



Investing in Your Health

Mind and Body

2023 Year in Review



Senior Management Team



Thomas H. Carman
President &
Chief Executive Officer



M. Andrew Short
VP & Chief Operating
Officer



Dr. Mario Victoria
VP, Medical Affairs &
Chief Medical Officer



Kim Thibert
Interim VP, Patient Care Services
& Chief Nursing Officer



Beth C. Fipps
VP, Foundation &
Community Services



Patrick Calli
VP, Long Term
Care Services



Maxine A. Briggs
VP, Fiscal Services &
Chief Financial Officer



Robin Clark
VP, Information Services &
Chief Information Officer

2023 Governing Boards

Samaritan Medical Center

Officers

Denise Young,
Chair
Thomas H. Carman,
President & CEO
Paul Barton,
Vice Chair
Mary Wardwell-Donahue,
Secretary
John Wheeler,
Finance Committee Chair
Maxine Briggs,
Treasurer
Melanie Parker-Geurtsen, DVM,
Immediate Past Chair

Trustees

Robert Aliasso Jr.
John Barrett, MD
Col. Christina Buchner
Kevin Chandler, MD
Shawna Cutuli
Marylene Duah, MD
Lynne Ferris
Sadie Hall
Marie Hess
Asim Kichloo, MD
Kimberly "KI" LaClair
Tracy Leonard
David Rechlin, DO
Rory Sears, DO
Dierdra Sorrell
Stephen Todd
Joan Treadwell-Woods
Jan Turcotte, MD
Timothy Virkler

Samaritan Summit Village and Samaritan Keep Home

Officers

Mary Wardwell-Donahue, Chair
Thomas H. Carman, President & CEO
Jordan Jones, Vice Chair
Tracy Valentine, Secretary
Maxine Briggs, Treasurer
Samuel Purington, Immediate Past Chair
Patrick Calli, VP, Long Term Care Services

Trustees

Francee Calarco
Carl McLaughlin
Linda O'Connor
Barry Ormsby
Addison F. Vars III
Denise Young

Samaritan Medical Center Foundation of NNY

Officers

Kimberly "KI" LaClair, Chair
Thomas H. Carman, President & CEO
Dana Keefer, Vice Chair
Alec Johnson, 2nd Vice Chair
Nancy Martel, Secretary
John Wheeler, Treasurer
Steven Pierce, Immediate Past Chair
Beth Fipps, VP, Foundation & Community Services

Trustees

David Adsit
Irene Carman
Franklin Cean
Brian Fraser
Patricia Frith, DO
Corry Lawler
Maja Lundborg-Gray, MD
Maureen Lundy-Way
Shelby Morgia
John Poggi, MD
Catherine Quencer
Samantha Robbins
M. Andrew Short
Maura Smith
Timothy Sweeney
Patricia Tague
Joan Treadwell-Woods
David VanEenaam, MD
Mary Wardwell-Donahue
Lisa Weber
Julia Sprague Wright
Michael Yonkovig
Denise Young

Samaritan Home Health Officers

Melanie Parker-Geurtsen, Chair
Thomas H. Carman, President & CEO
Maxine Briggs, Treasurer

Clifton-Fine Hospital

Officers

Thomas Sauter, Chair
Dierdra Sorrell, Chief Executive Officer
LeeAnn Short, Vice Chair
David Daut, Secretary
Maxine Briggs, Treasurer
John Burns, Immediate Past Chair

Trustees

Halsey Bagg
Thomas Carman
Allen Ditch
Majonica Drake
Sadie Hall
Charles Hooven
John Wheeler

Samaritan Auxiliary

Officers

Shawna Cutuli, President
Bethany Todd, Vice President
Jessica Piatt Walczyk, Secretary
Kerry Young, Treasurer

Trustees

Irene Carman
Veronica Clarke
Sarah Colligan
Kady Hoiston
Amanda Magro
Dylan Pauly
Andrea Roden

What's Inside

Letter from our CEO.....	5
2023 By the Numbers.....	6
Clifton-Fine Hospital.....	10
Samaritan Home Health.....	11
Fort Drum	12
Cancer Services	14
Community Outreach.....	16
Lifetime Achievement Award.....	18
Samaritan Welcomes New Physicians.....	19
2023 Medical Staff.....	20
Graduate Medical Education.....	22
Quality and Safety.....	24
Behavioral Health.....	26
Caregiver Experience.....	28
DAISY and BEE Awards.....	31
Caregiver Video Series.....	36
Long Term Care.....	38
Samaritan Auxiliary.....	39
Samaritan Medical Center Foundation.....	40
Children's Miracle Network.....	60



Dear Friends,

It feels like only a few months have passed since we shared our 2022 Year in Review with you. Although 2023 seemed to come and go in the blink of an eye, so much happened here at Samaritan. I will do my best to summarize an eventful year, but I encourage you to read on and fully appreciate all that Samaritan's Caregivers accomplished this past year.

If one theme summarizes Samaritan's efforts in 2023, and our goals for 2024, it would be "Investing in Your Health: Mind and Body." We have, since 1881, been invested in the health of our patients, comprehensively. Our community desperately needs behavioral health care resources, and the feature article of this Year in Review details a few ways in which Samaritan has begun to address this. In 2023, we began work to increase the capacity of our emergency department's behavioral health unit, applied to the state for a certificate of need to expand our inpatient mental health unit, and continued to provide exceptional outpatient behavioral health care. We recognize mental illness is often an "invisible" illness. Our goal is to push past the social stigma and advocate for enhanced mental health services to meet the community's need.

We also expanded otolaryngology services in 2023. Samaritan's Ear, Nose & Throat clinic moved up a floor in the Medical Office Building, increasing in space from 3,800 to 7,300 square feet, from nine to 11 exam rooms, and from one to three treatment rooms.

Our Home Health Agency was called a "Superior Performer" by Strategic Healthcare Programs, a national leader in health data analytics. Our contracted hospitalist group was lauded as "Program of the Year" by Apogee Physicians, the largest physician-owned hospitalist group in the nation. Two of our general surgeons performed their 500th robotic surgery. Free and secure online access to medical scans and images was made available, as was point-of-service co-payment collection at all our outpatient locations. These are amazing accomplishments, and they all occurred in 2023.

We had hardships, too, but we overcame them as a team and with the support of our community. One particularly challenging event was Watertown's water main break in October, which presented major obstacles at the hospital and caused several outpatient offices to close temporarily. So many community partners stepped in to help us, and I cannot thank them enough for their support. My biggest thanks, however, go to Samaritan's Caregivers, who rallied and communicated to ensure patients and residents were cared for safely while water was in limited supply.

Samaritan is truly fortunate to have such a dedicated team of employees, volunteers, stakeholders and supporters. This 2023 Year in Review is a testament to all we have accomplished together, and it is my pleasure to share it with you.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Carman
President & CEO

2023 by the Numbers

A Financial Recovery Year

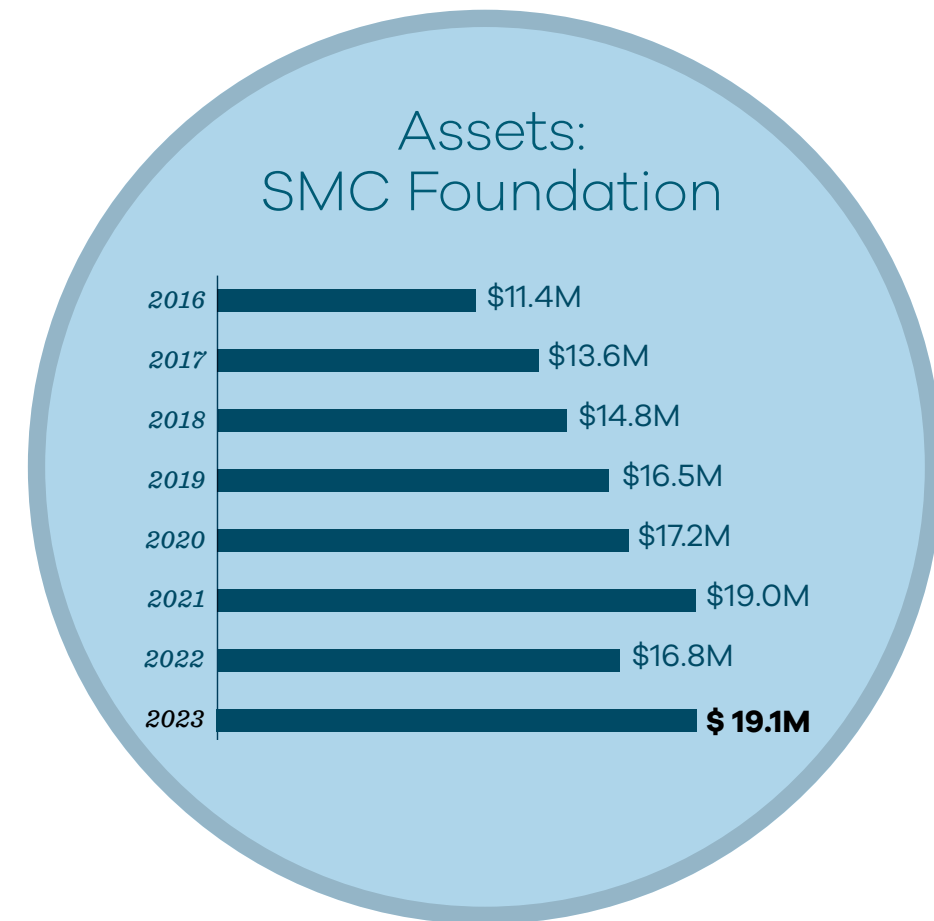
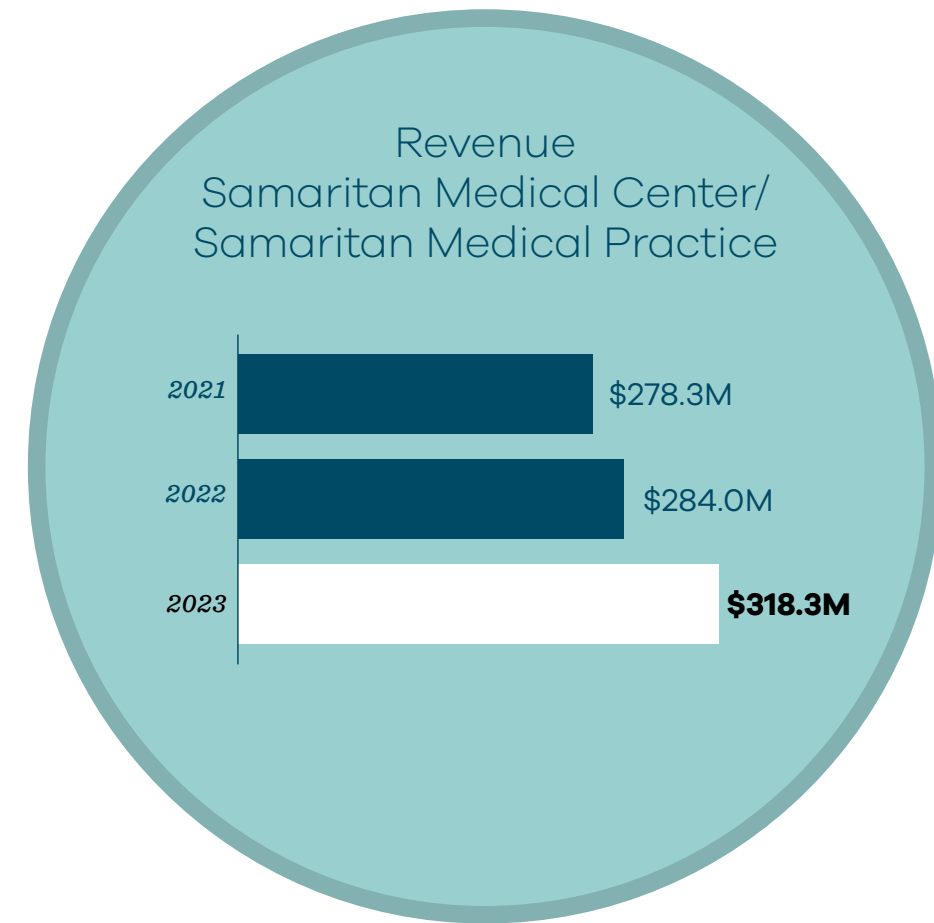
Samaritan Medical Center is an independent health system, which means it does not rely on affiliation with larger hospitals for financial or administrative support. This approach has become less common in today's unpredictable healthcare landscape, as many hospitals trade independence and local control for the hope of fiscal safety nets. Yet, Samaritan is committed to self-governance because it allows us to remain community-focused and nimble in the face of change. Fortunately, thanks to the determination of its board and leadership, Samaritan has remained fiscally stable through some difficult years.

Overall, 2023 was a financial recovery year for Samaritan after overcoming many challenges in 2022, such as unplanned expenses and rising workforce costs. With a solid economic recovery plan, investment in revenue-cycle management, growth of market share, and growth of services, Samaritan saw financial gain in 2023 and is poised to see more in 2024.

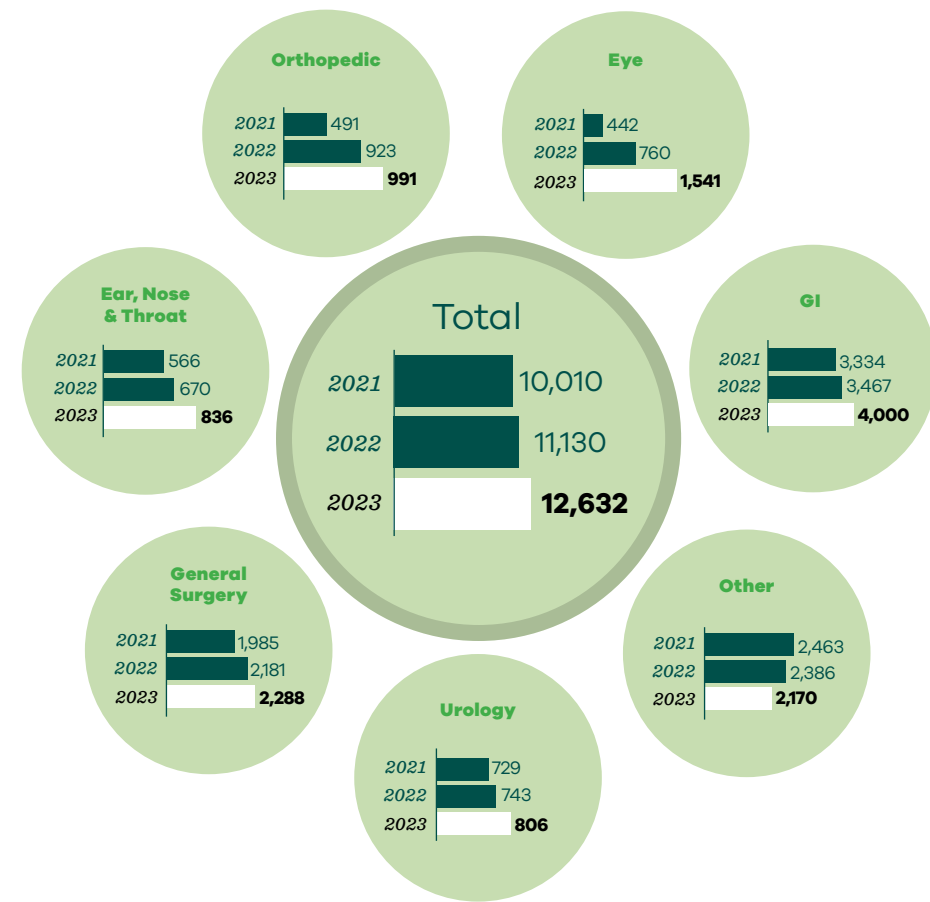
Investments in services such as cancer care, medical imaging, dermatology and orthopedics paid off in 2023, as patient visits increased. Samaritan expects this trend to continue across most specialties in 2024, helping to create new revenue for the system. Other legacy services, such as otolaryngology and general surgery, also grew, further supporting Samaritan's financial health. Investment in revenue-cycle staff and analytics continues to see success, resulting in fewer denials from payors and improved cash flow, which helps Samaritan to be reimbursed closer to the cost of care. This new and motivated team works hard to recoup dollars owed to the system.

Samaritan's fiscal stewardship efforts in 2023 also included innovative strategies to curb expenses. To save on essential items, such as food and medical supplies, Samaritan has continued to maximize group purchasing — buying through national group purchasing organizations and exploring other cost-saving purchasing contracts. To stabilize workforce costs, which have increased steadily in recent years, Samaritan uses productivity benchmarks to determine optimal staffing based on other hospitals of the same size. Finally, Samaritan continues to focus on reducing agency costs.

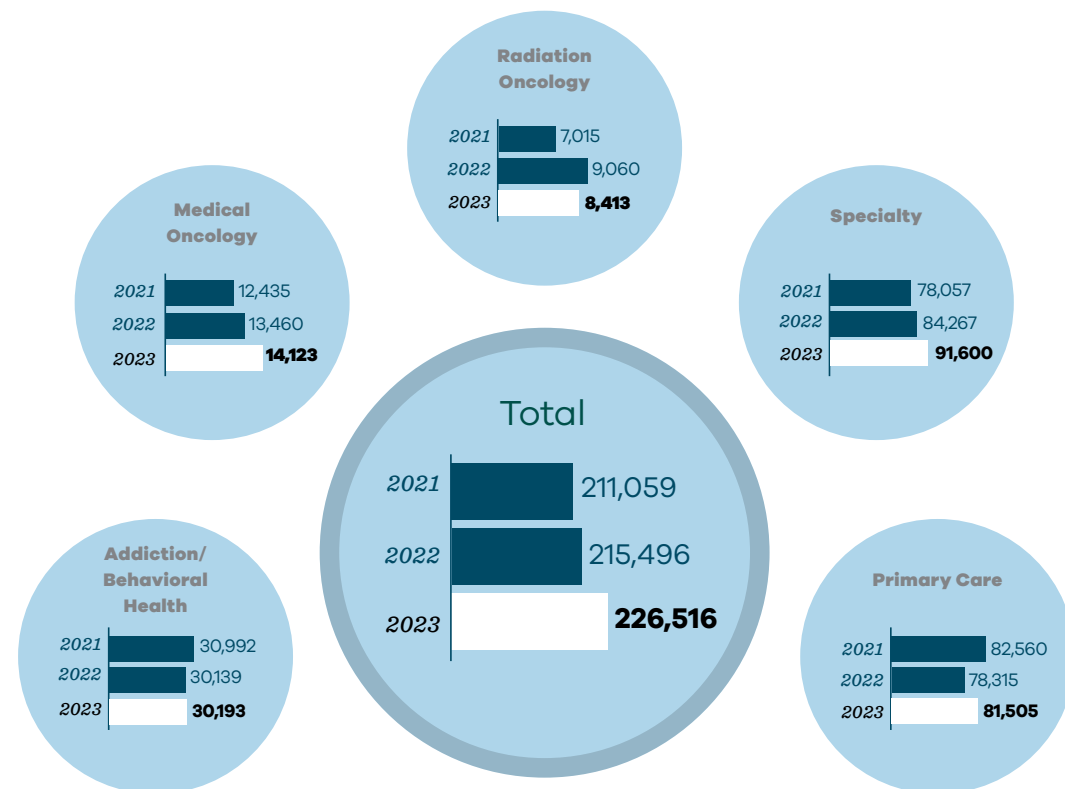
These efforts and successes indicate that our health system is recovering and stabilizing after several turbulent years. We have much to be proud of, and many hardworking Samaritan Caregivers to thank for their efforts in 2023.



