

# COMPASSIONATE SIVINATIONATE

Biannual News from Good Samaritan Foundation | SPRING 2019

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**Over the years** some have suggested that it must be a little disheartening to be around sick people. I wanted to take a minute to share with you why the opposite is true-to provide you with a different perspective on the power of hope and what a privilege it is to work alongside our Cancer Institute providers.

You see, I hear the ringing of the bell when a patient finishes treatment. I've also noticed

#### something on those elevator rides—the way up is typically much different than the ride down. I often share the elevator with patients and sometimes their families. On the way up, the atmosphere tends to be somber, almost as if fear and doubt has overtaken them. But on the rides down I experience something different—hope. Hope is more than a simple emotion. Hope changes the cancer journey and can contribute directly to better outcomes. Hope often leads to joy.

Years ago, my father, like so many before and since was diagnosed with the grim realities of cancer. I will never forget how the receptionist would get up and greet him with a big hug every time I went with him for treatment. I still remember my father's laugh and smile from that hug—instant hope. Each time I came back with him, the care team remembered my name and details of my life, which enabled me to be on the journey with my father. Excellent care, combined with compassion, provided us with the immeasurable gift of hope.

Each morning on my way to the office I take the hospital elevator up to the 4th floor. The 4th floor at Good Samaritan houses not only the Foundation office, but also the TriHealth Cancer Institute."

"

Recently, five very dear friends and family members have gotten the same gut-wrenching news as my father. Despite the terrible news, they have all told me that they are lucky in their own way as they have something many in our community do not. They have a close network of friends and family that helps feed their hope. They have somebody who will help them ring the bell at the close of their treatments.

Every once in a while we get a visit to the Foundation from a patient around

the corner. One afternoon we had a visit from a woman who, in the midst of her journey with cancer, handed us a check. For her, this gift was a sacrifice, but she insisted. She wanted us to know that without the care providers she would have nobody to help her find the hope and strength she needed. She wanted each of us to remember how important hope truly is, and to pay the promise of hope forward. So we must.

Thank you to our TriHealth Cancer Institute care providers, and thank you to our generous donors. Together, we can provide a journey of hope and imagine hope turning to joy when we hear the sound of the bell.

Mary L. Rafferty President and Chief Executive Officer Good Samaritan Foundation

## Inside TriHealth

In this issue we are exploring cancer care at Good Samaritan Hospital and the role of hope. We express our gratitude for where philanthropy has brought us today, but set our focus on the opportunity of where it can lead us tomorrow.

For a special insider's look at the future of cancer care we spoke with Mark Witte, Executive Director of the TriHealth Cancer Institute (TCI). Mark reminds us that "TCI continues to be guided by our mission to provide the care that cancer patients want and deserve." It is with this conviction that Mark tells us TriHealth has designated Good Samaritan to be the destination for the system's most advanced cancer care. The five year vision is to have an entire dedicated division of oncology that is the center of TriHealth's tertiary cancer care.



Mark Witte meets with Genomics Workgroup members Annelise Page, Genetic Counselor; Andrew Parchmann, MD, Medical Oncologist/Hematologist; and James Maher, MD, PhD, Physician Executive, TriHealth Cancer Institute and System Chief, Oncology Service Line

Building upon Good Sam's designations as a Center of Excellence in Leukemia and Brain Tumors, TCI at Good Samaritan plans to focus on enhancing the inpatient blood cancer program, consolidating surgical oncology care, and creating a personalized medicine platform (see how The Good Samaritans' Gala will help make this possible on pages 6 and 7). Mark emphasizes that innovation and strategic decisions are critical. "What I think is key for the future is the investment in programmatic development and funding services that we build around care for patients." As you will see on pages 4 and 5, our philanthropic partners have helped make great strides, but there is more to do.

When asked about the role of hope in cancer care, Mark explains, "Hope must be defined in a broader sense-in our field, hope is about time, about caring for people for as long as they have. We cannot take our eye off that. It's why we have invested the way we have." National averages tell us that 65% of cancer patients have a five year survival rate. Success cannot always be measured by outcome; sometimes it should be measured by quality of time. With your help, we can generate hope for the future that creates more survivors, enhances quality of time, and makes the five year vision a reality.

