

Premier Pulse

News for Premier Health Physicians

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“His words were exactly what she needed to hear in order to decide how best to live out the final days of her life.”

Which Conversations Really Matter?

By Scott Kanagy, DO, chief medical officer, Premier Health Northern Region



Imagine how difficult it must be to learn that you have a terminal illness. Then comes the decision - how to best live the rest of your days. This was the situation an

elderly patient recently experienced at one of our hospitals.

Aaron Kaibas, DO, recognized the terminally ill patient still had reservations about her decision to be moved into hospice care. The patient had a known history of congestive heart failure and had a defibrillator in place that had kept her arrhythmias in check. Her arrhythmias were not likely going to end her life. She wanted to keep her defibrillator in place and allow it to protect her as it had done for more than a decade. However, she

was terrified that the last few moments of her life would be painful due to the possibility of her defibrillator repeatedly shocking her to keep her heart beating. She could not imagine this being the way she spent her last few minutes in this world and feared how traumatic it would be for her family.

Dr. Kaibas explained exactly what the defibrillator would do as her heart stopped, and that in the end, it would not shock her repeatedly. Best of all were the words he used to explain this to her. He said, “The device will know when you’re making the transition from this world to the next.” After this interaction with Dr. Kaibas, the woman’s nurses saw her anxiety turn to peace. Many nurses also stated how calming these words were for them to hear, as they had become close with this patient during her

hospitalization. One nurse stated, “His words were exactly what she needed to hear in order to decide how best to live out the final days of her life.”

What a difference this conversation made in this woman’s life. She was able to find peace in her decision and one of her main concerns was eliminated by the compassionate care of a provider. What if Dr. Kaibas had been in a rush or short with this patient? What if he had not taken the time to make sure all her questions were answered? It is this type of compassionate care that every patient deserves. I want to thank Dr. Kaibas as well as all who strive to deliver this type of care every day. In this time of a pandemic and social unrest, clear and effective communication and listening are more important than ever.

Premier Health Offers Special Pricing on COVID-19 IgG Antibody Testing



Premier Health and CompuNet Clinical Laboratories are pleased to offer special pricing on the COVID-19 IgG antibody test for Premier Health employees, volunteers, and medical staff through December 30, 2020. COVID-19 IgG antibody testing, known as the SARS CoV2 IgG antibody test, provides valuable information to people who might be interested in donating convalescent plasma through the Community Blood Center to help patients currently fighting COVID-19, or who are curious if an unexplained respiratory illness might have been COVID-19.

How do I know if the test is right for me?

Individuals who would like to know if they have been previously infected with COVID-19 should consider contacting their health care provider to discuss the need for antibody testing. *Please note that testing positive for the IgG antibody does not necessarily imply immunity from COVID-19. Whatever the result, individuals should continue to follow federal, state, and local public health guidance for social distancing and other recommended behaviors during the pandemic and must comply with Premier Health policies regarding PPE usage and universal masking.*

Antibody testing is not for individuals who believe they have an active COVID-19 infection. If an individual has COVID-19 symptoms, they should contact a health care provider who will determine the need for a COVID-19 screening test.

How is the test done?

The antibody test is performed on a patient's blood specimen and will detect the IgG antibody to SARS-CoV2. If detected, this likely indicates that a person was previously infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. An IgG antibody is a protein that the body produces in the latter stages of infection and may remain for some time after a person has recovered.

How much does it cost for the test?

The Premier Health Employee Plan will cover the cost of the IgG antibody test at 100 percent during the National Emergency period (currently through July 24 and including any extension) for employees and their dependents covered under the plan. You must obtain a physician's order to use your insurance.

You may also visit a CompuNet Patient Service Center (PSC) without a physician's

order and request the IgG antibody test. The test is available at a discounted rate of \$40 for Premier Health employees, volunteers and medical staff only, through December 30, 2020. You must show your Premier Health badge at the time of service and payment is due at time of service using a credit card or check. CompuNet cannot bill insurance companies for the patient-ordered direct access test. Test results will be available through the CompuNet Results Portal, *My Labs Now*, within a couple days. To register for the **CompuNet Results Portal**, text **mylabs to 66349** or go to <https://mylabsnow.luminatehealth.com/>.