Surgical and Outpatient Procedure Cases



Outpatient Clinic Visits



Post-Acute and Long Term Care

Samaritan Keep Home/Samaritan Summit Village/
Samaritan Home Health

Revenue



Occupancy

Skilled Nursing



Occupancy

Assisted Living



Visits

Home Care



2023 Care Counts

	2022	2023
Births	1,563	1,386
Acute Rehabilitation Days	2,261	2,103
Inpatient Mental Health Days	8,623	8,276
Hospital Discharges	9,445	9,076
Emergency Department Visits	35,570	34,990
Imaging Tests	135,476	142,723
Telehealth Appointments	10,752	11,316
Laboratory Tests	936,117	983,677
Home Health Visits	14,374	16,304
Resident Days	172,145	183,290
Skilled Nursing Facility Occupancy	84%	90%
Assisted Living Occupancy	84%	88%



Clifton-Fine Hospital

A SAMARITAN HEALTH PARTNER

Trusted Care. Close to Home.

Located in the Adirondack Park, where many households are far apart, Clifton-Fine Hospital not only serves as a medical center, but also as an important community hub. In 2023, after a few difficult years brought on by the pandemic, the hospital excitedly resumed this role in the community, focused on services for local families.

Clifton-Fine hosted several hospital-based farmer's markets throughout the year, bringing the community back together and providing access to healthy fruits, vegetables and other local produce. It also partnered with St. Lawrence County Department of Social Services to bring a social worker on-site two days per month, giving families increased access to services such as WIC, SNAP and HEAP. A mobile mammography van also made appearances at Clifton-Fine, thanks to a partnership with Upstate University Hospital, to ensure residents had access to breast cancer screenings.

Furthermore, when emergencies happened in the community, Clifton-Fine allowed staff who are emergency medical services (EMS) providers to leave work and respond to EMS calls. In 2023, 93 percent of calls in the Star Lake area were answered by local fire and ambulance services — many of them staffed by volunteers. Clifton-Fine is proud to have employees who save lives, both on and off the job.

Investments and advancements in hospital technology also were made in 2023. Clifton-Fine added an online scheduling platform, called Patient Connect, to its primary care clinic. This service provides patients with email and text message notifications regarding their appointments. "TalkWithYourDoc," a telemedicine platform, allows patients virtual connectivity with Clifton-Fine's healthcare providers — a crucial resource in a geographically large and sparsely populated area.

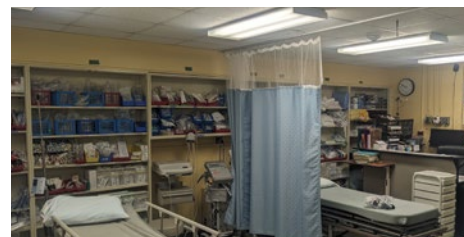
Clifton-Fine's staff benefited from improved technology, too. In 2023, the hospital deployed the VOCERA system, a network of voice-activated communication devices worn by staff. Badge readers were installed on all doors in the facility, bolstering patient and staff safety.

As 2024 begins, Clifton-Fine Hospital looks forward to new and exciting opportunities in the year ahead. It begins the year as a newly designated Rural Emergency Hospital (REH). This new classification gives small rural hospitals added federal funding, including an additional 5 percent reimbursement for covered outpatient services and monthly facilities payments.

In spring 2024, ground will be broken on the hospital's 9,600-square-foot emergency department expansion and renovation. This project will double the beds available for emergency department patients and add advanced air-filtration and infection control measures, a trauma room and isolation rooms, a dedicated ambulance bay, and more.



Two renderings of Clifton-Fine Hospital's new emergency department, which groundbreaking will begin on in Spring 2024.



Current emergency department space at Clifton-Fine Hospital.



A rendering of what a treatment room will look like inside Clifton-Fine Hospital's new emergency department.



A mobile mammography van visited Clifton-Fine Hospital in 2023, providing breast cancer screenings to local residents.



Several farmer's markets were hosted by Clifton-Fine Hospital in 2023.



Samaritan Home Health Recognized as a "Superior Performer"

In September, Samaritan Home Health was recognized by Strategic Healthcare Programs (SHP) as a "Superior Performer" for achieving an overall patient satisfaction score that ranked in the top 20 percent of all eligible SHP clients for 2022.

The annual SHPBest™ award program was created to acknowledge home health agencies that provide consistently high-quality service to their patients. The 2022 award recipients were determined by reviewing and ranking the overall satisfaction score for more than 3,200 home health providers across the country. With the largest home health consumer assessment benchmark in the nation, SHP is in a unique position to identify and recognize organizations that have made patient satisfaction a priority.

"SHP is very excited to have the opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication of our top-performing customers with the annual SHPBest awards," said SHP President Kevin Vogel. "We commend these organizations for their determination to provide top-notch care to the patients and caregivers that they serve."

Samaritan Home Health employs 24 caregivers and serves an average of 160 patients per day.

"We are proud to receive this award as it is a true representation of the patient's perspective on the high-quality level of personalized care we offer," said Stephanie Parks, director of patient services at Samaritan Home Health.

Kim Filkins, Samaritan Home Health Grateful Patient

As a retired nurse, Kim knew she needed help when she began feeling short of breath during her daily routine. Her heartbeat raced and was irregular, and she barely made it to the office of Samaritan Pulmonologist Dr. David Rechlin.

"He saw my pulse oximetry was in the fifties, which is basically incompatible with life, and my heart was racing, and he told me, 'You're going in an ambulance right now to the hospital.'"

In the Samaritan Emergency Department, Kim was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation — a rapid, irregular heartbeat — and given medication to stabilize it. She was referred for follow-up care from Samaritan Home Health, to help her manage chronic conditions in the comfort of her home.

"I'll tell you, it's the best thing that's ever happened," Kim said. "Somebody called me within days after I got home from the hospital and set up all these appointments with these different people, so I was busy four days a week with everybody that came in to help make my recovery safe. If they noticed something abnormal, they would find out what's going on and intervene from there."

Even better, Kim said, her stamina has improved and she is able to do more things that make her happy and keep her active.



Kim Filkins

Emergency Preparedness Drill



Samaritan Medical Center personnel assessed mock patients in the ambulance bay during the mass casualty drill with Fort Drum in July.

In July, Samaritan Medical Center participated in a drill with Fort Drum to practice the hospital's emergency management policies and protocols.

The drill consisted of a fake active-shooter incident on the Army installation, which resulted in a fake mass-casualty situation.

The Incident Command Team at Samaritan Medical Center called a CODE99 disaster drill and simulated a lockdown at the hospital. A Mass Casualty Incident Policy was enacted, and the team set up a triage area in the ambulance bay. Triage zones were established for patient acuity, and the Incident Command System identified potential needs to handle the influx of patients.

At least 15 mock patients were transported to Samaritan by ambulances and Black Hawk helicopters. Many of these mock patients were posed as needing surgical intervention, so Samaritan could practice how it would handle this situation with a full operating room.

Overall, the exercise went very well. These drills create lots of healthy dialogue and strategies for improvement to our emergency preparedness plan.



Welcome new MEDDAC Commander

Since there is no hospital on Fort Drum, Samaritan Medical Center is one of the major healthcare options for Fort Drum personnel and their family members. Samaritan takes great pride in this role, and we continue to strengthen our relationship with Fort Drum and serve as a nationwide model for integrated military-civilian health care.

We were fortunate to have worked with Col. Matthew Mapes, who served as the commander of MEDDAC Fort Drum. Upon Col. Mapes's exit, we welcomed Col. Christina Buchner as commander of MEDDAC Fort Drum in July. Throughout the remainder of 2023, we learned much from Col. Buchner and continue collaborating to provide quality health care to our nation's service members and their families.

First Lady Dr. Jill Biden's Visit

On January 30, 2023, First Lady Dr. Jill Biden and Deputy Defense Secretary Dr. Kathleen Hicks visited Fort Drum as part of the Joining Forces Initiative. Samaritan Medical Center President and CEO Tom Carman was one of five community members selected to attend, as a key representative of the largest private employer in Jefferson County.

Also in attendance were 10th Mountain Division Commanding General Maj. Gen. Gregory K. Anderson, Garrison Commander Col. Matthew R. Myer, Command Sgt. Maj. Nema Mobarakzadeh, Command Sgt. Maj. Jeremiah J. Larson, and their spouses.

"Dr. Biden stressed her sympathy for military spouses and the complexities of maintaining their professional careers when moving from installation to installation," said Mr. Carman. "I have learned over the years that military spouses are to be commended, as they provide vital support to their families and one another during deployment and relocation. I am so proud to have so many military spouses, dependents, and retirees caring for our patients here at Samaritan."

Mr. Carman also said the roundtable discussion he attended with Dr. Biden offered significant insight into the desires and needs of military families stationed locally, and he intends to continue to bolster our relationship by offering training and positions to interested and qualified candidates.

Samaritan Caregivers Visit 3-10 General Support Aviation Battalion

Samaritan Caregivers, including Andy Short, COO, and Emergency Medicine physicians Dr. Sarah Delaney-Rowland and Dr. Maya Lundborg-Gray, met with leaders of the 3-10 General Support Aviation Battalion, Fort Drum, in January 2023 to discuss medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) capabilities and services offered to the North Country, as well as future collaborative training opportunities.



3-10 General Support Aviation Battalion

Fort Drum OB/GYN Heart to Heart

Samaritan's Car-Freshner Center for Women and Children has a unique partnership with Fort Drum's OB/GYN Department. Doctors and midwives deliver military families' babies at Samaritan, since Fort Drum does not have a hospital on post. In 2022, nearly half of all babies delivered at Samaritan — 746, to be exact — were connected to Fort Drum.

This partnership has been meaningful to Samaritan Caregivers and military families for many years. In 2023, Dr. Victoria O'Brien from Fort Drum OB/GYN received a Heart to Heart Grateful Patient Award that exemplifies this special military-civilian relationship. The patient, who allowed us to share her story, writes:

"As an expecting mom moving across the country to a new area in the middle of winter, my anxiety was high. Dr. O'Brien was calm, always actively listening to my concerns, responding to my needs, and reassuring me that both me and my baby were doing great. Dr. O'Brien delivered my son after 29 hours of labor, and seeing her at the end of my delivery brought me immediate relief because I knew I was in good hands. Thank you for being a provider who cares genuinely for your patients."

Thank you, Dr. Victoria O'Brien, for making this mother and her child feel safe. Samaritan is fortunate to serve and support our military community.



From left: Lt. Col. Adina M. Sippel, Certified Nurse-Midwife, MS, RN, chief of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Guthrie Ambulatory Clinic, Fort Drum; Dr. Victoria O'Brien, Fort Drum OB/GYN; Col. Evelyn R. Vento, deputy commander for clinical services at the U.S. Army Medical Department Activity (MEDDAC) on Fort Drum; and Samaritan Medical Center President and CEO Thomas Carman celebrate Dr. O'Brien's Heart to Heart Grateful Patient Award.

Active and retired members of our U.S. Armed Forces and their family members accounted for a significant percentage of our 2023 patients.

Outreach on Fort Drum

Samaritan Caregivers proudly attend various events on Fort Drum to showcase our support for, and commitment to, military personnel and their families.



From left: Carol Langtry, RN, nurse manager, and Courtney Emmerich, RN, director of the Car-Freshner Center for Women and Children, attend Fort Drum's annual Baby Palooza event in April.



Samaritan Caregivers celebrated Mountainfest with thousands of 10th Mountain Division Soldiers, their family members, community partners, and Fort Drum civilian employees. Samaritan was a proud sponsor of the 2023 event.



Gabi and Barret Hoover, Samaritan Caregivers, and their son, Vince, and his friend distributed candy to more than 1,000 visitors to the USO Fort Drum Truck or Treat event in October.

A Thank You From a Fort Drum Soldier

Caregivers in Samaritan's Progressive Care Unit received homemade cookies and handwritten sentiments from James VanMeter and his family, to say "thank you" for the exceptional care Mr. VanMeter received during an eight-day hospital stay.

"With awe-struck gratitude for your caring service and superior care, I write this simple thank you," said Mr. VanMeter, a Fort Drum soldier. "Few times am I thoroughly impressed with the entire group of people that maintains the same work ethic and high ideals across the organization."

Mr. VanMeter continued his gratitude by expressing how he was cared for and felt safe. Samaritan is a major provider of hospital care for our Fort Drum community, and this gesture means so much to our team and exemplifies what we provide to our military families — care that is as exceptional as they are.



Kristin Anchor, RN, accepts gifts from grateful patient James VanMeter on behalf of Samaritan's Progressive Care Unit.

FORT DRUM STATISTICS - FISCAL YEAR 2023

	Total	Fort Drum percent of total
Births	1,386	45.09%
NICU discharges	199	35.68%
Pediatric discharges	153	28.76%
Inpatient Mental Health discharges	1,308	24.54%
Emergency Department visits	35,235	18.50%

Karen Ernest.

Music lover. Cancer survivor.

Karen Ernest is a music lover, a retired paramedic, and a cancer survivor.

In April 2022, after 19 years of normal mammograms, her routine mammogram came back with an anomaly, which was later determined to be Stage 3 highly aggressive breast cancer. She was shocked – no other woman in her family had received such a diagnosis.

“When I initially received my diagnosis of having breast cancer, I had no idea where I was going to go for my care,” she said. “Most people go south to Syracuse or west to Rochester or Buffalo, but the team at Samaritan is fully capable of treating any and every patient for their cancer problems. They had all the resources that I needed, right here in the town that I live in, saving me from long trips to other cities that were unnecessary.”

After enduring high-dose chemotherapy and a lumpectomy, she is cancer free.

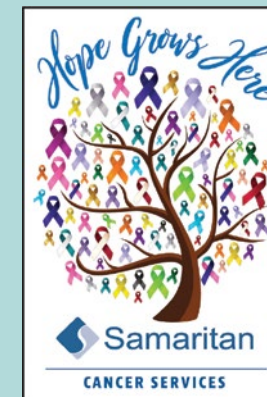
“I’m very thankful for all of the assistance that I received from Samaritan, the three different teams that I dealt with there,” she said. “They helped me survive something that I wasn’t sure I was able to.”



Hope Grows Here

Nearly 100 patients, accompanied by family and friends, attended the second-annual Hope Grows Here event September 23 in the Walker Center for Cancer Care parking lot. The event was organized by Samaritan Caregivers of the Walker Center and members of the Circle of Hope committee.

Guests were able to share their cancer care journeys and exchange information with peers while enjoying live music, refreshments, art displays, and a fun game of bingo. Andrea Roden, Circle of Hope committee chairwoman, shared remarks expressing Samaritan’s appreciation for its patients and their caregivers.



Circle of Hope committee member Ronda Fitzgerald admires artwork created by attendees of the 2023 Hope Grows Here event at the Walker Center for Cancer Care.



Circle of Hope committee Chairwoman Andrea Roden speaks about Samaritan’s appreciation for its cancer patients and their dedicated caregivers.

In September, to recognize Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Samaritan hosted a free prostate cancer screening event at the Walker Center for Cancer Care. Caregivers from the Walker Center and Samaritan Urology Center were on site to screen patients and answer questions.

Free screening appointments included lab work and an exam, and results were sent to the patient and the patient’s primary care provider.

This was the first event of its kind at Samaritan. It was promoted on various media outlets, including on Samaritan’s “Morning Checkup” segment on WWNY-TV 7 News. Seven patients reserved an appointment ahead of the event.



Several Samaritan Caregivers from numerous departments came together to make the free prostate cancer screening event possible. From left: Erin Boshart, registrar; Faith Campanaro, RN, nurse navigator; Dr. Justin Budnik, radiation oncologist; Dori Morgan, laboratory assistant; Dr. Kevin Chandler, urologist; Steven Tiernan, PA; and Gilbert McEachern, clinic office support.



The 2023 Hope Grows Here event was held outside the Walker Center for Cancer Care on September 23.

Community Outreach

Samaritan is proud to serve Northern New York and it is committed to community outreach and sponsorships that align with its mission to improve the health and wellness of the region. As local events continued to return to pre-pandemic attendance, 2023 proved to be a busy and exciting year for Samaritan's community support initiatives. Samaritan's sponsorships and community support efforts exceeded \$85,000 in 2023.

Community Organizations & Events Supported in 2023:

1000 Islands Harbor Hotel Fire & Ice Celebration
American Cancer Society

- Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of the North Country Walk
- Relay for Life of the North Country

American Heart Association North Country Heart Walk

Armed Forces Day Parade

Association of the United States Army Golf Tournament

Black River First Responder Run

Black River Trail Run

Children's Home of Jefferson County

Clayton Chamber of Commerce

Clayton Opera House

Concert in the Park

Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions, Inc.

- 50th Anniversary Celebration
- Kevin Laverty Golf Tournament

Disabled Persons Action Organization

Encompass Recreation

Evans Mills Raceway Park & Northern Lights Holiday Light Show

Fort Drum Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR)

- Home for the Holiday Thanksgiving Meal
- Mountain Mudder
- Mountainfest

Fort Drum USO Trunk or Treat

Gouverneur Breast & Ovarian Cancer Walk

Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce

- Business After Hours at Samaritan Summit Village
- Jefferson Leadership Institute
- Shapiro Citizenship Award
- Watertown Farm & Craft Market

Hospice of Jefferson County

- Hospice Golf Open
- The Hospice Ball - Casino Royale

Jefferson County Office for the Aging

- Senior Appreciation Day Picnic
- Senior Health Expo

North Country Family Health Center

Senior Living Seminars hosted by Samaritan

Six Town Chamber of Commerce

Snowtown USA

Spoker Ride

Suicide Prevention Walk

United Way Race United

Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County

- Masquerade Ball
- Witches Gala

Volunteer Transportation Center

- North Country Chili Cook-Off
- Posh Purse Palooza

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Watertown Rapids Baseball

Watertown Urban Mission

Watertown Wolves Hockey

Wilderness Healthcare Foundation - Clifton-Fine Hospital

William P. Plante Foundation

WPBS-TV

- Spring Auction
- Whiz Quiz

YMCA

- 5K Run to Glory
- Community Heroes
- Turkey Day Run

Zoo New York



Samaritan Caregivers share education and free items with guests at Fort Drum FMWR's Mountainfest in June 2023.



Samaritan's fundraising team at the American Heart Association's Heart Walk in April 2023.



Samaritan Caregivers and their family members walk in the Relay for Life of the North Country parade, hosted by the American Cancer Society in August 2023.



Dr. Benjamin Rudd, Samaritan Family Health Network physician, drops the puck during "Samaritan Medical Center Night" at a Watertown Wolves hockey game in February 2023.

Samaritan Unveils Expanded Ear, Nose & Throat Specialty Clinic

In early May 2023, Samaritan Medical Center unveiled its expanded Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) specialty clinic with an open house and ribbon-cutting event. The clinic, previously located on the second floor of the Samaritan Medical Office Building, 826 Washington St., moved to a larger space on the third floor, where it has been seeing patients since May eighth. The new location increases ENT's clinic space from 3,800 to 7,300 square feet, from nine to 11 exam rooms, and from one to three treatment rooms. It also will allow the clinic to continue to grow and recruit new physicians.

Samaritan ENT cares for nearly 10,000 patients a year. ENT specialists diagnose, manage and treat diseases and disorders of the ears, nose, throat and related structures of the head and neck, including the sinuses, larynx (voice box), oral cavity and upper pharynx (mouth and throat).



From left: Thomas Zajac, PA; Chad DeMarche, PA; Dr. David Gordon; Dr. Tony Chuang; Samaritan Medical Center President & CEO Thomas Carman; and Amy Hanson, Samaritan Medical Practice operations manager, celebrate the Ear, Nose & Throat clinic's open house.

New Radiology Partnership

In September, Samaritan leadership announced a new partnership with St. Lawrence Radiology Associates, a well-respected practice based in Potsdam, NY.

As a result, Samaritan welcomed Vincent Cotroneo, MD, to its imaging team. Several more physicians will soon join this team to provide consistent coverage.

Dr. Kelly McAlarney, breast radiologist, remains at Samaritan and is now dedicated to breast imaging exclusively.

Samaritan is now St. Lawrence Radiology's largest client, and the partnership has been beneficial to all, especially Samaritan patients. Imaging read times have improved, and Samaritan is less reliant on after-hours radiology services.

