

HEALTH CONNECTIONS

A publication of Good Samaritan

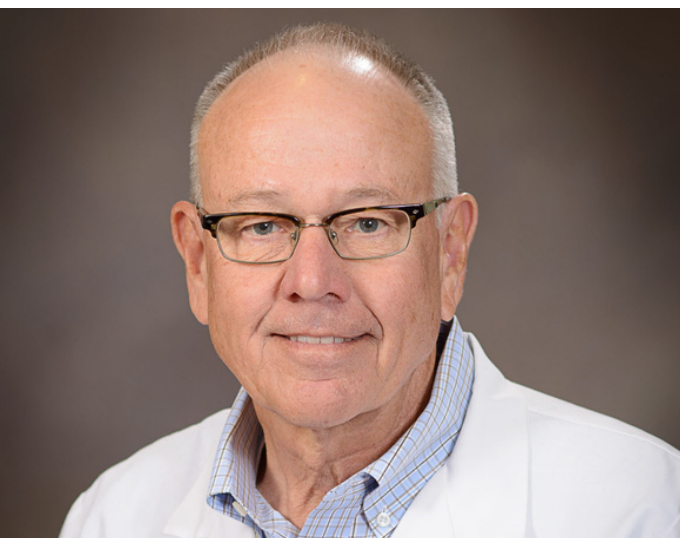


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Welcome!

Welcome to the 61st volume of Health Connections in a brand new, digital format! For many years you have been accustomed to receiving our full, large-format Health Connections magazine in your mailbox. To keep up with the digital age, we have decided to transition to a more environmentally friendly, simple postcard notification that a new edition is available for reading online. We hope you enjoy this new format.

In this edition, you will learn how Podiatrist Derek Besing, DPM provided exceptional care to a Lawrenceville, Illinois woman after she was bitten by a brown recluse spider. Jessica Wells' story highlights Good Samaritan's timely and compassionate health care. You will also read about a Vincennes family's journey through Good Samaritan Hospice. Steve Compton shares his story about the care and compassion his wife, Margaret Compton, received after deciding to end cancer treatment and enter hospice care.

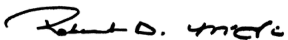
In 2023, Good Samaritan was honored to recognize Gerry Hippensteel, MD as the Physician of the Year. Dr. Hippensteel was presented with the "SAMMIE" (Samaritan Award for Meritorious Medical Care with Integrity and Excellence) in November. In the story about Dr. Hippensteel, you will find a link to watch the presentation of this award.

Also in 2023, we were blessed to welcome nine 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.

In closing, I want to thank every one of 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 2024 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



Rachel Spalding
Chief Nursing Officer



Adam Thacker
Chief Operating Officer



Scott Stine, MD
Physician Network
Chief Medical Officer



Molly Weiss, MD
Hospital Chief
Medical Officer



Tara Ellermann
Executive Director of
Human Resources

Board of Governors



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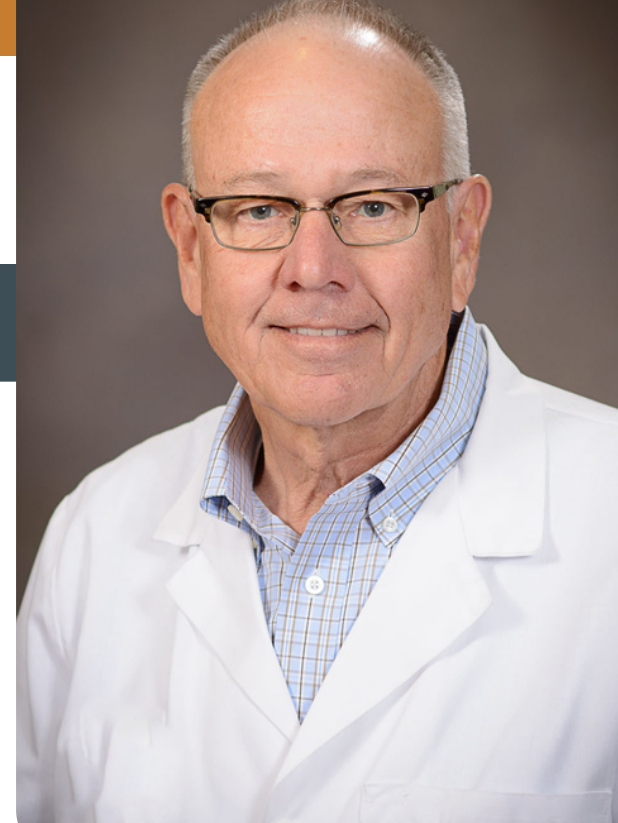
2023 *Physician of the Year*

