



# COMPASSIONATE giving

Biannual News from Good Samaritan Foundation | Spring 2021



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# The Fight Continues: Advancing Care, Saving Lives

In our Spring issue two years ago, we examined the topic of cancer: how it touches each of our lives personally, how philanthropy has fueled the healing work of the TriHealth Cancer Institute at Good Samaritan (TCI), and why we should have hope for the future.

I'd like to refocus our attention on cancer and why we continue to invest in this fight that affects so many of our loved ones. As we know all too well, much has changed in the last two years. What has not changed, however, is TCI's mission to provide every cancer patient the care they want and deserve. Accomplishing this requires a commitment to the pursuit of new therapies and treatments that are more effective and provide a better quality of life. It also requires the philanthropic support of generous, forward-thinking donors who want to be partners on this journey to win the fight against cancer.

In last two years, I have witnessed so much of the personal care that sets TCI apart, from both a leadership and personal perspective. Philanthropy has played a vital role in helping propel the multidisciplinary care that tends to patients' physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial needs for which TCI is now known. TCI celebrated their tenth anniversary in FY20 and has grown to be the number one provider of cancer care in the region. For example, in FY20, TCI provided more than 74,000 infusions, most of which take place within the Good Sam Region.

What I would like to highlight most about the work of TCI over the past two years—and the future—is one word: advancement. After participating in more clinical trials and growing more workgroups for specialized



Sister-in-law



Friend



Godmother to our Daughter

cancers and treatments such as head and neck cancers, high-risk breast cancer, molecular tumors, and genomics, TCI is not stopping there. There is a groundbreaking opportunity in front of us, and you can make a difference.

As you will see in this issue, The Good Samaritans' 2022 Gala will support the creation of a Cellular Therapy Program. This cutting-edge treatment, such as CAR-T therapy, addresses cancers of the blood, bone marrow, and lymph nodes. In fact, it may have applications to other disciplines such as cardiology, creating the possibility of an even greater impact.

Investment in research and new treatments can save lives. I can personally attest to this, as I told you two years ago that five family members and dear friends had received cancer diagnoses. I am beyond grateful and blessed to say that today, all five are in remission, thanks to past advancements in treatment and care. This is why we must continue the fight.

Now is our opportunity to save more loved ones. TCI now has more than 25,000 survivors in their care who receive continued monitoring and support. This is philanthropy's opportunity—our opportunity—to make that number of survivors even greater. I hope you will join us.

With gratitude,

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



Daughter



Childhood Friend

# CONNECTIONS



## Christopher A. Smith

Senior Vice President  
Ohio National Financial Services

Good Samaritan Foundation's newest board member is Christopher A. Smith, Senior Vice President of Ohio National Financial Services. Chris joined Ohio National in May 2020 and serves as Senior Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Business Optimization. He is responsible for leading Ohio National's strategic initiatives and business optimization efforts across the entire enterprise.

Chris is active in the community and is an active participant in sports and is passionate about giving back to the community. He and his wife Kerri live in Mason and are the proud parents of three adult children.

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# Create the Future of Cancer Care: Cellular Therapy Program

The Good Samaritans  
of  
Good Samaritan Foundation  
2022 Gala Beneficiary

**TriHealth Cancer Institute  
at Good Samaritan Hospital**

along with annual support of  
Good Samaritan Free Health Center  
and  
Medical Education Research Fund



The 2021 Gala previously scheduled for June 5, 2021 has been postponed. The next Gala is scheduled for **Saturday, February 5, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Cincinnati**. If you would like more information about the 2022 event, please contact [lynn\\_meyer@trihealth.com](mailto:lynn_meyer@trihealth.com) or call 513.862.1258

## Why TCI at Good Samaritan?

- The TriHealth Cancer Institute cares for more cancer patients than any other system in our community
- Good Samaritan was the first hospital in the nation to be certified by the Joint Commission for leukemia
- Because of generous, forward-thinking donors, Good Samaritan has a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach to care
- All of this positions TCI at Good Samaritan to be the regional leader in Cellular Therapy

## What will proceeds support?

-  Laboratory and technology enhancements
-  Recruitment of leading specialists
-  Renovation of inpatient and outpatient care units



Renita Homan, Gala Chair and Joe Rigotti from Accent on Cincinnati

**Your generosity will make the Cellular Therapy Program a reality!**



Tonya, TCI patient and her physician, Dr. Saulius Girnius

TONYA WAS DIAGNOSED with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells. Her next treatment option is Cellular Therapy.