Lifetime Achievement Award Presented

Dr. Maja Lundborg-Gray was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at Samaritan's annual Physician Recognition Dinner in March 2023.

Dr. Lundborg-Gray is an emergency medicine physician and a public health and emergency medical services (EMS) advocate. She joined Samaritan Medical Center's medical staff in 1998 and, later that year, founded North Country Emergency Medical Consultants, PC, a private group of physicians and advanced practice providers. She continues in this practice today, and she still serves as its president.

Dr. Lundborg-Gray has been an active member of the Watertown-area EMS community for 24 years. In 1998, she became medical director of EVAC Air Ambulance and has since served as a medical director for many EMS agencies, including the North Country Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee. She is an active member of the Samaritan Foundation, Medical Staff Peer Review Committee, Stroke Committee and Trauma Committee. She supports the Samaritan Graduate Medical Education's residency program as a faculty supervisor. She served as Emergency Department Chair from 2002-08 and has been a member of multiple hospital committees, including the Credentials and Medical Executive Committees. Dr. Lundborg-Gray has served as Emergency Department Medical Director since 2011.

The Physician Recognition Dinner is supported by Samaritan's Foundation and medical staff.



Samaritan Welcomes *New Physicians*

Samaritan recognized and welcomed new physicians at its annual New Physician Reception on November 14. The reception honors those physicians who have joined the medical staff in the previous 12 months. The event, held at Samaritan Summit Village, brought together area physicians, Samaritan board members, local business and community leaders, and hospital donors and staff.

Guests of honor included:



Emmanuel Addo-Yobo, MD
Pulmonary/Critical Care



Stephanie Daniel, MD
Pediatrics



Lynsey Daniels, MD
General Surgery



Kyle Klahs, DO
Orthopedic Surgery
(military)



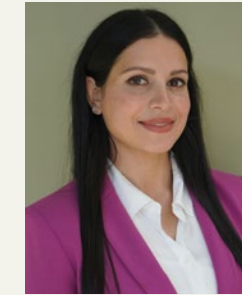
David Leu, MD
Orthopedic Surgery



Bailey Moorhead-Beardsley, DMD
Oral Surgery (military)



Nnenna Onwumere, MD
Hospitalist



Farah Wani, MD
Family Medicine

Not pictured:

Vincent Cotroneo, MD
Radiology

G. Michael Maresca, MD
Radiology

Nicholas Qandah, DO
Neurosurgery



See our full physician listing at:
samaritanhealth.com/find-a-physician

2023 Medical Staff

Anesthesiology

Tom T. Chen, MD
Eric N. Duah, MD
Irvin R. Sanchez, MD
Jarmila Slezkova, MD

Breast Surgery

Agnieszka K. Dombrowska, DO

Cardiology

Fritz Roc, MD
Vojtech Slezka, MD
James E. Willis, MD

Dentistry

Hans W. Wawrousek, DDS

Dentistry - Oral Surgery

Reed Attisha, DMD, MD
Bailey Moorhead-Beardsley, DMD
Logan R. Curtis, DDS
Bruce J. Dines, DMD
Hiram A. Garcia-Rivera, DMD
Russell K. Searle, DMD

Dentistry - Pediatric

Andrew A. Beuttenmuller, DDS
Chelsea A. Eppolito, DDS
Amy Nagai, DDS
Maria L. Ybarra, DDS

Dermatology

Nathanial R. Mileta, MD

Ear, Nose & Throat

Richard B. Abriss, MD
Tony C.Y. Chuang, MD
David C. Gordon, MD

Emergency Medicine

Mark C. Bristol, MD
Philip A. Chafe, MD
Sarah A. Delaney-Rowland, MD
David J. Flint, MD
Jie He, MD
Maja Lundborg-Gray, MD
Matthew D. Maynard, DO
Brian D. Roggie, MD

Family Medicine

John J. Burnett, DO
Caitlin M. Donegan-Tartell, DO
Nancy Girard, DO
Aaron D. Huizenga, DO
Jill Laureano-Surber, DO
Marcia R. Mauger, MD
Charles Moehs, MD/MPH
Martha L. Pisaniello, MD
Benjamin D. Rudd, MD
Jack Rush, MD
Ryan E. Tyler, MD
Gisell Vega (Grullon), MD

Farah Wani, MD
Joseph F. Wetterhahn, MD
Jason F. White, MD

Gastroenterology

Chaitanya K. Chandrala, MD
David Reindl, MD
Gerald S. Weinstein, MD

General Surgery

Eduardo B. Barayuga, MD
Daniel A. Bryden, DO
Lynsey M. Daniels, MD
Leo J. Gosselin Jr., MD

Hematology/Oncology

Florence P. Arnold, MD
Ihsan U. Haq, MD

Hospitalist

Jeby R. Abraham, DO
Hamzah J. Akram, MD
Ali E. Aljamali, MD
Shehroz Aslam, MD
Leilani M. Garcia, MD
Joan C. Guevarra, MD
Abdur R. Jamil, MD
Asim A. Kichloo, MD
Gillian V. Kupakuwana-Suk, MD
John S. Laldin, MD
Nnenna M. Onwumere, MD
Shripad B. Pande, MD
Vijesh Patel, MD
Aruna Ray, MD
Andro A. Yousef, MD

Infectious Disease

Marylene J. Duah, MD

Internal Medicine

Laura Boggs, DO
Pedro R. Camacho, MD
Christopher A. Kellogg, DO
Collins F. Kellogg Jr., MD
Julie M. Lapointe, MD
Frank Rhode, MD

Interventional Radiology

Sima Banerjee, MD

Neonatology

Craig Guerin, DO
Karl J. Komar, MD

Nephrology

Adam M. Rubin, MD
Khalid P. Sindhu, MD

Neurology

Mohsin Ali, MD
Abdul D. Latif, MD
Samah O. Mohiuddin, MD

Neurosurgery

Nicholas A. Qandah, DO
OB/GYN
John P. Barrett, MD
Kelly R. Birchenough, DO
Kenya Cain, MD

Christopher J. Cole, DO
Walter Dodard, DO
Victoria J. O'Brien, DO

Jonathan R. Oliva, DO
Bradley J. Piekielko, DO
Diane I. Shumbusho, MD
Macy L. VanArnam, MD

Ophthalmology

John J. Costello, DO
Debra A. Koloms, MD
Noaman Sanni, MD
Young J. Seol, MD

Orthopedic Surgery

Griffin M. Biedron, MD
Kyle J. Klahs, DO
David "Dirk" Leu, MD
David J. Newman, MD
Maurice Tom-Pack, MD
Robert C. Turner, MD
Brian T. Zafonte, MD

Pain Medicine

Ivan E. Montalvo-Otano, MD

Palliative Care

Jane M. Simpson, DO

Pathology

Opoku Adjapong, MD
LaQuita K. King, MD
Samuel A. Livingstone, MD
Shikhar Vyas, MD

Pediatrics

Honeylee Agustin, MD
Ahmad Chatila, MD
Stephanie E. Daniel, MD
Myla D. Estepa, MD
Shari M. Hogan, MD
Diane K. Keating-Jones, DO
Kaitlyn M. McGregor, MD
Josiree Ochotorena, MD
Stephanie A. Oliva, MD
Fernando S. Ongkingco III, MD
Sandra E. Timerman, MD
Mario F. Victoria, MD

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Ariana Brooks-James, MD

Plastic Surgery

Deana Paley, DO

Podiatry

Nathan D. Ashby, DPM
Weston C. Goring, DPM
Andrew R. Majak, DPM
James P. Pelletier, DPM

Psychiatry

Sadaqat N. Khan, MD
Astrid M. Otten, MD
Maritza Santana-Garcia, MD
Trevor J.H. Scudamore, MD
Daniel J. Williamson, MD

Pulmonary/Critical Care

Emmanuel K. Addo-Yobo, MD
Aaliya Burza, MD
Marco A. Campitelli, MD
Lawrence G. Kramer, MD
Julio O. Novelo, MD
David P. Rechlin, DO
Rory A. Sears, DO, FCCP

Radiation Oncology

Justin D. Budnik, MD

Radiology

Gregory H. Berberian, MD
Vincent G. Cotroneo, MD
Brian R. Ewy, DO
Daniel S. Gray, MD
Jubin K. Jacob, MD
Mark Kwalbrun, MD
Patrick J. Lanigan, MD
Andrew M. Lewis, MD
Glaucio M. Maresca, MD
Kelly McAlarney, MD
Dean J. Phillips, DO
Terence D. Schumpert, MD
Jeffrey D. Way, MD

Rheumatology

Ingrid M. Hall, MD
Elizabeth Mathew, MD

Thoracic Surgery

Robert J. Johnson, MD

Urology

Kevin L. Chandler, MD
James A. Turecki, MD

Vascular Surgery

Ratna M. Kunasani, MD

Wound Care

James V. Stillerman, MD

Physician Assistants

Sheryl L. Abbott, PA-C
Amanda L. Agley, PA-C
Maria Alicea, PA-C
Ryan J. Blackwell, PA-C
Erin K. Bryant, PA-C
Brett R. Bunker, PA-C
Shauna M. Campanaro, PA-C
Aiesha M. Clayton, PA-C
Brooke A. Davidson, PA-C
Alexandra R. Davies, PA-C
Chad J. DeMarche, PA-C
Erica T. Feola, PA-C
Ashley A. Flick, PA-C,
Taylor Haenlin Clark, PA-C
Marisa V. Hamlin, PA-C
Jonathan M. Jerome, PA-C
Abbey F. Kerr, PA-C
Marcus M. Knapp, PA-C
Christopher Kwaczala, PA-C
Heather A. McClean, PA-C
Jacob D. McKillop, PA-C
Rachel A. Meirose, PA-C
Sarabrooke A. Mowery, PA-C
Robert J. Pickeral, PA-C
Tasha L. Richards, PA-C
Rebecca K. Ring, PA-C
Emiley J. Ringenbach, PA-C
Jessica L. Robbins, PA-C
Christopher J. Roberts, PA-C
Aaron Robertshaw, PA-C
Colin M. Ross, PA-C
Samantha Sheggrud, PA-C
Jacqueline C. Snyder, PA-C
Kalie M. Sposato, PA-C
Susan R. Swatsworth, PA-C
Kate E. Symenow, PA-C
Corissa A. Tefft, PA-C
Steven D. Tiernan, PA-C
Diane B. Tschudi, PA-C
Emily J. Turner, PA-C
Amy L. Werchinski, PA-C
Regina M. Wetterhahn, PA-C
Caitlin E. Winkler, PA-C
Thomas S. Zajac II, PA-C
Andrew Zilka, PA-C

Nurse Practitioners

Jeniffer D. Alberty, FNP
Lynn M. Barber, FNP
Nancy J. Barnum, FNP
Calandra A. Bryant, FNP
Christine C. Buckley, FNP
Denise R. Casab, FNP
Jennifer D. Eldridge, FNP-C
Karl R. Elsner, FNP
Maribeth Evans, PMHNP
Desiree S. Fuller, ANP, FNP
Samantha J. Furman, FNP
Shellie A. Green, FNP
Makenzie R. Griffin, FNP
Anne H. Hall, FNP
Amanda M. Kenyon, FNP
Lydia L. Kirschman, FNP
Chelsea M. Kolb, FNP
Amanda J. Lampman, FNP
Jessica A. Lasiowski, ANP
Ann Marie LePine, ANP, FNP
Jillian Marra, FNP
Debra R. Marsala, DNS, ANP
Katherine E. Matas, ANP
Meghan A. McAllister, FNP
Ashley A. Patterson, FNP
Jennifer J. Patterson, ANP
Lynne K. Phillely, ANP
Jennifer A. Phillips, ARNP
Ruth H. Powell, FNP
Karen C. Regan, FNP
Stephanie Roberts, FNP
Amanda L. Rosen, FNP
Corrie A. Schell, FNP
Shelby N. Scullen, FNP
Bonnie Servage, ANP
Rose Mary Soosairaj, FNP
Lisa M. Westcott, FNP
Lindsey R. Williams, PMHNP
Christopher A. Wilson, FNP
David R. Youngs, ENP, FNP
Jennifer L. Zajac, WHNP, CNM
Matthew D. Zegil, FNP

Certified Nurse Midwives

Elizabeth A. DiCampli, CNM
JoAnn L. Hill, CNM
Bridget J. Quinn, CNM
Christa M. Rick, CNM
Adina M. Sippel, CNM
Jennifer L. Zajac, WHNP, CNM

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs)

Adam O. Bailey, CRNA
Marcia Buzyniski, CRNA
Jarus Dahlberg, CRNA
Mark E. Etheridge, CRNA
Brett S. Frandsen, CRNA
Doris E. Grimes, CRNA
Joann M. McGee, CRNA
Jordan C. Nigro, CRNA
Terry L. Predmore, CRNA
Lyda A. Shambo, CRNA
Robert J. Smith, CRNA
Michael E. Stabinski, CRNA

Medical Executive Committee 2023

Rory Sears, DO
President
of the Medical Staff

Marylene Duah, MD
Vice President
of the Medical Staff

Chaitanya Chandrala, MD
Secretary/Treasurer
of the Medical Staff

Justin Budnik, MD
Chair, Cancer Committee

Kenya Cain, MD
Chair, Department of OB/GYN

Tony Chuang, MD
Chair, Credentials Committee

Sarah Delaney-Rowland, MD
Chair, Department of
Emergency Medicine

Leo Gosselin, MD
Chair, Department of Surgery

Craig Guerin, MD
Chair, Department of Pediatrics

Collins Kellogg, MD
Chair, Medical Management
Committee

Asim Kichloo, MD
Director, Hospitalist Program

Nathanial Mileta, MD
At-Large Member

Vijesh Patel, MD
Chair, Department of Medicine

David Rechlin, DO
Director, Medical Education

Jack Rush, MD
Chair, Medical Staff Peer
Review Committee

Maritza Santana-Garcia, MD
Chair, Department of
Psychiatry

Diane Shumbusho, MD
Military

Jarmila Slezkova, MD
Chair, Department of
Anesthesiology

Shikhar Vyas, MD
At-Large Member

Mario Victoria, MD
Chief Medical Officer
[ex officio]

Thomas H. Carman
President & CEO
[ex officio]

Graduate Medical Education

Samaritan Medical Center has a strong history as a teaching hospital, focused on guiding and preparing the next generation of physicians. Samaritan's Graduate Medical Education (GME) program offers clinical rotations for third- and fourth-year medical students. It also provides specialty residency programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) in both Family Medicine and Internal Medicine.

GME Leadership:

David Rechlin, DO, FCCP, FACIO
Director of Medical Education

Benjamin Rudd, MD
Family Medicine Program Director

Asim Kichloo, MD
Internal Medicine Program Director

2023 Graduates:

Farah Wani, MD
Family Medicine

Shanmukha Swetha Perabattula, MD
Internal Medicine

Sukhbir Kaur Randhawa, DO
Internal Medicine

Zhiwei "Lauren" Zhang, DO
Internal Medicine

Highlights for 2023:

- Samaritan had more trainees in its GME programs than ever before — 12 residents, 10 third-year medical students, and seven fourth-year medical students.
- Dr. Farah Wani, a 2023 Family Medicine residency graduate, is now practicing in the Samaritan Family Health Network and serving as a preceptor to current residents in the GME SMART Clinic.
- Point-of-care ultrasound has been added to the curriculum for residents seeing patients in the SMART Clinic. With this modality, residents can evaluate their patients more comprehensively in the office setting.
- A faculty publication was a featured article on the cover page of Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine: *Cirrhosis: Primary care approaches to screening, immunization, and lifestyle modifications* (www.ccm.org/content/90/11/693/tab-figures-data)
- A faculty case study was published by the National Library of Medicine: *Portal Venous Thrombosis in Alcoholic Hepatitis: A Relatively Unknown Association* (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10563462/)
- The Internal Medicine faculty and residents completed a two-year quality improvement project, aimed at reducing hospital readmissions for patients with congestive heart failure, and they saw promising results.

Learn more about our GME program at
samaritanhealth.com/gme



Dr. Farah Wani, 2023 Family Medicine residency graduate, with Dr. Benjamin Rudd, Family Medicine program director.



From left: 2023 graduates of the Internal Medicine residency program Dr. Zhiwei "Lauren" Zhang and Dr. Shanmukha Perabattula, with Program Director Dr. Asim Kichloo and fellow graduate Dr. Sukhbir Randhawa.

Emergency Nurse Residency Program

Staffing an emergency department that cares for upwards of 35,000 patients a year is a challenge, especially in the wake of COVID-19, which caused many clinicians to retire early or become traveling nurses. Fortunately, a new program at Samaritan that trains nurses for the emergency department (ED) is showing early signs of success.

Samaritan's Emergency Nurse Residency Program, launched in 2022, brings new graduate nurses into the hospital for a year of hands-on training and mentorship. Nurses in the program spend six months rotating through different critical care areas of the hospital, including the medical/surgical floors, labor and delivery, pediatrics, and behavioral health. They then spend another six months acclimating to the daily assignments and responsibilities in the ED. This curriculum provides nurses with well-rounded knowledge and broad skill sets as they begin their careers.

In September 2023, the program celebrated its first graduate — Sarah Wallace, RN, who previously worked at Samaritan as a patient care assistant. She now works full time as an RN in the ED.

"I believe that this program is a great program to help new nurses explore emergency medicine while encompassing other departments," Sarah said. "This aids in strengthening the community within Samaritan by having the residents go on rotations to each floor."

Two additional nurses graduated in January 2024, one more graduated in March 2024, and all others are expected to follow suit before the end of 2024.

Samaritan continues to recruit graduate nurses, or nurses who will soon graduate, for the Emergency Nurse Residency Program, with a goal of sustaining 12 resident nurses per year. New nurses to Samaritan may be eligible for a variety of sign-on bonuses and benefits, including loan and relocation assistance.



Kim Smith, RN, BSN, left, presents Sara Wallace, RN, with her certificate of completion for the Emergency Nurse Residency Program in September 2023.

Stefanik Support to GME Program

Samaritan's Graduate Medical Education program benefited from continued advocacy efforts by U.S. Representative Elise Stefanik in 2023. The congresswoman and her staff helped Samaritan receive additional Medicare-funded physician residency slots, effective July 1.

To offset some of the costs associated with on-the-job training of medical residents, Medicare pays teaching hospitals, such as Samaritan Medical Center, to train a certain number of residents each year. However, due to a Medicare administrative oversight years ago, Samaritan incorrectly lost part of this subsidy, equivalent to 2.71 resident slots. Those lost dollars have been restored, thanks to Rep. Stefanik's advocacy, which began in October 2021.

At a rural hospital such as Samaritan, the ability to train more residents cost-effectively is a significant asset, as these residents may decide to stay in the North Country to practice medicine. This translates to greater quality of care for local patients and fewer dollars spent on recruitment and retention.

"The importance of Medicare-funded residency slots to us here in Watertown and across the North Country cannot be understated," Samaritan President and CEO Thomas Carman said. "Congresswoman Stefanik's successful efforts advocating to increase the number of Medicare-funded physician residency slots at Samaritan, in spite of CMS's previous administrative mistake, are further evidence of her commitment to strengthen rural health care, and we thank her for her continued work on this issue."

Quality *and* Safety

With hundreds of thousands of patient encounters a year, more than 2,000 dedicated caregivers, and dozens of medical specialties and clinic locations, the Samaritan Health System is a complex and intricate care network. What keeps it all operating smoothly and consistently? Complete dedication to the quality and safety of patient and resident care.

In 2023, Samaritan blended cutting-edge technology with compassion in pursuit of zero patient harm and continuous improvement for its patients and residents. Here are a few of the past year's quality and safety achievements.

