

# HEALTH CONNECTIONS

A publication of Good Samaritan



1908-2023

# 115 YEARS

*of health care excellence*



Good Samaritan



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# Welcome!

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Welcome to the 60th volume of Health Connections! We are making our way through the middle of 2023 and a lot has changed since our last publication. Health care is rapidly changing; however, the one constant is the promise that Good Samaritan will remain your number one provider of choice for all your health care needs.

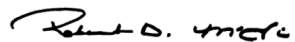
As you read through this edition of Health Connections, you will be introduced to our Executive Care Team and board members. Both groups are filled with highly-qualified, smart individuals who have our patients' best interests at heart. Their goals for the future of Good Samaritan align with the direction the state of health care is moving.

The first story you will read is about Anderson Rose Elkins who decided to make a surprise visit to Good Samaritan at 34 weeks. We visited with her parents Adam and Anna Elkins and the OB team that provided care to them during their six-day hospital stay.

The next section details a new award that was given out during Nurses Week this year. Rita Donovan was the recipient of Good Samaritan's inaugural Nurse Lifetime Achievement Award.

I want to end this by thanking the residents of Knox and the surrounding communities for allowing Good Samaritan to serve you and your families. It means so much that you trust us with your health care and we strive every day to meet your needs.

Sincerely,



Rob McLin  
President & CEO

## MISSION

Provide excellent health care by promoting wellness, education and healing through trusting relationships.

## VISION

To be the regional center of excellence in health care to support the communities we serve.

## PROMISE

We promise to treat you like family by delivering compassionate, high-quality care throughout your journey.



# Executive Care Team

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**Rob McLin**  
President & CEO



**Matt Schuckman**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Rachel Spalding**  
Chief Nursing Officer



**Adam Thacker**  
Chief Operating Officer



**Scott Stine, MD**  
Physician Network  
Chief Medical Officer



**Molly Weiss, MD**  
Hospital Chief  
Medical Officer



**Tara Ellermann**  
Executive Director of  
Human Resources



**Melissa Stearley**  
Executive Director of  
Physician Network

# Board of Governors

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**Susan Brocksmith**  
Chairwoman



**Mary Cay Martin**  
Vice Chairwoman



**Stan Deweese**  
Secretary



**TJ Brink**



**Trent Hinkle**



**Kellie Streeter**



**Jim Zeigler**

# ANDERSON *Rose* ELKINS



Anderson Rose Elkins decided to make an early appearance at Good Samaritan on May 3, 2023, and was surrounded by love. Adam and Anna Elkins were overjoyed to welcome their darling daughter, Anderson, weighing in at 5 lbs 12 oz and 18 inches long on this spring day. Glowing from ear to ear, Anna said she would consider her pregnancy a classic textbook experience. "I didn't have any complications, I ate well, I was able to exercise and I slept okay," Anna said with a chuckle. The doting parents were so excited to reminisce with Dustin Blackwell, MD and the Good Samaritan obstetrics nursing staff to discuss their experience.

Anna said looking back, it was so funny because the night before Adam's mother asked if we had our bag packed for the hospital. Anna told her, "No, we've got plenty of time, we've got six weeks left." Then her father-in-law asked when the next full moon was; because that's when the baby will be born, he said. "There was a full moon that night and none of us knew it and my water broke at 3 a.m.," stated Anna. Anna woke Adam up with some urgency in her voice, "Adam, my water just broke so I think we should pack a bag now." Adam jumped out of bed and paced back and forth from his closet to their suitcase seven times and didn't pack a single thing. Anna laughed and said, "We packed very little but we did pack an outfit for Anderson that was way too big and some Oreos."

They made it to the hospital around 5 a.m. and the nurses got Anna all hooked up and began monitoring her and the baby. At 7 a.m. everything changed, there was a shift change with the nursing staff and Anna was moved into the labor room. Everything was very calm until 11 a.m. when the contractions became intense. Anna said, "Our nurse Ava Allender, was a godsend that day. She provided us with so much education about what to expect and I know the floor was busy that day, but Ava made us feel like we were the only ones here, she was amazing." Anderson was born at 5:07 p.m. and nurse Ava was supposed to get off of work at 5 p.m. but she told Anna, "I'm going to stay here and see you through this." Not only did she stay for the couple, but she stayed to make sure Anderson was going to be okay. Anna said, "I feel like she was here for 24 hours straight."