Where can I go to get the test?

To obtain the antibody test without a doctor's order, visit the Premier Health COVID-19 intranet page and print the CompuNet Direct Access Lab Test form. Complete the form and bring it to the CompuNet PSC along with your check or credit card and Premier Health badge. No appointment is needed. Based on Governor DeWine's Reopen Ohio guidelines, CompuNet requires patients to wear a mask.



OB/GYN Enjoys Family Time, Vacationing on Beach



William J. Rush, MD

What is your clinical specialty?

Female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery, also known as urogynecology. It

is a subspecialty of OB/GYN or urology and treats benign conditions of the female pelvic organs that include urinary incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse, overactive bladder, and recurrent urinary tract infections.

Where did you go to school?

Undergraduate at the University of Dayton; medical school at University of Cincinnati; and residency at University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville

What brought you to Premier Health?

I grew up in Cincinnati with most of my family still in Ohio. My wife, Carla, and I wanted to be near family and looked at surrounding communities. Lifestages (now a part of Premier Health) has the same philosophy of caring for women at all stages of their health which is what I was looking for in a practice.

Why did you choose medicine as a career?

I have always felt a calling to help people in a unique and personal way. Through medicine, I found a passion to care for people with the ability to be challenged in various aspects of that care.

Who are the people who influenced and/or mentored you?

I've had many influences and mentors throughout the various stages of my career. Growing up, I had an uncle who showed me what medicine could be like with a family and inspired me to pursue medicine as a career. In residency, I had two main mentors, Dr. Bob Elder and Dr. Mark Hennessy, who pushed me as a physician and a person to be my best.

After residency, I joined Lifestages because I saw multiple physicians within the group who would add to that mentorship as I began my career. Through their leadership and partnership, I grew as a person and a physician to better serve my community. Their influence helped to shape how I practice medicine today.

What is one thing most people don't know about you?

I am an avid woodworker. I have a woodshop at my house that I consider a sanctuary. I love to build various types of furniture and objects for our family and friends. Most recently, I built a vanity for my daughter, a bookcase for my son, and a chopping block for my wife and me in the kitchen.

Where is your hometown?

Cincinnati, Ohio

What, if any, sports team(s) do you cheer for?

University of Dayton – Basketball season tickets for the past 14 years
University of Tennessee - College football

However, I watch more golf than any other sport. My two favorite golfers are Ian Poulter and Rory McIlroy.

What is the last book you read?

The Institute by Stephen King (one of my favorite authors)

What is your favorite song in your playlist?

Love is the Seventh Wave by Sting. Almost anything by Sting or David Bowie would make the list.

What is your favorite food?

A perfect steak is my favorite at home. When out, I enjoy most all types of cuisine. There is very little I won't try or enjoy.

What is your favorite hobby?

Woodworking in the winter
Golf in the summer

What is your favorite animal, and why?

Dog – a wonderful and loyal companion

Where is your favorite vacation spot, and why?

I find it extremely peaceful and fun to visit the beach. I can relax, take a walk, or play in the ocean with my family. It has it all. Specifically, I love to go to Kiawah Island, SC with our family. It is a beautiful beach with wonderful golf courses and excellent food.

Describe something (a thing, person, place, experience, etc.) for which you are especially thankful:

I am especially grateful each and every day for my wife, Carla, and two children, Sophie, 13, and Charlie, 10. I love to play games, relax, and share as much of my life with them as possible. They give me daily inspiration to improve and be the best person I can be.

Pick a side

iPhone or Android

iPhone

Early bird or night owl

Night owl

Beach bum or mountain hiker?

Beach bum

Dress shoes or tennis shoes?