Advanced Technology

The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Samaritan Medical Center implemented the Starling Fluid Management Monitoring System, a device that delivers accurate and precise data about a patient's fluid responsiveness. Historically, when a patient being treated with IV fluid was not responding to the treatment, more drastic measures — such as a central venous catheter or vasopressors — have been required. The Starling system helps reduce these occurrences by providing clinicians with real-time data needed to decide if the patient would benefit from additional fluid. This helps reduce the risks of infection, air embolism and pneumothorax that come with central lines. It also can reduce the length and cost of a patient's hospital stay. A live education event on the Starling system was held in December for Samaritan's ICU nurses.

Samaritan Imaging Services upgraded its cardiac ultrasound machine to the latest Philips EPIQ model. The new equipment greatly improves diagnostics for cardiac patient care, with 3D imaging capabilities, vastly improved image quality, and myocardial strain imaging — an important assessment tool (especially for chemotherapy and heart failure patients) that evaluates the function of the heart muscle and allows for early detection of heart failure.

Samaritan's Laboratory added two new instruments to its Microbiology Department, which increased capacity for COVID-19 and respiratory testing panels. This translates to faster results for patients and providers. The laboratory also upgraded two coagulation instruments in August. Technologists use these machines to test blood samples for conditions that cause excessive clotting or bleeding, such as liver disease, thrombophilia and hemophilia. Coagulation tests are helpful to monitor patients taking medications that affect clotting, and are sometimes needed before a surgery.

Survey Successes

The Joint Commission, Samaritan Medical Center's accrediting agency, conducted an unannounced triennial accreditation survey of the hospital in early October. The survey went extremely well, and Samaritan's Facilities Team in particular was highlighted for its efforts to ensure fire safety throughout the hospital campus. Some minor citations were received; however, all were below "conditional level," which means Samaritan is required only to show evidence of compliance, and that no further unannounced survey is required. Citations of this nature are common in hospitals and are not considered by The Joint Commission as harmful to patient safety.

The Joint Commission also conducted its biennial laboratory survey in July. The surveyors spent time in the lab and on the nursing units for patient tracking purposes. Overall, the survey went very well. Surveyors were especially impressed by Samaritan's daily safety call, which occurs each day at 8 a.m. and allows managers from each department to identify any safety concerns for the day, or report successes since the last call.

Additional surveys of Samaritan's Laboratory were conducted in August and November by the NYS Department of Health and The Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies (AABB), respectively. Both surveys produced positive results for Samaritan, with only a few minor documentation-related citations.



Awards and Designations for Quality and Safety

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Health and Wellness Award

In May, Samaritan Medical Center received an **Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Health and Wellness Award** in the amount of \$9,942.81 for its Cancer Pathology Quality Improvement program. Funds will purchase a new compound microscope and a C-mount camera port, devices that will improve prognosis time and alleviate the need for follow-up biopsies. With this lab equipment upgrade, Samaritan will be able to improve the quality of care for 120 cancer patients annually.

In November, Samaritan was one of 31 upstate New York hospitals and health centers to receive a combined \$28 million in quality improvement payments from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. Funds are awarded only to facilities that meet goals in the following areas:

- Clinical Processes of Care – efforts to improve follow-up care after hospitalization; quality measures related to diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and surgical care; and other quality improvement measures unique to each participating hospital.
- Patient Safety – efforts to reduce hospital-acquired infections, readmissions, and other adverse events or errors that affect patient care.
- Patient Satisfaction – high performance on the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey, which is a national, standardized, publicly reported survey of patients' perspectives of hospital care.

National Injury Prevention Day

In its effort to become a Level III Trauma Center, Samaritan Medical Center collaborated with the City of Watertown to proclaim November 18, 2023, as "National Injury Prevention Day." Surgeons from Samaritan General Surgery spearheaded the initiative, which raised awareness about preventable injury and recognized Samaritan's commitment to promote safety throughout the year.

Advanced Primary Stroke Center Designation

Samaritan Medical Center was recertified as an Advanced Primary Stroke Center by The Joint Commission for a fourth consecutive year. This certification recognizes healthcare organizations that provide clinical programs across the continuum of stroke care. The certification evaluates how organizations use clinical outcomes and performance measures to identify opportunities to improve care and educate and prepare patients and their caregivers for discharge.

Blue Distinction® Centers+ for Maternity Care

Samaritan Medical Center maintained its designation as a Blue Distinction® Centers+ for Maternity Care, a recognition awarded by Excellus BlueCross BlueShield to facilities that demonstrate expertise and a commitment to quality care for vaginal and cesarean section deliveries. Blue Distinction Centers demonstrate better overall patient satisfaction and a lower percentage of early elective deliveries.

Chronic Care Management Expansion

In 2023, chronic care management coordination services became available to Samaritan Family Health practitioners as an additional support to offer their patients. Chronic care coordination is performed by a team of two registered nurses and two non-clinical staff members. It seeks to help patients who have conditions such as diabetes, COPD, depression and heart disease.

Providers can refer patients whom they believe would benefit from the service, and chronic care professionals will connect with patients between doctor visits to be sure they are doing well. This allows for troubleshooting and helps prevent hospitalizations among patients who may otherwise wait too long to seek provider assistance.

Powershare

In April, Samaritan launched "Powershare," an online service that makes medical imaging and radiology scans and reports easily accessible to patients and providers. This free, secure and convenient service reduces the need for patients and providers to request paper copies or discs, reducing traffic to Samaritan's Medical Records Department, which is visited by more than 500 patients every month.

Dr. Wilson and Boston Scientific Urology Webinar

In August, Samaritan Urologist Dr. Deborah Wilson hosted a "Pelvic Organ Prolapse and Stress Urinary Incontinence" webinar in collaboration with Boston Scientific.

Ahead of the webinar, Dr. Wilson was featured on the "Morning Checkup" segment of WWNY-TV 7 News to explain incontinence and prolapse, as well as who the webinar would benefit and why education is important. Twenty-nine people registered for the webinar.

Behavioral Health



Ask a roomful of Americans about the state of mental health in the United States, and you will almost have a consensus — 9 out of 10 U.S. adults believe¹ our country is facing a “mental health crisis.”

Sadly, data from both national and local sources seem to reinforce this notion. In a series of Pew Research Center surveys² conducted between 2020 and 2022, a staggering 41% of adults reported feeling “high levels of psychological distress” within the past few years. A similar Pew study revealed that, in 2021, 44% of high school students “felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more weeks in a row.” Here in the North Country, adult residents of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties have expressed³ waning optimism about their mental health for several consecutive years. In 2023, just 48% of adults rated their personal mental health as “Excellent or Very Good,” a significant decrease from 60% of adults in 2018.

What has caused, or is causing, this startling trend may take years to fully understand. Fortunately, Samaritan Medical Center is not waiting years to take action. In 2023, we made great strides to improve and expand our mental and behavioral health services, because we know our community needs us.

Expanding the Behavioral Health Unit

In September, Samaritan announced a \$2.5 million renovation to its emergency department that will expand the behavioral health unit (BHU) and provide enhanced care for psychiatric patients. When completed in summer 2024, the new 12-bed secure unit will more than double the capacity of the current five-bed BHU to better meet the needs of the community. As the average daily census of psychiatric patients continues to increase — it was approximately eight patients in 2023, with a high of over 20 at one time — this expansion becomes ever more necessary.

Currently, when the BHU exceeds its normal and overflow capacities, psychiatric patients are assigned to medical beds within the emergency department. This has two immediate impacts — first, there are fewer beds to treat medical patients, and second, more staff members are needed to watch psychiatric patients, because of the inherent safety risks in a traditional medical room. If this happens when the emergency department is already short on medical rooms, it can lead to diversion, a status in which Samaritan’s Emergency Department must temporarily reroute incoming ambulances to other hospitals because it cannot safely accommodate new patients. Activating diversion puts stress on our local emergency medical services personnel, our community members, and the entire Samaritan Health System.

Dedicating more space to the BHU, as Samaritan is doing with this construction project, will lessen the frequency and intensity of these scenarios. That’s why, even though this project was not budgeted for 2023, it was made a priority to ensure patient safety. By the end of 2023, more than \$745,000 was committed by the Samaritan Foundation, Children’s Miracle Network of NNY and Jefferson County Community Services, and Samaritan continues to look for grant funds to offset project costs.

Construction began in summer 2023 and will continue in phases to limit the

interruption of current emergency department operations. Space for the new BHU will be gained by relocating the Samaritan Auxiliary coffee shop to a different area of the main lobby, and by optimizing physician office and existing hallway space. We anticipate the new BHU space will be open by June 2024.

Looking to the Future

With the mental health of our community at stake, Samaritan will not stop with the expansion of its emergency department behavioral health unit. It also plans to add beds to the adult inpatient mental health unit (IMHU). In 2023, the hospital submitted an application to the New York State Office of Mental Health to increase the IMHU’s capacity from 34 to 39 beds. This expansion is needed, since the IMHU is consistently at full capacity. Roughly 50% of the adults who arrive at the emergency department for a mental health crisis are admitted to Samaritan’s IMHU for stabilization and a treatment plan, and the average stay in the IMHU is seven to 10 days. If approved, this expansion project will cost approximately \$1 million.

Outpatient Care

In addition to these expansion projects, Samaritan continues to offer comprehensive outpatient mental health and addiction services at the Samaritan Health & Wellness Plaza, 1575 Washington St., Watertown. Our outpatient behavioral health therapists provide individual, couples, and family counseling, sexual abuse counseling, play therapy and additional services.

Samaritan Medical Center has been dedicated to the health of the North Country since 1881, and it is now more invested than ever in the health of our patients’ bodies and minds. By expanding needed services, continuing to provide compassionate, high-quality care, and working together as a community, we will overcome the mental health crisis we find ourselves in.

Citations:

1. Lopes, L., Kirzinger, A., Sparks, G., Stokes, M., & Brodie, M. (2022, October 6). KFF/CNN Mental Health in America Survey - Findings. KFF.org. <https://www.kff.org/report-section/kff-cnn-mental-health-in-america-survey-findings/>
2. Gramlich, J. (2023, March 2). Mental health and the pandemic: What U.S. surveys have found. pewresearch.org. <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/03/02/mental-health-and-the-pandemic-what-u-s-surveys-have-found/>
3. Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization. (2023, June). 2023 North Country Community Health Survey of Adult Residents (Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence Counties, New York). <https://fdhrpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-Community-Health-Survey-Full-Report.pdf>

By the Numbers:

Behavioral Health in the Emergency Department

In 2022, Samaritan’s Emergency Department (ED) cared for 35,570 patients. The data below illustrates how care in the ED is influenced by our community’s need for behavioral health care services, and how that need has increased.

Between January 2022 and June 2023...

946 children

arrived at Samaritan’s ED for a behavioral health crisis

273 needed hospitalization and were transferred to a higher level of care

550 were already established at local outpatient behavioral health services

3,461 adults

arrived at Samaritan’s ED for a behavioral health crisis

1,746 were admitted to Samaritan’s Inpatient Mental Health Unit

1,388 were stabilized in the ED and discharged with care plans

210 were transferred to another facility for psychiatric care

Between 2021 and 2022...

Average pediatric length of stay increased from **30 hours** to **35 hours**

Average adult length of stay increased from **12 hours** to **22 hours**



Caregiver Experience

Everyone who works at Samaritan has an impact on the care and experience of our patients. Some provide direct medical treatment while others provide indirect care, such as making a patient's meals, washing their bed linens, or offering a warm welcome as they enter our facilities. No matter what role we play, we are **all** Samaritan Caregivers.

Recognizing this, Samaritan remains firmly committed to the happiness, growth and development of its employees. In addition to offering competitive wages, top-tier benefits and other incentives, Samaritan invests in the continuing education of its staff through several scholarship opportunities. Here are a few employee investment highlights from 2023:

Practical Nurse Community Sponsorship Program:

In 2023, Samaritan began a partnership with Jefferson-Lewis BOCES to offer financial sponsorships to nurses who wish to further their careers. Through this new Practical Nurse Community Sponsorship Program, Samaritan provides up to \$10,000 of support per student to help cover the costs of a 10-month practical nursing program offered at BOCES. In exchange, graduating licensed practical nurses (LPNs) make a 2- or 3-year work commitment to Samaritan. This sponsorship program is open to all community members and can help with other expenses beyond tuition.

Susan Peters Nursing Scholarships:

For the sixth consecutive year, the Samaritan Foundation awarded Susan Peters Nursing Scholarships to two employees: Maegan Castle, RN, Intensive Care Unit; and Joseph Donoghue, RN, Emergency Department. Both nurses are working toward their Family Nurse Practitioner certification. The Susan Peters Nursing Scholarship was established in 2018 to assist with the education costs for RNs who are continuing their education, specifically to pursue nurse practitioner degrees. Two scholarships of \$2,000 are awarded each year.

Mother Cabrini Scholarships:

With the help of the Iroquois Healthcare Association's Workforce Investment Organization Scholar's program, Samaritan awarded three 2023 Mother Cabrini Scholarships to staff members advancing their studies. Receiving \$2,972.85 scholarships for tuition, books, and other supplies were: Lacy McKellip, a unit assistant attending Jefferson Community College's RN program; Michaela Kline, a unit assistant enrolled in SUNY Canton's LPN program; and Thelma Mathison, an LPN in the RN program at St. Joseph's College of Nursing. All three recipients work in Samaritan's Obstetrics Department, a unit in which many employees look to grow and develop their careers. Mother Cabrini Scholarships help Samaritan employees pursuing certifications as LPNs, RNs, respiratory therapists, lab technicians or medical technicians.

Recruitment of New Leaders

Samaritan Medical Center welcomed new leaders in various roles in 2023.

- Robin Clark was welcomed as vice president of information systems and chief information officer.
- Kerri Pellam was hired as assistant director of nursing at Samaritan Keep Home.
- Garrett Hayes was promoted to applications manager.
- Christopher Randall was hired as talent acquisition manager.
- Brandilyne Husenitza expanded her role to director of compliance and risk management.
- Andrea Roden was promoted to Samaritan experience manager.
- Megan Laboda was hired as director of nursing at Samaritan Keep Home.
- David Schmitt was hired as emergency preparedness and security manager.
- Emily Soderquist was promoted to education development manager.



Michaela Kline, unit assistant, received a 2023 Mother Cabrini Scholarship toward her LPN studies at SUNY Canton.



Thelma Mathison, LPN, received a 2023 Mother Cabrini Scholarship toward her RN studies at St. Joseph's College of Nursing.



Lacy McKellip, unit assistant, received a 2023 Mother Cabrini Scholarship toward her RN studies at Jefferson Community College.

Robotic Surgery Celebrations for 500 Cases

Dr. Eduardo Barayuga and Dr. Daniel Bryden reached a robotic surgery milestone in 2023, surpassing 500 procedures each on the da Vinci Surgical System. The occasions were marked by celebrations with the surgical services team.

"It's humbling that this has happened," Dr. Barayuga said. "One thing about our program that I'm especially proud of is that we are doing robotic surgery even in emergency cases. We are able to do it 24/7."

The da Vinci robot has assisted surgeons with more than 3,700 procedures since it was introduced at Samaritan Medical Center in 2012. In addition to general surgery operations such as gall bladder removals, hernia repairs, and colon and anti-reflux surgeries, the da Vinci system is used in gynecologic and urologic surgeries.



Dr. Daniel Bryden, left, celebrates a robotic surgery milestone with members of the operating room staff.



Dr. Eduardo Barayuga, seated, celebrates a robotic surgery milestone with members of the operating room staff.

Apogee Hospitalist Program

Samaritan's contracted hospitalist group, Apogee Physicians, was awarded "Program of the Year" by Apogee in 2023.

Apogee is the largest hospitalist group in the nation. It hosts a Program Director Summit each year, bringing together members from around the country to celebrate the best of the best in hospital medicine.

To achieve this award, the local team, led by Dr. Asim Kichloo and in collaboration with hospital leadership, must be aligned on multiple aspects in the delivery of patient care. All programs are evaluated on their performance in key quality metrics, such as hospital readmissions, length of hospital stay, patient health metrics, team staffing, recruiting, retention, and collaboration with hospital drivers of quality.

The "Program of the Year" has the highest level of performance while maintaining the most important Apogee staple: "What is best for the Patient is best for the Practice."



Dr. Asim Kichloo accepted Apogee's "Program of the Year" award on behalf of Samaritan's hospitalist group.

Heath Hero Nomination

National Rural Health Day was November 16, 2023. As part of that celebration, Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization and the North Country Health Compass Partners sought nominations for the 2023 Community Health Hero award. This award recognizes individuals who provide their rural communities with outstanding services and support toward improving overall physical, mental and emotional health. Sharon Gamble, an LPN at Clayton Family Health Center, was nominated for the award by LuAnn Genier, clinic supervisor, for her exceptional level of compassion, effort and achievement. She was previously honored as a DAISY Award recipient, recognizing nurses for clinical excellence and outstanding compassionate care.



Sharon Gamble, LPN, sitting outside the Clayton Family Health Center.

Jefferson Leadership Institute

Since the early 1990s, the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce has been vital in cultivating new and emerging leaders through its Jefferson Leadership Institute (JLI). Samaritan is a proud supporter and sponsor of JLI. Each year, Samaritan nominates two of its leaders to participate in the program.

Consequently, many of Samaritan's employees are alumni of JLI. Patrick Calli, vice president of long term care, and Liz Testani, specialty practice administrator, participated in the program and graduated in the JLI Class of 2023.

This year, Samaritan is pleased to announce Dr. Shikhar Vyas, pathologist and laboratory medical director, and Shannon Phillips, RN, BSN, nurse manager of ICU/PCU, are members of the JLI Class of 2024.



From left: Tony Marra, director of laboratory services; Dr. Shikhar Vyas; Jacqueline Dawe, RN, BSN, MN; and Shannon Phillips, RN, BSN, nurse manager of ICU/PCU.

Innovation Program

Samaritan launched a new innovation program in 2023, with the help of Cornell University's College of Business Senior Lecturer Neil Tarallo, professor of innovation and entrepreneurship. The goal of the program is to identify ways to serve our customers better. Employee ambassadors serve as mentors, educators and facilitators of the program.