Anna said that the nursing team provided them with so much education on delivering a premature baby and discussed all their options prior to Anderson being born. They explained, all of the things that could happen, the baby could be transferred and how her lungs might not be fully developed. Adam said, "We fully trusted the medical information

from Ava and Madelyn because we are first-time parents and we didn't know where we should go if we needed to be transferred and what questions we should be asking." Anderson's initial exam after her birth was normal, then Ava heard her begin to grunt so they took her back to the warmer and began giving her oxygen and took her to the nursery for observation for four hours. The entire time Anderson was in the nursery, Anna and Adam were able to be there with her. Madelyn Taylor, RN, Good Samaritan Perinatal Services Nurse Manager, said, "I don't think a lot of people in the community realize that we are able to provide care for premature babies such as oxygen and invasive lines for medication support up until they are on a ventilator. At Good Samaritan, the parents can be with their baby instead of her/him being transferred to a NICU which could be on a completely different floor in the hospital."

After Anna's premature delivery, all the attention was on Anderson and taking care of her. "On day two, my nurse Chelsea came in and truly checked on me and that meant so much to me," said Anna. "Three nights later of our hospital stay, it felt like the walls were starting to cave in and I started hysterically crying and again our nurse Chelsea came in. She took Anderson and told me to go take a walk down the hall and she would take care of the baby. I felt like I was seen, it was very personalized care. Chelsea knew me, she knew what I needed and she was ready to help in any way she could," added Anna with tears in her eyes. Chelsea Harris, RN, Good Samaritan Charge Nurse, chimed in smiling at Anna and said, "New moms are processing lots of new emotions at this time and we are there for them."

"We didn't realize how well Good Samaritan's OB floor was set up and how ideal it was for premature birth," said Anna. "I was discharged on day two and we were so fortunate that we were to be able to stay with Anderson during her six-day hospital stay and we never left her side." During Anderson's stay she was intubated and received steroids in her lungs to help them mature, she was also hypoglycemic and also needed to be placed in a biliblanket. "Don't jump the gun and just go to a big hospital, don't count out Good Samaritan," said Adam. "Good Samaritan is a staple in our community. Make sure you educate yourself on the services they offer. I honestly don't think we would have received the same personalized care that we received here." Adam continued to say that after a six-day stay, they knew the staff and the staff knew them. "Personalized care is something to be proud of. Also, Dr. Blackwell is a huge benefit to our community," said Adam. "He makes himself more available than any other doctor I've ever met. He's always available for questions or a visit. They take care of you at Good Samaritan."



Anna said they just had a pediatric visit with Dr. Heather Nichols and Anderson is doing great! At the end of the family's OB unit reunion visit, Madelyn said "Now her first birthday party, we all expect to be invited." Adam responded "Good deal, I hope you're all there for us the next 18 years. We would not change anything about this experience with Good Samaritan."

Pictured L to R: Chelsea Harris, RN, Charge Nurse Perinatal Services, Dustin Blackwell, DO, Adam, Anna and Anderson Elkins, Ava Allender, RN, Lactation Consultant.

# Lifetime Achievement Award

Contributed by: Jenny McNeece  
Vincennes Sun-Commercial

When asked what made Rita Donovan the best candidate for Good Samaritan's inaugural nurse Lifetime Achievement Award, Heidi Hinkle had only just opened her mouth to answer when a startling squeal came from just a few feet away. Both hers and Donovan's eyes shifted to a fast-approaching nurse clad in dark blue scrubs, Jo Lori Singleton, her smile wide, face ablaze with excitement, throwing her arms around Donovan's slight shoulders. "This is how it is when she's here," Hinkle, a registered nurse and Good Samaritan's director of professional practice, said over the din of the women's excitement at being reunited. "She helped to train me," Singleton said as she kissed Donovan on the cheek and hurried on her way, offering a final wave over her shoulder before rounding a corner and disappearing out of sight. "That's why you're so good," Hinkle told Donovan with a kind smile as she settled back in her chair. As part of a week-long celebration of National Nurses Week, Good Samaritan looked to honor a handful of retired nurses with a tea sponsored by the Professional Development Nursing Council. They, too, opted to choose the first-ever recipient of the hospital's Lifetime Achievement Award. Yet even at 80 years old, Donovan is far from retired. "This is part of my life," she said, shrugging her shoulders, her light blue eyes drifting out the floor-to-ceiling windows of the Health Pavilion's bustling first floor. "You don't retire from helping others, do you?" she said, her hands coming to rest in the lap of her perfectly-pressed white linen pants. "I feel like God gives everyone a mission in their life, and this is mine."