Neither...Sandals, whenever I can

Paperback or e-reader?

e-reader for convenience, but I buy hardcover books for certain authors that I follow closely

Coffee or tea?

Coffee in the morning, tea in the evening

Cooking or baking?

Cooking, especially grilling on the Big Green Egg

Sweet or salty?

Sweet – I have a major sweet tooth, especially for Graeter's ice cream

Premier Health's Ninth Urgent Care Opens in Piqua



Premier Health has opened its newest urgent care location in Piqua. The site is part of a larger rollout, which now includes nine locations throughout Southwest Ohio.

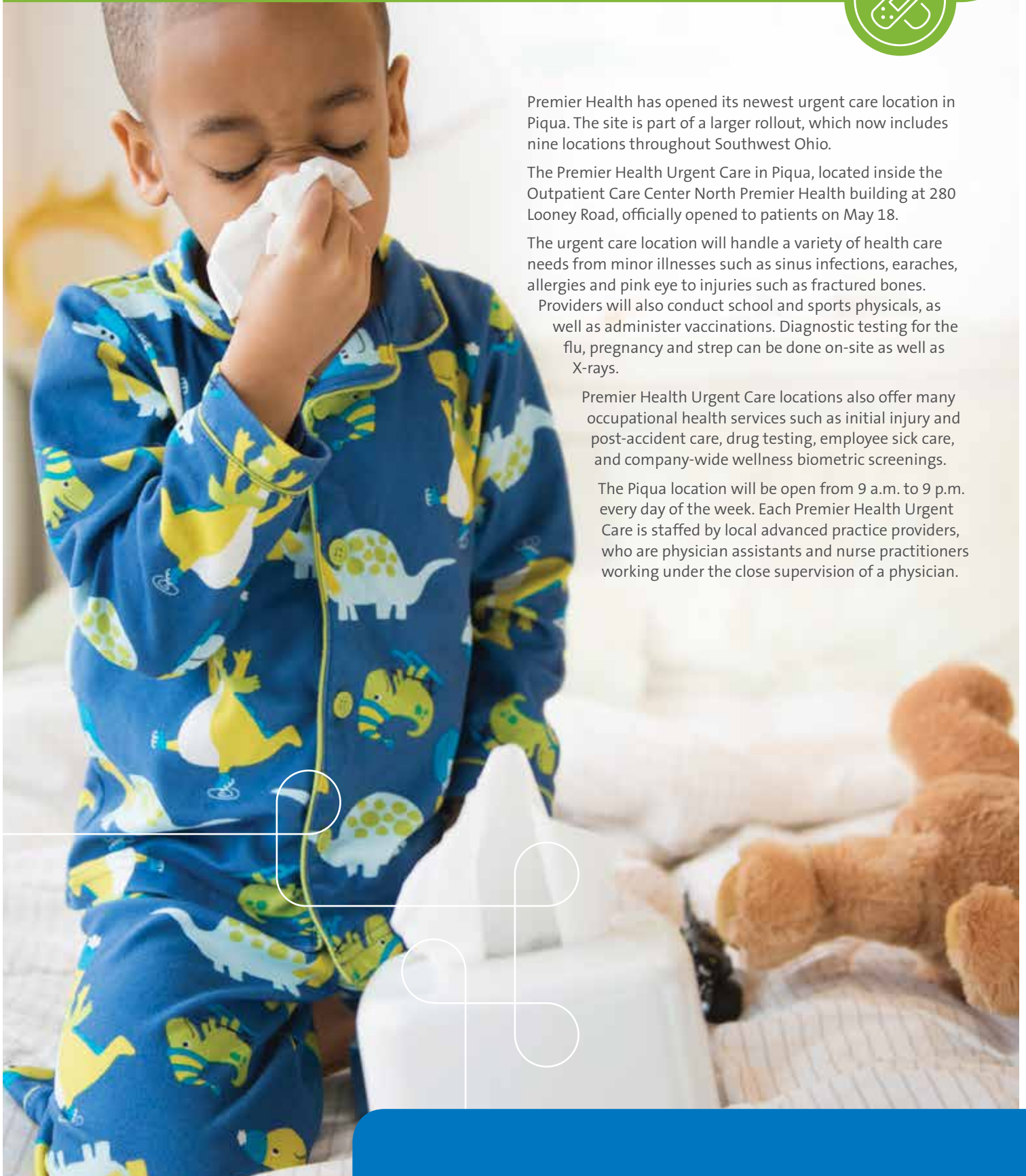
The Premier Health Urgent Care in Piqua, located inside the Outpatient Care Center North Premier Health building at 280 Looney Road, officially opened to patients on May 18.

