

# HEALTH CONNECTIONS

*A publication of Good Samaritan*





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# Welcome!

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Welcome to the 62nd volume of Health Connections! We are making our way through the middle of 2024 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.

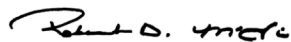
As you read through this edition of Health Connections, you will be introduced to our Executive Care Team and board members. Both groups are filled with highly qualified, smart individuals who have our patients' best interests at heart. Their goals for the future of Good Samaritan align with the direction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

The first story you will read is about Crystal Atkinson who made history as the first robotic surgery patient at Good Samaritan. You will learn about her experience and fast recovery due to this amazing technology. The second story is how Judith Eaton's trip to the Women's Wellness Fair saved her life.

The next section details an award that was given out during Nurses Week this year. Phyllis Lacy was the recipient of 2024 Good Samaritan 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



**Brenda Winkler**  
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

# 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**



# Breaking New Ground: Crystal Atkinson's Journey as the First daVinci Robotic Surgery Patient at Good Samaritan

Crystal Atkinson's journey as the first robotic surgery patient at Good Samaritan was unexpected, but her resilience and the steadfast support of her medical team were evident every step of the way.

"Being the first robotic surgery patient at Good Samaritan was surprising, but it taught me that sometimes, embracing the unknown can lead to incredible breakthroughs in health care," stated Crystal Atkinson, a Good Samaritan patient. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to be part of medical history and to inspire hope for future patients."

Crystal had been grappling with health issues stemming from low iron levels and female-related concerns, despite prior medical treatments. Her primary care provider, Dr. Kristin Mahan, directed her to Dr. Dustin Blackwell for an ablation procedure. This set Crystal on a path that eventually made her the pioneer patient for da Vinci robotic surgery at Good Samaritan.

The decision to undergo hysterectomy surgery came swiftly when Dr. Blackwell proposed scheduling surgery the next day, as part of the launch of the da Vinci system. Despite the suddenness of the decision, Crystal found reassurance in the presence of the entire surgical team, including various specialists and technicians.

Dustin Blackwell, DO, Good Samaritan Obstetrics and Gynecology Surgeon stated, "Performing the first da Vinci robotic surgery at Good Samaritan fills me with immense excitement and pride. This technology marks a new era in surgical precision and patient care within our community. With the da Vinci system, we can offer our patients minimally invasive procedures with unparalleled precision, shorter recovery times, and improved outcomes. It's a privilege to be at the forefront of advancing medical technology to benefit our patients' health and well-being."

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Reflecting on her recovery, Crystal was pleasantly surprised by the minimal pain she experienced post-surgery. Her expectations of excruciating pain were defied, and she found herself recovering faster than anticipated. The support of her family, particularly her husband, and the care provided by the hospital staff made a significant difference in her healing process.

Despite the uncertainties leading up to the surgery, Crystal's experience was marked by a sense of awe and gratitude. She marveled at the da Vinci system's advanced technology and her surgical team's skill. The open house event where she got to see the robot up close further deepened her appreciation for the innovative technology that had played a crucial role in her surgery. "I am so grateful for the care I received and the positive outcomes of my surgery. I want to acknowledge Dr. Blackwell and the surgical team for their excitement and dedication. Their enthusiasm for the new technology helped ease my anxieties," stated Crystal.

As Crystal looked back on her journey, she couldn't help but feel a sense of wonder at the advancements in medical science that had made her surgery possible. Her story is a testament to the power of perseverance, the importance of supportive care, and the transformative impact of cutting-edge medical technology.

Pictured L to R: Dustin Blackwell, DO and Crystal Atkinson.



## Benefits of Robotic Surgery

- Smaller/less incisions—less invasive, heals faster and requires fewer sutures
- Shorter hospital stay
- Faster recovery time
- Less pain
- Less blood loss
- Fewer transfusions



# Lifetime Achievement Award

The Good Samaritan Nurse Lifetime Achievement Award for 2024 was rightfully bestowed upon Phyllis Lacy, RN, a dedicated and compassionate nurse whose career spans over four remarkable decades. Phyllis's unwavering commitment to bedside care, particularly in the intensive care unit (ICU), is not just a professional choice—it's a profound calling. Her journey reflects a deep-seated passion for nursing, a vocation through which she has poured her heart and soul into her patients, mentored countless new nurses, and served her community with unmatched dedication.