**Hope** is about time, about caring for people for as long as they have. We cannot take our eye off that. It's why we have invested the way we have."

#### Perspectives... From New Board Members

#### Dr. Richard E. Welling

Dr. Richard E. Welling, a Cincinnati area native, has invested over 40 years of his career and life with colleagues and friends at Good Samaritan Hospital. The reason, he says, is simple: "Good Sam and I have always had a shared purpose—and that's the long held commitment to education." As the former Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Program Director of General Surgery Residency, Vice President of Academic Affairs for TriHealth, and an annual donor, Dr. Welling has had a remarkable impact on education. So in December of last year when the Foundation approached Dr. Welling about joining the board he saw it as "a way to ensure that the mission of education, which began in 1850, continues on in perpetuity."

He continues, "Most people probably aren't aware that about a third of the people trained at Good Sam stay connected to Cincinnati. I think that's an incredible number. It demonstrates to me that investing in the talent and accreditation necessary to make these programs excel is truly a direct investment back into our community, into each of us." We're proud to introduce Dr. Welling as a Foundation board member and believe that pursuing education and sharing that gift with others embodies what it means to have hope.



Mark Walton and Dr. Erik Dunki-Jacobs

#### Dr. Erik Dunki-Jacobs

A surgical oncologist with the TriHealth Cancer Institute, Dr. Dunki-Jacobs is the kind of physician that believes saving and changing lives extends beyond what he can do in the operating room. "After receiving my training at Good Sam I left to fulfill my fellowship elsewhere. I came back because this place is different—we treat one another and our patients like family. I wanted my wife and my young kids to be in that kind of environment. Six years ago when I returned, I saw the renovations to the Cancer Institute and knew immediately I wanted to become involved with the Foundation. I wanted to donate, volunteer, and influence others if I could."

Stories of hope fuel Dr. Dunki-Jacobs. "One of the things I find most rewarding is when patients come to see me, they aren't sure of their diagnosis or how things are going to turn out. As you talk to them about their diagnosis and treatment options, you start to see hope that wasn't there when they walked in." He continues, "That's one of the best things about what I do. If you don't have hope in cancer care, you don't have a chance. When I was asked to join the Foundation board it was a no-brainer. If I can play a role in helping direct donations to the areas of greatest impact, rally other physicians to consider philanthropy and be a liaison to the medical staff and community—it's an honor."

#### Mark Walton

Mark Walton has more than 30 years of experience in banking and serves as Director of Community & Economic Development for the Greater Cincinnati Region of Fifth Third Bank. Despite his success, he'll be the first to correct you with how he truly defines success. "My parents instilled a belief in me at an early age that giving back to the community is the price you pay for the space you occupy. We are all a part of our family community, work community, city community, and earth. It's incumbent on all of us to make this a better place to live."

Mark shares a story that exemplifies what it means to be a Foundation board member. "Cancer impacts everybody and has impacted me and my family deeply. Over the course of a 30 year period, my father battled five different occurrences of cancer. Through a deep sense of faith in God, and the support of loved ones, he lived an inspiring life of hope. Faith and hope walk side by side. While my father ultimately lost his final battle with cancer, he never lost faith and hope." When we discussed his vision for the future, Mark finished with this: "I am lucky. I have wonderful people in my life that I know I can count on, but not everyone is so lucky. My vision is to create opportunities for those less fortunate... Outcomes are so much better when you have hope."

# **Philanthropy and Population Health**

Think of any product or service critical to your way of life. Which ones would you recommend and why? What do they all have in common? Most likely it's quality, and healthcare is no different.

In healthcare, the term "quality" has taken on new meaning in recent years. It is no longer based solely on outcomes when you get sick. Rather, it is about preventative care—helping our communities reduce or avoid serious illness. It is also about many other factors: compassionate providers, the most advanced equipment, accessibility, communication, and the mission of an organization. Lastly, let's not forget cost. Indeed, quality healthcare means much more.

This new definition of quality is the basis for healthcare's focus on another new term: population health. Keeping our new understanding of quality in mind, population health is commonly defined as the health outcomes of a group of individuals, including the distribution of such outcomes within the group. At its core, population health is a value-based approach intended to improve results while lowering costs.

