



Good Samaritan

HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

Restoring Health. Saving Lives.

Volume 11, Issue 4

Winter 2012

Hands and Hearts

A newsletter for our volunteers

He's My Dad*

The following letter was dropped off at an outpatient clinic of a large teaching hospital. Although the writer's identity is unknown, its content is relevant to all those in health care.

To Each Staff Member of this Facility:

As you pick up that chart today and scan that green Medicaid card, I hope you will remember what I am about to say.

I spent yesterday with you. I was there with my mother and father. We didn't know where we were supposed to go or what we were supposed to do, for we had never needed your services before. We have never before been labeled *charity*.

I watched yesterday as my dad became a diagnosis, a chart, a case number, a charity case labeled "no sponsor" because he has no health insurance.

I saw a weak man stand in line, waiting for five hours to be shuffled through a system of impatient office workers, a burned-out nursing staff and a budget-scarce facility, being robbed of any dignity and pride he may have had left. I was amazed at how impersonal your staff was, huffing and blowing when the patient did not present the correct form, speaking carelessly of other patients' cases in front of passersby, of lunch breaks that would be spent away from this "poor man's hell."

My dad is only a green card, a file number to clutter your desk on appointment day, a patient who will ask for directions twice after they've been mechanically given the first time. But, no, that's not really my dad. That's only what you see.

What you don't see is a cabinetmaker since the age of 14, a self-employed man who has a wonderful wife, four grown kids (who visit too much), and five grandchildren (with two more on the way) - all of whom think their "pop" is the greatest. This man is everything a daddy should be - strong and firm, yet tender; rough around the edges, a country boy, yet respected by prominent business owners.

*Copied from "Chicken Soup for the Soul" and sent to us by an admirer who thanks us, staff and volunteers, that Good Samaritan is **not** the clinic described in the article.

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Good Sam will be closed

**Monday & Tuesday,
December 31st & Jan. 1st**

New Year's Holidays

Monday, January 21st

Martin Luther King Day

Monday, February 18th

President's Day

Friday, March 29th

Good Friday

He's my dad, the man who raised me through thick and thin, gave me away as a bride, held my children at their births, stuffed a \$20 bill into my hand when times wer tough and comforted me when I cried. Now we are told that before lung cancer will take this man away from us.

You may say these are the words of a grieving daughter lashing out in helplessness at the prospect of losing a loved one. I would not disagree. Yet I would urge you not to discount what I say. Never lose sight of the people behind your charts. Each chart represents a person - with feelings, a history, a life - whom you have to power to touch for one day by your words and actions. Tomorrow it may be your loved one - your relative or neighbor - who turns into a case number, a green card, a name to be marked off with a yellow marker as done for the day.

I pray that you will reward the next person you greet at your station with a kind word or smile because that person is someone's dad, husband, wife, mother, son or daughter - or simply because he or she is a human being, created and loved by God, just as you are.

Author Unknown

Restoring Health, Saving Lives

Your clinic is truly a blessing to the people of Pickens County!

Thanks to all of the volunteers who have worked so hard and for your care shown to me during the past year.

It's really sweet of you all to donate your time to people in need. May God really bless you all throughout the year.

Thanks to the Good Sam doctors, nurses & everyone! Thanks so much for all your help. You are very kind and selfless in your caring attitudes. May God bless you al you serve Him.

A Message from Carole Maddux

Recently, I overheard two of our dentists talking to each other as they signed out in our break room. One was telling the other how much he enjoys his days at Good Samaritan.

"I know what you mean," the other doctor agreed. "When I get up in the morning on a day I'm scheduled," he admitted, "I'm wishing I had the day free. But by the time I get here, I'm looking forward to the day and as the day goes on, I can't imagine wanting to be anywhere else!"

Now, I was raised right, and know that it's rude to eavesdrop, but I am so glad I overheard these two volunteers. You see, I've always felt that an important part of what Good Samaritan brings to our community is not just that we provide health care to those with no access, but also that we provide a way for the community to volunteer.

I've long known that the real secret to volunteer work is that you get back so much more than you give. It's the ultimate investment! An opportunity to use a God-given talent in a totally selfless way is a gift indeed and I'm glad that we provide that gift to the people of Northwest Georgia.

In that same manner, we must not be hoarders of this opportunity. There's room for all who wish to give. When was the last time you shared with a friend or acquaintance or neighbor your experience at Good Samaritan? When was the last time you let someone know how meaningful your work is or how distressed and grateful our patients are? We need to share the good news of Good Samaritan and open our circle to new volunteers. Volunteers who can learn what you already know. That it is only in giving that we receive.

Thank you for sharing the grace and giving more people the opportunity to serve.

Carole

Acts 20:35 *In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*



Hoedown Pictures



In Memoriam

Anne Spitznagel, wife of Dr. John Spitznagel, passed away after a long illness.

Emily Thurman passed away this month.

2013 First Quarter Calendar

January 2013

Tuesday, January 1st

Tuesday, January 15th

Monday, January 21st

Thursday, January 24th

New Year's Day - Good Samaritan Closed

CTL Meeting - 1:30 pm

Martin Luther King Day - Good Samaritan Closed

Board of Directors Meeting - 6:00pm

February 2013

Monday, February 18th

Tuesday, February 19th

President's Day - Good Samaritan Closed

CTL Meeting - 1:30 pm

March 2013

Thursday, March 7th

Tuesday, March 19th

Thursday, March 28th

Friday, March 29th

Deadline for *Hands and Hearts* Newsletter

CTL Meeting - 1:30 pm

Board of Directors Meeting - 6:00pm

Good Friday - Good Samaritan Closed

2013 Holidays - Good Samaritan Closed

Tuesday, Jan 1

Monday, January 21

Monday, February 18

Friday, March 29

Monday, May 27

Thursday, July 4

Monday, September 2

Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 24 & 25

Tuesday, December 31

New Year's Holidays

Martin Luther King Day

President's Day

Good Friday

Memorial Day

Independence Day

Labor Day

Thanksgiving

Christmas

New Year's Eve

Good Samaritan Closing Due to Weather

If Pickens Co. Schools are closed, Good Samaritan will also be closed.

WAYS TO CHECK

Call 706-253-1710 after 5:30 AM

Listen to 1490 AM on your radio

Check WWW.Pickens.K12.GA.US/ on your computer



Angel Campaign

It is still not too late to honor your favorite volunteer with a donation to the Adopt an Angel campaign! For just \$25 you can have an angel placed on our tree in the Pickens County Library with your "angel's" name attached. For those of you honored, you will be able to take your angel home with you after the tree is taken down, just look for your angel in the break room.



Reminder!

Good Samaritan policy states that volunteers are not to report if in the past 24 hours they have had a fever over 100° or diarrhea or vomiting.

Christmas Reception

The annual Christmas party for volunteers given by the Board of Directors was Friday, December 7th at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Family. Liz Donovan-Davis catered the feast and a few words were spoken by the Chairman of the Board, Rev. Jimmy Lewis, to thank all the volunteers for their hard work over the past year.



Our lovely Jean Are serves punch!



Rev. Jimmy Lewis addresses the volunteers.



Frances Scott & Myrna Denson , are having a good time.



Roger Estill & Von Hinton enjoy the wonderful food served by Liz Donovan-Davis.



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May we have the eyes to see those who are rendered
invisible and excluded,
open arms and hearts to reach out and
include them,
healing hands to touch their lives
with love,
and, as we do these things,
may we ourselves be renewed.

