

Summer 2024



**CAHoots**

*The CAHoots Newsletter is funded by a grant awarded to the Indiana Department of Health/State Office of Rural Health (SORH) Flex funding.*





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# Summer CAHoots Highlight

Each CAHoots issue will highlight two Business Partner Network members. IRHA's BPN members have chosen to be a major sponsor of IRHA and the Indiana Statewide Rural Health Network (InSRHN). As you explore the member links, you will find uniquely qualified businesses that possess in-depth knowledge of critical healthcare issues. They stand ready to provide high-performing service to you and your organization.



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# Upcoming Events



Join us for the 2024 IRHA Fall Forum on September 11 in Indianapolis! Session topics include mental health and substance use disorders, evidence-based approaches to reach chronic pain populations in your community, rapid-fire sessions from our InSRHN members surrounding patient engagement and experience, AND MORE.

[\*\*REGISTER\*\*](#)



## 2024 IRHA Golf Classic

The 2024 IRHA Golf Classic, presented by **TRS Managed Services**, will take place on September 25 at the newly chosen venue, Topgolf in Fishers. This marks the first year the IRHA Golf Classic will be hosted at this premier location.

Spaces are limited, so don't wait! Register now and be a part of this unforgettable event to help support our rural health programs. Elevate your organization by securing a sponsorship with us.

**September 25 | 11 AM-2 PM | Topgolf (Fishers, IN)**

[\*\*REGISTER NOW\*\*](#)







## **Healthy Start Communities that C.A.R.E. (HSCC)**

The IRHA team is excited to announce that Healthy Start Communities that C.A.R.E. (HSCC) was refunded effective May 1, 2024. The expected grant cycle is May 1, 2024-March 31, 2029 and IRHA will continue to direct, collaborate and engage in efforts to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates in Indiana in the following counties:

- Greene (served through Greene County General Hospital)
- Bartholomew (served through Columbus Regional Hospital)
- Jennings (served through Columbus Regional Hospital)
- Decatur (served through Decatur County Memorial Hospital)
- Switzerland (served through Norton King's Daughters' Health)

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the HSCC program is to improve health outcomes before, during, and after pregnancy and reduce infant mortality rates and to decrease disparities in infant mortality and poor perinatal health outcomes in the HSCC target population and project area.

HSCC has three focus areas:

1. Implement direct and enabling services for HSCC participants.
2. Identify and convene HSCC Community Consortium (CC) comprised of diverse, multisector state, local, and community-level partners, including Healthy Start (HS) participants and other community members, to advise and inform HS activities, as well as develop and implement plans to improve perinatal outcomes within the project area.
3. Establish performance monitoring and evaluation protocol and implement methodology within HSCC.

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# Menthol Cigarette Use

March 2024

Menthol is a flavor additive created from mint plants, such as peppermint and when added to cigarettes produces a cooling sensation and reduces the harshness of cigarette smoke. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), menthol in cigarettes makes it easier to start smoking and harder to quit. The tobacco industry has relied on these effects along with targeted advertising to contribute to health disparities among African Americans, women, the LGBTQ community and youth.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

While other flavors like candy, fruit, and spices have been banned in cigarettes due to the 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, menthol was notably excluded and remains the only flavor allowed for cigarettes.<sup>4</sup>

## Tobacco Industry Relies on Advertising to Promote Menthol Products

Although menthol cigarettes can mask the harshness of smoking by reducing pain or coughing, they are not less harmful compared to non-menthol cigarettes. In fact, a growing number of studies suggest that menthol cigarettes are harder to quit.<sup>5</sup> While it is illegal to directly claim health benefits today, companies still use words such as "fresh," "organic," and "light" in their advertisements and packaging to give a false impression about menthol products.<sup>2</sup>

## Studies Show Menthol Cigarettes Contribute to Health Disparities

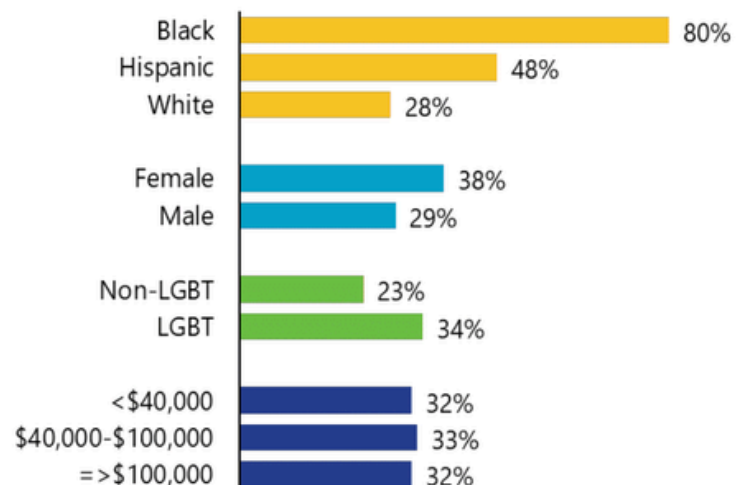
Stanford University and the American Heart Association recently published findings on the history of tobacco marketing and highlighted that beginning in the 1930s, the tobacco industry promoted menthol cigarettes as a healthier alternative to non-menthol cigarettes. Later in the 1960's the tobacco industry began targeting certain groups with menthol cigarettes including marginalized groups, such as African Americans, women, and the LGBTQ+ community.

The tobacco industry has used menthol advertisements to commemorate Black History Month and has featured famous women's fashion designers. Today there are increased rates of menthol cigarette use among those same groups, both across the US and in Indiana. In Indiana, nearly 80% of Black adults that smoke, report usually smoking menthol.<sup>6,7,8,9</sup>

## Fast Facts

- Menthol cigarettes are **NOT** less harmful than non-menthol cigarettes.<sup>2,3</sup>
- The tobacco industry aggressively markets menthol cigarettes to certain groups, including Black people, women, and youth.<sup>6,7,8,9</sup>
- **4 in 5** Black Indiana adults who smoked reported smoking menthol cigarettes.<sup>9</sup>
- Menthol makes quitting smoking more difficult.<sup>12,13</sup>

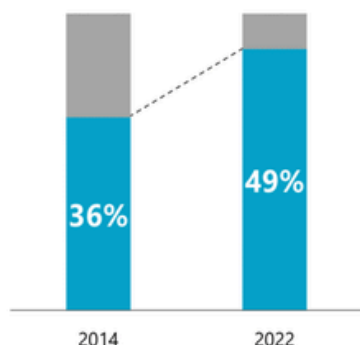
## Percentage of Indiana Adults Who Currently or Formerly Smoke that Usually Smoked Menthol Cigarettes, ATS 2021-2022





Although cigarette use among Indiana youth has decreased in recent years, the percentage of menthol cigarette use among high school students that smoke, has increased from 36% in 2014 to 46% in 2022.<sup>10</sup>

**Menthol Cigarette Use Among Indiana High School Students Who Smoke Cigarettes, IYTS 2014-2022**



This is a concerning trend due to the increasing amount of evidence showing that menthol can make it harder to quit smoking.

Data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey noted when compared to youth smoking non-menthol cigarettes, those smoking menthol cigarettes were more likely to:

- Smoke more than 2 cigarettes per day.
- Smoke more than 20 days out of the past 30 days.
- Want tobacco within 30 minutes of waking.