Donovan was born and raised in Knox County, a graduate of Lincoln High School's Class of 1961. She then went on to earn her degree in nursing from Vincennes University. "I always wanted to be a nurse, even when I was little," she said. "I remember getting a nurse's kit as a child. I'd get out that little syringe and stethoscope and play and play. It was just engrained in me, I think. That was all I ever wanted to be." She went right to work at Good Samaritan, enjoying a decades-long career working primarily in the ICU and endoscopy departments. She had only just retired, she said, when the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020. So when Good Samaritan put out a plea for nurses, she quickly answered. "At my age, I didn't want to work the COVID rooms, but I definitely wanted to help. And the need was there," she said. So Donovan shifted her attention to the other floors, other patients, allowing the younger nurses to tend to the needs of the increasingly sick — and numerous — COVID-19 patients. They were dire times, Donovan remembers, but even amid the death and despair of the raging pandemic, she was encouraged by doing what she'd always done best — offering love to everyone around her. "Sometimes I would help the nurses who were working with COVID patients, get their medicines for them, so they didn't have to come out of the room, remove all of their (personal protective equipment)," she said. "And I prayed with the families. That was one of the most important things."



**Rita Donovan**  
Good Samaritan's inaugural Nurse  
Lifetime Achievement Award

# Lifetime Achievement Award

They were going through so much, and I was able to pray with them, help them through it. That was a godsend, for them and for me, I think." As the pandemic waned, Donovan spent less and less time at Good Samaritan, but she kept busy nonetheless, often visiting and caring for an aging aunt at Bridgepointe Health Campus. Eventually, she decided to go back to work, this time on an as-needed basis as a nurse at Bridgepointe. She's devoted herself now to helping people through the difficult final stages of life. "If I can put a smile on their face, pray with them, help them, that means the world to me," she said. "I didn't think I would ever work in a nursing home, but visiting my aunt, I just fell in love with the patients. So that is where God has put me."

Donovan spent much of Nurses Week seeing old friends and nurses, reminiscing about a successful and enriching career spanning six decades. She can still easily recall exact moments, specific patients, times of reward and regret. Many are stories she's told all her life, to friends and colleagues alike. And much has changed along the way, she said. "They used to smoke in the hospital. Can you believe that?" she asked rhetorically, and with a grin, pink-shaded lips turning up at the now-ridiculous notion. "I remember, you couldn't leave your white nursing cap — or anything white — in the lounge or it would yellow. And our nurses training uniform, the skirt couldn't be any higher than 8 inches from the floor. They were very strict about that, even measured it. When nurses first started wearing pants, we'd say, 'Oh, did you see so-and-so with pants on?'" she said with a chuckle. Technology, too, is now at the very forefront of nursing, both in the ways they are able to care for their patients and the methods by which they are trained. Good Samaritan only recently earned a large portion of the state's READI funds to spend upgrading its nurse training lab. Technology — from computers to simulators and even robotics — is as much a part of what nurses do as the stethoscopes they still wear around their necks. Yet for everything that's changed, one thing — one very important thing — has remained the same. "I have two granddaughters who are nurses, and I told them, 'You need education and expertise, but if you ever lose your compassion, then you need to go do something else,'" she said with a wag of her finger. "That, to me, is so important. I always told my families in the ICU I would take care of their family members like they were my own. Because that's how it should be," she said. Hinkle agreed. For as much as the world of nursing is changing and evolving — and in many ways becoming more challenging than ever — compassion is still at the heart of everything they do. "That strikes at the very core of being a nurse, having that caring and compassion (Donovan) is talking about," Hinkle said, her hand drifting naturally to her chest. "The whole science around nursing is caring for people. There are theories and theories, all centered around that word: caring. And that's what Rita does," she said flashing a smile at her long-time colleague and friend. "She cares for everybody, all the time. Good Samaritan, too, has worked to instill the theory of caring and compassion into everything they do. It's part of the organization's culture," Hinkle said, "And it's more important now, perhaps than ever."

"I have been blessed to work at Good Samaritan, I really have," Donovan said. "It's been a privilege. There has never been a day that I disliked having to work," she said. "There were days I was fatigued, sure, but I can't say as though I ever dreaded getting up to do my job. I forget I'm 80," she said with a giggle. "I don't feel it." And that, she said, is the ultimate honor. "Oh, I don't need to be rewarded," she said with a wave of her hand. "I already have been."