For more than 40 years, Phyllis remained a steadfast presence at the bedside in the ICU. Her decision to stay in this challenging environment highlights her unwavering commitment to patient care. Phyllis viewed her role not just as a job, but as a mission to give everything she had to her patients. Her compassionate touch and expert care have been a beacon of hope and comfort to those in their most vulnerable moments.

Reflecting on her most memorable experiences, Phyllis shared, "The moments that stand out the most are my pinning ceremony, graduation, and taking my board exam." She also reminisced about her early days at Good Samaritan when patients were placed in separate men's and women's wards, divided only by curtains. Over her long career, she witnessed the devastation of epidemics such as AIDS and COVID-19. Phyllis expressed with heartfelt compassion, "We went through several years of immense suffering and loss." Phyllis retired from full-time nursing in 2020, but her dedication to her patients and profession kept her working part-time until 2023.

Beyond her exceptional patient care, Phyllis has played a pivotal role in shaping the future of nursing. She has oriented and mentored hundreds of new nurses, many of whom have risen to prominent positions as nurse leaders and nurse practitioners. These nurses have carried forward the values and skills imparted by Phyllis, ensuring her legacy of compassionate care and professional excellence continues to thrive.

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**Phyllis Lacy, RN**  
Good Samaritan's 2024 Nurse  
Lifetime Achievement Award

# Lifetime Achievement Award

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Phyllis's advice to new nurses is a reflection of her own journey: "Take care of yourself first, keep a positive attitude, and find a type of nursing that needs your skills and wants. Challenge yourself, keep your skills current, and maintain good communication with your patients and co-workers. Most importantly, treat patients how you would want your family to be treated."

Phyllis's impact extends beyond her years at the bedside. Now, she cherishes her time with her grandchildren and enjoys traveling, yet her commitment to nursing remains steadfast. She continues to contribute by serving on the Nursing Honor Guard, where her vast experience and heartfelt storytelling comfort grieving families. Phyllis often shares touching anecdotes about nurses who served decades ago, bringing smiles to the faces of those who remember them and highlighting the enduring legacy of their service.

"Phyllis's ability to make others shine, whether they are current nurses or those who have passed, is truly remarkable," said Heidi Hinkle, Director of Professional Practice. "She embodies the spirit of nursing by lifting up her colleagues, passing on her knowledge, and encouraging future generations to lead with compassion and dedication. Her eloquence in passing the lamp to the next generation ensures that the light of nursing continues to burn brightly."

Thank you, Phyllis, for your unwavering dedication, your nurturing mentorship, and for being a shining example of what it means to be a nurse. Your legacy will always be remembered, and we are forever grateful for your contributions to Good Samaritan.



**Rita Donovan, RN, 2023 Good Samaritan Lifetime Achievement Award Winner with Phyllis Lacy, RN, 2024 Winner.**



# Wellness Fair Miracle: Judith Eaton's Life-Saving Discovery

For years, Judith Eaton had been a familiar face at the Good Samaritan Women's Wellness Fair. She had dedicated much of her professional life to Good Samaritan, retiring from there in 2014. Even after retirement, her commitment to health and wellness never wavered, as she regularly attended the annual fair to stay on top of her health.

In 2022, Judith attended the fair with her usual enthusiasm. As part of her routine check-up, she had blood drawn for a series of tests, including a lipid profile, blood sugar, and a glomerular filtration rate (GFR). When she received her results through MyChart, she noticed something concerning: her GFR was 49, well below the normal level of 60 for women her age.

Judith immediately took action and scheduled an appointment with her primary care provider, Vonetta Vories, NP-C. Vonetta, sharing Judith's concern, referred her to a kidney specialist for further evaluation. To her relief, Judith's kidneys were fine. However, the specialist discovered something unexpected—a parathyroid adenoma that was causing the abnormal results.

As Judith prepared for the surgery to address the adenoma, she underwent pre-operative testing, including blood work and an electrocardiogram (EKG). Shockingly, Judith, who had felt perfectly healthy, failed the EKG. Further tests, including a treadmill test with Dr. Larry Herron at Good Samaritan and a stress test, also revealed concerning results. Ultimately, a heart catheterization with Dr. Philip Bacidore confirmed the need for immediate intervention.