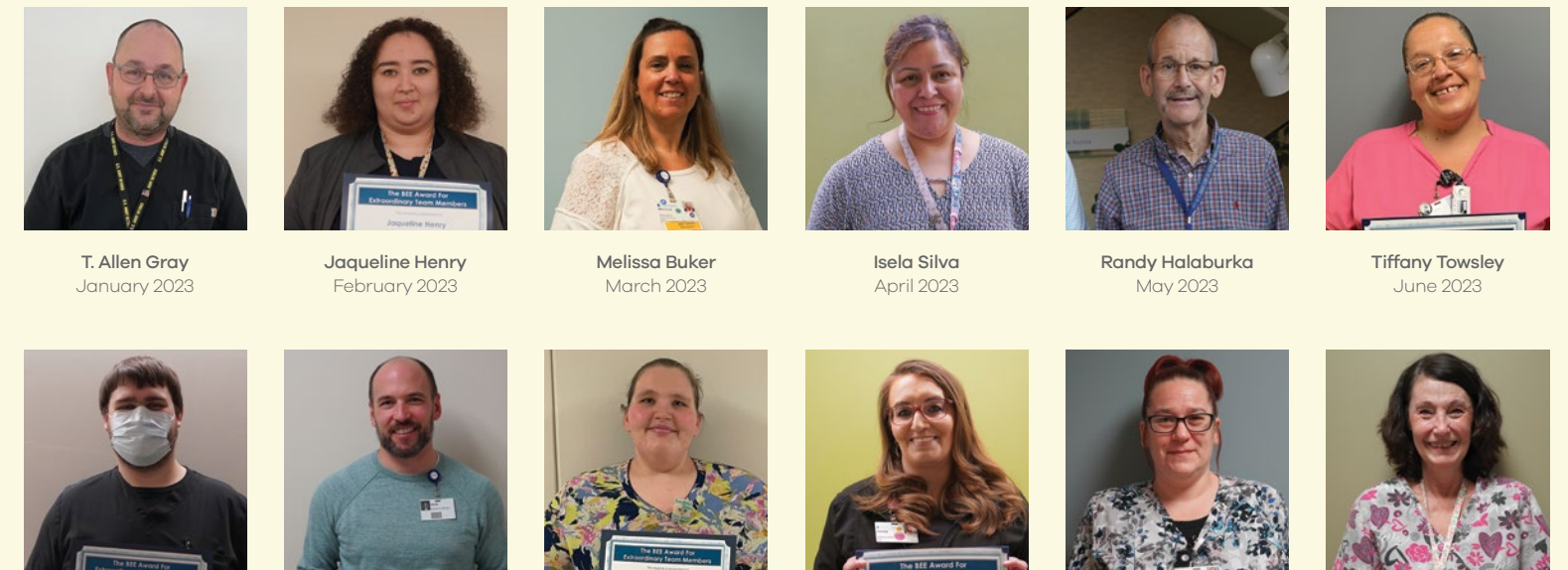
Innovation Ambassadors:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Erin Boshart
Clinical Coordinator
Graduate Medical Education | Laquan Smith
Emergency Room Assistant
Emergency Department |
| Ashlee Bucy
Retention Resolution Specialist
Human Resources | Emily Soderquist
Manager of Education
Human Resources |
| Kristy Graveline
Clinical Liaison
Home Health | Jeremy Tarwater
Physical Therapist
Rehabilitation Services |
| Barret Hoover
Informatics Pharmacist
Pharmacy | Karen Von Arx
Systems Analyst
Health Information
Management |
| Robert Lawrence
Manager
Bio-Medical Services | Pamela Wade
Visual Observation Support
Float Pool |
| Danielle McLean
Coordinator
Assisted Living Activities | Jordan Walker
Grants Writer
Foundation |
| Rachel Moore
Clinic LPN
Dermatology | Shannon Wilson
Lead Speech Pathologist
Rehabilitation Services |
| Andrea Roden
Samaritan Experience
Manager | Carrie Yannarella
Clinic Supervisor
LeRay Family Health Center |

Congratulations to our 2023 DAISY and BEE Award Winners!



Scott Jacobs, RN January 2023	Taylor Endres, RN February 2023	Michael Belles, RN March 2023	Kassandra Keene, RN April 2023	Chelsea Whalen, LPN May 2023	Jayme Rosso, LPN June 2023
Tracy Pollic, RN July 2023	Nakia Woodard, LPN August 2023	Jalynne Granger, RN September 2023	Tamera Bennett, RN October 2023	Athena Green, RN November 2023	Jennifer Steelman, RN December 2023



T. Allen Gray January 2023	Jaqueline Henry February 2023	Melissa Buker March 2023	Isela Silva April 2023	Randy Halaburka May 2023	Tiffany Towsley June 2023
Dylan Woodward July 2023	Garrett Hayes August 2023	Brianna Biggs September 2023	Jamie Lyn Goutermout October 2023	Jamie Via November 2023	Arlene Godfrey December 2023

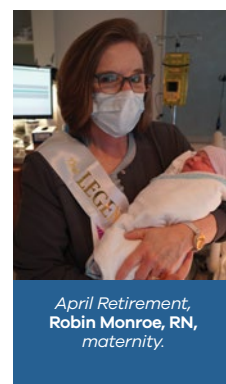
Retirement Celebrations

The following caregivers were among those who retired in 2023 after years of dedicated service to Samaritan, commitment to our patients, residents, and their co-workers.

- In April:** Robin Monroe, RN, maternity
- In July:** Karen Jobson, RN, nurse manager, emergency department; and Kris Stephenson, RN, nurse manager, inpatient mental health unit
- In October:** Marcia Kall, pharmacist
- In November:** Karen Schell, LPN II, medical-surgical
- In December:** Julie Cannan, administrative manager; and Liz Dreizler, RN, labor and delivery.



December Retirement, Liz Dreizler, RN, labor and delivery.



April Retirement, Robin Monroe, RN, maternity.



July Retirements, from left: Karen Jobson, RN, nurse manager, emergency department; and Kris Stephenson, RN, nurse manager, inpatient mental health unit.



October Retirement, Marcia Kall, staff pharmacist.



November Retirement, Karen Schell, LPN II, medical-surgical nurse.

Samaritan Experience Week

In May, employees celebrated National Hospital and Nursing Home Week, known internally as “Samaritan Experience Week.” Our caregivers showed their spirit by dressing up for themed days, including: Superheroes, Hawaiian Luau, Samaritan Gear, Thankful Thursday, and Wear White for Nurses! Picnic lunches and ice cream truck visits took place at different Samaritan locations throughout the week, to boost morale and celebrate our caregivers.



Storeroom employees Mark Cloonan and Alex Peer celebrated Hawaiian Luau Wednesday during Samaritan Experience Week in May.



Our mental health professionals showcased green for mental health awareness during Samaritan Experience Week in May.



Women’s Wellness and Breast Care employees are certainly superheroes and they dressed the part for Samaritan Experience Week in May.



Caregivers at Samaritan Rheumatology sported Samaritan gear for Samaritan Experience week in May.



Administrators, directors, managers, and supervisors served up some barbecue favorites during the Hawaiian Luau event at the Medical Center campus for Samaritan Experience Week in May.



Samaritan Caregivers enjoyed a picnic lunch at the Medical Center campus for Samaritan Experience Week in May.

Summer Picnic

A day of play! In August, Samaritan Caregivers experienced a fun-filled day at Southwick Beach State Park in the town of Ellisburg. This Samaritan Experience event was thoughtfully created by a team of employees who are part of the Caregiver Events Committee. The outing included lunch, music, swimming, a sandcastle competition, cornhole tournament, and more!



Samaritan Caregivers enjoyed a picnic-style lunch at Southwick Beach State Park in August.



A sandcastle building competition was held at the annual summer picnic in August for employees and their family members.



A timely fly-over took place during the annual employee summer picnic at Southwick Beach State Park in August.

Holiday Parties

Samaritan’s Caregiver Events Committee worked hard ahead of the 2023 holiday season to ensure a positive holiday experience was had by all. Two holiday parties were held. The first, for Samaritan Caregivers and their guests, was an adult party held at Bonnie Castle Resort in Alexandria Bay. The event featured dinner, music by DJ Big Daddy (Samaritan’s own Troy Ashcraft), dancing, a photo booth and raffles. Nearly 300 attended. The second event, for Samaritan Caregivers and their family members of all ages, was held at the Watertown Elks Lodge #496 and featured an interactive movie screening of “Frosty’s Winter Wonderland,” cookie decorating, crafts, games, photos with Santa and more!



Santa visited with children at the annual family holiday party on December 16, 2023.



Clinical Pharmacist Barret Hoover, left, received a certificate from Samaritan Vice President and COO Andy Short during the Samaritan holiday party at Bonnie Castle on December 9, 2023. Barret accepted the award on behalf of Samaritan’s pharmacy team, which won a contest for participating in the Samaritan Caregiver holiday video.



Victoria Seamon, left, Samaritan Summit Village occupational therapist, and Megan Weller, Samaritan Summit Village rehabilitation manager, helped attendees decorate cookies at Samaritan’s family holiday party on December 16, 2023.

Service Awards

Samaritan Caregivers who reached employment milestones of 20 years in service or greater in 2022 were celebrated in May 2023 at an awards dinner at the Hilton Garden Inn in Watertown.

40 Years of Service:

Virginia Johnston

Suzanne Kirkpatrick

Poppy Lane

Amy Manners

35 Years of Service:

Rhonda Kellar

Robert Lawrence

Mary Peters

Kim Shelmidine

Paul Vandermill

30 Years of Service:

Sharon Gamble

Daniel Greene

Susan Hewson

Shawn McManaman

Wendy Monica

Jennifer Moulton

Christine Mullins

Alicia Rowsam

Dr. Jack Rush

Lesley Ullman

25 Years in Service:

Rita Abner

Wendy Beach

Darlene Beyette

Patricia Bradley

Nicole Draper

Sherrie Foley

Tracie Fowler

David Frezzo

April Hollenbeck

Dr. Sadaqat Khan

Daniel Knapp

Krystyna Moshier

Gwen Oatridge

Laurie Rogers

M. Andrew Short

Lori Spinaci

Janice Spivey

Krista Yott

20 Years of Service:

Shirley Bailey

Sally Carrese

Steven Castor

Jolene Conway

Daniel Crego

Lavinia Dillin

Jennifer Doldo

Lisa Ericzon

Timothy Hall

Wendy Henry

Sally Hoek

Diane Jesmore

Celeste Kline

Jenny Lagano

Brenda Magee

Andrea Morgan

Sharon Nicholson

Tammy Perez

Kyle Pignone

Doris Platt

Joie Scholl

Nancy Scott

Dr. Ryan Tyler

Eileen Williams



President and CEO Tom Carman congratulated Poppy Lane for 40 years of service.



Amy Manners and Suzanne Kirkpatrick were celebrated at the Service Awards dinner for 40 years of service.



President and CEO Tom Carman congratulated Virginia Johnston for 40 years of service.

Tribute to Randy

In July, Samaritan's family of caregivers were saddened by the passing of longtime coworker, Randal K. "Randy" Halaburka.

Randy was a dedicated employee who grew his career over 38 years at Samaritan, starting in the business office, then working as the first courier for the health system, and ending his career in the print shop and coordinating records storage.

Randy was celebrated with a BEE Award of Merit in May 2023 for *Being Exceptional Everyday*, after receiving more than 20 nominations from current and past coworkers. They praised his outstanding customer service skills, attention to detail, professionalism, and commitment to the organization.

Randy's kindhearted nature serves as a reminder to all employees — Be like Randy. BEE kind.



Randal K. "Randy" Halaburka was honored with the coveted BEE Award of Merit for *Being Exceptional Everyday*. He is pictured here with his family.



Randal K. "Randy" Halaburka, center, receives a BEE Award of Merit from Joel Benware, immediate past vice president of information services and chief information officer, and Emily Soderquist, Samaritan Experience manager, during a special presentation at Samaritan Medical Center in May 2023.

Volunteer Program

In 2023, Samaritan benefited from 120 volunteers, of which 52 were new volunteers. These 120 dedicated individuals collectively worked 10,090 hours throughout the health system.

Samaritan has volunteers who serve at the hospital, long-term care facilities, special events, off-site offices and on various boards and committees. In 2023, Samaritan launched the HIVE (Helpful Indeed: Volunteering Excellence) Award as a way to honor volunteers who show an extraordinary level of dedication and service to Samaritan while consistently demonstrating the HEART values — Honesty, Empathy, Accountability, Respect and Trust.

Why HIVE? The beehive is symbolic of teamwork, unity, growth and development. At Samaritan, we are all caregivers, including those who have committed to showing extraordinary compassionate care as volunteers. We need each other to care for our community.

The HIVE Award complements our existing DAISY, BEE, and OWL Awards for staff. Together, we recognize the amazing caregivers of the Samaritan Health System and the culture we embrace.



Congratulations to Mary Martuzas. Mary was the first recipient of the HIVE Award in 2023 for being an exceptional volunteer.



David Cheney celebrated one year as a volunteer in November. David volunteers in various departments including the front desk, visual observation, transportation, and with special projects like A North Country Festival of Trees. David loves his volunteer job and is always happy to tell community members that he is a proud caregiver.

Caregiver Video Series

It's no secret that Samaritan Health is a robust healthcare system in the North Country. It's not the buildings or the equipment that build our brand and reputation — it's the people. Engagement between our dedicated caregivers and patients, residents, and visitors makes all the difference in the perception of care. On these pages, you will read about some incredibly gifted caregivers we featured in our Samaritan Caregiver Video Series in 2023.



At work, Vicky Steen does what she enjoys most: making residents' lives happier. She is part of the Samaritan Keep Home Activities Department, and her role includes providing social engagement and improving quality of life for residents. She shared how Samaritan and the residents helped her stay on her career path for 50 years and how she applies Samaritan's HEART values (Honesty, Empathy, Accountability, Respect and Trust) with every interaction of her daily life.



Dr. Deana Paley is responsible for Samaritan's Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery program. Dr. Paley said she was determined to work in health care from an early age, after her cardiologist grandmother took her for a hospital tour as a child. She talked about her commitment to patients throughout Northern New York and the benefits of living in a smaller community.



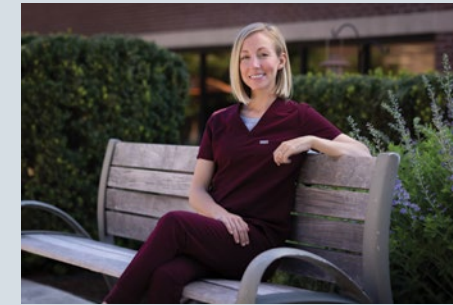
Philip James is a senior staff accountant at Samaritan Health. He shared what he enjoys about his work, including how Samaritan has helped him advance his career over the past five years — from flexible hours to coworkers who are genuinely supportive and collaborative.



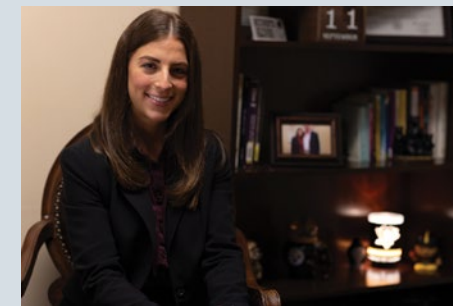
Barb Ferguson is an LPN at Samaritan Gastroenterology. She has always liked helping people and has a great interest in science. At Samaritan, she found growth opportunities and a career path that fit her passion. She shared what she loves about her gastroenterology patients and all the care provided by the clinic and its team.



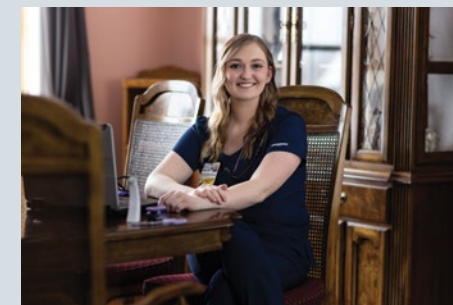
Candice Matthews, central scheduler for infusion and interventional radiology, shared highlights of her 19-year career and what she loves about her patients and her team. For Candice, it's all about relationships.



Speech Pathologist Mariah Cavallario is a Watertown native who wanted to make a difference in her community. She became part of the Samaritan Keep Home rehabilitation team right out of graduate school and has built a beautiful career and family. She shared some of her story and what motivates her at Samaritan Health.



Angela Danielsen, LMSW, is an outpatient behavioral health therapist. Angela is passionate about helping patients work through their mental health needs and journeys. She shared her career history, what led her to Watertown, and why she plans to stay.



Casey Hughes, an RN with Samaritan Home Health, shared her experience and explained why nurses should come to work for Samaritan.



Rebecca Monaghan, a housekeeper at Samaritan Medical Center, is passionate about having a clean and safe space for patients. She has been dedicated to local patients for more than 10 years and currently works on a busy medical-surgical floor. Rebecca raved about her amazing Samaritan colleagues and expressed why future caregivers should work at Samaritan.

Watch the videos in their entirety:  [YouTube](#) /@SamaritanMedicalWNTNY

Senior Living Seminars

To serve and educate our community, Samaritan Summit Village teamed up with Samaritan's Marketing and Development Department to host Senior Living Seminars in June and October. Both seminars featured various guest speakers specializing in senior transitions from home to assisted living or skilled nursing care. An attorney, real estate professionals, and staff from Jefferson County Office for the Aging, Volunteer Transportation Center, First Command Financial Services, Samaritan Home Health and Samaritan Long Term Care were on hand to answer questions asked by senior citizens and loved ones looking for more expertise and guidance on planning for the future.



A representative of Jefferson County Office for the Aging discussed services during a Senior Living Seminar at Samaritan Summit Village in October.

Assisted Living Magazine

Samaritan was proud to introduce a new publication in 2023 — a print magazine highlighting Assisted Living at Samaritan Summit Village.

The 44-page issue features all amenities available at the facility, including activity schedules, residence floor plans, café menus and more. It includes a welcome from Vice President of Long Term Care Services Patrick Calli and Assisted Living Administrator Neva Bossard, RN, MSN, which invites readers to experience the history and growth of Samaritan Summit Village. Since opening in 2013, our vibrant Summit Village community has grown from 173 residents to more than 1,000.

In 2023, Samaritan distributed 1,000 copies locally, and more issues will follow in 2024.



Download a copy of "Senior Life — A Guide to Assisted Living," featuring Samaritan Summit Village Assisted Living, by visiting this website:

samaritanhealth.com/assistedliving

2023 Long Term Care

Employees of the Month

Samaritan Summit Village

January Melanie Collins, Environmental Services	July Michelle Laverghetta, Housekeeper
February Nahia Perez, Unit Clerk, Skilled Nursing	August Mary Varnon, HHA, Assisted Living
March Kim Bigelow, Housekeeper	September N/A
April Sherie Reichel, CNA, Skilled Nursing	October Mark Perez, HHA, Assisted Living
May Jennifer Bellis, CNA, Skilled Nursing	November Gail Collins, Housekeeper
June Bobbie Foster, RN, Nurse Manager, Assisted Living	December Celeste Kline, Materials Distribution Clerk

Samaritan Keep Home

January Christopher Bigenho, Physical Therapy	July N/A
February Jennifer Pettit, LPN	August Jennifer Crossman, LPN
March Heather Chartrand, Dietary Secretary	September Kelly Strader, Activities Assistant
April Anna Stout, CNA	October Christine Branche, Dietary
May Jeannine Gardner, RN	November Charles Norris, Maintenance
June Nina Aubin, Environmental Services	December Moriah Woodburn, Secretary

Established in 1896, the Samaritan Auxiliary is a 501(c)(3) organization, governed by a board of directors and consisting of volunteers who continue its mission. The Auxiliary is entering its 128th year of service, raising money to purchase capital equipment for Samaritan Medical Center and Samaritan's clinics. It also fulfills smaller requests from units, such as stuffed animals for children receiving care in Samaritan's surgical services, providing patients with Watertown Daily Times newspapers, and supplying behavioral health unit patients with coloring books, crayons, crossword puzzles and more. Auxiliary volunteers work in the Samaritan Medical Center and Samaritan Summit Village gift shops, providing hours of dedicated service to help us achieve these goals. Volunteers also assist with several uniform and purse sales throughout the year.

The **2023 One Night, One Diamond** event – Samaritan Auxiliary's only community fundraising event – was held in March at The Peak (formerly The Commons) on Fort Drum. It was well attended and an incredible success after two years of virtual events. The event was made possible by the very gracious generosity of the community – many sponsors and donors supported the event, allowing the Auxiliary to raise \$87,661 for Samaritan. These funds purchased BioFire modules for Samaritan's laboratory, offering an increased capacity to process respiratory tests, blood culture work-ups and gastrointestinal panels. Funds also supported the purchase of a Hologic Breast PACS System, which allows mammograms, breast ultrasounds and breast MRIs to be read in less time. This state-of-the-art technology aligns with Samaritan Auxiliary's mission of enhancing health care at Samaritan and purchasing it would not have been possible without the community's support.

Thank you to Irene Carman for her 18 years of dedication and commitment to Samaritan Auxiliary's One Night, One Diamond.

In May, the Samaritan Auxiliary awarded two scholarships to Samaritan Caregivers who are working to further their education. One \$1,500 scholarship was awarded to Anna O'Neil, an RN in the progressive care unit (PCU), to assist with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing studies at Chamberlain University. Anna expects to complete the program in 2025. Since the receipt of the scholarship, Anna was promoted to assistant nurse manager of the intensive care and progressive care units in 2023.

Interested in making a difference by donating your time and ideas to help the Samaritan Auxiliary? Consider becoming a member by visiting www.samaritanhealth.com/auxiliary. If you would like to be a Samaritan volunteer in the gift shops, please reach out to volunteer services at 315-785-4479 or submit an online application at www.samaritanhealth.com/volunteer.



