family." She chose to work in palliative care because of the special connections she makes with the patient and their families at such a sensitive time in their lives. Kelsey resides in Sumner, Illinois. When she is not caring for patients, she enjoys traveling, playing softball, gardening, watching Chicago Cubs baseball, and spending time with her family and friends.



# Meet Our New Advanced Practice Providers



**Amanda Dillon, AGACNP-BC**  
*Internal Medicine*

**Bachelor's Degree:** University of Southern Indiana

**Master's Degree:** University of Southern Indiana

**Good Samaritan** **812.885.6990**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Wanting to do more for her patients, Amanda Dillon, AGACNP-BC, decided to go back to school to become a nurse practitioner. She too is working nights as a hospitalist nurse practitioner for ScrubDoc and is also in the internal medicine clinic of Drs. Avena and Gatchalian. "I knew I wanted to be an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner from my past experience in critical care," said Amanda. "I think of it as a privilege being able to help patients and their families when they are enduring some of their sickest times. I enjoy working in the outpatient setting as well." Spending most of her nursing career at Good Samaritan, Amanda knew this is where she wanted to stay and practice as a provider. She and her husband, Kurt, were both born and raised in Lawrenceville, Illinois where they currently reside with their two children, Jake and Taylor. Now finished with school, Amanda has free time to spend with her children. She is also looking forward to the warmer weather so she can go camping, fishing, boating and other watersports.



**Jamie Frederick, FNP-C, MSN**  
*Family Medicine*

**Bachelor's Degree:** Indiana Wesleyan University

**Master's Degree:** Indiana Wesleyan University

**Medical Center of Vincennes** **812.885.6950**  
406 N. First Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Good Samaritan is excited to announce the arrival of Jamie Frederick as a new Family Practice Nurse Practitioner. Frederick started her career at Good Samaritan as a staff nurse and childbirth educator on the OB Unit. She was inspired by many medical professionals in her life that encouraged her to pursue her degree including, Dr. Larry Herron, Nurse Practitioner Andrea Orr-Miller, Dr. Thomas O'Rourke and Dr. Scott Stine. "I loved working as a nurse with Dr. Stine because we were able to take care of families and see them throughout their lifespan." Frederick has loved working at Good Samaritan since her first day as a student extern. She immediately knew she wanted to be a part of a place where people pulled together, made sure everyone was taken care of with excellence, and respected each other. When she is not caring for patients or working as the Director of Clinical Services for Good Samaritan Physician Network, Frederick enjoys spending time with her husband, Brian, and their blended family of four children. She also likes to go camping, boating, fishing, spending time outdoors, gardening, canning, riding horses and reading.



**Jennifer Hoyt, NP-C**  
*Wellness Matters Clinic*

**Associate's Degree:** Frontier Nursing University

**Master's Degree:** Baptist School of Health Professions

**Wellness Matters Clinic** **812.885.8941**  
1813 Willow Street | Suite A  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Nurse Practitioner, Jennifer Hoyt, NP-C, wanted to better assist her patients in their quest for health. Since moving to the area a couple years ago, she has enjoyed learning about the importance of Good Samaritan on our community. "Good Samaritan is focused on building a healthy community and being a leader in health care," said Jennifer. "I am amazed by all the smiling faces I have seen here and am excited to be a part of such a positive team." Jennifer and her husband, Ryan, reside in Washington, Indiana with their three children: Tyler, Alice and Grace. In her free time, she enjoys camping, hiking and crafts. She is also excited for spring when her and her family can start kayaking again.



**Meagan Keyes, FNP-C**  
*Pediatric Hospitalist*

**Bachelor's Degree:** Vincennes University

**Master's Degree:** University of Southern Indiana

**Good Samaritan** **812.882.5220**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Meagan Keyes, FNP-C, found a passion for women's health and newborn care while she was an obstetric nurse for more than 10 years. Wanting a more active role in caring for and educating her patients, she decided to pursue more education and become a nurse practitioner. "A nurse practitioner role allows me to have more autonomy in my practice and my own personal educational growth," said Meagan. As far as deciding where to practice, she knew she wanted to stay at Good Samaritan as the hospital has been her 'home' since the beginning of her nursing career as a student nurse extern. Meagan and her husband, Scott, reside in Wheatland, Indiana. Together the couple has a daughter, Scout, and she has a stepdaughter, Lauren, and a stepson, Owen. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, running and horseback riding.

# Meet Our New Advanced Practice Providers



**Kristina LeCrone, FNP-C**  
*Family Medicine and  
Convenient Care Clinic*

**Bachelor's Degree:** Southern Illinois University at  
Edwardsville

**Master's Degree:** University of Southern Indiana

**Medical Center of Vincennes**                    **812.885.6840**  
406 N. First Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Previously working as a school nurse, Kristina LeCrone, FNP-C, decided to increase her scope of practice when she noticed a number of students she encountered did not have a primary care provider. She went on to become a nurse practitioner and now practices in Dr. Karen Neeley's office at the Medical Center of Vincennes. "Caring for families throughout their entire lifespan is a privilege," said Kristina. "Seeing generations of a family is rewarding. I enjoy following the little ones as they grow into adults and begin having families of their own." Knowing that Good Samaritan has a positive reputation as being the center of health care services in the area and sharing the same mission as the hospital, Kristina knew it was the place she wanted to practice. When she is not caring for patients, she enjoys traveling and photography. Kristina and her husband, Chad, reside in Olney, Illinois with their two children, Brock and Taylor.