#### So, How is TriHealth Doing?

In November of 2018, the Cincinnati Business Courier published an article about a value-based healthcare agreement launched in 2014 between TriHealth and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of Ohio. In what is called an "accountable care organization," patients are insured by Anthem and receive care through TriHealth. The enhanced personal care model has helped boost preventive care for thousands of local patients while lowering costs for employers.

TriHealth President and CEO Mark Clement noted the success of the effort thus far: "TriHealth and its nearly 14,000 physicians, nurses and other team members are proud to be recognized as Anthem's top performing accountable care organization in the state of Ohio and among the best in the entire country." (To read the entire article, go to News and Releases on trihealth.com)

#### The Role of Philanthropy

While it is always good news when your provider is successfully navigating the labyrinth of challenges facing healthcare today, the battle is never won. Median hospital operating margins hover around three percent—and Moody's Investors Service says a five percent margin is essential just to maintain operations and is not capable of fueling progress. The reality is simple—philanthropy doesn't just play a "nice-to-have" role in providing care. Sometimes, it means the difference of delivering quality care to individuals in our community who would otherwise not receive it.



Let's face it: donors want and deserve impact from their investment. They often choose organizations who offer inspired, transformational opportunities. Opportunities that have both immediate impact and long-ranging, perpetual impact. Population health is proving it can provide both. As you can see from the graphic above, more and more people are investing in our future.

Here at Good Samaritan, we are blessed. Many of the advancements and the speed in which they've been brought to market are directly connected to the philanthropic support we've received over the years. In simple terms, philanthropy has provided quality. It has saved lives. It has changed lives.

For more information on how population health can transform our communities, please contact the Foundation office at 513 862 3786.



Maurice Williams shares a moment of gratitude with Chaplain Jerry Heatherly

# An Honor to CARE

Do you remember how you met the person who'd become the love of your life? Most of us can recall it vividly. Where you were, what the other person was wearing. In a way it symbolizes the promise of what your life becomes. When it comes to other things in life, we're more forgetful. We sometimes cannot remember just where ideas about career, lifestyle, or even œrtain friendships began. However, Mark Witte, Executive Director of the TriHealth Cancer Institute, remembers exactly how the Cancer Center started. "Philanthropy. That's where it all started. Stories happen every day, lives are changed every day, and it all began because a group of donors decided to make it happen."

Each story has a name. During just one morning in the Center, we met Patricia, a Good Samaritan College of Nursing grad, who has a unique and deep appreciation for the Center's excellence in nursing care. Her daughter Samantha tells us Patricia is fighting her third type of cancer in seven years. Kristin, a freelance writer, is thankful she can return home the same day after her treatments. And we met Maurice, a patient from the Free Health Center. We were fortunate to witness Maurice ring the bell for his last day of treatment– his tears of gratitude and faith in God brought us all to tears as well.



To fully appreciate how far the TriHealth Cancer Institute at Good Samaritan Hospital has come, it's helpful to think about how fast research and innovation moves. According to Mark Witte, treatments that are today considered standard were considered cutting edge just a couple of years ago. It's a trend he says will continue. "Who would have thought that you could get chemo treatments in a pill? Tomorrow, we will rely less and less on surgery. Incredible advancements in personalized medicine, which the 2019 Gala funds will create here, are happening and programmatically entire systems are being rethought."

When you talk to the care providers in the Cancer Center, one word comes up time and time again hope. Just down the hall from the Foundation on the 4th floor, the Cancer Center provides both inpatient and outpatient services and is truly the hub for tertiary

> ...Stories happen every day, lives are changed every day...

cancer treatment within the TriHealth system. It is a multidisciplinary center that cares for the whole person with genetic counseling, nutrition, nurse navigation, pastoral care, and more all in one place. Again, this was made possible because of generous philanthropists who could envision a better future.

The Center also feels like the hub for hope. Hope, not in the casual way we might think of it, but rather a deep and meaningful sense of hope–almost a way of life. Mary Welage, RN, is a nurse navigator and explains it this way: "Many people ask me how I do this every day. Even my husband asks how this is not a depressing job. Every time, I say that it is not just a joy to walk alongside our patients during their journeys, but an incredible honor. Whether this is the next phase of their life or the final phase of their life, it is a privilege. I absolutely love what I do."