You can make this life-saving treatment a possibility for patients like Tonya.



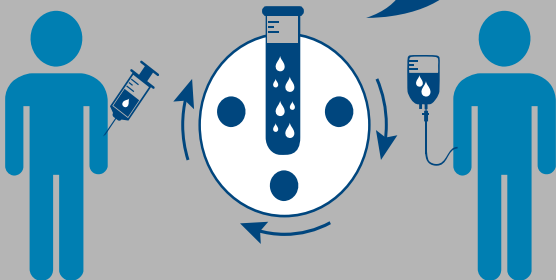
## What is Cellular Therapy?

A type of treatment for cancers of the blood (leukemias), bone marrow, and lymph nodes

The "here and now" of oncology care, as well as the future

There are different types of cellular therapies, but all are designed to improve the immune system's ability to fight cancer

Example of the "future:" CAR-T therapy where cells can be genetically engineered and modified to attack cancer cells within the patient's body



Tonya, TCI patient (center) with her sister

“ As a cancer patient not only is your body being treated but so is your emotional well being. I am grateful to have Dr. Girnius and his team recognize this. My team collaborates with other experts in the field and go the extra mile for my care.

As a patient advocate, TriHealth Cancer Institute at Good Sam does everything possible to support those who are less fortunate, sometimes in dire financial situations, giving them access to compassionate Cancer Care! ”

-Tonya, TCI patient.



# When the nurse becomes the patient

By Chris Klein

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**Rick King RN is familiar with cancer.  
He's been a TriHealth employee for 24 years,  
the last five as an infusion nurse for the  
TriHealth Cancer Institute.**

His work takes him to various TriHealth locations, including the Good Samaritan Infusion Center. There, Rick administers chemotherapy to cancer patients and counsels them on the often-nasty side effects of treatment.

Although Rick loves working with his patients, that doesn't mean he's adept at recognizing the symptoms of cancer in his own body. "Nurses make bad patients," he jokes. As a result, it took lots of urging from coworkers before Rick acknowledged that his constant fatigue and bruising could be signs of a blood cancer. But in February 2019 he finally gave in. One look from his doctor and Rick was admitted to Good Samaritan Hospital.



Rick (center) with Good Samaritan Hospital team members

## The nurse had become the patient

Treatment began as soon as Rick's diagnosis of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia was confirmed. The standard regimen for his cancer, a cocktail of eight chemotherapy drugs, began immediately during a 12-day hospital stay. After discharge, Rick visited his coworkers (this time as a patient) at the Infusion Center every-other-day for bloodwork. Then, per protocol, every 21 days he was readmitted to Good Samaritan for intensive infusion therapy.

Although necessary for his cancer type, the treatment routine was exhausting, Rick says. He estimates he made 42 trips from his home in Bright, Indiana to Good Samaritan in the first six months alone.

## Cancer nurse vs. cancer patient

As an infusion nurse, Rick was intimately familiar with pic lines, ports, hair loss and chemotherapy cocktails. For years he educated cancer patients and their families about what to expect during treatment. But your perspective changes when you're on the other side of infusion, he learned. "There's a big difference between being a cancer nurse and a cancer patient," he says.

Fatigue took on a whole new meaning. "I used to push my patients to eat and drink in order to keep their strength," he says. "Now I know better; you just eat what you can, when you can. And you nap when you can." There were many days Rick was so sick, "I didn't even want to take a sip of water. I didn't have the energy to pick up my phone to reply to a text." The chemo drugs weakened Rick so badly, he had to sit on a stool in his kitchen while swallowing his medications. "I didn't have the strength to stand."

He learned firsthand the toll that chemotherapy can take on your body, your psyche, your family and your friends. He lost 40 pounds in the first month. It was brutal, he says, but necessary. "This was the treatment available at the time. This is what it took to recover."



**My own cancer experience  
has helped me do my job in  
ways I never imagined.**



Rick (right) stepping back into the healthcare setting



## A Kinder, Gentler Treatment

Twenty months after his treatment began, in October 2020, Rick's kidneys shut down. It would be a blessing in disguise. To survive, doctors needed to try something new.