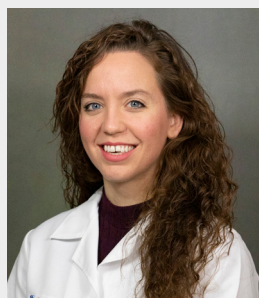
**Stephanie Lowrance, NP-C**  
*Thoracic / Vascular Surgery*

**Bachelor's Degree:** Chamberlain College of Nursing

**Master's Degree:** Chamberlain College of Nursing

**Dayson Heart Center**                                **812.885.3243**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Good Samaritan is excited to announce the arrival of Stephanie Lowrance, NP-C. Stephanie will be working alongside Dr. Elizabeth Ashworth, Thoracic/Vascular Surgeon, at the Dayson Heart Center. She became a registered nurse in 1993 and completed her Master's of Science in Nursing at the Chamberlain College of Nursing in 2016. Her past experience in the nursing profession paved the way for her to become a nurse practitioner. Lowrance began her career at Good Samaritan as a hospitalist and when the opportunity presented itself to practice at the Dayson Heart Center, she was eager to continue her employment here. "I have formed lasting relationships with many of my colleagues and enjoy the atmosphere at Good Samaritan," said Lowrance. She currently resides in Hutsonville, Illinois with her husband, Rob, and their seven children.



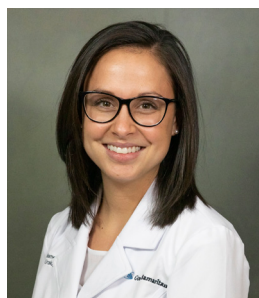
**Amelia McClure, PMHNP-BC**  
*Psychiatry*

**Bachelor's Degree:** University of Wyoming

**Master's Degree:** Indiana Wesleyan University

**Samaritan Center**                                    **812.886.6800**  
515 Bayou Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Working as a psychiatric nurse on the inpatient LaSalle Behavioral Health Unit at Good Samaritan allowed Amelia McClure, PMHNP-BC, to get to know the client population she would serve as a nurse practitioner. "Their specific struggles resonated with me and inspired me to find other ways in which I could serve them," she said. Choosing her specialty was easy because she felt like the profession chose her. "I have always been drawn to psychology after I started at Good Samaritan, I knew it was where I wanted to be. The amount of support I receive from my peers is unimaginable. I work with the best people." When she is not seeing patients, Amelia enjoys spending time with her five-year-old daughter and fiancé at their home in Illinois. She also likes to read, listen to music, play board games, write, travel, concerts and yoga.



**Cassie Memering, FNP-C**  
*Urology*

**Bachelor's Degree:** Vincennes University

**Master's Degree:** Ball State University

**Urology Specialists**                                **812.882.4320**  
200 S. Sixth Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Cassandra Memering, FNP-C, has joined the Urology Specialists as a nurse practitioner. Previously working as an operating room nurse, Cassandra wanted to learn more and provide more advanced care to her patients. Working with Drs. Bart DeBrock and William Vaughn in surgery as she finished her education, she was able to learn about urology and jumped at the chance to join the Urology practice and stay with Good Samaritan. "I started my career at Good Samaritan as an associate nurse and I plan to stay," said Cassandra. She and her husband, Jared, have two children, Clara and Collin, and live in Vincennes. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, camping, boating and traveling.



**Amber Neeley, NP-C**  
*Pediatrics*

**Bachelor's Degree:** Vincennes University  
**Master's Degree:** Indiana Wesleyan University

**Medical Center of Vincennes - Pediatrics**  
**812.882.4434**  
528 N. First Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Amber Neeley, NP-C, is the newest edition to the Medical Center of Vincennes - Pediatrics Office. She began her nursing career at Good Samaritan in the Pediatrics Unit in 1999. She then went on to become a vascular access specialist, to a nursing supervisor, and now a nurse practitioner. "After returning to school for my BSN, I decided I wanted to continue my education and become a nurse practitioner," said Amber. "From a young age, I always wanted to be a provider. I never thought it would be possible, but as a result of online learning and the support of Good Samaritan, I have finally been able to achieve this goal." Combined with her vast nursing experience and her love for caring for children, choosing to practice in pediatrics seemed like the best choice and she is excited to serve all children in the community. Amber and her husband, Larry, reside in Oblong, Illinois with their two daughters, Madison and Marissa. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family.

