

HEALTH CONNECTIONS

A publication of Good Samaritan



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Welcome!

Welcome to the 63rd volume of Health Connections! In this edition, you will learn how two-year-old Magnolia's life was saved after a near-drowning accident, thanks to the quick actions of her father, a heroic neighbor and the skilled Good Samaritan EMS team. Through faith, compassion, and expert medical care, Magnolia made a miraculous recovery and continues to thrive today.

In 2024, Good Samaritan was honored to recognize Dustin Blackwell, DO as the Physician of the Year. Dr. Blackwell was presented with the "SAMMIE" (Samaritan Award for Meritorious Medical Care with Integrity and Excellence). Good Samaritan is proud to announce Trista Armes, FNP-C, as the inaugural recipient of the Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Excellence Award. Trista exemplifies Good Samaritan's mission, vision and values through her outstanding clinical expertise, compassionate patient care and unwavering dedication to our community. As the first honoree of this award, Trista sets a high standard for excellence, highlighting the vital role Advanced Practice Providers play in our commitment to delivering exceptional health care.

Also in 2024, we welcomed twenty-two new providers to Good Samaritan. In this edition, we will introduce you to those new providers so you can learn a little more about them and how to schedule an appointment.

Randy Bishop shared his story of undergoing knee replacement surgery with Dr. David Miller at Good Samaritan, which transformed his quality of life by addressing decades of pain, mobility challenges and related health issues. Through expert care and supportive therapy, he regained his ability to enjoy his passions, like hunting, fishing, and coaching, while significantly improving his overall health and well-being.

In closing, I want to thank you for allowing Good Samaritan to care for you and your family. Our mission centers on providing exceptional health care through the cultivation of trusting relationships. Our commitment extends beyond just medical treatment; it is a promise to treat every individual with the warmth and compassion that one would expect from family. As we enter a new year, we continue our vision to be the regional center of excellence in health care to support the communities we serve; setting the standard for quality care, innovation, and patient-centered service. Thank you for entrusting us with your health. We look forward to serving you and your family in 2025 and beyond.

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



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
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TJ Brink



Trent Hinkle



Kellie Streeter



Jim Zeigler

2024 Physician of the Year

Good Samaritan Physician Network has named Obstetrics/Gynecology Physician Dustin Blackwell, DO as the 2024 Physician of the Year. This award, also referred to as "The SAMMIE" for Samaritan Award for Meritorious Medical Care with Integrity and Excellence, was created in 2020 to recognize individuals who demonstrate exceptional skills in clinical practice and who uphold the mission, vision and values of Good Samaritan.

"I am very honored to receive such a prestigious award", stated Dr. Blackwell. "The OB/GYN department has seen its fair share of changes over the last 9-12 months. I have to thank the staff on OB, our office staff, the covering locum physicians, and all other staff who have helped us during this busy time. With everyone's team effort, we have been able to remain successful and still provide safe and excellent care for the patients who have chosen to continue care at Good Samaritan. I thank God for the grace and patience during this busy time, and my very supportive and loving wife and family for their continued support as well. Thank you, all!"

[Click here to watch Dr. Blackwell's nomination video.](#)



Dustin Blackwell, DO

2024 Advanced Practice Provider of the Year



Good Samaritan is proud to name Trista Armes, FNP-C as the 2024 Advanced Practice Provider (APP) of the Year. This award celebrates the exceptional contributions of our Advanced Practice Providers, whose dedication and expertise are integral to delivering compassionate, high-quality care to our patients. By recognizing the instrumental role they play within our health care team, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering a culture of excellence and collaboration in serving our community.

"I am sincerely honored to receive the first ever APP of the year award for Good Samaritan," stated Trista. "There are many deserving APPs in our organization. Being surrounded by supportive staff, fellow NPs, and physicians in the hematology/oncology program is what truly allows me to be the best APP that I can. The last few years have brought a bit of change and sometimes uncertainty but we have done our best to continue to serve our patients. Caring for oncology patients is the greatest reward!"

Trista Armes, FNP-C

[Click here to watch Trista's nomination video.](#)



MAGNOLIA'S MIRACLE: A FAMILY SAVED BY COURAGE, COMPASSION AND QUICK ACTION

Two-year-old Magnolia's life took a harrowing turn on what started as a carefree summer day in Freelandville, Indiana. The family was attending a cookout with friends when tragedy struck. In a split second, Magnolia climbed a pool ladder and fell into the water. Her mother, Ashley, recalls the panic and chaos that followed.