It only seems appropriate that a Center built by the hopes of philanthropists now embodies its team of care providers. So what does the future look like? Some experts believe that we will see as much as a 40% increase in cancer diagnoses in the near future. An alarming rate that is tied to obesity, an aging population, and a handful of other health issues. Building a dedicated division of oncology, investing in workforce, infusion therapy, personalized medicine, and infrastructure are all being pursued. Current payment models alone cannot keep up with the pace of change. The good news is Good Samaritan abounds with inspiration, tools, equipment, talented clinicians, amazing philanthropic partners, and enough hope to make the future bright.



Kristin Conlin learns about the role of genes in her treatment from Karen Huelsman, Genetic Counselor and Sarah Beale, Genetic Nurse Navigator

# The Good Samaritans' Gala Makes Record Impact on Cancer Care



Gail Donovan, TriHealth President of Health Services and Chief Operating Officer; Joyce Lehmann, Gala Chair; Melody Weil, Gala Co-Chair; James Maher, MD, PhD, Physician Executive, TriHealth Cancer Institute, System Chief, Oncology Service Line, and 2019 Gala Physician Champion

We know that philanthropy is essential to providing the most advanced, compassionate, and effective cancer care possible to our community. To make this a reality, generous supporters donned their black-tie best and gathered at the Hyatt Regency Cincinnati on February 9, 2019.

The Good Samaritans' 35th Annual Gala, "Good Luck, Good Health, Good Cheer–Let's Celebrate Chinese New Year!" raised more than \$607,000 to support the creation of the TriHealth Cancer Institute Personalized Medicine Program at Good Samaritan Hospital, along with annual support of the Good Samaritan Free Health Center and Medical Education Research Fund. The Personalized Medicine Program is cutting edge cancer care that considers each individual's genes, environment, and lifestyle to identify precision treatments. Through focusing on the genetic "fingerprint" of cancer unique to each person, our care teams will be able to:

- Improve outcomes
- Eliminate unnecessary treatments
- Increase access to clinical trials
- Identify future therapies, and more

Proceeds will also impact more than 2,500 uninsured individuals in our community who receive care at the Free Health Center, as well as empower the physicians of tomorrow through the Medical Education Research Fund.

#### As you can see, the 2019 Gala was truly a celebration of the impact we can make together!

To view all event photos, visit the Gala webpage on gshfoundation.com. You can also learn more about the Personalized Medicine Program on the TriHealth Cancer Institute page on trihealth.com.



\$607,000 Total Amount Raised





**\$9.3** Million 35 Year Total Raised



PFS Group - After Dinner Cocktails Good Samaritan Hospital Medical and Dental Staff - Musical Entertainment





500 Servings of Bao Buns

and Chinese Noodles Eaten



Names Painted by Chinese Artists





Faces Painted

# **Gift of Hope**

There are certain people you meet in life who touch your heart-and your soul-in profound ways. People who teach you about the fullness of life not in spite of its fragility, but because of it. People who seem to have discovered the secret to the great question of life's purpose.

Bill Polzin, MD

**Dr. Bill Polzin is one of these special people.** We were fortunate to spend time with Bill in his home on a cold winter day in December. He shared his thoughts on faith, hope, and philanthropy through telling his remarkable story. We are honored to share it with you.

In the first few minutes with Bill, it is evident that faith has guided his life. "God has a plan for me, and that plan is perfect," he says with a smile. God's plan brought Bill, his wife Susan (Su), and their four young children–Lewis, Kathryn, Joseph, and Bethany–to Cincinnati and Good Samaritan Hospital in 1993 after a medical career in the military. When asked about his career at Good Sam, Bill lights up.

The specialized field of Maternal-Fetal Medicine combined his interests of Internal Medicine and Obstetrics. Bill followed Dr. Kim Brady to Cincinnati to found Tri-State Maternal-Fetal Medicine Associates at Good Sam to care for expectant mothers with high risk pregnancies and their unborn babies in need of medical intervention. "So many times, patients came to my practice and asked if we could help, after having lost babies before," Bill notes. "I would tell them, 'we'll try, with everything we can.' And I prayed with them, and for them. I tried to truly care for them–to give them the time they needed, and to try and give them hope."

Then, one day in March 2018, everything suddenly changed.