# Good Samaritan at a Glance - 2022

## OUR STAFF

1,884 Caregivers

521 Registered Nurses

193 Nursing Support Staff

## ADMISSIONS

Emergency Room: 30,412

Inpatient: 5,420

(Does not include newborn admits)

Outpatient: 547,103

## OUR SERVICE AREA

264,307 Residents in our 11-county service area

7 Counties in Indiana

4 Counties in Illinois

## OUR SERVICES

Good Samaritan offers more than 100 service lines ranging from primary care to specialists, and outpatient testing to surgery. Our vision of being the regional center of excellence in health care to support the communities we serve means that we are committed to ensuring we provide access to needed service lines. Our wide array of services allows patients in the communities we serve to obtain all of their needed health care close to home. To view all of Good Samaritan's health care services and to learn more about each one, visit [gshvin.org/health-services](http://gshvin.org/health-services).

## IMPACT ON HEALTH

Laboratory Tests & Procedures:	602,100
Physical Medicine Treatments:	21,341
Babies Delivered:	371
Rehabilitation Admissions:	409
Sports Performance Treatments:	3,139
Screening Mammograms:	5,600
Lung Cancer Screenings:	352
Respiratory Tests / Procedures:	99,800
Neurodiagnostic Exams:	1,299
Endoscopy Procedures:	3,395
Dayson Heart Center Tests / Procedures:	41,116
Trauma Activations:	1,278
Number of Surgeries Performed (Both Inpatient and Ambulatory):	5,226
Patients Seen at Both Convenient Care Clinics:	17,678

# Investment in Our Communities - 2022

<b>Annual Payroll:</b>	\$108,145,264
<b>Cost Per Day to Operate:</b>	\$707,305
<b>Scholarships Awarded:</b>	\$56,601
<b>Donations to Charitable Organizations:</b>	\$307,976

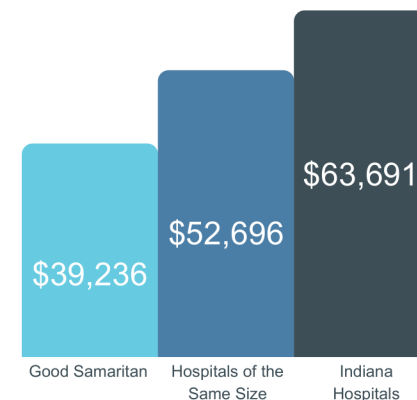
<b>Local Goods Purchased:</b> <small>(Includes goods and services within our 11-county service area, excluding banks.)</small>	\$9,732,205
<b>United Way Donations:</b>	\$53,221

<b>Property Taxes Paid to Knox County:</b>	\$25,833
<b>Knox County Option Income Tax Paid By Employees:</b>	\$1,058,798
<b>Cost to Provide Charity Care:</b>	\$1,301,728
<b>Unreimbursed Costs by Medicare and Medicaid:</b>	\$341,265,468
<b>Bad Debt:</b> <small>Unrecoverable funds from unpaid patient bills</small>	\$13,800,437
<b>Free Medical Care Write-Off:</b> <small>Hospital bills that have been written off</small>	\$3,471,274

## Gross Charge per Adjusted Discharge

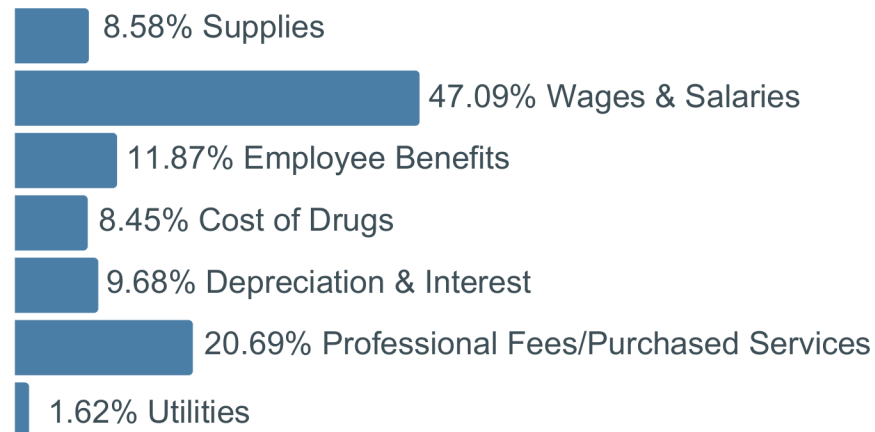
Gross charge per adjusted discharge represents the total charges generated by the number of patient discharges that are adjusted to reflect both the impact of inpatient and outpatient volumes.