"We couldn't find her for a split second and then her dad pulled her out of the pool. He immediately started CPR while I called 911," Magnolia's mother, Ashley Stewart shared, her voice trembling with the memory.

The first to notice something was wrong was John Streeter, a neighbor and member of the Freelandville Fire Department. "John saw me outside and yelled over that there was a pediatric code across the street," recalled paramedic William Vance, who lives nearby. Acting quickly, Will rushed to the scene and began assisting Magnolia's father, who had started CPR. "How he heard us, I'll never know—it was truly a miracle," Ashley said.

Once Good Samaritan EMT Andrew Haberkorn and Paramedic Myron Mackey arrived, they worked alongside William to stabilize Magnolia's condition. Together, the team provided critical care on the scene and continued their lifesaving efforts during her transport to the hospital. From Good Samaritan, she was airlifted to Riley Hospital for Children, where she began her incredible recovery journey.

Reflecting on the extraordinary events of that day, Vance shared a sentiment that resonated deeply with all involved: "During an EMS symposium, a speaker shared the quote: 'Science only goes so far, then comes God.' This sentiment perfectly encapsulates Maggie's story. While science and modern medicine were pivotal in her journey, it was divine intervention that brought everything together," stated Vance. "The extraordinary outcome of her story serves as a powerful testament to what training, teamwork, and dedication can achieve. In the field of public safety, we often face challenging and heartbreak situations that can test our resolve. However, stories like Maggie's remind us why we chose this profession—why we do what we do."

Andrew Haberkorn, one of the first responders, added, "I am incredibly grateful and fortunate to be allowed to work with such professional and brilliant people. It's an honor to proudly serve the people of Knox County alongside the amazing leadership, paramedics, and EMTs of Good Samaritan's ambulance service, who set the daily example as role models in patient care to me as a first-year employee."

MAGNOLIA'S MIRACLE: A FAMILY SAVED BY COURAGE, COMPASSION AND QUICK ACTION

Over the next six weeks, Magnolia relearned basic functions like holding her head up, crawling, walking, and talking. "Every day she was doing more and more she went from being unable to hold her head up, to sitting up, crawling, pulling herself up and back to walking," Ashley marveled.

Now, months later, Magnolia is thriving. Her remarkable recovery is a testament to their quick actions and the extraordinary people who intervened. "I truly believe we had the best team possible—from her dad, Will, and the EMS team to the doctors and nurses at Good Sam and Riley," Ashley said. The experience has left an indelible mark on Ashley and her family. "I thought I was going to lose her that day. I was preparing myself for the worst," she admitted. "But here we are, and it's all because of the people who cared enough to act."

Ashley remains in contact with several members of the EMS team, especially Will, who stayed by their side throughout the ordeal. "I don't have the words to thank them," she said. "They not only saved Magnolia's life but also showed our family so much compassion. They will always hold a special place in our hearts."

Magnolia's story is a reminder of the incredible strength of community and the power of faith, skill, and determination. For Ashley, the message to others is clear: "Have faith in the people helping you. They carry the weight of those moments with them, too. They're doing their best and sometimes, that makes all the difference."



L to R: William Vance, McKenna Stewart, Ashley Stewart, Magnolia Stewart, Myron Mackey and Andrew Haberkorn.



L to R: Magnolia Stewart and McKenna Stewart.

Meet Our New Providers



Andrews Adjapong, MD

Anesthesiology

Medical Degree: Indiana University School of Medicine

Residency: The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Andrews Adjapong, originally from Ghana, West Africa, trained as an optometrist at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. After moving with his family to the U.S. over 15 years ago and settling in Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Adjapong pursued medical studies at Indiana University and completed his anesthesia residency at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. He began his training at Good Samaritan and is now excited to return, drawn by his positive experience and dedication to community care during challenging times, including the COVID pandemic.