Gerry Hippensteel, MD

Good Samaritan Physician Network has named Internal Medicine Physician Gerry Hippensteel, MD as the 2023 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.

Dr. Hippensteel said he was honored to receive the Physician of the Year Award. "In 50 years, I have learned that you make mistakes, do your best to correct them, never ignore them or cover them up," stated Dr. Hippensteel. "You are only human, do the best you can, might feel bad at 3 a.m., but at 8 a.m. put your hat on straight and go get'em. Make sure to learn every day!"

Click here to watch Dr. Hippensteel's acceptance video.



MyChart aims to enhance your Good Samaritan experience by improving communication between you and your health care providers.

- Appointment Scheduling: You can schedule, view, or cancel appointments online.
- Access to Medical Records: Securely view your medical records, including test results, medications, and immunization history.
- Communication with Health Care Providers: MyChart allows for secure messaging with health care providers, facilitating communication for non-emergency concerns.
- Prescription Refills: You can request prescription refills through the portal.
- Health Reminders: You will receive reminders for upcoming appointments, vaccinations, or other health care activities.
- Billing and Payment: View and pay your medical bills online.
- Secure Access: Security measures are in place to protect your sensitive health information.

Visit gshvin.org/mychart to register or learn more.

FOOTSTEPS TO RECOVERY:

DR. BESING'S COMPASSIONATE CARE AT GOOD SAMARITAN

In the quiet town of Lawrenceville, Illinois, Jessica Wells, a dedicated paraprofessional at Parkside Elementary School, woke up one Friday morning with the usual routine of getting ready for school. However, this particular day took an unexpected turn when her son noticed something unusual on her foot. "Mom, what's on your foot?" her son asked, drawing Jessica's attention to a red discoloration she hadn't noticed before. As a diabetic, Jessica was accustomed to being vigilant about her health, but this time, the lack of pain in her foot had masked any warning signs.

Concerned, she immediately called Podiatrist Dr. Derek Besing's office, only to find out that he was in surgery all day. Undeterred, Jessica contacted her regular provider, who promptly prescribed a high-dose antibiotic. Unfortunately, by Monday, there was no improvement, prompting another call to Dr. Besing's office. He advised Jessica to come in for an examination, and after assessing her condition, he made a critical decision. Dr. Besing recommended that Jessica be admitted to Good Samaritan for immediate treatment. Intravenous antibiotics were administered to combat the infection, but on Tuesday, Dr. Besing delivered surprising news—it was a brown recluse spider bite. Realizing the urgency of the situation, Dr. Besing decided to perform the necessary procedure to clean out the venom. Initially scheduled for Wednesday morning, he reconsidered and returned to Jessica's room that very evening. Jessica recalled Dr. Besing empathetically saying, "I know you have a two-year-old at home. I remember him from the office visit when he was crying, saying 'don't put mommy in the hospital.' I know you need to get home to him." He performed the procedure to remove the venom that evening to expedite Jessica's recovery. Despite the challenges, Jessica found herself discharged one day earlier than initially planned, thanks to Dr. Besing's compassionate and prompt intervention.

Reflecting on her experience, Jessica praised Dr. Besing for his exceptional bedside manner, meticulous examinations and detailed explanations of the procedure. Grateful for his expertise, she continued follow-up visits at the Wound Care Center at Good Samaritan.

"Dr. Besing is just an amazing doctor. He has saved my foot more than once," Jessica remarked. "I would highly recommend Good Samaritan."