Dr. Bacidore delivered the sobering news: Judith needed to be transported by ambulance to Evansville for open heart surgery. Reflecting on this moment, Judith shared, "My doctors in Evansville said that I was so lucky that this was found. I didn't have any symptoms. So I think I'm pretty lucky."



*Judith Eaton*

# Wellness Fair Miracle: Judith Eaton's Life-Saving Discovery

Judith's journey underscores the critical importance of regular health screenings. "You can feel just fine but have an underlying problem that you know nothing about. This was a total shock. I had no symptoms. Make sure you stay on top of your health," Judith emphasized.

Despite the ordeal, Judith remains an advocate for the Women's Wellness Fair, continuing to attend annually. She praises the fair for its comprehensive services: "They have so many other great booths at the fair like nutrition, exercise, bone density and blood pressure checks. It's a great service for the community."

Judith Eaton's story is a powerful reminder of the importance of proactive health monitoring and the potentially life-saving benefits of community health initiatives like the Good Samaritan Women's Wellness Fair. Her journey from a routine wellness check to life-saving surgery highlights how seemingly ordinary events can lead to extraordinary outcomes. Through her experience, Judith encourages everyone to prioritize their health, even when they feel perfectly fine.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**MEN'S  
WELLNESS FAIR**

**OCTOBER 8, 2024**

**[gshvin.org/menshealthfair](https://gshvin.org/menshealthfair)**



# Good Samaritan at a Glance - 2023

## OUR STAFF

1,816 Caregivers

## ADMISSIONS

Emergency Room:	31,483
Inpatient:	5,360
(Does not include newborn admits)	
Outpatient:	504,689

## OUR SERVICE AREA

273,990 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](https://gshvin.org/health-services).

## IMPACT ON HEALTH

Laboratory Tests & Procedures:	580,584
Physical Medicine Treatments:	16,758
Babies Delivered:	352
Rehabilitation Admissions:	387
Sports Performance Treatments:	3,541
Screening Mammograms:	5,855
Lung Cancer Screenings:	529
Respiratory Tests / Procedures:	83,033
Neurodiagnostic Exams:	1,257
Endoscopy Procedures:	3,282
Dayson Heart Center Tests / Procedures:	44,677
Trauma Activations:	1,039
Number of Surgeries Performed (Both Inpatient and Ambulatory):	5,383
Patients Seen at Both Convenient Care Clinics:	17,304

# Investment in Our Communities - 2023

Annual Payroll:	\$112,557,952
Cost Per Day to Operate:	\$744,277
Scholarships Awarded:	\$47,921
Donations to Charitable Organizations:	\$147,197

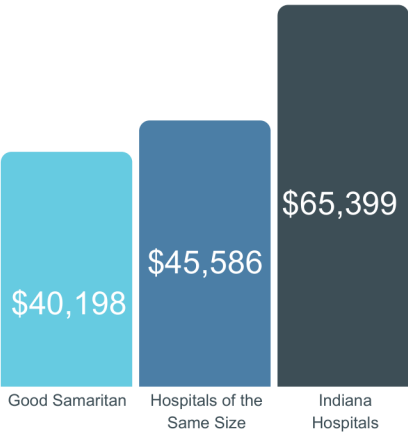
Local Goods Purchased: <small>(Includes goods and services within our 11-county service area, excluding banks.)</small>	\$7,610,885
United Way Donations: <small>(Donations by employees.)</small>	\$59,954

Property Taxes Paid to Knox County:	\$86,209
Knox County Option Income Tax Paid By Employees:	\$1,450,652
Cost to Provide Charity Care:	\$1,051,719
Unreimbursed Costs by Medicare and Medicaid:	\$375,477,513
Bad Debt: <small>Unrecoverable funds from unpaid patient bills</small>	\$11,727,668
Free Medical Care Write-Off: <small>Hospital bills that have been written off</small>	\$2,827,203