The urgent care location will handle a variety of health care needs from minor illnesses such as sinus infections, earaches, allergies and pink eye to injuries such as fractured bones.

Providers will also conduct school and sports physicals, as well as administer vaccinations. Diagnostic testing for the flu, pregnancy and strep can be done on-site as well as X-rays.

Premier Health Urgent Care locations also offer many occupational health services such as initial injury and post-accident care, drug testing, employee sick care, and company-wide wellness biometric screenings.

The Piqua location will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day of the week. Each Premier Health Urgent Care is staffed by local advanced practice providers, who are physician assistants and nurse practitioners working under the close supervision of a physician.



Neurological Infusion Treatment

By Jason Merritt, vice president, Premier Physician Network specialty services and neuroscience service line



It is widely recognized that health care is rapidly transitioning more services to the outpatient and ambulatory setting. Neurosciences are not immune to this

change in care paradigm. One area in which this change has been most evident is in the delivery of infusion treatment for both chronic and acute neurological conditions. Premier Health Neurosciences, through the Clinical Neuroscience Institute (CNSI), has developed a consumer and provider centric model to meet this growing patient need.

Under the leadership of Tracey Eicher, MD, MSCS, certified neurologist and Richard Kim, MD, board certified in headache medicine, CNSI has developed a program that is aimed at treating Multiple Sclerosis (MS), NeuroMyelitis Optica (NMO), Central Nervous System (CNS) Vasculitis, Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (ADEM), and migraine.

The CNSI Infusion Center offers a variety of best practice therapies focused on MS and migraine. These therapies include: Tysabri, Ocrevus, Lemtrada, and Rituxan for MS. For migraine: Dihydroergotamine (DHE), Magnesium Sulfate, Imitrex, Solumedrol, Keppra, Vyepiti, and several other traditional migraine treatments. The infusion center is supported by three registered nurses and two preauthorization specialists. In 2019, the CNSI infusion center completed nearly 1,000 infusion therapies. Dr. Eicher and Dr. Kim also participated in various clinical trials for new treatment options.

In addition to the most up-to-date therapy, patient benefits of the infusion center start with the care area. CNSI is the only neuro-

infusion center in the area in which each patient is treated in a private room with a comfortable infusion recliner. According to Dr. Eicher, "Patients love receiving their infusions in the same location as they see their MS or headache team." The nursing staff is experienced with the medications and can offer direct patient and family education. Many of the conditions treated in the infusion center are chronic and the patients benefit from the rapport established with staff during ongoing treatments. With the infusion center located in the CNSI clinic, providers have immediate access to the patient for any issue or treatment questions.

Providers can easily refer patients to the CNSI infusion center by sending a referral to Dr. Kim or Dr. Eicher. Our team will establish a care plan and preauthorize and schedule treatments. Migraine patients established with Dr. Kim or Marie Chambers, CNP, can also receive acute treatments as needed, including same-day or next-day infusion appointments. Offering acute infusions prevents unnecessary emergency room visits and potential admissions. Next year, we will see the addition of infusion therapies for dementia under the direction of Christopher Jansen, MD.