Karim Anwar, MD

Hematology/Oncology

Medical Degree: King Edward Medical College

Residency: University of Massachusetts

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

[812-886-6565](tel:812-886-6565)

Dr. Karim Anwar is a hematologist and oncologist, specializing in the care of patients with cancer and blood disorders. Originally from Pakistan, Dr. Anwar values the close relationships he builds with his patients and is committed to developing personalized care plans, whether through local treatments or referrals for advanced care.



Spencer Bonnerup, MD

Internal Medicine

Medical Degree: St. George's University

Residency: Southwest Indiana University Internal Medicine

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

[812-885-6990](tel:812-885-6990)

Dr. Spencer Bonnerup earned his BA in Chemistry from Gustavus Adolphus college in St. Peter MN, and an MPH from St. George's University. Spencer's research includes "Development of Rapid LC/MS/MS based Methods for Confirmatory Analysis of Opiates and Benzodiazepines", which was presented nationally. While earning his MPH, he developed an interest in decreasing tobacco consumption and the promotion of healthier eating habits.



Aimee Borazanci, MD

Neurology

Medical Degree: Louisiana State University

Residency: Louisiana State University

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Aimee Borazanci, is a distinguished neurologist who has recently joined the team to deliver comprehensive neurology services at Good Samaritan. Her expertise significantly contributes to the mission of expanding neurology services within the community and beyond. Dr. Borazanci is board-certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Meet Our New Providers



Michael Carson, MD

Hospitalist

Medical Degree: Indiana University School of Medicine

Residency: Indiana University School of Medicine

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

812-885-6990

Dr. Michael Carson is a lifelong Hoosier. He was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana and was a biochemistry and neuroscience major at Indiana University Bloomington. Between college and medical school, Michael participated in underwater museum research in the Dominican Republic with Indiana University Department of Underwater Research maintaining coral reefs and artifacts they contained. Michael is interested in hospital medicine and following-up on long-term outcomes.



William Collyer, MD, FACS

Urologist

Medical Degree: Drexel University College of Medicine

Residency: Washington University

Good Samaritan

328 N. Second Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

812-882-4320

Dr. William Collyer is a urologic surgeon with a special interest and extensive experience in minimally invasive surgery for kidney cancer and prostate cancer. He also treats kidney stones, hematuria, BPH and other general urologic conditions. After graduating from Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia in 1999, he completed residency training at Washington University in St Louis and Barnes-Jewish Hospital.



Everett Cooper, MD

Hospitalist

Medical Degree: Ross University School of Medicine

Residency: Indiana University School of Medicine

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Everett Cooper was born in Tacoma and lived in Missouri before settling in Evans, Georgia. Everett's father, a physician, would explain in detail what was happening when Everett was sick, and as he grew older, they discussed interesting cases. While in medical school, he was active in the school's intramural athletic organizations, joining several sports to get exercise, develop teamwork and communication skills and be a part of his community.



Dustin Craney, DO

Psychiatry

Medical Degree: Lincoln Memorial University

Residency: Indiana University School of Medicine

Good Samaritan

121 Buntin Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

812-885-8622

A native of Poseyville, Indiana, Dr. Dustin Craney is no stranger to southern Indiana. After graduating from the University of Southern Indiana in 2013, he journeyed to Harrogate, TN where he earned his Master's degree in Biomedical Science and his medical degree from Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine. In his free time, Dr. Craney enjoys being outdoors, electronics, and spending time with his family.

Meet Our New Providers



Shawn Curry, MD

Internal Medicine Faculty

Medical Degree: Southern Illinois University

Residency: Madigan Army Medical Center

Good Samaritan

812-885-6990

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Shawn Curry is the Clinic Director for the Internal Medicine Resident-Faculty Clinic at Good Samaritan where he also serves as core faculty for the Southwest Indiana Internal Medicine Residency Program and Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine for Indiana University School Of Medicine. Dr. Curry enjoys focusing on precepting and mentoring trainees from various fields to include combat medics, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, medical students and residents.



Mikiel Ewida, CAA

Anesthesiology

Bachelor's Degree: Purdue University

Master's Degree: Indiana University Indianapolis

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Mikiel Ewida, CAA, originally from Egypt, grew up in rural Illinois. After traveling to North Carolina for his undergraduate degree, he went back to the Midwest for his Master's degree because it felt like home. Ewida says he chose Anesthesia because it requires a deep understanding of physiology, pharmacology, and technology. He also says that becoming a Certified Anesthesiology Assistant promised continuous learning, problem-solving, and staying updated on medical advancements which was appealing to him.