## Gross Charge per Adjusted Discharge

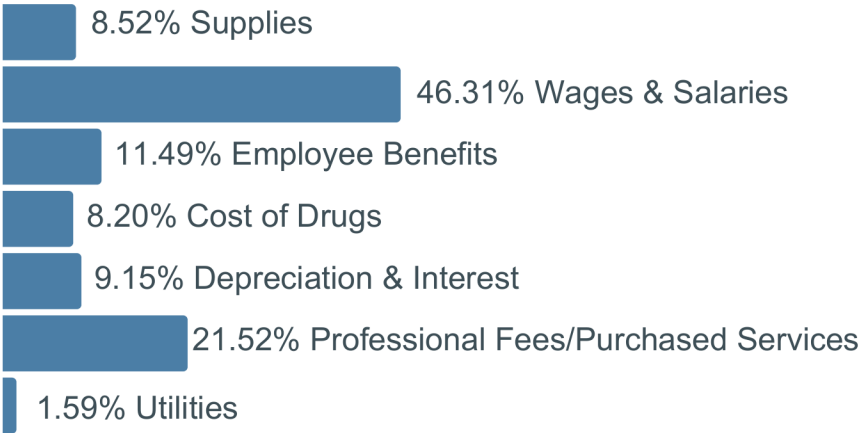
Gross charge per adjusted discharge represents the total charges generated by the number of patient discharges that are adjusted to reflect both the impact of inpatient and outpatient volumes.

Source: IHA Databank Report



## Expenditures per Dollar Collected

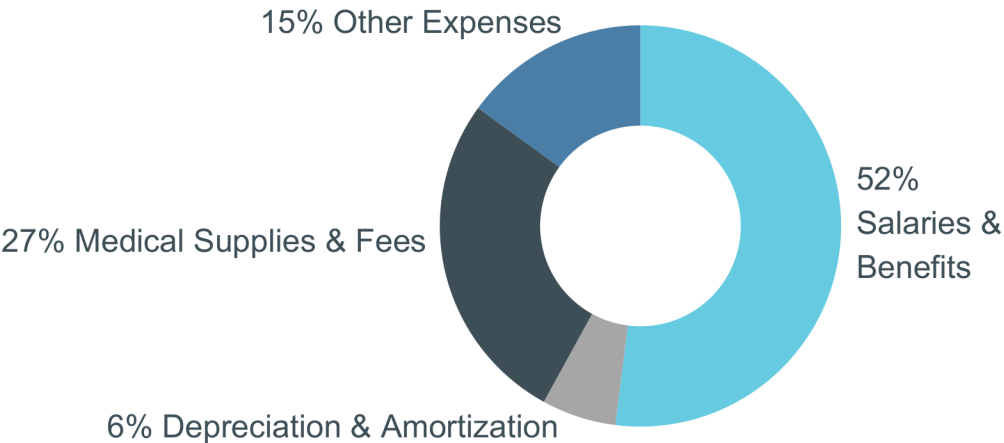
Expenditures per dollar collected is the percent of money used for each dollar collected by Good Samaritan.



## Operating Expenses

Operating expenses of Good Samaritan allocated by category expensed.

Total Operating Expenses:  
\$271,661,017





# Community Impact - 2023

## 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 2023, the 18th annual women’s health event encouraged 337 women attending to make their own health a priority. Offering health screenings and educational information from hospital departments 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 2023 event, attended by 416 men, offered five health screenings and hospital departments were also in attendance to provide education and information helpful to the health and well-being of men in the community. The 2024 Men’s Wellness Fair is scheduled for October 8.

## Stop the Bleed

Good Samaritan Trauma provided multiple free “Stop the Bleed” classes to the community in 2023. These classes prepare individuals to address traumatic injuries and act fast to prevent blood loss and save lives. In 2023, the Trauma Department offered classes and taught a total of 329 community members these life-saving techniques.

## Head and Neck Cancer Screening

Good Samaritan partnered with the Knox County Health Department to provide head and neck cancer screenings along with tobacco cessation information. There were a total of 92 screenings completed.

In addition to enhancing the health and well-being of the communities it serves, Good Samaritan also contributes significantly to the local area’s economic health. In 2023, the estimated total annual local economic impact by Good Samaritan was \$279,456,363.

## Providing Well-Paying, Consistent Employment

- Dollars earned by Good Samaritan employees and spent on groceries, clothing, mortgage payments, rent, etc., generate approximately \$121,101,101 in economic activity and create an additional 1,925 jobs for the local economy.

## Stimulating the Local Economy with Purchases of Goods and Services

- Dollars spent locally by Good Samaritan generate approximately \$8,185,551 for the local economy.

## Improving Infrastructure for All Indiana Residents

- Capital spending by Good Samaritan generates approximately \$15,547,335 for the local economy per year.

# Have you scheduled your free Medicare Annual Wellness Visit?

**Call 812-885-6766 to  
schedule your free visit.**