Fortunately, as Rick was suffering the ravishes of his cancer's standard regimen, researchers had developed a new therapy. Unlike his original regimen, the new therapy, which doctors approved for Rick, kills only cancer cells, leaving healthy cells to sustain the body. The effects of the new treatment on Rick's body were remarkable. Not only did his kidneys recover, the new therapy didn't sap his energy or completely kill his appetite. It didn't require constant trips back to the hospital. With a small pump delivering this new therapy into his arm 24/7, Rick vacuumed, did laundry, and resumed grilling dinner for his wife. "I was even on the roof hanging Christmas lights; I felt great."

The kinder, gentler side effects of Rick's new therapy led him to a deep appreciation for ongoing cancer research, and for Good Samaritan's ability to adopt the therapy that is so much easier on him. It's been a life-changer, he says.

### Milestones reached

Early February 2021 marked the end of treatment. "It's the best I've felt in years!" The 48-year-old married father of two says he's celebrating by "spending lots of time with loved ones – the family and friends who supported me during my long fight."



*During his journey to recovery, Rick experienced firsthand the value of recent renovations in Good Samaritan's Infusion Center, made possible through the generosity of Good Samaritan Foundation donors. The Center now has private rooms and televisions, giving patients – some there for hours at a time – solitude and time alone with nurses, doctors and family.*

*The renovation also means nutrition advice from hospital dietitians is now just steps away, as their office has been relocated within the Center. Counseling from mental health experts also is closer thanks to renovations.*

Although Rick worked off-and-on during treatment, February also marked his return to work fulltime. He says he's thrilled to be back with coworkers, and to his role as infusion nurse. And he's appreciative of the deeper understanding he has of his patients. "Now I really know what they're going through; I understand their struggles. My own cancer experience has helped me do my job in ways I never imagined."

## YOUR GALA SUPPORT CAN BE A GAME-CHANGER

The ability to provide new cancer treatment options as they become available can be a game-changer for our patients as it was for Rick King. Many of the newer therapies are not only more effective at treating cancer, but also kinder and gentler to the patient.

As a beneficiary of the Foundation's 2022 Gala, the TriHealth Cancer Institute will be poised to provide patients with cutting-edge treatment options, known as cellular therapy. The new CAR-T therapy is one example. It modifies a patient's immune-fighting cells, then uses them to attack the patient's cancer cells. CART-T therapy is more effective and more tolerable than the regimen that ravaged Rick King's body in the early stages of his treatment.

Thank you, in advance, for keeping the TriHealth Cancer Institute at the forefront of cancer care in our region through your support of next year's Gala.

# Your Philanthropy Update



Can't find what you are looking for in our shop? Check out the expanded selection online at [trihealth.josephbeth.com](http://trihealth.josephbeth.com).

The Joseph Beth Gift Shop at Good Samaritan Hospital is open from 7am-7pm Monday through Friday and 10am-5pm Saturday and Sunday to serve our team members, patients, and their families. The Gift Shop now offers split payroll deduction for TriHealth Team Members and provides the flexibility to shop in person or online. With a wide variety of books, logowear, personal care, and gift items, you are sure to find the perfect item for a loved one or to treat yourself. Beautiful flower arrangements are available for onsite delivery to patients or team members by calling the Gift Shop directly at 513.862.2296.

*Proceeds from the Joseph Beth Good Samaritan Gift Shop and [trihealth.josephbeth.com](http://trihealth.josephbeth.com) support the Good Samaritan Hospital Guild which helps to fund hospital programs and equipment.*

## Good Samaritan Guild Annual Grant Process

Because of the Joseph-Beth Gift Shop and special sales that are presented through-out the year, Good Samaritan Guild is able to distribute grants to support Good Samaritan Region departments and programs. This year the Guild has decided to align the distribution of grants with the fiscal year resulting in the annual awards being made in May of each year with funds being made available in July. Annually, Good Samaritan Guild is proud to award between \$175,000 and \$200,000 to support Good Samaritan Hospital.

**WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER** of Good Samaritan Guild to help raise money for many great causes. Contact Lynn Meyer at 513.862.1258 or [lynn\\_meyer@trihealth.com](mailto:lynn_meyer@trihealth.com) for more information.