Benjamin Flaningam, PA

Emergency Medicine

Bachelor's Degree: Purdue University

Master's Degree: University of Evansville

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Benjamin Flaningam, PA, brings a wealth of education and health care experience to his practice. He holds a Master of Physician Assistant Science from the University of Evansville, a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis, and an Associate of Science in Biomedical Science from Vincennes University. Certified in Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Benjamin has honed his skills as a Medical Scribe at Good Samaritan, where he collaborated with physicians to care for up to 100 patients daily.



Maria C. Herron, MD

Obstetrics/Gynecology

Medical Degree: University of Illinois

Residency: Indiana University

Good Samaritan

812-882-1000

700 Willow Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Maria C. Herron is a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist. She earned her medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. Following her graduation, Dr. Herron completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

Meet Our New Providers



Mohammed Ismael, DO, MD

General Surgery

Medical Degree: New York Institute of Technology

Residency: Garnet Health Medical Center

Good Samaritan

[812-885-3280](#)

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Mohammed Ismael grew up in a rural town in Egypt, where the majority of the population were farmers. This background gave him a deep understanding of the challenges faced by underserved communities, especially in accessing medical care. After completing his education in Egypt, he pursued his medical degree at the New York Institute of Technology and specialized in general surgery, a field that captured his interest from the very beginning of his clinical rotations.



Jasan Jawanda, MD

Infectious Disease

Medical Degree: Dayanand Medical College

Residency: University of Connecticut

Good Samaritan

[812-885-3280](#)

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Originally from Ottawa, Canada, Dr. Jasan Jawanda completed her medical education in Punjab, India, an Internal Medicine Residency and Chief Medical Residency at the University of Connecticut, and an Infectious Disease Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dr. Jawanda's passion for infectious disease stems from her interest in diverse and complex cases. She values accurate diagnoses and effective treatments, prioritizing compassionate and attentive care with personalized, evidence-based treatment plans.



Blaine T. Manning, MD

Spine Surgeon

Medical Degree: Rush Medical College

Residency: University of Missouri

Tri-State Orthopaedics

[812-882-6637](#)

2121 Willow Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Blaine Manning is a native of Springfield, IL, and attended medical school at Rush Medical College (Chicago, IL). During medical training, he was active in clinical research and was the principal or co-investigator on nearly 100 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and abstract presentations. Dr. Manning completed a five-year residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Missouri (Columbia, MO). After residency, Dr. Manning was selected for 1 of 54 North American AO Spine Fellowships and completed subspecialty training in spine surgery and reconstruction at the Medical College of Georgia (Augusta, GA).



Audra McQuade, AGACNP

Neurology

Bachelor's Degree: Vincennes University

Master's Degree: University of Southern Indiana

Good Samaritan

[812-885-6850](#)

328 N. Second Street, Suite 301

Vincennes, IN 47591

Audra McQuade, AGACNP, is a dedicated nurse practitioner specializing in neurology and sleep medicine. With over a decade of experience at the bedside, Audra transitioned to the role of nurse practitioner to deepen her impact on patient care. She is enthusiastic about building long-term relationships with patients in an outpatient setting, allowing her to follow their progress beyond the hospital environment. Audra is committed to listening closely to her patients' needs and supporting their journeys to better health.

Meet Our New Providers



Billy Powell Jr., MD

Hospitalist

Medical Degree: University of Louisville School of Medicine

Residency: Indiana University School of Medicine

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Billy Powell is from Moyock, North Carolina and is committed to a life of service both locally and globally. He was one of 14 students at Duke University who received the prestigious Benjamin N. Duke scholarship. With guidance from the scholarship program, he was able to complete community engagement projects in the Carolinas working alongside the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Commission as well as one in the United Kingdom working with a fair-trade shop. He enjoys exercising, traveling, reading and baking.



Laura Reedy, CCA

Anesthesiology

Bachelor's Degree: LaSalle University

Master's Degree: Case Western Reserve University

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Laura Reedy, CCA, completed her anesthesia training at Case Western Reserve University and practiced at Baptist Floyd in New Albany, Indiana before coming to Good Samaritan. Laura's hobbies include being outdoors, spending time with her dog Jojo and traveling.