From left: Samaritan Auxiliary President Shawna Cutuli, with Andrea Roden and Irene Carman, 2023 One Night, One Diamond co-chairs, present Samaritan Medical Center President and CEO Tom Carman with a check for \$87,661 at the Auxiliary's annual meeting, held at Samaritan Summit Village in May.

One Night, One Diamond Sponsors

Blue Diamond Sponsors

Apogee Physicians
KeyBank
Northern Credit Union

Pink Diamond Sponsors

Bob Johnson Auto Group
Purcell Construction Corporation
SeaComm Federal Credit Union
Dr. Shikhar & Mrs. Vidhya Vyas –in memory of Gautam S. Vyas

Media Sponsors

Runningboards Marketing
Watertown Daily Times
WWNY-TV 7 News

Diamond Sponsors

Coca-Cola Company	Nickles Property Service
FX Caprara Car Companies	Renzi Foodservice Charitable Foundation
Hancock Estabrook	Slack Chemical Company
Ives Hill Country Club	Watertown Wealth Management, Philip J. Sprague
King + King Architects	
The Martin Group	

Emerald Sponsors

A.T. Matthews & Dier	Kinney Drugs Foundation
Tom & Irene Carman	Knowlton Technologies
Carthage Savings	M&T Bank
Colello Air Technologies	Marble Key Realty
Crowley & Halloran, CPAs	Michael Mason Custom Builder
FABCO	Pepsi of Watertown
Fust Charles Chambers	Visions Hotels
Harris Beach	Waste Management
Jefferson Community College	

Diamond donated by Cook's Jewelers

Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors.

Our valued Ruby and Sapphire sponsors are listed online at samaritanhealth.com/onod-2023-sponsors

Samaritan Medical Center Foundation

In 2023, the Samaritan Medical Center Foundation received 613 donations, totaling \$777,095. We are grateful to our generous community for its unwavering support of quality health care services at Samaritan.

Leaving a Legacy – A Foundation for the Future

The Samaritan Foundation published two issues of its “Foundation for the Future” newsletter in 2023, highlighting the need to support quality care at Samaritan Medical Center, Samaritan Summit Village and Samaritan Keep Home. The spring newsletter featured our very generous and longtime donors T. Urling and Mabel Walker, and the fall issue featured Dr. LaVerne VanDeWall. We are grateful to them for their thoughtful decisions to support the Samaritan Foundation through estate planning. Their legacies will continue to shine because of their generous gifts of time, treasure and talent. They believed that a strong hospital system is essential to the future of quality health care, and they chose to be a part of this vision by including a gift to the Samaritan Foundation in their wills.



The late T. Urling and Mabel Walker, longtime donors to the Samaritan Foundation.



The late Dr. LaVerne VanDeWall with his wife, Jeanne.

William Plante Memorial Fund Supports the Walker Center for Cancer Care

The William P. Plante Memorial Fund presented a check for \$4,500 to the Walker Center for Cancer Care to support its mission. The funds were raised during the 2023 “Rock the Park for Bill” event at Watertown’s Thompson Park. In November 2016, lifelong Watertown resident William P. “Bill” Plante passed away after a brave three-year battle with cancer. Bill’s community service accomplishments were numerous, as he had been deeply involved in supporting the local community in many ways.



The William P. Plante Memorial Fund presented a check in the amount of \$4,500 to the Walker Center for Cancer Care to support its work and mission.

Circle of Hope

Samaritan’s Circle of Hope program provides direct financial assistance to offset direct and indirect costs of cancer care. Cancer patients can apply to the Circle of Hope program for financial support to mitigate out-of-pocket treatment costs and other bills that may go unpaid due to medical bills. A committee reviews applications and votes to award grants based upon eligibility. In 2023, the program assisted 82 patients with grants totaling \$53,500.

Inspiration Fund

The Inspiration Fund — Samaritan Foundation’s annual giving program — provides an avenue for the community to support Samaritan wherever help is needed most. We are thankful to our community for its support, no matter the size of gift. In 2023, a total of \$13,975 was generously donated to the Inspiration Fund. A portion of these proceeds will be allocated toward expanding Samaritan’s Emergency Department Behavioral Health Unit from five to 12 secure rooms and increasing inpatient mental health unit rooms from 34 to 39.

Community Donations to the Foundation

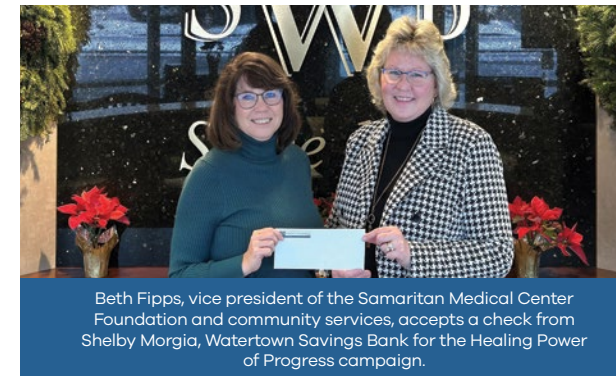
Thank you to businesses and organizations for going the extra mile for our caregivers and patients. Commitment to health care and generosity from our local community means a lot.



Scott Wilson, president and CEO of SeaComm showcases a pledge of support, presenting a check to Beth Fipps, vice president of the Samaritan Medical Center Foundation and community services.



Dawn Atwood, Samaritan Foundation, and Shawna Cutuli, Watertown Family YMCA, receive a check from Jennifer Perkins, Watertown Savings Bank for A North Country Festival of Trees sponsorship.



Beth Fipps, vice president of the Samaritan Medical Center Foundation and community services, accepts a check from Shelby Morgia, Watertown Savings Bank for the Healing Power of Progress campaign.



April Young, Watertown Family YMCA, and Dawn Atwood, Samaritan Foundation, accept a check from Destiny Merritt, SeaComm for A North Country Festival of Trees.

Susan K. Peters Nursing Scholarship

The Susan K. Peters Nursing Scholarship was established in 2018 with the aim of providing financial assistance for registered nurses (RNs) pursuing further education, specifically to obtain a nurse practitioner degree. Each year, two scholarships of \$2,000 are awarded.

In 2023, the scholarship recipients were: Maegan Castle, RN, intensive care unit; and Joseph Donoghue, RN, emergency department. Both nurses are working toward their Family Nurse Practitioner certification.



Susan K. Peters Nursing Scholarship committee members Marie Hess, Beth Fipps, and Mary Dawley presented scholarship checks to Maegan Castle, RN, and Joseph Donoghue, RN.

2022-24 Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

– a New York State Prevention Agenda Initiative

Jefferson County Public Health Service, Carthage Area Hospital, River Hospital and Samaritan Medical Center met throughout 2023 to continue assessing the county's 2022-24 priority health areas. Meetings focused on goal progress, annual reporting, and updating the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to collect and assess data focused on countywide health care goals. Goals and interventions are chosen to align with the New York State Prevention Agenda, the Community Guide (Community Preventive Services Task Force), and rely upon databases of evidence-based programs and practices created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Summary of Community Health Assessment (CHA) Findings:

- **High Rates of Chronic Diseases and Tobacco Use:** The assessment revealed a significant prevalence of chronic diseases in the county, with tobacco use being a major contributing factor. This finding was supported by data indicating a high rate of cigarette and electronic nicotine delivery systems use among residents.
- **Mental Health and Substance Use Concerns:** There was a notable concern regarding mental health and substance use disorders, especially among youth. The data showed alarming rates of suicidal ideation, planning and attempts among youth, as well as rising rates of substance use as youth advance through grade levels.
- **Disparities in Health Outcomes:** The assessment identified disparities in health outcomes based on age and socioeconomic status. These disparities were particularly evident in chronic disease prevalence and mental health issues.
- **Community Health Survey Insights:** The Community Health Survey of Adult Residents provided critical insights, highlighting increases in chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, obesity, diabetes and heart disease. It also shed light on the community's perception of mental health services and the need for better access.

These findings underscored the need for targeted interventions in the areas of chronic disease prevention, tobacco cessation, mental health, and substance use disorder prevention. The chosen prevention measures aim to address these key areas by implementing evidence-based strategies that are tailored to the specific needs and challenges of Jefferson County's population.

Power of Grants

In 2023, Samaritan Medical Center received \$779,960 in approved grant funding. Highlighted projects include:

- **Northern New York Community Foundation COVID Relief Funding:** This funding supports the establishment of a nursing scholarship fund, nurse recruitment and clinical educator costs.
- **Excellus Health and Wellness Grant:** This grant supported the purchase of a compound microscope and a C-mount camera port that will directly improve quality of care for cancer patients by reducing prognosis time and alleviating the need for follow-up biopsies.
- **Office of Mental Health, Community Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program:** This funding is used on retention efforts for mental health providers and professionals.
- **Saint Agatha Foundation:** Funds support the Circle of Hope program for breast cancer patients at Samaritan Medical Center.
- **Stewart's Shops:** This funding supported the purchase of four iPads for the emergency department behavioral health unit for patient use.

In addition to the new grants received, Samaritan continued to steward current grant contracts, bringing in an additional \$164,240 in contracted funding agreements. Existing projects include:

- **Department of Criminal Justice Services, Sexual Assault Nursing Examiner (SANE):** The emergency department continued to make equipment purchases and train nurses while Samaritan works toward becoming a SANE-accredited hospital. This is a five-year grant, and 2023 was the third year.
- **Rural Health Care Access Development Program:** Funds from this contract were used in 2023 for the purchase of the Hologic Secureview System in the radiology department. Samaritan is in the fourth year of a five-year grant contract.



The 26th Annual Thousand Islands Golf Classic

The 26th annual Thousand Islands Golf Classic was held June 9 at the Thousand Islands Country Club on Wellesley Island. This year's dinner and silent and live auctions were held at the Edgewood Resort on June 8. The event successfully netted \$127,033, with 53 teams playing and more than 225 attendees at the dinner and auctions. Half of the funds raised from this year's event have been allocated to support the expansion of Samaritan's Emergency Department Behavioral Health Unit from five to 12 secure rooms, and to expand the inpatient mental health unit from 34 to 39 rooms.

Over 26 years, the Thousand Islands Golf Classic has raised nearly \$2.7 million for the Samaritan Health System. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of this year's event and for supporting the healthcare needs of our community. A special thank-you to our 2023 auctioneers, Charlie and Jessica Caprara!



2023 Presenting Sponsor:

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 910 & Northern New York National Electrical Contractors Association

Gold Level Sponsors:

- Upstate Honda Dealer, F.X. Caprara Honda of Watertown
- Hancock Estabrook, LLP
- KeyBank and Key Private Bank
- Kinney Drugs Foundation
- PepsiCo of Watertown
- Purcell Construction Corp.
- SBS Rentals
- TUNES 92.5 & 104.5 FM
- Watertown Wealth Management

Dinner Sponsor:

Apogee Physicians

Please note a full listing of Thousand Islands Golf sponsors and supporters can be found at: samaritanhealth.com/2023tigolf-sponsors



The 21st Annual North Country Festival of Trees

A North Country Festival of Trees was held November 24 through December 3 and welcomed a record number of attendees. More than 250 people attended this year's gala and live auction, marking a remarkable start to the holiday season. The theme for this year's festival was "Peace, Love, and Joy," with the goal of supporting healthcare services at Samaritan and children's programming at the Watertown Family YMCA.

The Festival of Trees netted a record-breaking \$100,631. The multiday event at the Salmon Run Mall truly captured the spirit of the season, featuring 97 beautifully decorated trees — including five decorated by local schools — that collectively transformed the venue into a winter wonderland. Trees were auctioned off throughout the event and could be kept by the winning bidder or donated to a local nonprofit organization or family in need.

In addition to the traditional festivities, two new children's events were introduced this year and garnered substantial attendance and popularity. The first event was a Polar Express "Storytime," in which children enjoyed a live reading of *The Polar Express*, featuring characters from the popular book and movie. Each "passenger" received a treat and a special visit from Santa, who presented the "first gift of Christmas" — a silver sleigh bell — to each child 12 years old or younger. They also received a golden Polar Express ticket, punched with their first initial, from the train conductor. The second event allowed kids to indulge in building their own gingerbread houses and enjoy delicious treats.

A North Country Festival of Trees has provided an indoor winter wonderland for the community to enjoy for more than 25 years. Some dedicated decorators and volunteers have come back year after year, bringing their creativity and talent to enhance the annual holiday event.

Following are a few of the wonderful decorators who continue to pull out all the stops to make this time-honored tradition extraordinary for attendees, while further supporting the community through the missions of the Samaritan Foundation and Watertown Family YMCA.

Kevin Kitto

Kevin Kitto of Adams has been a staple at the Festival of Trees for many years. Like many longtime decorators, his keen eye and personality inspire his annual tree décor and theme.

"A North Country Festival of Trees has become a beloved annual tradition. Since its debut at the historic Flower Memorial Library, I have enjoyed sharing my creative imagination and passion for decorating themed Christmas trees with the North Country.

It's been a sense of community pride to know that the funds raised by the festival stay in the North Country. Being a native, it is a joy to see that I can use my gifts and talents to assist Samaritan Medical Center in establishing and maintaining quality healthcare services and programs. It is also a pleasure to decorate trees that benefit our local YMCA, enabling their mission of strengthening families, assisting children's development, and striving for a healthy, safer community for all of Jefferson County.

I enjoy decorating Christmas trees because they are a festive way to celebrate the reason for the season, and they bring cheer to all who admire them. The festival allows me to express my love and gratitude for those who work tirelessly daily in our community's health and wellness systems — to thank them for their service.

I am blessed to support the North Country Festival of Trees, which greatly benefits many. Everyone should consider getting involved as a decorator, sponsor or volunteer, or just come and enjoy all the creative spirit the North Country has to share.

After all, sharing is caring."



Kevin Kitto took home Judges' Choice at the 2023 gala for his tree titled "Hope of the World" decorated in honor of his late son, Kevin "Rusty" Kitto Jr.

Donna Trumbo

Donna Trumbo, a Watertown resident and former Samaritan Caregiver, began decorating trees for the Festival of Trees around 2007 to give back to the Watertown Family YMCA after it helped her grandson partake in programming.

Through the years, she has taken a team approach to the event, enlisting the help of several friends from her church, the Watertown ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Each year is a labor of love, as she spends hours shopping for deals, pairing items to develop concepts, and pre-wiring ornaments.

In 2023, Donna and her team quickly aided in decorating an extra tree as tree sponsorship for the event was at an all-time high.



"Alpine Village" was decorated in 2023 by Donna Trumbo and friends.

Brenda Sipher

Brenda Sipher of Watertown has shared her time and talents with A North Country Festival of Trees for a number of years.

"Since childhood, I loved decorating Christmas trees, shopping for decorations, and making ornaments. Participating in the Festival of Trees gave me an excellent reason to buy and make things. I usually think about what I will use next year, starting right after Christmas. Over the years, I have made thousands of bows, made many new friends, and had a great time. I have always tried to do a tree that buyers can put into their homes. I lost count many years ago, but I have also bought at least 25 trees. It has been fun to gift these to grandchildren and people who would otherwise not have one.

My wish is that more people would go to see the trees. I love seeing the faces of children who walk through."



Brenda and Paul Sipher are captured here in 2022 carefully sorting decorations for their tree at A North Country Festival of Trees.

Shari Simmons

Shari Simmons, owner of Simmons Tree Farm in Copenhagen, knows a few things about a good-looking Christmas tree. She enjoys participating in the Festival of Trees and has made the event a family tradition over the years.

"Why do I keep doing it? As busy as I get during Christmas, it is the one thing I enjoy. The Festival of Trees showcases my creativity and makes me feel good. Now that my grandchildren help me with it, they can see what grandma does and be proud of me."



Shari Simmons has decorated trees for A North Country Festival of Trees since its second year. Her thoughtfully decorated treescape won honorable mention in 2023.

Presenting Sponsor:

Upstate Honda Dealer, F.X. Caprara Honda of Watertown

Event Sponsors:

Apogee Physicians

Intrepid Broadcasting - Tunes 92.5 & 104.5 FM

Purcell Construction Corporation

Major Sponsors:

Bob Johnson Chrysler Jeep

CDPHP

Community Broadcasters

King + King Architects

North Country Hearth and Home LLC

WWNY-TV 7 News

This extraordinary event was made possible by the creative spirit and generosity of our community. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, donors, committee members, decorators, and volunteers who played pivotal roles in crafting a truly magical experience for families to cherish. Your unwavering support not only brought joy to many but also contributed to the betterment of healthcare services and programs at Samaritan and the YMCA.

Please note a full listing of A North Country Festival of Trees sponsors and supporters can be found at:

samaritanhealth.com/2023festival-sponsors

The Samaritan Society

We salute the leadership, dedication and outstanding commitment of the following individuals, organizations and corporations who are part of the Samaritan Society. Their generosity helps to ensure the highest quality of care for patients and residents. Membership is extended to those who have committed to joining the society at a support level of \$15,000 or more. Thank you to our Samaritan Society members:

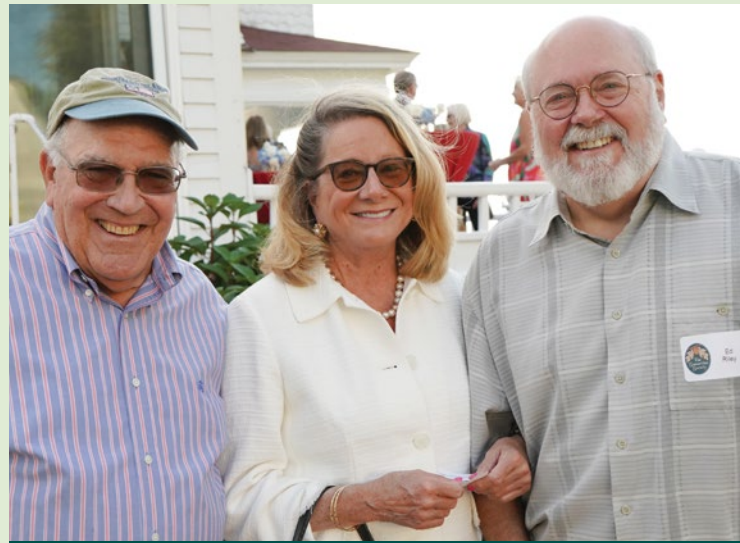
Advanced Business Systems, Inc.	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Carman	Bonnie S. Eppolito	Hilton Garden Inn Watertown/ Thousand Islands
Robert E. Aliasso Jr.	Dr. & Mrs. Paul Carr	David and Linda Essig	Lee* & Deborah Hirschey
Kim & Jennifer Allen	Franklin & Ann Cean	Dr. and Mrs. Spencer P. Falcon	Urban & Sally Hirschey*
Mr. and Mrs. Bud Ames	Brian & Christine Cisco	Barbara & Robert Fargo	Cicero F. Holmes Jr.
Albert & Edith Amsterdam*	Richard & Elise Cognetti	Mr. and Mrs. Brian Fenlon	Mrs. Henry A. Hudson*
Darrel & Margaret Aubertine	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Couch	Beth & Randy Fipps	Mr. Alec Johnson and Mrs. Gabrielle West
Aubertine and Currier Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors	Dr. & Mrs. David J. Crossley	Dr. & Mrs. James B. Fish*	John & Susan Johnson
Dr. and Mrs. Henry H. Babcock*	Peter and Sally Daly	Carolyn & James Fitzpatrick*	Mr.* and Mrs. T.J. Jozwiak
Joel and Tanya Benware	Jacqueline Dawe & Robert Fix	Richard O. Flechtner	Ann Johnson Kaiser
Ms. Pamela Beyor	Dr. & Mrs. John W. Deans	Drs. William I. & Barbara F.* Forbes	Dana Keefer
Dr. Bhupinder & Mrs. Parveen Bolla	Dr. Daniel DeBlasio	Mr.* & Mrs. Everett G. Foster	Mrs. Monica & Dr. Collins Kellogg Jr.
William Bonisteel	Leslie & Marsha Deming*	John P. & Jennifer E. Gaus	Mr.* & Mrs. E. Douglas Kenna Jr.
Lisa E. Bonner	Mr. & Mrs. David L. Dermady	Dr.* & Mrs. Henry George III	Kevin A. Kieff
Nancy K. Breslin*	The Morse G. Dial Foundation	David & Melanie Geurtsen	Dr. Moonjohn Kim*
Maxine & Jamie Briggs	Dr. Walter & Mrs. Berline Dodard	Dr. Alfred & Mrs. Jean Gianfagna	Robert Kimball, MD & Beth A. Linderman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Brooks	Mr. & Mrs. David M. Dodge	Dr. Daniel S. Gray & Dr. Maja Lundborg-Gray	KIMCO Steel Sales Limited
Bev & Bernie Brown	Mr.* and Mrs. Donald W. Doebler	David G. Gregor, MD*	Krista A. Kittle
Paul & Martha Brown	Robert & Mary Nell Dolan	Shirley P. Griggs Trust Fund	David & Jane Knowlton*
Mr.* & Mrs. Robert Budner	Gerald Donahue & Mary Wardwell-Donahue	Dr. Shahandeh Haghbir & Dr. Khalil Kardooni	Stan & Irene Kolton*
Patrick & Maggie Calli	Mrs. Nancy Young Duncan*	Robert & Joan Hawthorne	Antoinette* & Karl J. Komar
Mrs. Carol W. Capone	John* & Lori Durand	Haylor Freyer & Coon, Inc.	