Menthol is also a common flavor advertised for e-cigarettes/vapes, and is known to attract youth to try these products.<sup>11</sup>

## Menthol Cigarette Cessation

Numerous studies have shown a lower quit rate for those smoking menthol cigarettes compared to those smoking non-menthol cigarettes, especially in non-white populations. Additionally, the flavor has also been linked to higher relapse rates and overall making it harder to successfully quit.<sup>12,13</sup>

Given these reports, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed to prohibit the sale of menthol as a characterizing flavor in cigarettes. If approved, this would reduce the appeal of cigarettes, particularly to youth and those not yet smoking.<sup>14,15</sup>

**The CDC estimates that a ban on menthol cigarettes in the US could lead to **15,400** adults quitting smoking in Indiana.**

## Conclusion

- Menthol is also a common flavor advertised for e-cigarettes/vapes, and is known to attract youth to try these products.<sup>11</sup>
- Menthol cigarettes make it easier to start smoking and harder to quit.
- The percentage of menthol cigarette use among high school students who smoke, has increased.

## What Can You Do?

- If you or someone you know needs to quit tobacco, call **1-800-Quit-Now** or visit **QuitNowIndiana.com** for free support.
- **Quit Now Indiana** offers no-cost tobacco treatment services with a Menthol Enhancement which provides **tailored coaching support, menthol education content, and free nicotine replacement medications.**
- Join a **local tobacco control coalition** in your community.
- Encourage leaders to support efforts to reform how menthol flavored tobacco products are marketed and sold.

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# Adams Memorial Hospital

## Adams Memorial Hospital Introduces State-of-the-Art Blood Chemistry Analyzers

**Decatur, IN** – Adams Memorial Hospital is proud to announce the addition of two advanced blood chemistry analyzers, the Cobas Pro and Cobas Pure, to our laboratory. These state-of-the-art instruments are designed to enhance the analysis of critical blood chemistry tests, including lipid panels, glucose levels, and cardiac markers.

The primary instrument, Cobas Pro, will handle the majority of our chemistry testing workload, ensuring accurate and timely results for our patients. The Cobas Pure analyzer will serve as a dedicated backup, primarily used for STAT testing to provide rapid and reliable results when time is of the essence.

The integration of these new analyzers has significantly improved efficiency within our laboratory. With advanced automation and streamlined processes, these instruments require less hands-on time from our technical staff, allowing them to focus on other critical tasks. Annually, our lab team collects over 30,000 specimens and conducts over 180,000 tests, and the addition of Cobas Pro and Cobas Pure is set to further enhance our service delivery.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the entire lab team for their dedication and hard work in minimizing the impact of this transition. Special recognition goes to Brandon Anderson, Janice Muhlenkamp, and Rhonda Brune for their many months of preparation and commitment to ensuring a smooth changeover to the new equipment. The introduction of these advanced analyzers is a testament to Adams Memorial Hospital's ongoing commitment to providing the highest quality care to our community. We are confident that these enhancements will lead to even better patient outcomes and a more efficient laboratory operation.



# Adams Health Network

## Adams Health Network Hosts March for Mental Health

**Decatur, IN** – The Adams Health Network Foundation hosted a March for Mental Health in support of Adams Behavioral Health on Friday, May 3rd from 5pm-6pm. The start of the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile march was just off Mercer Avenue at the Adams Memorial Hospital main entrance drive. The walk was one lap around Adams Memorial Hospital, which is exactly  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile because the mile isn't finished yet as there is more work to be done when it comes to mental health. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness to break the stigma with mental health needs and raise funds to support access to behavioral health in our community for people who are uninsured or underinsured.

Special t-shirts were designed for the event and proceeds from the shirts sales went into a new Behavioral Health Access Fund created to assist access to behavioral health services. The "Stay: Tomorrow Needs You" t-shirts were available in several colors and sold in the Adams Memorial Hospital Gift Shop and online store.

Your donation supports a person in the community who could be a family member, friend, or neighbor. If you want to support mental health, but were not able to march, you can make a tax-deductible donation at [adamshospital.org/adams-health-network-foundation](http://adamshospital.org/adams-health-network-foundation).

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## Adams Woodcrest Hosts Exclusive Brunch and Learn Event with Scheerer McCulloch

**Decatur, IN** – Adams Woodcrest announced a special brunch and learn event in collaboration with Sheerer McCulloch, focusing on the crucial topic of Downsizing, catered to Seniors and their Families. The event took place on Monday, May 13th, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am in the Adams Woodcrest Independent Living Dining Room located at 1300 Mercer Avenue, Decatur, IN 46733.

Speakers for the occasion included representatives from Sheerer McCulloch who walked you through the unique process of resizing your life to make your next transition easier. Attendees had the exclusive opportunity to gain valuable insights about the complexities of downsizing. The event aimed to foster an engaging in-person discussion covering Independent Living and the strategic process of reducing the size, scale, and scope of one's possessions.

Now is your opportunity to enjoy life with maintenance free living and many amenities at Adams Woodcrest. Their exquisite neighborhood is a place you can call home with Cottages, Villas, and Apartments available. Find purpose, discover new passions, and rekindle old ones with our Life Enrichment Program. To schedule your tour, call Amy Hake at 260-223-0208.



# Adams Health Network

## Celebrate With Adams Health and the Fort Wayne Philharmonic

**Decatur, IN** – To celebrate the summer season, Dr. Scott Smith, CEO of Adams Health announced a summer celebration featuring the Fort Wayne Philharmonic's "Patriotic Pops Concert Series" on Saturday, June 29th. In honor of the summer celebration, admission was FREE to the community.

The special concert occurred at the Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower in Berne, Ind. The Philharmonic began with their Patriotic Pops concert and brought a full Pops orchestra to Adams County, with approximately 65 musicians. The concert consisted of beloved favorites like Star Spangled Banner, God Bless America, and Stars and Stripes Forever, as well as beloved Pops songs including Star Wars and Indiana Jones music.

The 3-Stage BBQ food truck and the Sisters and Misters ice truck were also on-site to provide several of their delicious favorites for purchase.



# Sullivan Co. Community Hospital

## Sullivan Co. Community Hospital 'In This Together' 5K Fun Run

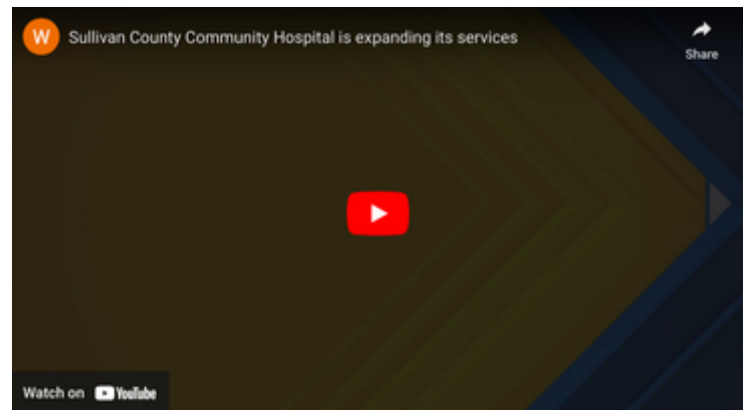


Sullivan County Community Hospital hosted a 5K Fun Run to benefit expanding mental health resources in Sullivan County.

The run occurred on Saturday, May 11th at the Sullivan Civic Center, located at 344 N. Main Street in Sullivan. Participants registered online or on the day of the race.

## Sullivan County Community Hospital is expanding its services

Julie was joined by Kevin and Destiny from SCCH to talk about the expansion of their opioid treatment facility. Vital4Life Recovery is now offering outpatient treatment for alcoholism as well. The facility is located at 2204 N. Section Street in Sullivan. To make an appointment, call (812) 268-2646. Their hours are Monday – Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, and they are closed for meals from 12:00 to 1:00 pm daily.



