

Healthy **LIVING**



Daviness Community Hospital



Affiliation Anniversary

DAVIESS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

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It is hard to believe that it has been four years since Daviess Community Hospital (DCH) entered into an agreement with Ascension St. Vincent for the management of day-to-day and strategic operations. Through this agreement, Ascension St. Vincent and Daviess Community Hospital continue to partner together by providing integrated specialty services to the Daviess County area, along with coordinating perinatal and trauma care between the two systems.

Our name and brand has remained Daviess Community Hospital and governance by our Board of Governors continues as it has for many years. The intent of this collaboration between our two health systems is to work together for the best possible care and outcomes for our patients.

The Board of Governors has been very pleased with the many benefits of our association with Ascension St. Vincent Evansville and, by extension, the entire Ascension network. "This partnership has provided DCH with a wonderful number of opportunities not only from a financial perspective, but it has offered a great deal of intangible benefits as well," said Deron Steiner, DCH Board President. "We only need to look at the current health crisis to fully appreciate how important this relationship is in terms of breadth and depth, the knowledge and resources an organization such as Ascension St. Vincent can provide to us. For many reasons, we can be very thankful to have such a committed partner in Ascension St. Vincent and Ascension."

This partnership was the next step in the clinical affiliation agreement between Daviess Community Hospital and Ascension St. Vincent Evansville which began in 2015 when specialty physicians from Ascension St. Vincent began treating patients on the DCH campus. Since that time, many of our service lines have expanded thanks to Dr. Thomas Waits (Oncology/Hematology), Dr. Vijay Bhasin (Nephrology), Dr. Michael Gallentine (Urology) and Dr. Roger Johnson (Pulmonology).

As part of this new management agreement, we welcomed Tracy Conroy as our new Chief Executive Officer and Randy Russell as our Chief Financial Officer. Both Tracy and Randy have many years of experience in the healthcare environment and have created an administrative team that has made a significant impact on the success of the organization.

AND ASCENSION ST. VINCENT AFFILIATION ANNIVERSARY

“In today’s environment of healthcare, it’s important to be part of a larger network to ensure survival of small community hospitals,” said Tracy Conroy, CEO at Daviess Community Hospital. “I’m very happy that DCH is part of Ascension St Vincent. This partnership has been extremely valuable in allowing patients to receive care without having to leave the community. We have access to services such as oncology and urology that allows patients to be treated locally and still receive the highest level of quality care.”

Other benefits from this affiliation include:

- The clinical education resources Ascension St. Vincent offers our staff and providers.
- Savings on supplies through group purchasing
- Assistance with compliance with regulatory agencies
- Emergency preparedness resources
- DCH staff is able to network and consult with their counterparts at Ascension St. Vincent
- Consultation services Ascension St. Vincent offers DCH when implementing new service lines or processes
- Participation on Ascension St. Vincent’s Ethics Committee

In 2019, DCH and Ascension St. Vincent leadership agreed to link the two organizations together using the DCH logo with the addition of “an affiliate of Ascension St. Vincent”. The new DCH logo now appears on various marketing materials as well as on the DCH Emergency Management Service vehicles.

In late 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, DCH and Ascension St. Vincent further expanded the relationship by incorporating Ascension St. Vincent’s Pharmacy Management services into DCH’s operations. Under this arrangement, Ascension St. Vincent provides onsite management of our inpatient pharmacy and provides after hours medication order verification from the onsite pharmacist staff at the

Ascension St. Vincent medical center in Evansville. “By leveraging our close relationship with Ascension St. Vincent and technology, we are able to provide a higher level of quality care and safety for our patients when it comes to pharmaceutical dispensing and administration.” Says DCH COO Keith Miller. Miller goes on to say, “The pharmacy management agreement is just the latest example of how DCH and Ascension St. Vincent can achieve efficiencies through the continued growth of this partnership, and provide the highest level of care possible to the residents of Daviess and surrounding counties.”

“Daviess County is an important partner for Ascension St. Vincent,” said Dan Parod, President, Ascension St. Vincent Evansville. “We have enjoyed working together to find more ways to support DCH's ongoing success and keep care local whenever possible.”

ABOUT ASCENSION ST. VINCENT

Ascension St. Vincent is one of Indiana’s largest health systems with 20 hospital locations, almost 2,000 physicians and over 400 total care sites across the state. They provide communities with access to the highest level of care - including transplant surgeons, open heart surgeons, a dedicated pediatric hospital, a phenomenal heart hospital with some of the nation’s leading providers in heart care and more.