Daniel Spearman, MD

Emergency Medicine

Medical Degree: University of Florida

Residency: Rush University Medical Center

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Daniel Spearman, is a skilled emergency medicine physician at Good Samaritan. He completed his residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Spearman earned his medical degree from the University of Florida, where he was awarded the prestigious Mark W. Herrbold Award, recognizing his perseverance and extraordinary determination in overcoming personal adversity during his medical education. Since 2017, he has been an active member of the American College of Emergency Physicians, reflecting his dedication to providing exceptional emergency care.



Andrew Tharp, MD

Pathology

Medical Degree: Indiana University School of Medicine

Residency: Indiana University School of Medicine

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Andrew Tharp, a lifelong Hoosier, was born in Indianapolis and raised in Evansville, Indiana. His interest in pathology began during his second year of medical school, inspired by engaging instructors and the excitement of uncovering "how we know what we know." Dr. Tharp is passionate about the vital role of pathology in patient care, recognizing the laboratory as an essential yet often under considered part of the health care system.

Meet Our New Providers



Josh Vollmer, MD

Anesthesiology

Medical Degree: Indiana University School of Medicine

Residency: Indiana University School of Medicine

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street
Vincennes, IN 47591

Originally hailing from Jasper, Indiana, Dr. Josh Vollmer has maintained close ties to his hometown, where the majority of his family still resides. He chose the specialty of anesthesia because it allows him to work with his hands and thrive in a team setting, ensuring comprehensive perioperative health care. When meeting patients for the first time, Dr. Vollmer aims to provide clarity and reassurance, treating each individual with the same care as he would his own family. He ensures that patients know precisely what to expect on the day of their procedure, easing any anxieties they may have.



Anna Wanahita, MD

Neuroradiology

Medical Degree: Universitas Katolik Atma Jaya

Residency: University of Louisville

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street
Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Anna Wanahita, is a highly skilled neurologist with a strong background in stroke care and neuro-intervention. She earned her Doctor of Medicine degree from Universitas Katolik Atma Jaya in Jakarta, Indonesia. Dr. Wanahita completed her internship in Internal Medicine at the University of Louisville's School of Medicine, followed by a residency in Neurology. During her residency, she also completed a Stroke Mini-Fellowship, with specialized training in Neuro-Intervention/Endovascular procedures. With extensive training and expertise in neurology, Dr. Wanahita is committed to providing compassionate, patient-centered care in the field of neurology.



Martin Winkler, PA

Hospitalist

Bachelor's Degree: University of Southern Indiana

Master's Degree: University of Evansville

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street
Vincennes, IN 47591

Martin Winkler, PA, specializes in internal medicine as a hospitalist. Born and raised in Montgomery, Indiana, Martin chose internal medicine because of his deep interest in the field and his desire to provide comprehensive care to patients. He values the opportunity to work close to home at Good Samaritan, a place he describes as having a stellar reputation and a welcoming environment filled with trustworthy colleagues.



Elizabeth "Betsy" Wise, APRN

Neurovascular Nurse Practitioner

Bachelor's Degree: Western Kentucky University

Master's Degree: University of Louisville

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street
Vincennes, IN 47591

Betsy Wise, APRN, specializes in acute stroke evaluation and management, as well as in outpatient stroke prevention. She has dedicated over 20 years to building and maintaining a stroke program at the University of Louisville Hospital. She also trained neurology residents in neurovascular care from admission to discharge, including stroke hospital policies and protocols. Additionally, she participated in nationally recognized cerebrovascular clinical trials as both a primary and co-investigator.

Randy Bishop's Life-Changing Knee Replacement Journey at Good Samaritan

For Randy Bishop, life was defined by movement - coaching basketball, hunting, fishing and playing with his grandkids. However, years of knee problems stemming from a devastating injury 40 years ago had robbed him of his passions and compromised his health. At 5'9" and weighing 272 pounds, Randy faced a host of health challenges, including high blood pressure, fatty liver disease and prediabetes. "I was limping around, falling and my quality of life had deteriorated," Randy recalls. "Even my grandkids called me 'Poppy Penguin' because I shuffled so badly."