That was when Bill, a giver of hope,

became a recipient of hope. The morning after coming home from a meeting at Good Sam, Bill collapsed. To this day Bill has little memory of this time, but Su has told him what happened: after a rapid transfer from Bethesda Emergency room to Good Samaritan, he woke up in the Neuro ICU at Good Sam, with Su by his side, and was told that he had not suffered a stroke as originally suspected. Instead, an MRI showed aggressive brain cancer. If he did not have surgery as soon as possible, he would not survive.

Throughout Bill's six week hospital stay and the many treatments that have followed, gratitude and hope have guided his journey. He is grateful to the generous donors who helped to build the Cancer Center where he has received treatment, and for what he calls the Cancer Center team's "immediate, accurate, and compassionate care." He has built relationships not only with Dr. Richard Curry, his Neurologic Oncologist and Dr. Corey Hobbs, his Radiation Oncologist, but also with the nurses, technicians, and receptionists. Talking about the team's dedication and compassion causes Bill to close his eyes and take a deep, contemplative breath. He then tells a story about this compassion that Su had told him, as it occurred during the time he does not remember.

On that day in March after Su was told the news, she called their children who immediately traveled with their families from Dayton, Michigan, and Wisconsin to see Bill before surgery. Just before Bill was taken to the operating room, a nurse advocated for his breathing tube to be momentarily removed so he could talk to his wife and children. Bill's voice begins to quiver and his eyes well up with tears when he recalls, "The amount of compassion that nurse had reminded me of how much compassion I had for my patients. It meant everything to know there are people like that."



God has a plan for me, and that plan is perfect"

Remarkably, Bill has regained all of his memory except for the initial hospitalization, as well as most of his cognitive abilities—math is the one thing that continues to stump him. Despite all that has happened this past year, Bill still has hope. "I have hope because I have faith in God's plan of eternal life for me. Because I have hope for eternal life, I can translate that into hope in my day, hope in my year...hope for whatever days I have left," Bill says with a serene certainty.

The reality is he does not know how many days are left. While this may cause some people to retreat or despair, Bill doesn't see it that way. He works daily on his recovery. He enjoys spending time in his home office, and has set goals to return to driving and running.

The way I look at it, if I wake up and nothing seems different, then God has given me another day to keep going,"

he states gently but firmly. "For the type of cancer I have, there aren't many survivors out there– but they are there. I could be one of those. So, what right do I have to sit around and not try, not work hard?"

At Good Samaritan Foundation we are blessed to know many remarkable people, and we are especially blessed to know Dr. Bill Polzin. As a giver of hope and a generous philanthropist to Good Sam himself, it is only fitting that hope and philanthropy are now giving back to Bill. We are grateful to Bill for sharing his story and to Su, their four children, and their ten grandchildren for sharing it as well. We are hoping and praying for you all.

Throughout his life, Bill's faith has given him many gifts. Now, he is especially aware of the gift of hope. Bill's reflection on hope is itself a gift to us all: "Some might ask, 'Why would God do this?' Well, I don't know, but I also don't know why He had me born and live all these other years either. This is who I am now. So I ask myself, 'What do I do now?' The answer is the same as before all of this happened. I serve God with all my soul, heart, and mind, and I love my neighbor as myself. My life is rich, it's fun, it's happy, it's difficult, it's challenging. And I cherish things in the moment now. My hope is in Christ's plan for my life. That's what makes life so beautiful."

# Your Philanthropy Update

#### Good Samaritan Hospital Guild Gives Big!



Sandy Kiefer, Guild President, looks at comfort items with Adumn Allen, Supervisor of Volunteer Services

The Guild distributed more than \$160,000 in grants during their 2018 Annual Awards Celebration. This is possible because of Guild Members' support as well as their partnership with Joseph-Beth Booksellers to operate the Gift Shop.

Awards supported a variety of efforts that will directly benefit patients and team members throughout the Good Samaritan Region. Examples include:

- 2 mountain bikes for the Security Department
- A specialized bed and 2 geriatric chairs for the Behavioral Health Department
- Supplies and transportation support for patients at the Good Samaritan Free Health Center
- Supplies for the Volunteer Services Department to create comfort items to give hope to patients with cancer

For a full list of grant recipients and funded projects, visit the Guild's page on gshfoundation.com. You can also learn how to join this group of committed volunteers and help shape the future of health for our community!