# Sullivan Co. Community Hospital

## SCCH Celebrates 25th Anniversary—and Expansion

On July 19, 1999, Sullivan County Community Hospital left its 1918, Mary Sherman Hospital building behind and moved into its new location at 2200 N. Section Street to allow for growth and change. Today, 25 years later, expansion and growth continue at the facility.

Janis Hughbanks, Director of Education for SCCH, has been with SCCH for 28 years and experienced the transition from the old facility to the new first-hand. Looking back, Hughbanks remembers that “moving locations was bittersweet as we had made so many memories at our old location. However, we were excited to continue to grow and upgrade our facilities to stay relevant to the everchanging world of healthcare.” This need to remain relevant is also the driver of the new work being done at SCCH, a 26,700 square foot medical office building slated for completion in spring of 2025.

“Since the new hospital was built 25 years ago, there has been a dramatic shift from inpatient to outpatient services. The hospital now has over 80,000 Outpatient visits each year,” CFO Jim Bishop comments. “The Pain Management program has seen the largest growth recently but all areas such as Surgery, Lab, Emergency, Radiology, Orthopedics, and Podiatry have grown tremendously since the new hospital was built.” This growth has spurred the need for more space.

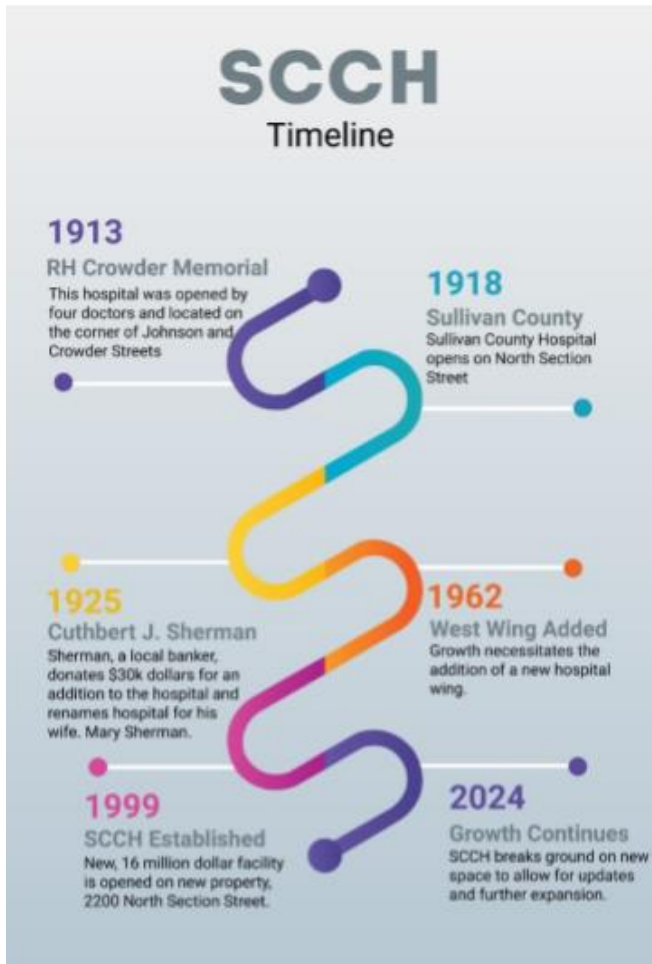
“It’s hard to believe we have been in this space for 25 years,” says CEO Michelle Franklin. “When we first moved in, we thought we had more room than we would ever need, and now we are expanding again.”

That expansion is a direct result of increased need and one of the guiding principles of the administration of SCCH. “Along with the constant need to evolve resources to stay current as healthcare progresses, a driving force behind everything we do at SCCH is providing access to needed services in our rural community. We recognize that transportation is a major challenge for many. The more services we can offer in our own community, the better it is for our community members,” says Franklin.

When asked for her thoughts on the anniversary and expansion, Tammy Siner, Director of Medical Records, who joined SCCH right before the 1999 move to the new hospital, said, “It’s amazing and I am proud to be part of it. It will be really nice for those departments that need more space, and it will allow us to serve more patients.”



# Sullivan Co. Community Hospital



While the hospital has been well-maintained for the 25 years it has been in operation, SCCH will also be taking steps in the upcoming years to enhance their current facility by upgrading certain mechanical systems. “No matter how well you maintain the facility, things like your HVAC system, after 25 years, will need to be replaced. It’s also time for a new roof; so, completing the necessary updates to the main hospital is also important moving forward,” says Ron Shake, Director of Physical Plant.

The growth of the hospital has made a large community impact for the last 25 years, propelling the local healthcare scene forward to provide the best care to every patient. “It has been amazing to see how our campus has grown over the years with our addition of the fitness center, medical clinics, and specialty services” says Hughbanks. “It is just one more way to give back to our community and provide options to improve their health.”

Celebrating 25 years in the new facility, SCCH marks a new milestone for community engagement and improved access to advanced healthcare as SCCH continues to expand.



# Sullivan Co. Community Hospital

## SCCH's Amy Pirtle Talks Prevention at Senior Center Gathering



On June 12, 2024, Amy Pirtle (PT, ASTYM Cert.), Director of Rehab Services at Sullivan County Community Hospital addressed community members over 55 at a Sullivan County Senior Center meeting. Pirtle discussed the various rehabilitation services provided at SCCH and stressed the importance of the prevention programs available for seniors.

"The Rehabilitation Services department at SCCH is not only for rehab after surgery," says Pirtle. "We have a lot of options for preventative treatment as well in areas of Physical Therapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT), and

Speech Therapy (ST)." Balance issues are a common concern in the senior population and, according to Pirtle, programs in PT and OT can help maintain better balance longer and provide practical steps seniors can take to reduce fall risks in their homes. "As we age and become less active, our muscles weaken, PT programs can keep older patients active and strengthen muscles that help with balance, which can significantly reduce the risk of falls. OT and PT both have programs that can help with those who may be experiencing ADL (Activities of Daily Living) challenges," Pirtle shared.

Alongside Physical and Occupational Therapy, Speech/Language Pathology is offered to individuals struggling with speech issues "Speech issues can occur as a result of a medical event such as a stroke or degenerative disease; however, our ST program can also be utilized to improve cognition and memory skills in older adults, or help with patients who have swallowing challenges," said Pirtle.

Pirtle also emphasized the importance of Pelvic Floor Therapy, a new, non-surgical treatment for bladder and bowel control challenges. Pelvic Floor Physical Therapy is designed to help patients regain control of their pelvic floor, fighting against issues that lead to incontinence (bladder or bowel leakage). Both men and women can benefit from this treatment. "Pelvic floor muscles weaken over time for a variety of reasons. If you had a job that required heavy lifting or a high degree of physical labor, childbirth, recovery from prostate cancer, or just the natural aging process," says Pirtle. "That's why it is so important to maintain and build strength in those pelvic and core muscles as we age."

Pirtle shared that it was never too early or late to take part in the services she shared. If interested in learning more about SCCH rehab services, call 812-268-4311, ext.2290.

The Senior Society of Sullivan County, Inc. is currently on a planning retreat for the summer but will be back in operation in Fall 2024.

# Sullivan Co. Community Hospital

## Is it Heat Stroke or Heat Exhaustion?

*By Stacey Smith DNP, FNP-BC | Family Practice Associates*



The high temperatures of summer combined with outside activities involving excessive temperatures and physical exercise or labor can increase the risk of heat stroke or more commonly heat exhaustion.