A chance conversation with Linda Linneweber, a nurse practitioner affiliated with Good Samaritan, was the turning point. Linda encouraged Randy to consider knee replacement surgery, praising the expertise of Dr. David Miller, a leading orthopedic surgeon at Good Samaritan. "Linda told me, 'Your health will improve if you get your knee replaced.' And she was right," Randy said. Encouraged further by friends who had undergone successful surgeries with Dr. Miller, Randy finally decided to schedule his operation.

Randy remembers his first appointment with Dr. Miller vividly. "He looked at my X-rays and told me, 'Your knee is in bad shape, but I can fix it.' That gave me hope," Randy said. Dr. Miller's use of advanced robotic-assisted technology reassured Randy. "They told me recovery would be faster with robotics, and Dr. Miller explained everything clearly, which eased my nerves."

The surgery, performed on July 10, 2023, was a success. Thanks to what Randy humorously calls a "pain bomb" that numbed the area for three days, his post-operative pain was minimal. "I was surprised—it was nowhere near as bad as I anticipated," Randy shared. The attentive nursing staff and Dr. Miller's team made the experience even better. "The nurses were phenomenal. They checked on me throughout the night, making sure I was comfortable and reassured."



Randy's recovery involved rigorous physical therapy at Good Samaritan's outpatient Physical Therapy Department. "The therapists were incredible," Randy said. "They pushed me hard but with a smile, and they helped me regain movement I hadn't had in years. Cindy Greentree, in particular, made sure I hit every milestone."

The transformation in Randy's life has been profound. He has lost 60 pounds, can climb stairs without pain and has regained his passions for hunting, fishing, and coaching. "I feel like I've been given a second chance at life," Randy said, smiling. "I can finally play with my grandkids, move without pain and enjoy my favorite activities. It's amazing."

Randy now encourages others to address their knee problems sooner rather than later. "If I'd done this 15 years ago, I could have avoided so many health issues. Don't wait like I did—your quality of life will improve dramatically."

Looking back, Randy is grateful for the care he received at Good Samaritan. "Dr. Miller and his team were outstanding. If I ever need my other knee or even my hip replaced, I'll go back to them in a heartbeat. They didn't just fix my knee, they gave me my life back."

From Patient to Volunteer: Sheryl Ring-Laakman's Journey

For nearly a decade, Sheryl Ring-Laakman has been a patient at Good Samaritan's Infusion Center, receiving treatments for rheumatoid arthritis. Over time, she noticed something that would profoundly influence her life: the extraordinary impact volunteers had on patients like her.

"I've spent so much time in the infusion center, watching the nurses and volunteers," Sheryl shared. "I could see how much of a difference the volunteers made and I realized it was something I'd love to do."

Now retired, Sheryl decided to dedicate her time to giving back to the place that has given her so much. She became a volunteer, channeling her compassion and firsthand understanding of the patient experience into making a difference for others.

"I know what it's like to face a challenging illness," said Sheryl, who is also a bilateral breast cancer survivor. "Although I didn't undergo chemotherapy, I had 42 radiation treatments here. That journey gives me empathy for patients, and I try to bring comfort and positivity to their day."

For Sheryl, the little things often mean the most. "I absolutely love offering patients warm blankets," she said with a smile. "It's such a simple gesture, but it makes them feel cared for and comfortable. It's incredibly rewarding to brighten someone's day in that way." Sheryl also appreciates the teamwork she sees between the staff and volunteers. "Volunteers free up the nurses to focus on patient care," she explained. "By handling things like snacks, drinks, and blankets, we allow the nurses to spend more time on charting and addressing medical needs."

Her personal experience as a patient also informs her perspective. "The infusion center here is bright and sunny, and the nurses are so pleasant and positive. I had a friend receiving chemo in another city who left her infusion center because it felt gloomy. I told her she should come here, where it's a place of hope rather than despair."

"The care I've received here has been incredible, and volunteering allows me to give back in a meaningful way. If someone is considering volunteering, I'd tell them it's one of the most rewarding experiences you can have."

Sheryl's journey from patient to volunteer is a testament to the power of giving back. "Hospitals are facing a critical shortage of healthcare workers, and I hope I can continue to do my small part to help in the years to come."

For Sheryl, volunteering is more than just giving her time, it's a way to make a difference for others, just as others have done for her.

Click here to learn about
volunteer opportunities.