Mr.* & Mrs. William P. Koughan	Cyril Mouaikel & Marlene Hajal Mouaikel, MD	Dr.* & Mrs. Ronald Schaupp	Mr. & Mrs. Addison F. Vars III
Paul & Eileen Kraeger	Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Murphy	Erma R. Schell*	Michele A. & Mario F. Victoria, MD
Dr.* & Mrs. Joven G. Kuan	John Nuber and Margaret Hummel	Mr.* & Mrs. Thomas Schwalm	Daniel & Nancy Villa
Dr. & Mrs. Scott LaClair	Mr. & Mrs. James O'Donnell	SeaComm Federal Credit Union	Dr. and Mrs. Shikhar Vyas
Mr. and Mrs. Carleton H. Lamica*	James B. Oliver, DDS	Ms. Ruth Seal*	Barry & Ellen Waite - Waite Toyota
Chyme Lane & Torre Parker-Lane	Craig & Julianne Painter	M. Andrew Short & Carrie Lewandowski	T. Urling & Mabel Walker*
Dr. Patrick J. Lanigan & Mrs. Caren Lanigan	Dr. Ronald & Mrs. Celia Perciaccante	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Simon*	Anne Marie & Edward Walldroff
Corry Lawler	Dr. & Mrs. Dean J. Phillips	Khalid P. Sindhu, MD	Peter L. Walton
Mr. James Leven and Staff of Community Broadcasters	Steve & Cindy Pierce	Jeremy T. Smith	Dr. John & Mrs. Roberta Wasenko
Mart & Mai Liinve	Peter & Laurel Pike	Philip J. & Emily G. Sprague	Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey D. Way
Michael Lundy	Dr. & Mrs. John J. Poggi	Dr. & Mrs. Irwin K. Stone*	Barbara Webber
Mr.* & Mrs. John MacFarlane	Phil & Kathy Pond	Jay* & Dawn Stone	Dr. & Mrs. Daniel J. Weber
Donna S. & W. Scott MacPherson III	Don Price*	Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Sturtz	Lisa Weber
Richard & Mary Macsherry*	Mark Purcell	Mr. & Mrs.* Daniel F. Tack	Darlene & Bill Welbourn
Darden MacWade and Molly Macsherry MacWade	Dr. and Mrs. Robert F. Pyke	Patricia Inglesby Tague & Rick W. Tague	Westelcom Company
Dave & Nancy Mance	Dr. Jin Qi & Dr. Yilin Zhang	Dr. & Mrs. Ahsan Taj	Mary & Fred* Whalen
Anthony J. & Teri Futia Marra	William & Catherine Quencer	Anthony V. & Tana* Tarzia	John J. & JoAnn Wheeler
Marsellus Family	Betsy M. Ravenel*	Marcel* & Kim Thibert	Jim & Cindy Widrick
John F. Marsellus*	Dr. David Rechlin	Daniel A. & Luran B. Throop	Mr. & Mrs. Henry H. Willmott*
Mary & Ted Mascott	Robert J. Reddick	Mr. and Mrs. David E. Tinker	Diana & Donald Woodhouse
Carol A. McGowan	Drs. Marvin & Sylvia Reimer	Joan Treadwell-Woods	Martin & Linda* Yenawine
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew McNally IV	Colonel & Mrs. Peter H. Remington*	Dr. Jan K. Turcotte	Michael & Mary Yonkovig & Brownell Abstract Corp.
Mr. Andrew McNally III*	Joe & Carol Rich	Matthew S. Turcotte	<hr/> <i>*Deceased</i>
Mr. & Mrs. Edward C. McNally	Dave & Carol Richardson	Edward and Tracy Valentine	
Dr. A. John Merola III	Dr. & Mrs. Gary L. Robbins	Dr.* & Mrs. LaVerne R. VanDeWall	
Dr. & Mrs. Robert G. Mesires*	Dr. Fritz Roc	Dr. David & Elena* VanEenaam	
Hope R. Metcalf*	Rothschild/Breuer Associates		
Mrs. Henry W. Millar*	Drs. Jack and Laurie Rush		
Michael C. Miller*	Brainard C. Rushlow*		
Dr. Charles Moehs & Sarah Boss	Dr.* & Mrs. Douglas Sanford		
Dr. Ivan E. Montalvo-Otano	Dr. Noaman Sanni		
Jenna & Ray Moore	Mr. & Mrs. Francis Sanzone		
Mr. & Mrs. J. Paul Morgan	Mr. Joseph* & Dr. Kellie Sanzone		
John & Shelby Morgia	Deanne Scanlon		

New Society Members

Welcome to our newest Samaritan Society members, who joined in 2023:

David and Linda Essig	John and Shelby Morgia
Darden MacWade and Molly Macsherry MacWade	Jeremy T. Smith
	Dr. and Mrs. Shikhar Vyas



From left: Martin Yenawine, Susie Nolte and Ed Riley enjoy the annual Samaritan and Stevens Society dinner.



From left: Mart Liinve, Dr. Marlene Hajal Mouaikel and Cyril Mouaikel at the annual Samaritan and Stevens Society dinner.



From left: Samaritan Medical Center President and CEO Tom Carman and Samaritan Medical Center Foundation Chair KI LaClair present a gift to Nancy and Phil Amsterdam, hosts of the Samaritan and Stevens Society dinner.

The annual Samaritan and Stevens Society dinner was held in August and hosted by Foundation supporters Phil and Nancy Amsterdam at their beautiful home on Cherry Island on the St. Lawrence River. We recognized new members to the Samaritan and Stevens Societies and enjoyed the opportunity to thank all our members for their outstanding and generous support of Samaritan.



Samaritan Society members Dan and Nancy Villa attend the annual event.



From left: John and JoAnn Wheeler chat with Boo and Mike Harris at the annual Samaritan and Stevens Society dinner.



Attendees of the annual Samaritan and Stevens Society dinner gather for a group photo in front of Phil and Nancy Amsterdam's home on Cherry Island.



From left: Samaritan Medical Center President and CEO Tom Carman, with Samaritan Medical Center Foundation Chair KI LaClair, present a gift to Lisa Weber, a new Stevens Society member.



Jane and Kevin Heffron attend the annual Samaritan and Stevens Society dinner.

Patient Testimonials

At Samaritan, we do everything in our power to create a positive experience for our patients. We invest in healing environments, cutting-edge technology, new services, and physicians, nurses and employees who are compassionate and dedicated — all to keep our community healthy and strong.

A healthy, satisfied patient is both our aim and our reward.

In 2023, we helped thousands of patients improve, sustain and better understand their health. Some of these patients were kind enough to share their Samaritan Experience publicly. We thank them for trusting their care to Samaritan, and we thank them for letting us tell their stories.

Don Boshart



Don is a Watertown native and a thankful patient.

Waking up to chest pain on a Monday morning, Don checked in with his physician and received a referral for an ultrasound at the end of the week. By Thursday, his pain had intensified, and he decided to come to Samaritan.

"I came to Samaritan and got into the ER very quickly, about 10 minutes," Don said. "From there, they did several tests and admitted me with pneumonia in my right lung."

Don spent more than five days in the hospital, letting fluid drain from his lungs. He was impressed by the attentiveness and kindness of his Samaritan Caregivers.

"I didn't know what to expect when I came here," he said. "I've heard some good and I've heard some bad, but to be honest I had the best treatment I could expect coming to this facility. I just wanted to thank the nurses, thank the doctors, and thank all the staff for the job that they did, and make sure that the administration knows that they're doing a great job. I would recommend anybody come here and be treated."

Joshua Dietterich

Joshua came to Samaritan's Emergency Department after weeks of irregular heartbeat. At just 32 years old, he was concerned for his life. Luckily, his anxiety was short-lived.

"I sat down, filled out paperwork, and they had me in within five to 10 minutes," he said. "All at once, there were at least four people volunteering to take care of me. They were all polite and made the process really easy."

After a couple of hours, tests performed by emergency department staff showed that his condition was not an immediate risk, and he was sent home with a plan to see a cardiologist. Samaritan Caregivers assured him he was going to be okay.

"I would definitely recommend Samaritan," Joshua said. "They took care of me. I was in and out within a couple of hours, and I was treated with the utmost respect and professionalism by all staff throughout my experience."

The Stevens Legacy Society

The Stevens Society was established in honor of Dr. Henry M. Stevens, Samaritan’s first board president in 1881. Donors who provide support for Samaritan through their wills, trusts or other deferred-giving plans are included in the Stevens Society.

Walter S. Atkinson Trust Fund	Mrs. Richard Ennis*	Earle J. Kelsey*	Mary & Ted Mascott	Charlotte Smith*
Kathleen E. Baker*	Noni M. Farmer*	David C. Knowlton*	Carol A. McGowan	Dr.* and Mrs. LaVerne R. VanDeWall
Josephine M. Bingham Estate	Dorothy A. Farrell*	Kathryn Ann Kolton, ANP	Andrew F. McNally III*	Mr. & Mrs. Addison F. Vars III
Leola M. Blosser*	Michael and Diane Ferrucci	Irene G. Kolton*	Anthony M. Menkel Jr.*	T. Urling & Mabel Walker*
Vivian Bray*	Beth & Randy Fipps	Dr. Karl J. Komar	Michael C. Miller*	Lisa Weber
Tom & Irene Carman	Violet G. Fuller*	Virginia M. LaPlante*	Grant Mitchell	Loretta E. Wright*
James H. Cox*	Dr. David G. Gregor*	Blanche Livermore*	Dean & Barbara Morrow	Martin & Linda* Yenawine
Patrick Currier	Shirley P. Griggs Trust Fund	Richard & Mary Macsherry*	Dr. Ronald & Mrs. Celia Perciaccante	<i>*Deceased</i>
Les & Marsha Deming*	William Hartman*	Dr. & Mrs. Ralph J. Marilley	Charles & Susan Peters* (65)	
Gerald Donahue & Mary Wardwell-Donahue	Fred H. Jennings*	John F. Marsellus*	Harriet L. Pruyn Trust Fund	
Thomas L. Dunbar*	Walcott B. Jones*	Verna Martiney Trust in Memory of Bertha Martiney	Emily Queior	
	Dana Keefer	Joseph W. Martiney*		

Remembering Samaritan Society Members

We would like to acknowledge our generous Samaritan Society and Stevens Society members who passed away in 2023. Their generous support of Samaritan over the years is deeply appreciated. They leave behind a legacy that has a meaningful impact on health care in the North Country. We are truly grateful for their longtime support of Samaritan.

James “Jim” Fitzpatrick
 Hope Metcalf
 Donald “DJ” Price
 Gregg Rosen
 T. Urling “Tom” Walker

Memorials and Honorariums

Memorial and honorary gifts to the Samaritan Foundation create a lasting tribute to family members, friends, and those who held a meaningful place in your life, while also providing valuable financial support to Samaritan. Our community made 48 memorial and honorary donations in 2023, totaling \$6,222.

IN HONOR OF	DONORS
Gregory Bauer	Elizabeth & Myrle Bauer
Mary Jane Fadden	Paul and Ann LaRock
John Fitzgerald	Samaritan Medical Center Infection Prevention
Jean Flick	Mr. David Kovalich and Dr. Jeanne Rohan
Barbara D. Flynn	Judith Greene
Rett Foster	Richard & Jackie Cardone
Clara Fulkerson	Renee Beckman
	Sandra Crump
	David Cummings
	Donna Doldo
	Lynn & Bart Franey
	Mary Graham
	Mott Road Staff Association
	Carol Peknik
Diane Gondek	Pauline Rotella
James J. Hludzinski	Joann Baker
	Brownell Abstract Corp.
	James and Mary Hludzinski
Keitha Marks	Betty J. Gill
	Edward and Sharlene Owen
	Richard M. Parker
	Norine E. Thomas
	Victoria Thompson
	Bina West

IN HONOR OF	DONORS
Mary Anne McPherson	Nathaniel Boettcher
	Darren & Mackenzie Lemorta
	Lisbon Teachers’ Association
	Brenda and Philip Trivillino
William Nier	Miller & Hannah Cook
Marion Porter	Jason & Shelly Avery
Leo Rutledge	Judith Rutledge
David Simmons	Cindy & John Bufalini
	Joan Hoke
	Marci Wagner
Cora Smith	Karen Berkman
	Mary Ulrey
Joseph Sylvester	Janelle Bossuot
Margaret Thomas	Carol Thomas
Margaret Titus	Stephen & Trishia McCoy
Adelia D. Vascomcelos	Maria Hoover
T. Urling Walker	Martin Yenawine
Doris E. Whitmore	Stephen & Trishia McCoy
Linda B. Yenawine	Jeremy Smith
Susan Yon	Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Barter
	Dawn M. Blount
Jean Yorton	Mr. Kevin Cartwright & Mrs. Nikki Taylor
	Carolyn Crosby
	Roger & Claudia Draper

We remember the following physicians who died in 2023:

Dr. Robert B. Brown
 Dr. Robert Kasulke

Generosity Matters

The following is a list of generous donors who contributed \$500 or more in 2023 to the Samaritan Medical Center Foundation or Children's Miracle Network in support of quality health care. We are grateful for your support!

1812 Sports & Entertainment, LLC	Rebecca Bushaw	Dairy Queen - Canton	Fuller Insurance Agency
44 North Boutique Catering	Patrick and Maggie Calli	Dairy Queen - Evans Mills	FustCharles
7-Eleven	Capital District Physicians' Health Plan Inc.	Dairy Queen - Massena	Frederick & Judith Gentner
A Cut Above Landscape & Lawn Care LLC	Charles & Maureen Caprara	Peter and Sally Daly	Geyer's Watertown Auto Repair
A.T. Matthews & Dier	Jessica Caprara	Davidson Nissan	Dr. Daniel Gray & Dr. Maja Lundborg-Gray
Advanced Business Systems, Inc.	Taylor & Makaila Caprara	Suzanne Davis	Graybar Electric
Alexandria Bay Chamber of Commerce	Thomas & Irene Carman	Jacqueline Dawe & Robert Fix	Christina Grimshaw
AmeriCU Credit Union	Dempsey Carroll	Anthony Demiceli	Timothy Hall
The Animal Doctors	Carthadians Motorcycle Club	Design Build Innovations, LLC	Hancock & Estabrook, LLP
Anonymous	Carthage Savings & Loan Association	Dr. and Mrs. Walter Dodard	Harris Beach PLLC
Apogee Medical Management	Cesario Family Dental Center	Michael & Karen Doe	The Heather A. Freeman Foundation
Barbara E. Ashe	Dr. and Mrs. Kevin L. Chandler	Robert & Mary Nell Dolan	Dr. Marie Hess
Walter S. Atkinson Trust Fund	Justin Chesbrough	Doldo Brothers, Inc.	Maria Hoover
Darrel & Margaret Aubertine	Christina Chiasson	Gerald Donahue & Mary Wardwell-Donahue	Howard Hanna Real Estate Services
Aubertine and Currier Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors	Chick-Fil-A	Mr. Patrick M. Donegan	Trisha Howell
Azz Dogs	Children's Home of Jefferson County	Michael Doxtater	Todd & Jeannie Howland
Barrett Paving Materials, Inc.	Nick Ciambra	Carly Draper	HP Hood
BCA Architects & Engineers	Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Ciasulli	Drs. Eric and Marylene Duah	IBEW Local 910
Joel and Tanya Benware	Clark Capital Management Group	E & V Energy	Ms. Amy Ingersoll
Big Apple Music	Clayton Dental Offices	Engineered Building Systems	Jade Stone Engineering
Black River Plumbing, Heating	Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast	Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Jake Johnson Properties
Bowers & Company CPAs PLLC	Comfort Systems USA (Syracuse), Inc.	Mr. and Mrs. David Essig	James P. Reagan Agency, Inc.
BPAS Actuarial & Pension Services	Community Broadcasters	Evans and White Ace Hardware	Joann Fabrics and Crafts
Alfred Bremer	The Community Foundation Serving Richmond & Central Virginia	Evans Mills Raceway Park LLC	Rachael Kaban
Jennifer & Sean Brett	Con Tech Building Systems, Inc.	Excellus BlueCross BlueShield	Dana Keefer
Bridgeview Real Estate	Joseph and Vicki Converse	F.X. Caprara Dodge Chrysler Jeep	Dr. and Mrs. Christopher Kellogg
Maxine & Jamie Briggs	Mary & James Corriveau	F.X. Caprara Honda of Watertown	KeyBank USA, N.A.
Brookfield Renewable U.S.	William Cousino	F.X. Caprara Motorcycles Inc.	Kevin A. Kieff
Brownell Abstract	Michael Cummings	Fidelity Charitable	King + King Architects
Timothy & Natasha Bura		Amy Findlay	Kinney Drugs
		Beth & Randy Fipps	Kinney Drugs Foundation, Inc.
		Mr. and Mrs. Adam Fuller	