The infusion center has allowed CNSI to bring best practice infusion treatments and cutting-edge clinical trial medications to patients and providers in the Miami Valley. If you have a patient who would benefit from the infusion services, please send an EPIC referral to Dr. Eicher or Dr. Kim. You can also fax a referral to **(937) 208-5143** or call **(937) 208-4200**.

Provider Praise

Premier Health patients submit thousands of comments each year acknowledging physicians across our health system for providing excellent care. Here is a random sampling of appreciation received in recent months:

Dr. Altstadt is the best physician! He takes his time with me and is always concerned about any issues that I may have. He makes visiting the doctor a very good experience.

I have seen **Dr. Rettig** for many years. I have always had a pleasant experience at each visit. From the front desk to check out, everyone has always been wonderful.

Dr. Kettle always takes the time to listen. I have recommended him to many people.

Dr. Boyd and her team are wonderful. They are kind, caring, respectful, and very knowledgeable.

Dr. Guy and his staff are attentive and compassionate toward their patients.

I am happy that **Dr. Harju** is here to provide excellent service for my husband and me.

I really appreciate **Dr. Danis**. I always leave with a good understanding of my problem and a plan of attack for the future.

I consider **Dr. Maraboyina** as an excellent doctor who is very kind and listens to my concerns. I wouldn't want any other cardiologist.

Dr. Powell has treated me for the past two years with respect and honesty. I would highly recommend this doctor to anyone.



Donations, Distinctions, and Re-Entry



Atrium Medical Center

Throughout May, the community continued to show support and generosity for Atrium Medical Center staff battling the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations of PPE, meals, cards of appreciation, and even special masks that allow deaf and hard-of-hearing patients to read lips have all bolstered the spirits of our health care heroes.



The Cincinnati region's hospitals held a Zoom town hall in May to discuss the next phase in the coronavirus pandemic, particularly as hospitals ramped up to resume elective

procedures. **Roberto Colon, MD**, system vice president of quality and safety, was among the 12 representatives from hospital networks in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana who took part in the event organized by the Health Collaborative in Cincinnati.

Atrium's Wound Care Center recently was named a 2019 Center of Distinction. The center was awarded this honor by Healogics, the nation's largest provider of advanced wound care services. The Wound Care Center achieved outstanding clinical outcomes for 12 consecutive months, including patient satisfaction higher than 92 percent, and a minimum wound healing rate of at least 92 percent within 28 median days to heal. "The Wound Care Center's goal is to increase awareness about the safety and necessity of wound care during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Daniel Butler, MD, medical director of the Wound Care Center at Atrium. "Our focus

is to keep patients from needing to visit the emergency department due to wound complications."

In May, Premier Health's mobile mammography coach returned to the road, offering mammography services to those whose routine screening exams may have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Like all Premier Health care sites, the mobile mammography coach is utilizing strict cleaning and sanitation practices. All rooms and equipment are cleaned continually. All staff are following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for hand hygiene and use of masks and additional personal protective equipment, as appropriate. The coach is operated by Atrium Medical Center.

Premier Health's Atrium Medical Center has been recognized as one of the Top Workplaces in Cincinnati by the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. The hospital employs more than 1,400 providers, nurses, administrators, and staff. Employees were asked to answer an engagement survey about their workplace environment and culture. Recipients of the Top Workplaces honor were judged on corporate alignment, employee coaching, connection with employees, engagement, performance, and leadership. For 2020, a record number of employers agreed to take the Top Workplaces survey. Combined, they employ 57,249 people in the region. Of those employees who received questionnaires, 36,357 responded, either on paper or online. For this year's winners list, a record 130 Cincinnati-area employers were ranked based on their employee survey feedback.

Miami Valley Hospital Campuses

On behalf of everyone at Miami Valley Hospital, special gratitude was extended to all the therapy, nursing, physician, and administrative staff of the MVH Rehabilitation Institute of Ohio. They transitioned to their new home, the Rehabilitation Institute of Ohio (RIO), a joint venture between Premier Health and Encompass Health, after the program closed on May 21 on the main campus. The therapy department was initially located on the second floor of the main building, the space currently occupied by the lab. After the northwest building opened, therapy moved to its new home on the fourth floor. It was renamed the Rehabilitation Institute of Ohio with the opening of the specialized Inpatient Rehab Unit in 1983. Special thanks and recognition go to the entire team who poured their heart and soul into improving the quality of life for our patients.