Both are caused by a problem with your internal temperature regulation or your body's built-in system to maintain your normal temperature; in this situation, cooling itself. We naturally sweat when involved in strenuous activity to keep us cool but if you are dehydrated, wearing heavy or tight clothing or consuming alcohol, your body may have difficulty producing enough sweat to keep your temperature in a normal range.

**Heat stroke** is more serious and can be considered a medical emergency. The first symptom can be fainting and is characterized by elevated body temperature above 104 degrees Fahrenheit, rapid heart rate, change in mental status (confusion), hot flushed dry skin, nausea, vomiting and dizziness. Seizures can occur if treatment is not initiated.

**Heat exhaustion** can have similar symptoms, although not as severe. You should watch out for general weakness, heavy sweating, rapid heart rate, nausea, vomiting, possible lightheadedness, dizziness and potential fainting. However, the skin is pale, cold and clammy. The body temperature is rarely over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

As you can see when comparing these two health conditions, heat exhaustion is milder with lower body temperature, heavy sweating, and clammy cold skin, and there is no alteration in mental status such as confusion.

Pay attention to your body to avoid these conditions by staying hydrated with water or sports drinks (Body Armour Lyte is my favorite). Limit alcohol; or drink a bottle of water for every alcoholic beverage you consume. Take a cool shower or use cold compresses to keep your body temperature down, move to a shaded area or inside to air conditioning. Lie down and remove extra layers including shoes and socks. If you are vomiting and this does not resolve, seek medical treatment.

**If symptoms worsen or you notice increased confusion, vomiting or fainting, seek medical treatment immediately.**

**Heat stroke is serious enough to warrant an emergency department visit.**



# Sullivan Co. Community Hospital

Stay out of the heat and increase fluids for several days if you have experienced heat exhaustion or heat stroke as you are more susceptible to a re-occurrence.

Enjoy your summer and all the fun outside activities, but be prepared with plenty of water, sports drinks, built-in breaks in the shade or a quick splash in a cool pool or lake. Do not overdress in heat or humidity and pay attention to yourself and others around you to recognize symptoms quickly to prevent a serious reaction to the heat.

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## Local EMS Worker Presented with Stork Award Amidst Surprising Newborn Delivery

*Alison Clark*

Sullivan County Community EMS team member Amanda White was recognized with the Stork Award for her remarkable skills in the assistance of delivering a newborn baby in the field.

The Stork Award is presented by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to EMS personnel who assist in the delivery of newborns outside of a hospital. White, a dedicated EMS staff member, showed great adaptability to an unexpected situation when she helped the mother deliver her child not in the security of a hospital, but in the home of the patient.

Previously, White had assisted in two other deliveries in the field, so this was a situation she felt already well prepared to handle. White shares, “I helped deliver one [newborn] off I-69 in the front seat of a Suburban, and the other in a hallway inside a patient’s home.” These two deliveries were in the field, but White went on those calls knowing what to expect. “On those calls, I knew the mother was in labor, and so I knew delivery at the scene was high probability going into those,” White imparted. Not so on this latest delivery. For this EMS run, White had no idea a birth was even a possibility—and neither did the patient.

White was called to assist the patient in distress, and using her acute assessment skills, she quickly deduced this was going to be a delivery call. When asked to sum up the delivery in a singular word, White expressed: “surprising.” Surprising, but not uncharted territory. “I just trusted my training,” White said. “We take part in continuing education often, so I was confident in my skills. There was no time to be nervous—or even notice if I was.”

White and her EMT partner, Aron Chalos, shortly welcomed a healthy baby into the world. “Aron is an amazing EMT; the delivery couldn’t have gone as well as it did without him. He knows what needs done, and he does it,” said White. While White was assessing and prepping the patient for delivery, “Aron was managing the scene, calling for resources and manpower, as well as grabbing all the equipment that was needed.”

# Sullivan Co. Community Hospital

“This job is never the same, that’s what I love about it,” commented White. “Every call is different, and so is every patient.” In a position where mistakes could potentially turn into an unfortunate outcome, White’s ability to control the situation and adapt makes her a worthy recipient of the Stork Award.



Pictured above, Sullivan City Fire Department Paramedic Amanda White (left) receives her Stork Award during the annual EMS picnic held on Sullivan County Community Hospital (SCCH) Campus. Pictured with White are Sullivan County EMS Medical Director Raymundo Rosales and Maddison Barbarick, Director of SCCH Emergency Department.

## SCCH can help with your chronic migraines

Take a trip to Sullivan County Community Hospital to learn about their pain management center and how they treat chronic migraine using Botox.

This method has been proven effective to treat people suffering from chronic migraine, so effective that Dr. Callahan says he has never had a patient miss their appointment!



# Greene County General Hospital



## Greene County General Hospital Gives FREE Sports Physicals to Hundreds of Local Students



**Linton, IN**— More than 600 Greene County student athletes are now ready for their next year of competition. Medical staff from Greene County General Hospital (GCGH), TeamOrtho, and My Clinics spent the month of April going inside four Greene County Schools to perform a total of 640 sports physicals for both middle and high school students.

12 providers, 10 medical staff members, and TeamOrtho Head Athletic Trainer Jed Arseneau were on hand to administer the physicals. GCGH Patient Access Representatives and students with Twin Rivers Career & Technical Education Cooperative also assisted. Sports physicals are required by the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) for school athletic competitions. These physicals are used to detect health issues which could affect a student's overall health or performance. GCGH screens for things like high blood pressure, vision problems, muscle or joint problems, heart problems, and anxiety or depression. Detection and treatment of these issues can prevent further injury or illness. Here is a breakdown on the number of physicals performed at each of the schools:

Bloomfield – 170

Linton-Stockton – 211

Eastern Greene – 161

White River Valley – 98





# Greene County General Hospital

## Greene County General Hospital Foundation Invites Public to Honor Their Hospital Hero



**Linton, IN**— Greene County General Hospital Foundation celebrated Greene County General Hospital (GCGH) employees by honoring them with flowers during National Hospital Week, May 12th – 18th, 2024. GCGH uses this week as a time to show appreciation for its employees and now the public can do the same.

The GCGH Foundation partnered with Gina's Watering Can Flower Shop in Linton to accept orders for flowers to be delivered to GCGH employees. Each flower was \$5.00 and came with a personalized card. Proceeds from these flower sales went to GCGH Foundation, which serves their community and provides support to GCGH advancements and improvements by promoting philanthropic sponsorship. These flowers were for any GCGH, My Clinics, TeamOrtho, and Surgcare employee.



*FROM GREENE COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL FB PAGE:*

**365 flowers were purchased and distributed to staff with ALL proceeds going to support our GCGH Family. A VERY SPECIAL "THANK YOU" to Gina's Watering Can Flower Shop LLC for donating ALL the flowers and contributing an additional 35 flowers to give out to our GCGH staff! The flowers were donated by Gina's Watering Can Flower Shop to honor Gina's niece who is one of our own GCGH Heroes.**

## inHealth Donated Ambulance Used to Transport 8-month-old Infant

**June 5, 2024** – The recently delivered inHealth ambulance sent to Odesa, Ukraine is having a big impact already. Since its arrival in April, it has been used to transport victims of Russian missile and drone strikes as well as more routine medical calls like the recent lifesaving transport of a fire fighter that had suffered a stroke.