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Knowles	North Country Hearth and Home LLC	Deanne L. Scanlon	Victory Promotions, Inc.
Knowlton Technologies	North Country Insurance Company	SeaComm Federal Credit Union	Daniel & Nancy Villa
Dr. and Mrs. Scott LaClair	Northern Credit Union	Dr. Rory A. Sears & Mr. David Sears	Dr. Shikhar and Mrs. Vidhya Vyas
Romi LaClair	Northern Glass Co., Inc.	Shaggys Tinting	Walmart Stores, Inc.
Ruby LaClair	Northern New York Community Foundation	M. Andrew Short & Carrie Lewandowski	Washington Summit Associates, LLC
Lakeside Outdoor Services	John Nuber and Margaret Hummel	Slack Chemical Company	Watertown Garden Center & Landscape Supply, Inc.
Carol Lamon	Chyme Lane & Torre Parker-Lane	Small Town Supply Ace Hardware	Watertown Internists, PC
Chyme Lane & Torre Parker-Lane	Taralee Lashway	Jeremy T. Smith	Watertown Local Development Corporation
Taralee Lashway	Mark & Joanne Lavarnway	South Jefferson Central School Key Club	Watertown Police Benevolent Assoc.
Mark & Joanne Lavarnway	Corry J. Lawler	St. Lawrence Valley Educational Television Council, Inc.	The Watertown Professional Fire Fighters' Assoc. Local 191
Corry J. Lawler	Lawman Heating & Cooling, Inc.	State Street Ace Hardware	Watertown Savings Bank
Lawman Heating & Cooling, Inc.	Ms. Lisa Lent	Steele's Ace Home Center	Watertown Urgent Care
Ms. Lisa Lent	Jim Leven	Samantha Stewart	Watertown Wealth Management, LLC
Jim Leven	Dr. Rachel Lewis & Mr. Roger Johnson	Stewart's Shops	Westelcom Company
Dr. Rachel Lewis & Mr. Roger Johnson	Mart Liinve	Strategic Development	Bruce Tanner
Mart Liinve	Lockton Companies, LLC	Bruce Tanner	Anthony V. Tarzia
Lockton Companies, LLC	Melissa Lyndaker	Anthony V. Tarzia	Mr. Jamie Taylor
Melissa Lyndaker	M & T Charitable Foundation	Mr. Jamie Taylor	Josh Thompson
M & T Charitable Foundation	The Martin Group	Josh Thompson	Mark and Carole Thompson
The Martin Group	Col. and Mrs. Matthew Mapes	Mark and Carole Thompson	Stephen and Pamela Todd
Col. and Mrs. Matthew Mapes	Mary & Ted Mascott	Stephen and Pamela Todd	Todd J. Doldo Attorney at Law
Mary & Ted Mascott	Shawn & Meghan Massey	Todd J. Doldo Attorney at Law	TOPED Development, LLC
Shawn & Meghan Massey	Massey's Furniture Barn, Inc.	TOPED Development, LLC	Tops Friendly Markets
Massey's Furniture Barn, Inc.	Merrill Lynch	Tops Friendly Markets	Transamerica Retirement Advisors, Inc.
Merrill Lynch	Millennium Development, LLC	Transamerica Retirement Advisors, Inc.	Joan Treadwell-Woods
Millennium Development, LLC	Mr. Grant Mitchell	Joan Treadwell-Woods	Dr. Jan K. Turcotte
Mr. Grant Mitchell	MLMIC Insurance Company	Dr. Jan K. Turcotte	United Networks of America
MLMIC Insurance Company	Modular Comfort Systems Inc	United Networks of America	United Professional Advisors
Modular Comfort Systems Inc	Dr. Charles Moehs & Ms. Sally Boss	United Professional Advisors	Upstate Oral Surgery & Dental Implants
Dr. Charles Moehs & Ms. Sally Boss	Mohawk Healthcare	Upstate Oral Surgery & Dental Implants	Edward and Tracy Valentine
Mohawk Healthcare	Gregory Morel	Edward and Tracy Valentine	Mrs. Jeanne VanDeWall
Gregory Morel	John and Shelby Morgia	Mrs. Jeanne VanDeWall	Dr. David O. VanEenenaam
John and Shelby Morgia	Morgia Wealth Management	Dr. David O. VanEenenaam	Addison F. Vars III & Barbara R. Vars
Morgia Wealth Management	MVP Health Care	Addison F. Vars III & Barbara R. Vars	Joan Varsics
MVP Health Care	The New York Community Trust	Joan Varsics	Michele A. & Mario F. Victoria, MD
The New York Community Trust	Nickles Property Services	Michele A. & Mario F. Victoria, MD	
Nickles Property Services	North Country Family Health Center		
North Country Family Health Center			

*Deceased



Grateful Patient Program

Have you ever wondered, "How can I say, 'Thank You' to those people who made a difference while I was in the hospital?" The Heart to Heart Grateful Patient Program at Samaritan Medical Center gives patients, residents, and their families and friends the opportunity to show gratitude to an individual or department that played a special role in their care. When a monetary gift of any size is made, the honoree or department receives a special framed certificate and lapel pin to wear with pride. In 2023, numerous Samaritan Caregivers and departments received Heart to Heart awards for making a significant impact on our patients and residents.



Caregivers of Samaritan Summit Village's assisted living terrace accept a Heart to Heart award.



Dr. Jonathan Oliva of Women's Wellness and Breast Care receives his Heart to Heart award.



Nicholas Jewett, a nursing student at Jefferson Community College receives his Heart to Heart award.



Samaritan Caregivers of the acute rehabilitation unit receive a Heart to Heart award.



Otto Coello, nursing float pool, receives his Heart to Heart award.



Sarah Fuller of the intensive care unit receives a Heart to Heart award.



Samaritan Caregivers of the progressive care unit receive the Heart to Heart award.



Breanna Knapp, 4 Pavilion, receives a Heart to Heart award.



Chastity Davis of interventional radiology receives a Heart to Heart award.

DONOR	HONOREE	DEPARTMENT
Anonymous	Dr. Kevin Chandler	Urology
Sheila Barney-Pullus	Samaritan Caregivers	Samaritan Keep Home 2nd Floor
	Samaritan Caregivers	Samaritan Keep Home 5th Floor
Danisha Benga	Nikki Covell	Car-Freshner Center for Women & Children
	Elizabeth DiCampli	Car-Freshner Center for Women & Children and Fort Drum OB/GYN
	Hallie Epps	Car-Freshner Center for Women & Children
	Dr. Craig Guerin	Car-Freshner Center for Women & Children
	Lauren Hofman	Car-Freshner Center for Women & Children
Sally Doxtater	Bonnie Servage	Watertown Family Health Center
Janet Ferguson	Norravith "Ae" Mathison	Echocardiogram
Manford and Victoria Jerome	Samaritan Caregivers	Samaritan Health System
Marie LaRock	Dr. Collins Kellogg	Watertown Internists
Lorie Lynch	Dr. Joseph Wetterhahn	Adams Family Health Center
Tony Marra	Breanna Knapp	4 Pavilion
Michael and Christine Mealus	Dr. Kevin Chandler	Urology
	Otto Coello	Nursing Float Pool
Dr. Charles Moebs	Samaritan Caregivers	Intensive Care Unit
	Samaritan Caregivers	Acute Rehabilitation Unit
Kathy Montgomery	Chastity Davis	Interventional Radiology
Debbie Moran	Samaritan Caregivers	Samaritan Summit Village Assisted Living, Terrace Level
Jill Nuffer	Tiffany Towsley	4 Pavilion
Amber Perez	Dr. Victoria O'Brien	Fort Drum OB/GYN
Michael Rivers	Samaritan Caregivers	Samaritan Health System
	Dr. Sarah Delaney-Rowland	Emergency Department
	Joseph Donoghue	Emergency Department
	Athena Green	Emergency Department
	Enako Killenbeck	Emergency Department
	Gary Montondo	Emergency Department
	Renate Randall	Laboratory
	Samaritan Caregivers	Emergency Department
	Samaritan Caregivers	Progressive Care Unit
	Peter Salmon	Samaritan Caregivers
Theodore "Ted" Smith	Nicholas Jewett	Progressive Care Unit
Rita Stone	Dr. Maurice Tom-Pack	Orthopedics
Aboubacar Toure	Lauren Hofman	Car-Freshner Center for Women & Children
Joan Treadwell-Woods	Dr. Jason White	Watertown Internists
Dr. Jan Turcotte	Dr. Julie LaPointe	Watertown Internists
John VanKirk	Labor and Delivery Team	Car-Freshner Center for Women & Children
Warren Keith Walker	Roberta Sullivan	St. Joseph's Cardiology (Summit)
	Dr. Justin Budnik	Walker Center for Cancer Care
Cindy West	Kathleen Greene	Walker Center for Cancer Care
Shelby Williams	Dr. Jonathan Oliva	Women's Wellness and Breast Care
Martha Wroten-Voyce	Casey Haughton	4 Pratt



Lauren Holfman, left, and Nikki Covell, both of the Car-Freshner Center for Women and Children, receive their Heart to Heart awards.



Bonnie Servage of the Watertown Family Health Center receives a Heart to Heart award.



Lauren Holfman of the Car-Freshner Center for Women and Children and Fort Drum OB/GYN receives a Heart to Heart award.



Dr. John Barrett, Women's Wellness and Breast Care, receives a Heart to Heart award.



Dr. Victoria O'Brien, Fort Drum OB/GYN, receives a Heart to Heart award.



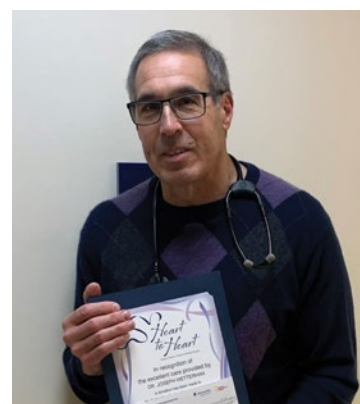
Samaritan Caregivers of labor and delivery accept a Heart to Heart award.



Samaritan Caregivers of the progressive care unit receive the Heart to Heart award.



Norravith "Ae" Mathison, echocardiogram, receives a Heart to Heart award.



Dr. Joseph Wetterhahn, Adams Family Health Center, receives a Heart to Heart award.



Dr. Julie LaPointe, Watertown Internists, receives a Heart to Heart award.



Dr. Collins Kellogg, left, and Dr. Jason White, right, of Watertown Internists receive Heart to Heart awards.



Caregivers from Samaritan's Intensive Care Unit receive a Heart to Heart award.



The Samaritan Medical Center dietary team receives a Heart to Heart award.



Elizabeth DiCampi of the Fort Drum OB/GYN receives a Heart to Heart award.



Hallie Epps, Car-Freshner Center for Women and Children, receives a Heart to Heart award.



Dr. Kevin Chandler, urology, receives a Heart to Heart award.



Caregivers in Samaritan's Emergency Department receive a Heart to Heart award.



Dr. Craig Guerin, Car-Freshner Center for Women and Children, receives a Heart to Heart award.



Dr. Maurice Tom-Pack, orthopedics, receives a Heart to Heart award.



Tiffany Towsley, 4 Pavilion, celebrates a Heart to Heart award among colleagues.



Renate Randall, laboratory, accepts a Heart to Heart award.



Meet Our 2023 Champion: Sammy Shelton

Samuel Allen "Sammy" Shelton of Watertown was born February 12, 2018, and was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia when he was just 7 months old. He spent the following six months as a patient at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital in Syracuse. On April 2, 2019, he rang the cancer-free bell, signifying the end of treatment, and was able to return home. The leukemia returned just a month later, and Sammy's doctors recommended a life-saving bone marrow transplant.

Finding a bone marrow match is much more difficult than matching blood types. Sammy's immediate family members were tested, but no match was found. When the search was expanded, a 100% match was found from a donor registry in Germany. A small package of cells traveled with a courier all the way to Rochester on September 24, 2019, and the doctors were ready to complete the procedure. Two months later, the family was told the transplant was a success and Sammy was finally able to go home.

Sammy has been cancer-free since then, but he continues to deal with side effects from chemotherapy and other treatments, which have taken a toll on his little body. He has a gastronomy tube in his stomach to aid in eating and administering his multiple medications. He also has neurological issues, neuropathy and receives several different therapies. Many specialists still monitor his condition very carefully.

Despite all he has been through, Sammy is a happy, fun-loving boy who loves to play with dinosaurs and ride his tricycle. He and his brothers are home-schooled by their mom, and he especially enjoys learning the alphabet, writing his name and reading books. The doctors all say he is a "miracle baby," and his family certainly agrees. Sammy is a little fighter who loves everyone and continues to be "Sammy Strong."

Children's Miracle Network of NNY was honored to call Sammy our 2023 CMN Champion!



CMN Champion Sammy Shelton with his mother, Stacie Shelton.



CMN Champion for 2023 - Sammy Shelton.

Infant Abduction Security System

As part of Children's Miracle Network's effort to ensure that Samaritan's youngest patients receive the best care possible, \$222,659 was used in 2023 to upgrade specialized equipment in child-centered areas at Samaritan and to provide enhanced care for pediatric patients. An additional \$214,000 was allocated to purchase and install a new infant abduction security system, which was a high priority for Samaritan's Car-Freshner Center for Women & Children. CMN also has contributed \$300,000 toward the expansion of the behavioral health unit in Samaritan's Emergency Department, which will increase the capacity to treat patients and provide a safer, child-friendly area.

Introducing the CMN Miracle Giving Wall

The birth of a child is an experience to be treasured. Officially announced in 2023, the CMN Miracle Giving Wall offers a unique way for parents, grandparents and friends to commemorate this special event. For a gift of \$100 to Children's Miracle Network of NNY, a tile engraved with a child's name and date of birth will be added to the wall. Formally opened this year, the CMN Miracle Giving Wall is showcased within Samaritan Medical Center. This is a unique and meaningful gift that recognizes one child while helping many more.



By the Numbers: Children's Miracle Network of NNY

Samaritan Medical Center has been the North Country's Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospital since 1990, using donated funds to improve the health and well-being of children in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties.

In 2023, Children's Miracle Network raised \$453,610 to administer programs that support local kids. CMN's Direct Family Assistance Program disbursed \$80,431 to local families with children facing medical crises, helping to reimburse their out-of-pocket expenses for travel, co-pays and equipment. A total of 40 children received this financial support in 2023.



In August, CMN families gathered at Samaritan for an ice cream social.

CMN Thanks Individual Donors

Every dollar donated to CMN makes a difference, and we are grateful for the generosity of individuals throughout our community who continue to give what they can to our program. Throughout the year, gifts are received from generous people all over the North Country and beyond. Additional contributions from local businesses, organizations, and community fundraisers are all helping to improve the health and well-being of local children.



E&V Energy presents a check to CMN of NNY to support children.



Azz Dogz Northern Chapter motorcycle group donated \$15,500 to CMN of NNY in 2023 to help local children.



An ultrasound machine, purchased by CMN of NNY, benefits local patients.

Radiothon

The annual Community Broadcasters CMN Radiothon celebrated its 23rd year in November, bringing local CMN stories to North Country radio listeners. During the three-day broadcast on The Border 106.7 and 94 Rock, listeners offered generous donations to help sick and injured children. Many CMN families and their children shared their courageous and heartwarming stories, and reminded everyone that donations stay local and truly have a big impact. Local businesses showed their support by sponsoring the event, and donations were made in person, by phone and online. Thanks to the support of everyone involved, this year's Radiothon raised more than \$120,000.

A big part of the event is Storm's Angels, a recognition program in memory of a special CMN child, Storm Wood, who passed away in 2019. Storm loved Radiothon and, in the last year of his life, donated \$1,000 of his own money to help other kids. In Storm's honor, every listener who gives \$1,000 or more becomes one of Storm's Angels and is recognized on a plaque proudly displayed at the radio station. This year, 33 generous donors were added to the list, contributing more than \$38,000.

Storm's Angels

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| A Cut Above Landscaping | Karen Peebles |
| Ryan Allen | Tim Reitzel |
| Jordan Brandt | Sarah Thesier |
| Rebecca Bushaw | Donelle Thompson |
| Dempsey Carroll | Greyson Trottier |
| Justin Chesbrough | Watertown Garden Center |
| Suzanne E. Davis | Watertown Police Benevolent Association |
| Anthony Demiceli | Watertown Professional Firefighters |
| Karen Doe | |
| Mike Doe | |

Radiothon Sponsors

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Beth, Randy and Maggie Fipps | AJ's Portables |
| Kate Fulkerson | Davidson Auto Group |
| Jolese Haynes | Fuller Insurance Agency |
| David Hodge | Garvin Metal Roofs |
| Amy M. Ingersoll | Northern Credit Union |
| Christopher Kellogg | RBC Wealth Management |
| Todd Kiechle | Victory Promotions |
| Hunter LaClair | |
| Romi LaClair | |
| Ruby LaClair | |
| Scott LaLonde | |
| Jim Leven | |
| Rebecca Mabry | |
| Jennifer Noreen | |
| Ryan Paddock | |



CMN Celebrates 2023 Corporate Partners

Children's Miracle Network has many corporate partners across the nation who work throughout the year to raise funds to help kids in their communities. Locally, our CMN partners are raising the bar and putting the North Country on the map. A little competition and a lot of collaboration among these retail teams has made a huge impact on our CMN program this year.

We are so proud of the effort our local partners put into their campaigns for CMN. Large or small, each and every one of them went out of their way to ask people to round up at the register, buy a Miracle Balloon, donate a dollar, or attend an event. Thanks to their creativity, energy and passion for helping local children and families, our CMN of NNY corporate partners raised more than \$227,600 in 2023. We are so grateful for the ongoing support we receive from these generous partners. Because of their hard work and dedication to our mission, CMN will be able to help even more children in 2024.



Lowville Walmart



Evans Mills Walmart



Lowville Kinney Drugs



Potsdam Walmart



Kinney Drugs Seaway Plaza Watertown

Give Today!

You can support quality health care in the North Country right now.

It is because of your support we are able to continue the tradition of caring that began in 1881.

samaritanhealth.com/give

Samaritan Locations Listing

samaritanhealth.com

Adams Family Health Center

10881 US Route 11
Adams, NY 13605
315-232-4400

Cape Vincent Family Health Center

782 East Broadway St.
Cape Vincent, NY 13618
315-654-2530

Car-Freshner Center for Women & Children

830 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4050

Children's Miracle Network of NNY

830 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4053

Clayton Family Health Center

909 Strawberry Lane
Clayton, NY 13624
315-686-2094

Clifton-Fine Hospital

1014 Oswegatchie Trail Road
Star Lake, NY 13690
315-848-3351

Fort Drum OB/GYN at Samaritan Medical Office Building

826 Washington St.
Suite 202
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4624

Imaging & Lab Center at Coffeen Street

1213 Coffeen St.
Suite 2
Watertown, NY 13601
315-755-2140

Imaging & Lab Center at Samaritan Health & Wellness Plaza

1575 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-788-1204

LeRay Family Health Center

26908 Independence Way
Suite 101
Evans Mills, NY 13637
315-629-4525

Samaritan Cardiology

19436 Howell Drive
Watertown, NY 13601
315-786-2000

Samaritan Dermatology & Mohs Surgery

826 Washington St.
Suite 100
Watertown, NY 13601
315-755-3670

Samaritan Ear, Nose & Throat

826 Washington St.
3rd Floor
Watertown, NY 13601
315-788-1751

Samaritan Gastroenterology

26908 Independence Way
1st Floor
Evans Mills, NY 13637
315-782-6900

Samaritan General Surgery Practice

826 Washington St.
Suite 106
Watertown, NY 13601
315-782-1505

Samaritan Health & Wellness Plaza

1575 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-786-7300

Samaritan Home Health Agency

104 Paddock St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-782-0415

Samaritan Interventional Radiology

830 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4230

Samaritan Keep Home

133 Pratt St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4400

Samaritan Medical Academic Residency Training (SMART) Clinic

1575 Washington St.
Door H (Rear of Building)
Watertown, NY 13601
315-786-7300

Samaritan Medical Center

830 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4000

Samaritan Medical Center Foundation of NNY

830 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4584

Samaritan Occupational Therapy

830 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4088

Samaritan Orthopedics

22567 Summit Drive
Building II
Watertown, NY 13601
315-779-6784

Samaritan Outpatient Addiction Services

1575 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-779-5074

Samaritan Outpatient Behavioral Health Services

1575 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-779-5060

Samaritan Pain Management Center

826 Washington St.
3rd Floor
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4313

Samaritan Physical Therapy

830 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4088

Samaritan Plastic Surgery

629 Washington St.
1st Floor
Watertown, NY 13601
315-755-3650

Samaritan Pulmonology

19320 US Route 11
Building 3
Watertown, NY 13601
315-786-0254

Samaritan Rheumatology

629 Washington St.
2nd Floor
Watertown, NY 13601
315-755-3450

Samaritan Speech Therapy

830 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4088

Samaritan Summit Village

22691 Campus Drive
Watertown, NY 13601
315-782-6800

Samaritan Urology Center

22567 Summit Drive
Building II, Suite A
Watertown, NY 13601
315-782-7230

Samaritan Wound Care Center

165 Coleman Ave.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-755-2024

Sleep Disorders Center of NNY

830 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4930

St. Lawrence Radiology Associates

50 Leroy St.
Potsdam, NY 13676
315-263-3300

Walker Center for Cancer Care

830 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4673

Watertown Family Health Center

1575 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-786-7300

Women's Wellness and Breast Care

1575 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-4155