

The Impact of Your Giving



Dr. Ruben Perez cared for 11-year-old Aly Johnson's grandmother during her battle with breast cancer. Aly held a lemonade stand fund-raiser to support WellSpan Sechler Family Cancer Center in Lebanon.

Fiscal Year 2019



You are important to Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation!

This past year, your generosity helped support:

- **Community benefit.** With your help, emergency health care providers received special training on identifying and treating sepsis so that patients could receive vital care faster.
- **Innovation and education.** Thanks to you, WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital has a new cardiac monitoring system that helps patients get home sooner and reduces readmissions.
- **Clinical excellence.** Because of you, hospital patients with sepsis received life-saving monitoring and care.

Your donations make a difference. This report provides examples of just a few of the countless ways you are helping advance health and wellness in our region.



Community Benefit

Hospital-EMT Collaboration Addresses Sepsis Treatment to Save Lives

Every year, 1.6 million people are diagnosed with sepsis – a life-threatening response to infection. Time is critical in the treatment of this condition, as risk of death increases every hour treatment is delayed. Recognizing this, WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital created a program to help emergency health care providers identify and treat sepsis as soon as possible.



Clinical leadership collaborated with local EMT providers to educate paramedics on how to recognize sepsis and begin treatment prior to patients arriving at the hospital. They also developed a system to coordinate home visits for people who might have higher risk for sepsis. During these scheduled visits, paramedics help monitor vital signs and identify barriers in the home or lifestyle that might hinder recovery or increase patients' overall health risks. Thanks to your support, this program is helping patients get the care they need faster and reducing the number of deaths from sepsis in our community.

Each year more than **258,000 people** die from sepsis in the U.S.



Sepsis is the **number 1 leading cause of death** in hospitals.



Someone is diagnosed with sepsis **every 20 seconds**.

Innovation and Education

Remote Patient Monitoring Program Helps Patients Engage in Their Own Health

Patients with heart failure or those recovering from open-heart surgery often benefit from daily vital sign monitoring at home to help manage their conditions. With WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital's new remote patient monitoring program, patients now are provided with at-home tools to successfully monitor health changes.

This interactive technology allows patients to have a better understanding of what to look for after a hospitalization in an effort to reduce readmissions. This life-enhancing service is provided to our patients at no additional cost. Your donation supports our commitment to ensuring patients get the best care and can return to their lives sooner.

Of the 14 patients who have used the remote patient monitoring program, only one had to be readmitted to the hospital.

Local Resident Benefits from Remote Patient Monitoring

On the morning of May 28, 2019, Bob Gensemer, of Denver, PA, felt intense chest pain. It was hard to breathe. His wife took one look at his ashen face, and said, "We need to go to the hospital – now!" Bob was having a heart attack. He required open-heart surgery and spent 14 days in the ICU. Needless to say, he was eager to go home as soon as he could. The new remote patient monitoring system helped him return to his home – and his life – more quickly.



Clinical Excellence

Enhanced Sepsis Monitoring Protocols Save Lives

Each month, WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital sees approximately 100 patients with a sepsis diagnosis. That's why a multi-disciplinary committee set out to improve the care and monitoring of patients with sepsis. Tammy Sullivan, manager of case management, served on this committee. In a remarkable twist of fate, she credits being alive today to the committee's requirement that all sepsis patients receive heart monitoring.



"I am convinced I would not be here today if I had not been on that heart monitor. The new requirements saved my life."

Tammy, who had just turned 48, began feeling sick in January. Over the next couple of weeks, she became seriously ill and was not getting appropriate care at her local hospital. That's when she knew she needed to go to WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital. She was diagnosed with sepsis. The nurses implemented the sepsis care requirements that had been put into place.

"I am an active, healthy person with no history of heart problems, so if not for the requirement, I would not have had a heart monitor on," explains Tammy. But, that heart monitor saved her life.

Due to her severe case of sepsis, Tammy's heart rate dropped and she became unconscious. Because she was on a cardiac monitor, this triggered an emergency response from the nurses.

"I knew I needed help, but in the last seconds before I passed out, my mind was so impacted by the sepsis, I could not even figure out how to use the call bell," recalls Tammy. "I am convinced I would not be here today if I had not been on that heart monitor. The new requirements saved my life."