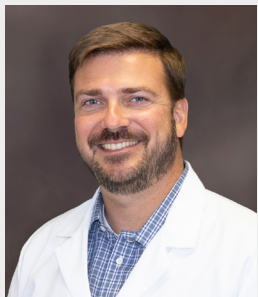


**Debra Painter, NP-C**  
*Family Medicine*

**Bachelor's Degree:** Vincennes University  
**Master's Degree:** Indiana Wesleyan University

**Good Samaritan Family Health Center**  
**812.885.3703**  
429 S. Sixth Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Working as a nurse for the past 13 years, Debra Painter, NP-C, has always enjoyed taking care of people. She decided she wanted to become a nurse practitioner so she could help patients with the prevention and education of acute and chronic diseases. "Education is a key part of prevention and I want to help educate, not just treat patients," said Debra. "I chose family health because I wanted to take care of patients at all ages. I feel at home here at Good Samaritan and cannot see myself practicing anywhere else." Debra and her husband, Jim, have been married for 24 years and reside in Claremont, Illinois. Together with their two sons, Marcus and Owen, they enjoy spending time outdoors, especially during the warm seasons. Debra also likes to landscape, garden, complete home improvement projects, camp, fish, ride motorcycles and trail ride on ATVs.



**Lucas Pittman, FNP-C**  
*Psychiatry*

**Bachelor's Degree:** Indiana State University  
**Master's Degree:** Indiana State University

**Washington Samaritan Center**      **812.254.1558**  
2007 State Street  
Washington, IN 47501

Good Samaritan is proud to welcome Lucas Pittman, FNP-C, to its medical staff. Born and raised in Switz City in Greene County, Indiana, Pittman began his career in health care at Good Samaritan in 2013 as a Student Nurse Extern/Psychiatric Nursing Technician on the LaSalle Inpatient Unit. He then went on to become a registered nurse in 2014 and now has completed his Master's of Nursing from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. Pittman has always had a passion for helping others and wanted to become a nurse practitioner so he could do more. "Upon entering my last year of nursing school, I applied to Good Samaritan and accepted a position on the LaSalle Unit working with psych patients," said Pittman. "I liked it a lot and wanted to continue seeing these patients and remain at Good Samaritan." He and his wife, Melissa, have two children, Makayla and Caleb. Together, they enjoy camping and like to take weekend trips in their camper to Evansville and Indianapolis.



**Britni Roark, ACNP-BC**  
*Hospitalist*

**Bachelor's Degree:** University of Southern Indiana  
**Master's Degree:** University of Southern Indiana

**Good Samaritan**      **812.882.5220**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Britni Roark, ACNP-BC, began her nursing career at Good Samaritan in 2005. Ready to try something new, she decided to continue her education and become a nurse practitioner. Britni enjoys taking care of her patients and has a passion for acute care. "I have been an ICU nurse for the past 12 years and could not think of anything I would rather do," she said. "I enjoy the complexity of caring for this population of patients." Britni chose to remain at Good Samaritan as a nurse practitioner so she could stay close to home and continue to work alongside her friends. She and her husband, Andy, have two children, Avery and Mason, and reside in Wheatland, Indiana. In her free time, Britni enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, being outdoors and camping.



520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

## Meet Our New Advanced Practice Providers



**Lynna Titsworth, CRNA**  
*Anesthesiology*

**Bachelor's Degree:** University of Illinois at Chicago  
**Master's Degree:** Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

**Good Samaritan**                      **812.882.5220**  
520 S. Seventh Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Growing up watching her grandma work in a physician's office for many years, Lynna Titsworth, CRNA, knew she wanted to become a nurse and help take care of people. After working as an ICU nurse for three years, she wanted to advance in the nursing field and develop her critical thinking skills, so she chose to work in anesthesia. "Anesthesia seemed to be the perfect specialization to pursue because it allows me to provide one-on-one patient care and decision making autonomy," said Lynna. "I chose to practice at Good Samaritan because it is close to home and offered a great work schedule that allowed me to spend more time with my family." In her free time, Lynna enjoys spending time with her family, running, traveling and shopping. She and her husband, Travis, reside in West Union, Illinois with their three boys: Chalon, Calden and Cambren.



**Allyson Wehrheim, PA-C**  
*Family Medicine*

**Bachelor's Degree:** Butler University  
**Master's Degree:** Butler University

**Medical Center of Vincennes**      **812.885.0524**  
406 N. First Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Allyson Wehrheim, PA-C, has recently joined Good Samaritan's Physician Network and will be working alongside Drs. Daniel Herman, Jr. and Michael Kelly at the Medical Center of Vincennes. A Knox County native, Allyson began working at Good Samaritan as a technician in the Emergency Department. After completing her Master's of Physician Assistant Studies at Butler University, she decided to come back to her hometown and practice medicine. "I knew going into college I wanted to pursue a career in the medical field," said Allyson. "I am passionate about family medicine, especially as a new graduate, as it provides me the opportunity to see a wide variety of patients, illnesses and disease processes. I hope to establish lasting relationships with my patients and their families." Allyson currently resides in Vincennes. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, exercising and vacationing on the beach. She likes to try new restaurants and considers herself a "foodie."