"Many of my patients have become like friends to me over the years and Jessica is no different," stated Dr. Besing. "I always remind myself that I'm treating someone's wife or mother, husband or father, child or sibling. It's a humbling thing to have people place their well-being in your care and I have always tried to take it very seriously. I strive to treat people like I would want my loved ones to be treated, with dignity and respect."

During her health scare, Jessica found comfort in the compassionate nursing staff at Good Samaritan. Their care, combined with Dr. Besing's expertise, transformed a potentially dire situation into a testament to the power of timely and compassionate health care. Jessica's journey through the hospital became a story of resilience, empathy and the profound impact of a caring health care professional.

Derek Besing, DPM
Good Samaritan Podiatrist

Jessica Wells
Good Samaritan Patient



Meet Our New Providers



Emilian Armeanu, MD

Infectious Disease

Medical Degree: Carol Davila University of Medicine

Residency: Cook County Hospital

Good Samaritan

812-885-3280

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Emilian Armeanu is an infectious disease specialist and has over 30 years of experience in the medical field. He graduated from Alexandria University School of Medicine in 1992.



Maqbool Ahmed, MD

Oncology & Hematology

Medical Degree: King Edward Medical College

Residency: Bridgeport Hospital

Good Samaritan

812-886-6565

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Maqbool Ahmed is board certified in Oncology and Hematology. He received his medical education at King Edward Medical College and did his residency at Bridgeport Hospital-Yale University School of Medicine/Internal Medicine. He then attended a fellowship program at Brown University School of Medicine/Hematology & Oncology.



Dalvir Gill, MD

Interventional Cardiology

Medical Degree: Ross University School of Medicine

Residency: Upstate University Hospital

Good Samaritan

812-885-3243

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Gill is an experienced cardiologist with a background in internal medicine. He completed his internal medicine training at SUNY Upstate and pursued a cardiology fellowship at the University of Connecticut. Further specializing in interventional cardiology, he trained at West Virginia University, focusing on minimally-invasive techniques for diagnosing and treating heart conditions. Dr. Gill's passion for his field and his desire to make an immediate impact on patients' lives led him to choose cardiology as his specialty.



Tom S. Kirkwood, MD

Family Practice

Medical Degree: Indiana University

Residency: Community Hospital

Good Samaritan

812-735-4040

510 W. Eleventh Street

Bicknell, IN 47512

Dr. Kirkwood is a family medicine physician in Bicknell, Indiana. When Dr. Kirkwood first meets a new patient he does a detailed history, physical and gets to know the patient. His hobbies include horseback riding, camping and spending time with family and friends. Dr. Kirkwood's health tips are to keep your weight down and don't smoke.

Meet Our New Providers



Manga Kodali, MD

Oncology & Hematology

Medical Degree: University of Health Sciences

Residency: Venkateswara Hospital

Good Samaritan

812-886-6565

520 S. Seventh Street
Vincennes, IN 47591

Dr. Manga Kodali is board certified from the American Board of Internal Medicine. She received her medical education from the University of Health Sciences and completed her residency at Venkateswara Hospital and the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. She then completed her fellowship at Louisiana State University School of Medicine. Dr. Kodali likes to get to know her patients beyond their medical condition. She wants to involve the patients family and understand the patient's beliefs, goals and expectations.



Mohanad Soliman, MD

Pulmonary Medicine

Medical Degree: University of Alexandria

Residency: St. Joseph Hospital

Good Samaritan

812-885-3243

520 S. Seventh Street
Vincennes, IN 47591

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, Dr. Mohanad Soliman completed his Pulmonary Critical Care specialty training at the University of Arizona Phoenix. Dr. Soliman says he chose his specialty because it provides a wide-range of pathology dealing with diseases of the lungs. Dr. Soliman was drawn to Good Samaritan because of the collaborative and supportive environment that is given to physicians so that they can provide the best care to the community. He loves to be outdoors enjoying sports and his favorite health tip is to just keep moving!