Now the ambulance has been used to transport a pediatric patient from Moldova to Kyiv, Ukraine. The patient, an 8-month-old infant, was brought to Moldova by his parents fleeing the ongoing invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

Unfortunately, the child has a heart condition and was in need of heart surgery that could only be done in Kyiv. When the need arrived no other entity was able to provide an ambulance, so a call was made to the Odesa Volunteer Fire Department which had received the inHealth Ambulance in early April. The fire department quickly put a team together and a mission was launched to pick up the infant at the border with Moldova. The child was then driven all night during an 8-hour trip to Kyiv where the child was successfully transported to the hospital in time for the needed surgery.

Without the inHealth ambulance the child would not have been transported to Kyiv.



*inHealth ambulance about to transport someone in Odesa Ukraine.*

## Donated Indiana Ambulance Saves Life of Ukrainian Firefighter

On April 4, 2024, a Mercedes ambulance donated by inHealth, an Indiana based ambulance provider, crossed into Ukraine from Poland where it was promptly turned over to the Odesa Volunteer Firefighters Association. This marked the third ambulance from Indiana to be delivered to Ukraine in the past two years by US Ambulances for Ukraine, a volunteer group based out of Peoria, IL. It was also the second ambulance donated by inHealth, the other ambulance being delivered in May of 2023. In total, US Ambulances for Ukraine has sent a total of 58 ambulances, 8 fire engines, 8 SUVs and trucks, and a wheelchair accessible bus to the war-torn country since its first shipment on March 29, 2022.

By the time US Ambulance for Ukraine volunteers had completed their delivery of all eight vehicles on April 9, 2024, the inHealth ambulance was already put into service and responding to medical and other calls for service all over the port city of Odesa. Located along the Black Sea, Odesa is often the target of Russian missile and drone attacks with multiple attacks per day common. Since its arrival, the inHealth ambulance has responded to multiple missile strikes and has transported numerous victims of attacks from all over the region.

While the volunteer fire fighters of Odesa have come to rely on the donated ambulance to serve the residents, this week it also came to the aid of one of their own. While at home earlier this week one of the firefighters suffered a stroke. When a call was made for help the only ambulance available was the Odesa Volunteer Fire Department's recently donated Mercedes ambulance from inHealth. The vehicle was able to respond, and the crew was able to provide the necessary interventions to stabilize the firefighter before he was transported to a hospital for care.

As the Chief of the Odesa Volunteer Firefighters said "today, the inHealth Mercedes saved the life of our fireman." It was also pointed out that because of the quick response made possible by the ambulance, doctors are hopeful that a full recovery is possible for the stricken firefighter. The Chief concluded the update with a sincere thank you to all involved, especially those at inHealth that donated the used ambulance and made this save possible.

For more information about US Ambulances for Ukraine visit their website at [US Ambulances for Ukraine](https://www.usambulancesforukraine.org/).



*inHealth Ambulance delivered in April 2024 at the Odesa Hospital after transporting Odesa Volunteer Firefighter following a stroke.*



## Woodlawn Health Welcomes a Podiatrist

**Rochester, IN, July 1** —Woodlawn Health proudly announces that Dr. Eric Rindlisbacher, DPM, Podiatrist, has joined their medical staff.

"The thing I love about Woodlawn is the people! Everyone is welcoming and happy!" he stated.

Rindlisbacher graduated from Brigham Young University-Idaho and then attended medical school at Des Moines University. He completed his residency at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center. His education and training allow him to perform surgeries when needed.

"I love the mix of clinic and surgery time. I can still spend time with patients but also get to perform procedures I enjoy," he said about podiatry.

The leadership at Woodlawn is thrilled to offer these new services to their community.

"We heard the need for a podiatrist here in Rochester, and we are excited to have Dr. Rindlisbacher on board. This is just one of the many ways we continue to earn the right to care for our community," Brad Rogers, COO of Woodlawn Health, stated.

Dr. Rindlisbacher is accepting new patients. Please call 574-223-9393 to make an appointment.

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## Woodlawn Health Launches Smoking and Tobacco Cessation Classes

**Rochester, IN, May 31** — Woodlawn Health is excited to announce that they will be offering Smoking and Tobacco Cessation Classes. The classes will meet weekly for five weeks.

"From our patients, we know this is a need in our region. We are honored to be able to offer this opportunity as we earn the right to care for our community," stated Paula McKinney, Chief Nursing Officer and VP of Patient Services at Woodlawn Health.

This program is primarily funded through the I-HOPE Grant from the State Office of Rural Health through the Indiana Department of Health. Those interested in participating in the classes need to call 574-224-1600 to register.

# Woodlawn Health

## Woodlawn Health Launches Spanish Podcast Series

**Rochester, IN, May 24** — Woodlawn Health launched its Spanish podcast series on Thursday, May 30. The podcast, Salude Latinxs, shares health-related topics featuring Elizabeth Rodriguez, FNP, a bilingual nurse practitioner at the Akron Medical Center. This new series will join the Woodlawn Podcast Family, including Doc Talk, which will also be translated into Spanish.

“We are excited to be able to offer this educational series to our region, especially for those who prefer to receive their health information in Spanish, as we earn the right to care for our community,” Alan Fisher, CEO and President of Woodlawn, stated about the new series.

The podcast series, along with the Spanish version of Doc Talk, is just a click away. You can access it wherever you get your podcasts or on Woodlawn Health’s website at <https://woodlawnhospital.org/salud-latinxs-podcast>.

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## Woodlawn Health Partners with Concord Medical Group for Emergency Department Provider Coverage

**Rochester, IN, May 3** — Woodlawn Health is excited to announce that they have partnered with Concord Medical Group to provide physician services for the Emergency Department.

“We are thrilled to be working with Concord Medical Group and hope to continue improving our Emergency Department’s customer satisfaction as we earn the right to care for our community,” Alan Fisher, President, and CEO of Woodlawn Health, stated.

Concord’s emergency department partnership with Woodlawn Health brings new, highly qualified, emergency physicians to Rochester to continue Concord’s proven track record of exceptional patient care. The emergency providers have been thoroughly vetted and understand the needs of the community around Rochester. These physicians also place the highest degree of importance on the courteous and professional treatment of patients.

“We’re extremely excited to partner with Woodlawn Health. Concord has always strived to provide the highest quality of care possible to the communities that we serve. Woodlawn Health’s commitment to increasing patient satisfaction fits perfectly with our mission and vision for the community in and around Rochester,” Kyle Sheets, MD, Founder and Owner of Concord Medical Group stated.

# Woodlawn Health

In addition to the highest level of patient service, patients will have a better billing experience as Concord honors balance billing laws and the No Surprises Act to ensure patients will not receive requests for high out-of-pocket payments beyond allowable amounts as determined by any applicable deductibles and co-pays. Patients will receive a bill from Concord Medical Group for an Emergency Department Visit in addition to Woodlawn. The first bill from Concord will be sent via text message. If the patient doesn't respond to the text or opts out of the text messaging, a paper bill will be sent. Patients who have questions about their bill or service will have a direct line to a Concord representative and are encouraged to reach out to ensure that their experience at Woodlawn Health is exceptional.

"We believe having Concord as a part of our organization and community is a positive change," Alan Fisher said.

# Rush Memorial Hospital

## Rush Memorial Hospital Expands Care with the Opening of RMH Milroy Primary Care



Rush Memorial Hospital is excited to announce the expansion of primary care services within Rush County with the opening of RMH Milroy Primary Care.

RMH Milroy Primary Care will help Rush Memorial Hospital continue its mission to expand and provide quality, personalized, patient-focused healthcare across all of Rush County and surrounding communities. Family Nurse Practitioners Melinda Miller and Joyce Geis will be providing primary care services including wellness checks, preventative screenings, management of chronic conditions, and recovery from acute, short-term illnesses. Women's Care will also be provided by Dr. Robert Perry II at the clinic on the first Tuesday of every month.