In Southwest Indiana, Ascension St. Vincent and St. Vincent Warrick represent two acute care hospitals, over 50 physician practice sites, two outpatient surgery centers, outpatient sites of care at Epworth Crossing, Westside Crossing, Urgent Care Boonville and much more. Ascension St. Vincent has been honored twice with the Magnet® Designation for Nursing Excellence and the Healthgrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™ (2014 – 2016) and is the region’s only hospital verified as both an Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeon Committee on Trauma.

COVER PHOTO

Pictured are Dan Parod, President of Ascension St. Vincent Evansville and Tracy Conroy, CEO at Daviess Community Hospital.

MEET THE NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PROVIDERS!



**Otto Susec, MD
(Medical Director)**

Education: Undergraduate BS in Biology from Ohio State University

Medical Degree: Ohio State University College of Medicine

Internship and Residency: Emergency Medicine Carolinas Medical Center

Additional Information: Certified – American Board of Emergency Medicine

**Timothy Almquist, MD FACEP
(EMS Medical Director)**

Education: Internship at U.S. Naval Hospital (Bethesda, MD), Residency at Georgetown University/George Washington University, Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems

Medical School: Georgetown University School of Medicine

Additional Information:

Diplomate of the American Board of Emergency Medicine, United States Navy – Lieutenant Commander (Honorable Discharge), United States Navy – Staff Physician, Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians



Sally Doughty, FNP

Education: Associate of Science in Nursing from Ivy Tech Community College, Bachelor of Science in Nursing from University of Southern Indiana, Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner from Purdue University Global MSN-FNP

Additional Information: Member of American Nurses Association; Coalition for Advance Practice Nurses of Indiana; American Association of Nurse Practitioners

James Gladish, DO

Education: BS from University of Southern Indiana, Southern Illinois University Family Medicine

Medical School: DO from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences

Additional Information: Diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine



Ashley James, FNP

Education: MSN from Northern Kentucky University, BSN from the University of Southern Indiana

Additional Information: Certified – National Institute of Health Stroke Scale



Stephen Bell, PA-C

Education: BS in Physician Assistant Studies – University of Texas Health Science Center (United States Army)

Additional Information: Member of the Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants, American Academy of Physician Assistants, Indiana Association of Physician Assistants, Airforce/Air

National Guard Commander, LTC, Det-1

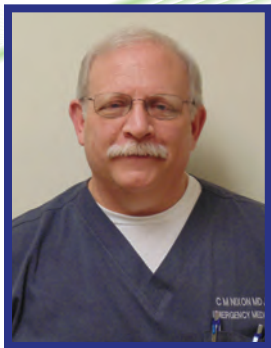
Gladys Lopez, MD, MPH

Education: Masters in International Health Promotion, The George Washington University

Medical School: The George Washington University: International Emergency Medicine Fellowship July 2004-July 2005. Residency, Internship - New York Medical College. MD from Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Bogota-Colombia-South America).

Additional Information: Member of the following - American College of EM (ACEP), United States Colombian Medical Association, Colombian Emergency Medicine Association-ASCOME, Colombian Association of EM specialist- ACEM, Pan American Trauma Association, American College of Emergency Physicians, American Medical Association, Association of Ex Alumni of National University of Colombia (AEXMUN)





**Christopher Nixon, MD,
JD, FAAFP, FCLM**

Education: Valparaiso University School of Law; Manchester College

Medical School: CETEC School of Medicine, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Additional Information: Certified American Board of Family Medicine, Certified American

Board of Legal Medicine Fellow, American Academy of Family Physicians Fellow, American College of Legal Medicine, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Emergency Physicians, Association of Military surgeons of the US, Colorado Bar Association



Kwabena Osei, MD

Education: Undergraduate BS in Pre-Medical Studies, University of Cincinnati

Medical Degree: University of Toledo Medical Center

Internship and Residency: Emergency Medicine, Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center (Toledo, OH)

Additional Information: Member -American College of Emergency Physicians

Tracy Scott Powell, NP

Education: FNP from Boston University, MSN from Western Governors University, BSN from Western Governors University, ASN from Vincennes University

Additional Information: Member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners



Jon Schermerhorn, APRN

Education: BS in Nursing, Murray State; Masters of Science Nursing, Walden University; Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, University of Southern Indiana.