Robert D. Siegel, MD

Oncology & Hematology

Medical Degree: Columbia University

Residency: Barnes-Jewish Hospital

Good Samaritan

812-886-6565

520 S. Seventh Street
Vincennes, IN 47591

In Dr. Siegel's first year out of medical school, he found patients with cancer were the most open, heroic, spiritual people he had ever met. A diagnosis of cancer tends to strip away all the phoniness of our day to day lives. Dr. Siegel states "My patients have never ceased to amaze me with their humanity, decency and humility in the face of great adversity. It has been my honor and privilege to assist in their care for the past 30 years."



Mason Flaningam, FNP-C

Family Practice

Bachelor's Degree: Vincennes University

Master's Degree: Indiana State University

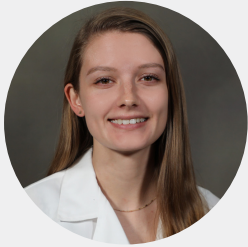
Good Samaritan

812-735-4040

510 W. Eleventh Street
Bicknell, IN 47512

Originally from northern Knox County, Indiana, Mason attained her Associate and Bachelor's degrees in nursing from Vincennes University. After working at Good Samaritan for seven years in various departments including Intensive Care and Labor and Delivery, Mason decided she wanted to provide more in-depth care. With this in mind, she attended Indiana State University for her Family Nurse Practitioner education. She enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband and dogs, and her favorite health tip is to be as active as possible.

Meet Our New Providers



Jessica Wilkins, CAA

Anesthesiology

Bachelor's Degree: Purdue University

Master's Degree: Indiana University Indianapolis

Good Samaritan

520 S. Seventh Street

Vincennes, IN 47591

Originally from Evansville, Indiana, Jessica always knew she wanted to enter the medical field. She enjoys biking, hiking and reading in her free time. She chose Good Samaritan because it's close to her family. She also rotated at Good Samaritan as a student and liked how kind everyone was and grew to love the environment. Her favorite health tip is to drink more water!

Schedule Your Next Appointment Online!

Good Samaritan makes scheduling with a primary care provider easy with online scheduling! Patients who have a MyChart account and are already established with a Good Samaritan primary care provider can schedule their appointments directly through MyChart. Once you log in to MyChart, navigate to Schedule an Appointment under your menu items. Then you just click on the provider you would like to make an appointment with and choose Office Visit. Follow the remaining prompts and then choose an available appointment time that works for you. This scheduling option is quick and simple! Save even more time by utilizing e-check in through MyChart before your appointment.

If you are looking to find a new provider, there's an online scheduling option for you too. Visit gshvin.org/findaprovider to search for a family practice or internal medicine provider who is accepting new patients. Providers who are accepting new patients have available appointment times for new patients in their profile. Just select an available time and follow the prompts to complete scheduling your appointment. You have the option to log in to MyChart to schedule or you can continue to schedule as a guest.

Online scheduling is the quickest, easiest way to schedule your appointment and it's available 24/7. No more waiting to call during business hours and going back and forth with a receptionist to find an appointment time that works for you. Try it out for your next visit!

A Testimonial of Love and Care: Good Samaritan Hospice and the Journey of Margaret Compton

In Vincennes, Steve and Margaret Compton, lived a life filled with love, laughter, and an active lifestyle. Married for 22 years, they were partners in every sense of the word, sharing walks, aerobics, and the simple joys of life. Little did they know that a routine walk in Gregg Park would mark the beginning of a challenging journey that led them to Good Samaritan Hospice.

Margaret, the epitome of health at 5'3" and 130 lbs, suddenly faced a health crisis that no one anticipated. A seemingly innocent cramp in her leg during their regular walk turned out to be the beginning of a medical odyssey. The diagnosis revealed blood clots in her leg and lungs, a shocking revelation for a woman who was the picture of physical fitness. Despite medical efforts, her condition worsened, uncovering a mass in her liver. The diagnosis: stage 4 liver and abdominal cancer, with no treatment options and a limited time frame.

In the face of this devastating news, the Comptons turned to Good Samaritan Hospice for support. Steve vividly recalls the day he called, and Charlotte Kaiser, a hospice nurse, responded with compassionate care. Margaret, who had endured two rounds of chemotherapy to help with the symptoms, decided to stop treatment, choosing the path of hospice care.