Access to healthcare can prevent disease with early detection and treatment and offer a higher quality of life for those within the communities served. By expanding healthcare options for the more rural parts of our community, RMH is showcasing its commitment to being a trusted source for healthcare needs and confirms the commitment that patients are the top priority at RMH.

RMH Milroy Primary Care is located at 7695 South County Road 175 West in Milroy, Indiana. Clinic hours will be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7 a.m. to noon on Friday. The clinic opens to the public on Monday, July 29th.



# Daviess Community Hospital

## Macy Wheat, RN, passes IBCLC exam



Daviess Community Hospital, a beacon of health and wellness in southwestern Indiana, announced that Macy Wheat, RN, IBCLC, of Knox County, recently passed the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant exam.

"This certification requires many hours of study, clinical hours and continuing education," said Daviess Community Hospital Director of Obstetrics, Nursery and Childbirth Education Shawna O'Kelley-Brinson, BSN, RN. "We are proud of Macy and the care that she provides to mothers and babies."

According to the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, the credentialing body that established the IBCLC program in 1985, an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant:

- Functions and contributes as a member of the maternal-child health team
- Provides care in a variety of settings, while making appropriate referrals to other health professionals and community support resources
- Works with families, policymakers and society providing expert breastfeeding and lactation care, promoting changes that support breastfeeding and reducing the risks of not breastfeeding

Wheat is certified lactation counselor in Daviess Community Hospital's lactation services program, which provides:

- Breastfeeding support classes and one-on-one consultations
- Assistance with issues such as latching difficulties, soreness and milk production
- Inpatient and outpatient visits with breastfeeding mothers

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## Robin Overton honored posthumously by IN EMS Commission

During the BBQ picnic on May 23 at Daviess Community Hospital in honor of EMS Week, Stan Frank, EMS District Manager with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, presented the family of the late Robin Overton with a plaque commemorating Robin earning the title of EMT - Paramedic Emeritus from the State of Indiana Emergency Medical Services Commission. The plaque read:

"In recognition of his untimely passing earlier this year after three decades of service to EMS as a respected paramedic providing quality EMS care in southwest Indiana. Besides his strong clinician skills, Robin also served as a preceptor and provided quality mentorship to many in the region. Robin was noted for his friendly approach and for being a skilled artist in his spare time. His death was met with an outreach of public sympathy on social media noting his contributions to our profession. We appreciate and memorialize the service and dedication of Robin L. Overton."

# Daviess Community Hospital

The plaque was signed by G. Lee Turpen II, Chairman of the EMS Commission, and Kraig Kinney, State EMS Director.

Robin passed away on February 14, 2024, after a battle with cancer. Robin began his EMS career in 1988 as a Basic EMT, eventually earning his paramedic license in 1992. From 1988-2023 he worked with Halter Smith Ambulance, Sullivan County Ambulance, Knox County EMS, and Daviess County Ambulance.



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## Becky Dayton's Journey from shoulder surgery to recovery

Becky Dayton has been an active lady in the Washington community for most of her adult life. However, the shoulder pain that has plagued her for many years has prevented her from fully enjoying activities such as golf, yoga, pickleball, and time with family and friends.

For the past five years, Becky tried cortisone injections in her shoulder that only gave her relief for a few weeks from the pain caused by a torn rotator cuff and arthritis. "I kept trying to use my shoulder thinking that would help, but it did not," Becky recalled.

After discussing her options with Dr. Marcus Thorne, Orthopaedic Surgeon at Daviess Community Hospital, she was ready to have shoulder surgery in November 2022. What came next completely changed her plans. Preliminary scans ordered prior to her surgery revealed that Becky had suspicious nodule on her lower right lung. Shoulder surgery was put on hold as Becky underwent a different surgery on both of her lungs to remove cancer.

# Daviness Community Hospital

While still recuperating in January of 2023, Becky was still suffering from shoulder pain. This time, her shoulder surgery was put on the back burner while she had foot surgery.

In August of 2023, Becky had another cortisone shot in her shoulder to help with the pain. Relief finally came on September 18, 2023 when Dr. Thorne performed a “reverse total shoulder”.

Dr. Thorne recalls that he first saw Becky in 2019 regarding her shoulder. “At that time, she was diagnosed with glenohumeral arthritis,” explained Dr. Thorne. “This is a condition of degeneration and loss of cartilage of the shoulder joint. The source of this condition can come from wear and tear, rheumatism, trauma, infection, etc. She responded well to anti-inflammatories, therapy, pain medication, rest, activity modification, etc. Her arthritis was due to chronic rotator cuff tearing which results in very abnormal wearing of the shoulder joint. The best replacement option for her was reverse total shoulder arthroplasty. Replacement offers good reliable functional shoulder with minimal pain. This is where we “reverse” the shoulder alignment. The “golf ball” is where the “tee” should be, and vice versa. This uses the deltoid muscle to move the joint around rather than the cuff which normally does. In this case, a standard shoulder replacement would not be successful because standard shoulder replacement is based off of an intact and functioning rotator cuff. Becky has far exceeded my expectations. She is a rock star!”



Becky began occupational therapy a few days after surgery with the Rehab Therapies team at the DCH CORE Center in Washington. “I knew that I had to put the work into therapy both at the CORE Center and at home,” Becky said. She was also using a ‘cryo cuff’ which is anatomically designed to cover the shoulder area completely. It helps reduce swelling and pain and is used for post-op, rehabilitation, and sports injuries.

Brandon Johnson, Occupational Therapist, was Becky’s primary therapist at the CORE Center. “Becky came to Occupational Therapy in mid Sept of 2023 two days after her “Reverse Total Shoulder Arthroplasty” (Reverse Total Shoulder Replacement) to begin typical protocol treatment prescribed by Dr. Thorne,” Brandon recalled. “She was carefully progressed with an individualized exercise program as well as educated through

navigating “life” through each phase of treatment, while attending regular follow up appointments with Dr. Thorne. Throughout her process, she experienced very little pain.



# Daviess Community Hospital

“Just when therapy was going along smoothly, I came down with the flu following Thanksgiving with family,” Becky explained. “I had to stop therapy while I was ill. Then my husband had surgery in December, so I wasn’t able to get back to the CORE Center until late January 2024. At that time, I didn’t have the strength to lift much or even open a jar.”

Following additional therapy sessions at CORE and her home exercise program, she was able to return to normal range of shoulder motion and strength which allowed her to resume a very active lifestyle (yoga, pickle ball, and weighted workout routine). A typical protocol for this surgery would last from 12-14 weeks with return to normal activities such as golf at approximately 12 weeks and golf at 16 weeks. After eight weeks of hard work with Brandon, Becky was able to “graduate” from therapy in March of 2024.

“Dr. Thorne, Brandon and the entire staff have been amazing through this whole experience,” Becky remarked. I could not have asked for better care!”

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## Trudy's story of recovery and restoration of hope



As children, we all have big dreams of becoming doctors, teachers, parents, college graduates, and so much more. No one dreams of becoming an addict, drug dealer, or criminal. Trudy Drew has graciously agreed to share her story of substance use and circumstances that led her down a destructive path. She shares what ultimately led her to her recovery and her unforgettable experience with Peer Recovery Specialist, Brandee Downs.

“I was born and raised in Washington, Indiana,” Trudy began. “I had a somewhat normal childhood, but my teen years were filled rejection and abuse which resulted in low self-esteem, anger issues, and self-harmful behaviors. My first experience with drugs was around age thirteen when I used diet pills. Soon after that, I tried marijuana and alcohol.” At age sixteen, Trudy was pregnant and married. By age eighteen, she was the mother of three children and in a very toxic situation. She turned to drugs as a way to “numb” all of her feelings and became abusive to those around her.