Additional Information: Trauma Nurse Specialist, Critical Care RN, Certified Flight RN, Certified ER RN, Member – American Association Critical Care Nurses, Member – Emergency Nurses Association.



Nhan Nguyen, DO

Education: MBA in General Business from University of Louisville, BA from the University of Louisville

Medical School: Family Medicine Residency at Methodist Hospital (Henderson, KY), DO from University of Pikeville/Kentucky college Schools of Osteopathic Medicine

Additional Information: Certified by American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians. Member of the American Osteopathic Association, American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians



Courtney Souders, NP-C

Education: MSN from Chamberlain University, BSN at Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes Jewish, BS in Exercise Science from University of Evansville.

Additional Information: Member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners

Tiffany Turner, FNP

Education: MSN from Indiana Wesleyan University

Additional Information: Member - American Academy of Nurse Practitioners



Daviness Community Hospital

An Affiliate of Ascension St. Vincent

DCH WOUND CARE EXCEEDS PATIENT'S EXPECTATIONS

Many people spend countless hours every day on their feet. Charity Tester has spent the last three years wishing she could just stand without pain for a few minutes at a time.

Charity's story began in 2017 when a crack appeared on the sole of her foot near the base of her big toe. In a short time, the crack evolved into an ulcer. At that time, Charity went to a nearby facility where her wound was wrapped weekly. She eventually had surgery where her joint was shaved in an attempt to reduce friction. The surgery was unsuccessful in improving her condition.

The condition of her foot, in combination with her neuropathy, caused her toe to turn inward. Charity's primary care provider suggested she get a second opinion and referred her to the DCH Wound Care Center.

Charity's first appointment with the DCH Wound Care team was in October of 2020. Nurse Practitioner Lori Day examined Charity's foot and feared that the infection had gone into the bone. An MRI revealed that the infection was only of the soft tissue and treatments began immediately.

"The first two weeks of treatment resulted in dramatic results," said Lori Day, Nurse Practitioner. "The healing process went much faster than we had expected and we no longer worried that Charity might lose her toe."

Charity had been active before the issues with her foot and now has been forced to elevate her foot.

"While my foot is healing, I am restricted to no weight bearing," said Charity. "My husband, Bobby, has had to take care of the housework and takes care of the bandages on my foot between appointments."

Dressings are changed often to ensure less moisture at the site which can slow down the healing process.

"I am so grateful for the nurses and Lori," said Charity. "I have healed more in two months here than I did in over two years at another clinic."

Nurse Practitioner Lori Day said, "Even when the wound is completely healed, Charity will always have to wear proper shoes so it does not reoccur." She went on to say that Charity's commitment to controlling her blood sugars, resting, elevating the foot and dressing changes are key to continued healing.

The keys to Charity's healing and progress have been effective debridement of necrotic tissue, management of infection, and most importantly finding ways to relieve pressure to the wound area. The DCH Wound Care Center team have used collagen products, special absorbent dressings, offloading devices and "cellular tissue-based products" otherwise known as skin substitutes applied to the wound which promote healing in many chronic and stalled wounds.

"The staff are all so friendly and treat me like a person, not just a number," Charity explained. "We don't mind making the trip from Vincennes because of the great care I am getting."

ABOUT US

Lori Day, is a certified Family Nurse Practitioner and certified Wound Ostomy Registered Nurse. She is certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and by the Wound Ostomy and Continence Nursing Board. Along with Penny McCloud, RN, BSN and Missy Mangel, RN, BSN, CWOCN, our team of wound experts provide customized treatment for non-healing wounds.

Our wound care specialists are WOCN certified.

This is the largest and most recognized professional nursing community dedicated to advancing the practice and delivery of expert healthcare to individuals with wound, ostomy, and continence care needs.

A physician's referral is not required for treatment of any wound.

Pictured are: Charity Tester,
Penny McCloud, RN and Lori Day, NP-C



GRATEFUL PATIENT POST-COVID

Joe Rendle lives in Haubstadt, Indiana. He is somewhat familiar with Washington, Indiana only because his sister and her family have lived in the quaint community for many years and he has visited them for various family functions. In January 2021, Joe came to Washington for a very different purpose.

On January 21, 2021, Joe started to feel like he was coming down with the flu. The symptoms persisted for a few days which led him to get a rapid test for COVID-19 in Evansville. His results were positive for the virus and he was instructed to quarantine at home. A few days later, Joe's fever broke and he thought his symptoms would go away.