#### bi3 Invests \$3.68 Million in Mothers and Babies

Although Hamilton County's infant mortality rate is improving, our community still ranks among the bottom 10% in the nation for losing babies before their first birthday. To expand efforts in reducing infant deaths, bi3, Bethesda Inc.'s grant initiative to transform health, awarded a three-year \$3.68 million grant through the Foundation to help transform the Faculty Medical Center into the OB-GYN Center at Good Samaritan. The center serves a majority of patients who disproportionately suffer from poor birth and health outcomes.

The new OB-GYN Center at Good Samaritan will fundamentally transform the care experience and outcomes for women, adopting a mom-centered approach and connection to community services at one central location. The approach places mom and baby at the center of the care model and ensures that community and healthcare providers are supportive of their complete needs–medical, social and emotional.

The goal is to provide responsive, high-quality care, increase early access to prenatal care, improve birth outcomes, provide evidence-based training for care teams, and address social barriers to health through community partnerships.

# **bi3** Bethesda Inc.'s grants initiative to transform health

To learn more, go to www.bi3.org or contact the Foundation.

## Your Philanthropy Update



Don Schmitt is accompanied by Mark Witte on his way to the podium

#### **Legacies of Love**

When we hear the word "legacy," we often think of what we are leaving behind. However, members of Good Samaritan Foundation's Legacy Society think of what they are leaving forward for the good of others.

Last fall, Legacy Society members gathered at the recently renovated Music Hall for their biennial celebration of making an impact on the future. These generous, forward-thinking individuals have included Good Samaritan Hospital or College of Nursing and Health Science in their wills, estates, or bequests. By doing so, they are ensuring that future generations will benefit from the quality, compassionate care and education that is Good Samaritan. Don Schmitt, a Legacy Society member since 2009, spoke to all in attendance and reminded them that the root of a legacy gift is love. Good Samaritan has cared for Don and his family throughout their lives. In the past two years, Don himself has been treated for two bouts of lung cancer in the Radiation Oncology Department, which is now fully renovated. Along with two generous, impactful gifts, a loving legacy gift from the estate of Sue O'Brien made this renovation possible.

Now cancer free, Don shared how that legacy gift impacted his care. "I love to go back and visit my dear friends,

Dr. Khouri and his wonderful staff. Their group is incredibly talented and so kind to the patients. The

#### ...the root of a legacy gift is love

remodeling is complete and I must tell you it is beautiful."

If you are interested in joining Don and our more than 200 Legacy Society members in leaving a legacy forward, please contact us to learn more. As Don says, "After all, isn't that why God put us on the face of this Earth...to love and help our neighbors in every way possible."

#### **Tribute Gifts**

Making a gift in honor or memory of someone special to you can provide hope to countless others. We thank our donors who made recent Tribute Gifts.

#### **Lifetime Giving**

Each year, we welcome new philanthropic partners to our Lifetime Giving Societies as well as celebrate those whose generosity earns a new recognition level.

For the full lists of honorees and donors, please visit gshfoundation.com and click Donor Recognition.

#### TriHealth



Philanthropy is about channeling our gratitude for the past into making a positive impact on the future–it's about change. As we seek to innovate and create change with **why** we give, we must also continue to innovate **how** we give.

That is why we listened to our team members and physicians when we asked them how they wanted to give. The result was the One Campaign–a single, streamlined initiative for all giving opportunities. This past fall, we partnered with our fellow TriHealth foundations, Bethesda Foundation and McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital Foundation, as well as ArtsWave and United Way to make this a reality.

The tagline of the effort was: One TriHealth, One Community, One Campaign. As you can see, our team members and physicians took these words to heart. The inaugural One Campaign's biggest success is strengthening our philanthropic partnership with our team members and physicians to make even greater change in our community. We are grateful for each of you.

If you have feedback or want to learn about more ways to make change, please contact us! We are eager to listen.