# Daviess Community Hospital

In November 2011, Trudy's brother died in a fight at a local bar. His death was devastating to her and caused her life to spiral out of control. She was facing multiple drug and assault charges while she continued to deal drugs to pay for her habit and became involved with a very dangerous group of people.

In 2020, she found herself in a dangerous situation when the police used tear gas to force a suspected felon out of her house. She was arrested at that time and faced up to forty years in prison for state and federal charges.

"I was terrified to think that I might spend the rest of my life in prison," Trudy recalled. "That arrest and time spent in jail changed my life in a way I never expected. Through the help of the RARE program and people in the corrections department, I turned my life over to God for the first time."

While in jail, Trudy met her Peer Recovery Coach, Brandee Downs when she signed up for an "Anger Management" class she was teaching. Every week, Trudy look forward to the classes and appreciated that Brandee took time to listen to every inmate and showed true compassion.

After signing a four-year prison plea, the Judge allowed Trudy's time to be served on Community Corrections house arrest at the Lighthouse. Peer Recovery was notified, and Brandee became her recovery coach. During their meetings, Brandee and Trudy talked about feelings and events for the week. Brandee was with her during court and even helped Trudy plan her wedding.

"As Peer Recovery Specialists, we are able to use our person experience to have compassion for those who are often overlooked," Brandee explained. "Through our support and encouragement, we restore their hope. Peers help inspire others by living out their recovery and introducing others to the recovery community, setting them up with resources, and holding them accountable."

"To this day, Brandee continues to be a real inspiration to me and continues to be by my side," remarked Trudy. "I want people to know that there is hope and help available. If I can do it, anyone can."

# Daviess Community Hospital

## DCH announces winners of Nurse of the Year Awards, Pillar Award and Daisy Award



During National Nurses Week, Daviess Community Hospital (DCH) awarded its Nurse of the Year Awards, Pillar Award and Daisy Award during the Nurses Reception on May 10.

### Outpatient Nurse of the Year Award

The 2024 Outpatient Nurse of the Year Award was given to **Breanna Graber, RN**, of DCH Urology.

“She is a team player and isn’t afraid to try something new or help in other areas,” said Assistant Director of Nursing Jenna Bedwell, BSN, RN, LNCC. “She is very detail-oriented and organized, which is very valuable when it comes to taking care of others.”

Bedwell noted that Graber has a team-oriented personality.

“She is always going above and beyond to fill in in other areas of the hospital or picking up extra shifts to help out,” Bedwell said. “She is very laid back and is open to discussion for learning, implementing new ideas and handles constructive criticism well.”

Graber recently obtained her BSN.

Other nominees for the Outpatient Nurse of the Year Award include:

- Alayna Summers, RN with Heartland OB/GYN
- Andrea Tumey, RN with CORE Center
- Megan Owen, RN with CORE Center
- Jessica Downey, RN with Daviess-Martin Medical Clinic



# Daviess Community Hospital

## Inpatient Nurse of the Year Award

The 2024 Inpatient Nurse of the Year Award was given to Occupational Health Nurse **Jennifer Shaw, RN**.

Shaw's nomination called Shaw "compassionate, caring, drama-free, dedicated and exemplifies the meaning of true professionalism."

"She is kind to her core," the nomination state. "She truly has a Christ-like heart. She's humble and would be the last person who would want to be recognized because she's just say 'I'm just doing my job.' Yes, she is, but gives a whole lot more than anyone would expect because that's the type of person she is."

Shaw has been with DCH for more than 25 years.

Other nominees for the Inpatient Nurse of the Year Award include:

- Jenny Roberson, RN, of the Emergency Department
- Melissa Potts, BSN, RN, of the Education Department
- Lindsey Zollman, RN, of the Obstetrics Department
- Angela Raber, RN, of the Obstetrics Department
- Ashley Abel, RN, of the Acute Care Unit
- Lacey Himsel, BSN, RN, of the Intensive Care Unit
- Ellen Gahimer, LPN, of the Acute Rehab Department

Nominations for both the Outpatient and Inpatient Nurse of the Year Awards were accepted in the spring and aim to recognize an RN or LPN at Daviess Community Hospital who:

- Possesses exceptional clinical skills
- Desires to improve his/her professional practice
- Exceeds in the role of preceptor
- Advocates for patients
- Demonstrates excellence in customer service
- Positively represents the hospital in the community
- Exhibits servant leadership

## Pillar Award

Also honored during the Nurses Reception was **Kristine Garland** who was the recipient of the 2024 Pillar Award.

"Her organization and ability to wrangle the tasks asked of her is astonishing," said DCH Quality Improvement Director Jennifer Butler, RN, CIC, CPHQ, CJCP.

# Daviess Community Hospital

“Her organization and ability to wrangle the tasks asked of her is astonishing,” said DCH Quality Improvement Director Jennifer Butler, RN, CIC, CPHQ, CJCP.

Garland is a team player, Butler said.

“She is flexible and helpful to coworkers who float to us. She often takes time out of her day to make notes and tips for coworkers who are floating,” Butler said. “She is always willing to jump in and help when needed.”

Garland is also known for her personalized service to her patients.

“She takes the time to help patients navigate their issues,” Butler said. “If a patient comes to her with an issue, she helps the patient until the issue is resolved. She is always willing to listen and take the necessary steps to get the problem resolved or questions answered.”

Other nominees for the Pillar Award include:

- Katie Wise with the CORE Center
- Hannah Walker of the Acute Care Unit

Nominations for the Pillar Award were accepted in the spring and aim to recognize a support person - nursing assistant, obstetrics technician, emergency department technician, certified surgical technician, unit clerk, or telemetry technician – who excels in all areas of their work at Daviess Community Hospital.

## DAISY Award

**Marietta Wagler, RN**, of the Obstetrics Department was the recipient of the 2023 4th Quarter DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses.

Here is a portion of the nomination Wagler received: “Being first time parents, we were both scared on how to do anything! You made us feel safe and confident on how to take care of our baby. You shared information on things we didn’t even think about! The knowledge you have and shared with us has already made us less stressed to take on this big chapter in our lives. All the nurses on the unit have been amazing but you have shined the brightest. It’s the little things you have shared with us and helped us with that makes you amazing at your job! I hope you have a blast in retirement, it is well deserved!”

# Daviness Community Hospital

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The 2024 winner was Steve Volling, RN, of the Acute Rehab Department. He was nominated by the wife of a patient who "has a complicated health history beginning with a shot gun injury when he was 15 that took the use of his right arm." Later in life, the patient developed Parkinson's Disease. In 2022, her husband was admitted to the Acute Care Unit "due to several falls with injury," and Volling was working on the unit at the time. The patient's wife wrote that Volling was "totally engaged" in her husband's well-being.

She also wrote that while her husband was showing signs of dementia, Volling listened to her husband and treated him "with dignity and respect." She noted that Volling provided both her and her husband with "great emotional support and security." "I observed you going above and beyond for other patients," she wrote. "I am so thankful for nurses like you. I have spent my life working as an HR officer looking for people like you to care for our patients and their families. DCH found a great one in you!"