As Margaret's health declined, the hospice team provided not just medical care but also crucial moral support. "In the journey of caregiving, there was a moment when I reached out to hospice for Margaret's persistent pain," stated Steve. "It was Charlotte's wise counsel on pain medication that truly defined the essence of personalized care. Her emphasis on the urgency of immediate relief became a hallmark of our experience, reminding me that compassion and understanding can light the path even in the darkest times."

Margaret peacefully passed away at 1:30 a.m. on March 7, 2022, and within 20 minutes, Judy Culp from Good Samaritan Hospice was at their side, taking care of every detail, including contacting the funeral home. Steve emphasized the incredible moral support the hospice team provided, acknowledging the grief the family faced and the attention given to Margaret during her final days. "What

sets Good Samaritan Hospice apart," said Steve, "is not just the superior medical treatment but the compassion and attentiveness extended to our family. Even after Margaret's passing, I continue therapy sessions for survivors through Good Samaritan Hospice."

"Working with Margaret and Steve was definitely a memorable experience for me," stated Charlotte. "Everyone that I met had nothing but good things to say about sweet Margaret. She was so incredibly peaceful with everything that came her way, and I could tell that through it all, no matter what tasks they had to do, family only wanted the best for her. After meeting Margaret, and learning about all the people she was able to help, I was honored to be the one chosen to be able to help such a strong and beautiful woman and her family during such a vulnerable time. Working in hospice has given me the opportunity to meet several wonderful people, like Margaret and Steve, who have had a profound impact on our community. Being able to provide end of life care to such special people, is an honor and a privilege."

As Steve passionately advocates, Good Samaritan Hospice not only provides superior medical care but also a profound level of emotional support. His endorsement is a testament to the exceptional care they received during Margaret's journey. In times of difficulty, Good Samaritan Hospice stood as a beacon of compassion, offering solace and guidance to a family navigating the complexities of end-of-life care.

*In loving memory of
Margaret A. Compton*





Hospice is a Plan for Living

Hospice care is an all-encompassing philosophy of patient care. Services may be provided in the home, skilled nursing facility, or assisted living facility; hospital admission may be appropriate in some situations. Hospice is a unique health care approach in which the patient and family are the focus of care, rather than the disease. “Good Samaritan Hospice care helps provide patients with improved quality of life by promoting dignity and comfort,” stated Makenzie Barrett, Good Samaritan Hospice Nurse Manager. “Hospice care focuses on pain relief and symptom control, allowing our patients to live life with the best quality possible. Our hospice staff are always available for support in a wide array of areas that focus on the patient’s physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.”

A serious illness affects not only the patient, but also the whole family, which is why our care offers increased support for the patient and their caregivers. Good Samaritan Hospice recognizes this and strives to provide support to the family and caregivers as well as the patient. Our staff consists of multiple disciplines that will bring expert care to assist and educate on caring for your loved one. On-call staff are available around the clock to assist you with any urgent needs, which ensures your loved one is receiving the care they deserve. “You are not alone in caring for your loved one,” said Makenzie. “Good Samaritan Hospice would be honored to be with you throughout this journey.”

Benefits of Hospice Care

- Focuses on keeping patient comfortable and improvement of quality of life.
- Assistance in ensuring patient’s end-of-life care goals are being met.
- Decrease hospitalizations and trips to the Emergency Department.
- Hospice nursing care available 24/7 for any urgent needs.
- Medications and medical equipment will be ordered and delivered to the patient’s home by hospice staff, saving caregivers a trip to the pharmacy and reducing delays in treatment and out-of-pocket costs.
- Hospice care is generally covered 100% by Medicare, Medicaid, and most private insurances.
- Caregiver education and support offered through use of trained hospice staff and volunteers, respite care, and attendance at the Good Samaritan Caregiver Support Group.
- Emotional and spiritual support for patient and caregivers available from trained social workers and hospice chaplain.
- Grief Support offered in the form of individual or group sessions, memorial services, mailings, or phone calls.



[Learn More](#) >



(812) 885-8035