Candy Hart – President Elect of Good Samaritan Guild distributed ice cream sandwiches to all who visited the cafeteria on Fat Tuesday. Treats were also provided at Evendale Hospital, Western Ridge, Glenway and the team members at the Baldwin Building.



GSC nursing students in Simulation Center



Good Samaritan College  
of Nursing & Health Science

**Two new high-fidelity simulators were recently acquired through Good Samaritan College (GSC) funds along with additional support from the Good Samaritan Hospital Guild.**

These new simulators can replicate body sounds, all pulses/blood pressures, constricting and dilating pupils, capillary refill, and intravenous infusions. Furthermore, instructors can talk as the patient through the simulators and interact with the students in real time.

Manikins have been used for decades to teach nursing skills. Before manikins were utilized, nursing students learned and practiced on each other. Manikins, and now simulators, provide real-life scenarios, allowing students to be immersed in an environment where the risk is low and expected skill proficiency is high. After the students take on a clinical nursing role in a simulation setting, they discuss and reflect on their experience in an instructor-facilitated debriefing session.



*Mrs. Chase* (left) was the first manikin used at GSC. This early introduction of manikins in the skills lab merely offered the opportunity for joints to move. Students could position them in bed, dress them, give a bath, insert catheters, and practice basic nursing fundamentals. In the early 2000s, Maurice Cohen, then President of GSC, believed in the value of simulation technology and purchased the first high-fidelity simulator. A few years later, under the guidance

“ I enjoyed skills lab; it allows you to learn new skills and grow as a student nurse on the floor and also the METI man simulator allows you to see how much you have learned throughout the past semester and the current and apply it to a scenario.”

– Nursing 102 student



of Professor Joann Sullivan-Mann, the teaching concept took off and grew, and working with simulators became a mainstay of the GSC curriculum. For the students, these hands-on experiences result in a safe place to practice, make errors, and learn. The kinesthetics of working with simulators is invaluable.

JoAnn (Bergman '80) Sommer, Associate Professor of Nursing, explains, the Simulation Center is “not a substitute for being on a clinical unit. Yet, we can create scenarios with a simulator that students may never experience as a learner. Working with simulators presents opportunities to have a higher acuity situation than they would ever participate in on the floor. This kind of experience takes critical thinking to a higher level and exposes students to something atypical. It’s a powerful learning and assessment tool.” Thank you to our donors and the Guild who made this new equipment a reality for our students!

We are proud to announce an institutional accreditation site visit in October 2020 for GSC resulted in a 10-year reaffirmation of our accreditation status by the **Higher Learning Commission.**

### ALUMNI, WE WANT TO STAY CONNECTED!

There are three ways to provide us your updated contact info:

**VISIT** [gscollge.edu](http://gscollge.edu) and click on Alumni at the top of the page and then select Update Contact Info on the left-hand side and fill out the form.

**EMAIL** us at [alumniservices@email.gscollge.edu](mailto:alumniservices@email.gscollge.edu)

**SEND** us a letter to Alumni Services  
Good Samaritan College  
375 Dixmyth Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45220

We'd love to hear from you about family news, professional accomplishments or any other news you like to share.

## Tribute Gifts

We are grateful to those who made gifts in honor or memory of someone meaningful in their lives. Thank you for your tributes that also make a difference in the lives of others.

## Lifetime Giving

We are happy to celebrate new members of our Lifetime Giving Societies as well as recognize those whose continued investment and generosity has earned a new recognition level. Thank you for your impact and your partnership.

For the full lists of donors, honorees, and Lifetime Giving members, please click here for **Tribute Gifts** and here for **Lifetime Giving**.

## 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](http://gshfoundation.com).



“ We are eternally grateful to everyone at Good Samaritan Hospital, because they gave us a family not just our little girl. They gave us a group of people who loved and cared for her and many who continue to love and care for her, even after her stay was over. A NICU stay truly is a lifelong journey and we now have a lifelong family. Caroline is a happy and healthy little girl who wouldn't be alive without the amazing care from the staff of Good Sam. But it's not just the care she received, it's the care we all received that makes them stand above the rest. They made sure to listen to our concerns and always had our best interest in mind and for that we are forever grateful.”

—A Grateful Family