513 862 3786 | gshfoundation@trihealth.com

#### one TriHealth

Number of Gifts

ONE CAMPAIGN TOTAL
3,043
GOOD SAMARITAN REGION TOTAL
804

### one COMMUNITY

ONE CAMPAIGN TOTAL



\$731,816 GOOD SAMARITAN REGION TOTAL \$191,688

one CAMPAIGN

#### **TOP SUPPORTED FUNDS**

Good Samaritan Hospital Greatest Needs Fund



Good Samaritan Free Health Center

Team Member Emergency Assistance Fund

**Cancer Care Fund** 



**Women's Services Fund** 



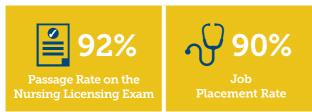


# A College with a Heartbeat

What can you learn from an oncology nurse, turned educator, turned leader? On a cold but sunny January day, Michelle Roa, RN, PhD, Dean of Nursing at Good Samaritan College of Nursing and Health Science, spent an afternoon with us and left us with plenty to reflect on.

"I think when most people hear the words 'College of Nursing,' they imagine a classroom filled with young people right out of high school," Michelle begins. "We're different. We're not a residential campus. Many of our nursing students are adult transfer students, and almost every one of our students is working hard to find a balance between schooling, jobs, financial responsibilities, and their families. They're here because they have a calling. They're here because they share the belief that to be a nurse is to save and change lives."

With a 92% passage rate on the nursing licensing exam and a 90% job placement rate, Good Sam nurses are well prepared and in demand in our community. But what is truly striking is what you don't see in impressive statistics—only if you watch closely will you see something that is truly remarkable. Michelle reflects, "Recently a student said to me, 'this place is so different than the college I came from. You actually listen—you prove to me every day that you care about us as nurses and as people.' I believe that's more important than you might first think."





Clinical Instructor Robin Sinex, RN, and Dean of Nursing Michelle Roa, RN, PhD, with student Abigael Ester.

Perhaps nowhere is it more important to train the mind and feed the spirit than in Oncology. Nursing students not only receive rigorous clinical training, but they also receive the emotional guidance to deal with both inpatient and outpatient realities.

Students are taught how small gestures, such as giving a patient or family member a warm blanket or cup of ice, make a big impact and can contribute to better outcomes.

Through ongoing remediation and support, the College seems to understand the power of hope-that in order to provide hope, you must possess it yourself.

If you ever get a chance to meet Michelle Roa, you'll quickly notice her sincerity, her genuine passion for what it means to be, teach, and lead nurses. "I have been at TriHealth my entire career, and I love it. I get to help students fulfill their dreams, participate in living the mission of Good Samaritan, and watch as patients and their families benefit from our unique version of compassionate care."

When asked what she would like our philanthropic partners to know about their impact on the College, Michelle does not hesitate. "The one thing I want donors to know is that we have a lot of really dedicated faculty. They work tirelessly to produce the best curriculum and provide support. I've never seen such a hard-working group do it with such joy and warmth. The responsibility of accepting philanthropic gifts is a responsibility to pay hope forward. Something we try to instill and practice each day."



375 Dixmyth Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45220 www.gshfoundation.com 513 862 3786

If you do not wish to receive future issues of Compassionate Giving magazine or other communications from Good Samaritan Foundation, you may opt out by calling 513 862 3786 or emailing gshfoundation@trihealth.com.

Two Powerful Words THANK YOU

"Thank you." These two words have a big impact! The Grateful Patients and Families Program gives patients and their loved ones the opportunity to support Good Samaritan Hospital while saying "thank you" to caregivers who made a difference during their stay. Your gratitude and generosity is felt by each recipient and makes a difference to the patients we serve. Please take the time to show your appreciation by making a gift in honor of a physician, nurse, or team member who has shown compassion and provided quality, competent care.

For more stories or to share your own, visit the Grateful Patients and Families page on gshfoundation.com.

In July 2018, I was cutting and trimming the lawn, planting flowers and digging trenches. The next weekend, I was flat on my back, in the beginning of a 25-day stay at Good Samaritan Hospital, trying to survive my AML Leukemia diagnosis.

I never felt during my stay, the US and THEM scenario. It was always a 'WE' i.e. 'What can we do...What can we provide...How can we help.' When my family wasn't around to visit, I had a second family at Good Samaritan Hospital. We would laugh, we would share.

Today, when I visit the hospital for my vitals and chemo, I see my 'new' friends, now and then. I greet them with a hug and a kiss. They were there for me. I will never forget them."



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