Source: IHA Databank Report



## Expenditures per Dollar Collected

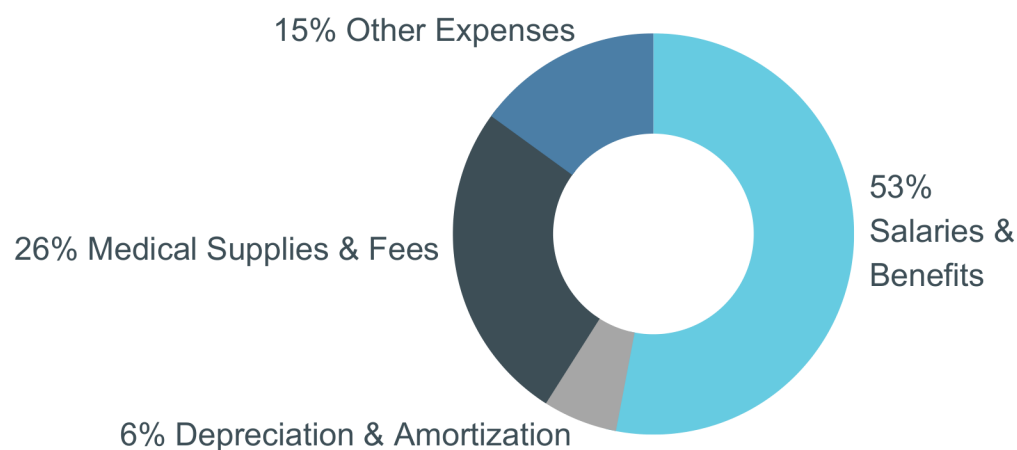
Expenditures per dollar collected is the percent of money used for each dollar collected by Good Samaritan.



## Operating Expenses

Operating expenses of Good Samaritan allocated by category expensed.

Total Operating Expenses:  
\$258,166,382



# Community Impact - 2022

## Women's Wellness Fair

Women have a habit of neglecting their own health. This is why Good Samaritan hosts the "Women's Wellness Fair" event every year. In June of 2022, the 17th annual women's health event encouraged 256 women attending to make their own health a priority. Offering a socially-distanced event, health screenings and hospital departments providing education pertaining to women's health.

## Men's Wellness Fair

Men often fail to pay attention to their health. This is why the annual "Men's Wellness Fair" is just for them. The 2022 event, attended by 393 men, offered five health screenings in a socially-distanced environment. Additional hospital departments were also in attendance to provide education and information helpful to the health and well-being of men in the community. The 2023 Men's Wellness Fair is scheduled for October 10.

## Stop the Bleed

Good Samaritan Trauma provided multiple free "Stop the Bleed" classes to the community in 2022. These classes prepare individuals to address traumatic injuries and act fast to prevent blood loss and save lives. In 2022, the Trauma Department offered ten separate classes and taught a total of 533 community members these life-saving techniques.

## Skin Cancer Screening

Good Samaritan providers, Scott Stine, MD, Kristin Mahan, MD and Allyson Wehrheim, PA, offered free skin cancer screenings to community members in November 2022. There were a total of 63 screenings completed.

# 14,484

Total number of FREE health screenings provided by Community Health Services in 2022

- **46% of the 2,690 free blood pressure screens were abnormal**
- **33% of the 1,015 free total cholesterol screens were abnormal**
- **26% of the 833 free blood glucose screens were abnormal**
- **0% of the 3,055 free pulse oximetry screenings were abnormal**
- **15% of the 872 free Glomerular Filtration Rate (kidney function) screenings were abnormal**
- **12% of the 124 free HGB/A1C (hemoglobin test for diabetes patients) screenings were abnormal**
- **43% of the 20 free Peripheral Artery Disease screenings were abnormal**



Our region is blessed with options when it comes to finding health care. At Good Samaritan, we are proud to offer the latest advances in medical technology so you don't have to travel far for excellent health care. From our Level III trauma center to our surgical, orthopedics, cancer and heart care, we're in the business of bringing life-changing technology and treatment to you. Take another look at Good Samaritan, visit [gshvin.org](http://gshvin.org) today.

[gshvin.org](http://gshvin.org)

**WE GO FARTHER SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO.**