Other nominees for the DAISY Award include:

- Missy Tanksley, RN, of the Obstetrics Department
- Chelsea Stoll, RN, of the Obstetrics Department
- Sarah Chatten, RN, of the Obstetrics Department
- Sarah Hatcher, RN, of the Obstetrics Department
- Lindsey Jerger, RN, of the Obstetrics Department
- John Swartzentruber, RN, of the Acute Rehab Department
- Brianna Helms, RN, of the Intensive Care Unit
- Michael Graber, RN, of the Intensive Care Unit

DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System. According to The DAISY Foundation, the DAISY Award celebrates nurses in more than 5,800 healthcare facilities and schools of nursing around the world. The DAISY Foundation is a not-for-profit established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes by members of his family. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of an auto-immune disease.



# Daviess Community Hospital

The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired the creation of The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses, an evidenced-based means of providing nurse recognition and thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

“We are very proud to partner with DAISY as we have extraordinary nurses here at Daviess Community Hospital,” said Shawna O’Kelley Brinson, BSN, RN.

## Graduation and Certifications

Also during the event, DCH staff who graduated or obtained certifications in the past year were also honored, including:

### Bachelor’s

- Madison Wildman, BSN, RN
- Breanna Graber, BSN, RN

### Doctorate

- Jace Sama, DNP, RN

### Certifications

- Katie Wininger, BSN, RN, RNFA, CNOR, RNA-C
- Desiree Lewis, BSN, RN, Perinatal Bereavement Certification
- Lindsey Zollman, BSN, RN, IBCLC
- Lynda Plummer, AGACNP

## Committee recognition

The DCH Nursing Services Week Committee, who not only coordinated the Nurses Reception, but also all activities during Nurses Week across the entire DCH footprint, include

- Assistant Director of Nursing Jenna Bedwell, MSN, RN
- OB Director Shawna O’Kelly Brinson, BSN, RN
- Senior Practice Administrator Jennifer Christie, LPN
- CEO Tracy Conroy, RN
- Chief Nursing Officer Nancy Devine, BSN, RN, LNCC
- Quality Manager Lindsey Fuhs, RN
- Physician Practice Administrator Adrienne McCracken, RN
- Jennifer McIntire, BSN, RN CRRN
- Director of Surgical Services Chris McLaughlin, RN
- Clinical Educator Melissa Potts, BSN, RN
- Grants Coordinator Carrie Shaw
- Behavioral Health Program Director Jana Sherar, LCSW
- Emergency Services Director Chrissy Wininger, RN

Photos from the event can be found [here](#).

# Daviess Community Hospital

## Daviess Community Hospital Completes First Phase of Exciting Emergency Department Renovation

Daviess Community Hospital, a beacon of health and wellness in southwestern Indiana, proudly announces the completion of the first phase of its emergency department renovation project. This ambitious \$4 million project not only expands the ED by 40% but also significantly enhances the range of services offered.

"This project will include the addition of two dedicated rooms designed for the treatment and containment of infectious diseases and the re-building of two trauma rooms," said Christina Winingер, RN, BSN, Daviess Community Hospital Emergency Department Director.

Beginning on January 9, the first phase included:

- Renovation of eight emergency rooms
- Construction of two trauma rooms
- Expansion of the nurses' station
- New paint, flooring, décor, equipment, and more
- Construction of a medication room

"For six months, our emergency department staff have been remarkably patient and resilient during the construction. Their unwavering commitment to our patients during this ever-changing time has been truly inspiring, and I cannot thank them enough," Winingер said.



# Daviess Community Hospital

The second and final phase promises even more advancements:

- Building six additional emergency rooms
- Constructing one additional trauma room
- Expanding the waiting room
- Creating a new ambulance entrance distinct from the patient and visitor entrance
- Creating a specialized safe room for patients experiencing a behavioral health crisis

"It has been thrilling to see this project move from planning to execution, especially now that we are halfway through," Wininger added.

The comprehensive renovation project is set to be completed by December 2024, marking a new era for Daviess Community Hospital in its mission to better accommodate and treat the thousands of patients who trust them with their care.

For more information about Daviess Community Hospital and its emergency department visit <https://www.dchosp.org> or call (812) 254-2760.

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## 2nd annual Daviess Community Hospital Festival of Trees set for Nov. 16

**Montgomery, IN** – Daviess Community Hospital is thrilled to announce the 2nd annual Festival of Trees, a festive event benefitting the Daviess Community Hospital Mobile Integrated Health program and the Daviess Community Hospital Perinatal Pathways program. This year's festival will be held on November 16 at the Montgomery Ruritan Club, located at 6907 Park Road, Montgomery, IN.

"A Festival of Trees showcases Christmas trees, each beautifully and uniquely decorated by various individuals, organizations, businesses, etc., that are auctioned off during an exciting night of community and holiday spirit," said Carrie Shaw, chair of the Daviess Community Hospital Festival of Trees committee.

Tickets are available for \$35 per person or \$60 per couple at [dchosp.co/festival](https://dchosp.co/festival).

### Schedule

- 3 – 5 p.m.: The event will be open to the public for viewing and voting on their favorite decorated Christmas tree. This segment is free and offers a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the holiday spirit.
- 5 – 6 p.m.: The venue will temporarily close as organizers set up for the evening's activities and tally the People's Choice Award winner.
- 6 p.m.: The ticketed portion of the event will commence, featuring the announcement of the People's Choice Award winner, a cash bar and a silent auction. Guests can mingle, bid on fantastic items, and enjoy the festive atmosphere.



# Daviess Community Hospital

- 7 p.m.: A catered meal will be served, offering a delightful dining experience.
- 8 p.m.: The highlight of the evening, the auction of the beautifully decorated Christmas trees, will begin. Each tree is uniquely designed and promises to add a special touch to the highest bidder's holiday decor. The winning bidders can take the trees home with them that evening or can pick them up or have them delivered (within 30 miles of Washington, IN) from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on November 17.
- 9 – 11 p.m.: To conclude the evening, a live band will perform, providing entertainment and an opportunity to dance and celebrate.

## Sponsorship Opportunities

We invite businesses and individuals to sponsor this magical event. Sponsorship opportunities are available at various levels:

- Title Sponsor - \$2,000
  - 8 tickets to the Festival of Trees Gala
  - Recognition on event website
  - Recognition on select marketing material
  - Recognition by event MC (2024 Festival of Trees presented by XYZ Company)
- Platinum Sponsor - \$1,000
  - 6 tickets to the Festival of Trees Gala
  - Recognition on select marketing material
  - Recognition by event MC
- Gold Sponsor - \$500
  - 4 tickets to the Festival of Trees Gala
  - Recognition on select marketing material
- Silver Sponsor - \$300
  - 2 tickets to the Festival of Trees Gala
  - Recognition on select marketing material

Sponsorship commitments are due by October 15. For more information or to become a sponsor, please contact Shaw at (812) 254-2760, x. 1102, or visit [dchosp.co/festival](http://dchosp.co/festival).

## Tree Decorating

The theme for the event is “Winter Wonderland.” If you are interested in decorating and donating the decorated tree to the event, applications are being accepted until Monday, Sept. 16. Due to limited space, applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information about tree requirements, designs and themes, valuation and more, or to access the Tree Decorator Application, visit [dchosp.co/festival](http://dchosp.co/festival).

## Get Your Tickets

Tickets can be purchased by contacting Shaw at (812) 254-2760, x. 1102, or visiting [dchosp.co/festival](http://dchosp.co/festival). The event promises an enchanting experience for all attendees while supporting two vital community health programs.

- Mobile Integrated Health Program: This program enhances community health by providing in-home care and health services, reducing hospital readmissions, and improving overall patient outcomes.
- Perinatal Pathways Program: Dedicated to supporting mothers and babies, this program ensures comprehensive prenatal and postnatal care, promoting healthier pregnancies and healthier starts for newborns.