Then on January 27th, Joe remembers feeling as though something was wrong with his lungs and seemed extremely tired and lethargic. A trip to an Evansville hospital revealed that he had double pneumonia. "Because I am fairly healthy and only fifty-one years old, I didn't meet the criteria at this hospital I went to, Joe said. "I was sent home with breathing treatments and advised to monitor my oxygen saturation levels. This was concerning to me because I could not breathe when laying down."

Once back home, Joe's temperature rose to 102 degrees and his oxygen levels dropped. He and his family were very concerned about his health and felt he needed to be admitted to a hospital.

While he had been ill, Joe had looked through photos from his 50th birthday party that included several family photos. "I remember looking through the old photos and thinking about my sister, Julie Stephens, who had always looked out for me when we were growing up," Joe recalled. "That's when I called Julie, who works at DCH. She is familiar with the medical staff and the process to admit a patient, so I knew she could help me find a solution. I really felt like God was telling me that she was going to help me with this too."

It the late hours of February 1st, Joe was met at the Daviess Community Hospital Emergency Department by his sister. The DCH team knew he was coming in and what to expect with regards to his condition. Once admitted to the "Respiratory Care Unit" at DCH, Joe was immediately given an antiviral medicine.

"It was the first time in nearly two weeks that I wasn't afraid to fall asleep," he recalled. "It was a mental relief to know I was safe and monitored by a medical team."

On his first morning at DCH, Joe met with Dr. Suresh Lohano who was the hospitalist on duty. Together they discussed a plan for Joe's treatment that included

Pictured are:
Dr. Suresh Lohano
and Joe Rendle

plasma and steroids. Joe made a remarkable recovery and was able to be discharged to home on February 3rd.

When he was admitted to DCH, Joe's oxygen levels were at 84 – 87%. When he was discharged, they were 94 – 95% which was a significant improvement.

"In these last few weeks since going home, I still feel tired from my feet to my ears," Joe mused. "My lungs didn't like the cold weather we had and I feel like I'm carrying extra weight on my shoulders."

Joe recalls the days before his illness when he thought COVID-19 symptoms wouldn't affect him like they did. He now knows how seriously lungs can be affected by the virus and the long-lasting effects that can linger for months.

Joe recalls how great the nursing staff were to him when he was hospitalized. "I could see on their faces that they were dealing with very sick patients. They reassured me every day that everything would be ok. They gave me hope and when you get hope back, it's a game changer."

Joe is grateful that Daviess Community Hospital admitted him and treated him quickly for his condition. "I think now that if I had stayed home much longer, I may have ended up on a vent," he said. "I was so grateful to be in a place where Dr. Lohano and the hospital staff listened to me and did everything in their power to help me fight the virus and get better."

In the days after Joe returned home, he found that his emotions were sometimes overwhelming as he thought about his time in the hospital. "Reality set in and I just kept thinking about how hard the nurses, doctors and all other people at the hospital work every day as they care for really sick people like me and the emotional toll it must take," he recalled. "I would imagine they are all exhausted both physically and emotionally."

Joe and his family recently showed their thanks by sending flowers, special treats and meals to the team that cared for him at DCH. "These people gave me hope when I had lost it and that was a game changer."

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DCH ACUTE REHABILITATION UNIT RECEIVES CARF ACCREDITATION

The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) surveyed the Acute Rehab Unit in January of this year. Notification was received in March that the Daviness Community Hospital Acute Rehabilitation Unit is accredited by CARF International for a period of three years for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Programs - Hospital (Adults). This accreditation extends through January, 31, 2024. Daviness Community Hospital Acute Rehab Unit has continuously received accreditation since 2005.

"CARF commends Daviness Community Hospital's commitment and consistent efforts to improve the quality of its programs and services and looks forward to working with the organization in its ongoing pursuit of excellence," stated Brian Boon, President of CARF International.

"We are honored to be one of the few facilities in the area with this accreditation," stated Sandra Cox, RN, Manager for the DCH Acute Rehab Unit. "It is an ongoing process which takes the entire Acute Rehab Unit team to achieve. We are fortunate to have a dedicated nursing staff, therapy staff and Medical Director on our Acute Rehab Unit that have made such a commitment to continuous improvement. This commitment is found not only on the Acute Rehab Unit, but throughout Daviness Community Hospital."

CARF stands for Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. The mission of CARF is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of persons served.