The Ohio Hospital Association and the Ohio Department of Health awarded the Ohio First Steps for Healthy Babies recognition to Miami Valley Hospital and Miami Valley Hospital South. The maternity centers earned this recognition for the great work related to the “Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding” program. The guidance of our teams has led to better prepared and more

confident parenting, giving babies the best possible start.

The City of Centerville annually recognizes a few of the more than 800 city businesses that make significant contributions to its economy and our overall quality of life. The mayor announced the 2020 Centerville Large Business of the Year is Miami Valley Hospital South. The coronavirus pandemic gripped

Left to right: Brooks Compton, Centerville Mayor; Joann Ringer, president of Miami Valley Hospital South



the region in an unprecedented health crisis. The city expressed its gratitude to first responders and medical professionals for their strength, courage, and service. The City of Centerville will honor the south campus by donating a Red Horse chestnut, the official tree of Centerville, and planting it on the hospital's property.

The Miami Valley Hospital Foundation was busy throughout May with a phenomenal outpouring of support from the community for physicians, nurses, and staff in the fight against coronavirus. The foundation has been documenting and thanking donors for thousands of contributions. It participated in *GivingTuesdayNow*, a one-day giving opportunity on May 4. In addition, the foundation is working with Human Resources to assist employees who have suffered an extreme emergency as a direct result of COVID-19. Foundation staff also helped with distribution of many large-scale donations to hospital staff, including thousands of pairs of Crocs shoes, Esther Price chocolate eggs, flowers, and many other products.

Good Samaritan Foundation-Dayton has also been very busy working on COVID-19

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First in Ohio, Second in Nation to Achieve System-Wide Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation

Premier Health is the first health system in Ohio and second in the nation to achieve system-wide Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA). This distinction from the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) recognizes emergency departments that provide excellent care for older adults.

The bronze standard Level 3 Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation applies to Atrium Medical Center in Middletown (which was accredited in October 2019), Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Miami Valley Hospital Austin Boulevard Emergency Center

in Miamisburg, Miami Valley Hospital Jamestown Emergency Center in Jamestown, Miami Valley Hospital North in Englewood, Miami Valley Hospital South in Centerville, and Upper Valley Medical Center in Troy.

The accreditation process included a panel review by a team of ACEP-appointed physician reviewers and a board of governors' review.

The voluntary GEDA program, which includes three levels similar to trauma center designations, provides specific criteria and goals for emergency clinicians and administrators. The GEDA guidelines

create criteria for staffing, equipment, education, policies and procedures, follow-up care, and performance improvement measures. When implemented collectively, a geriatric ED can expect to see improvements in patient care, customer service, and staff satisfaction.

The Level 3 GEDA bronze distinction identifies those emergency departments with one or more specific initiatives that are reasonably expected to elevate the level of care for senior citizens in one or more specific areas.



SYSTEM HOSPITAL NEWS

Donations, Distinctions, and Re-Entry *(continued)*



Left to right: James Michael Kahle, artist; and Dr. George Broderick Jr.

projects and supporting Miami Valley Hospital North with the distribution of donations. In addition, the Good Sam Foundation sent a special mailing for donations in honor of Mother's Day to benefit Mothers Empowered, a program that offers prenatal care and education for expectant moms.

On May 18, the Good Samaritan Foundation hosted a small ceremony for the Broderick Family Legacy art installation at the North Campus. This unique sculpture, donated by George Broderick, Jr., MD, and designed by James Michael Kahle, honors the family of Dr. George and May Broderick. The piece features more than 700 pounds of

suspended burnished stainless steel that support the 37 individual hand-blown glass pieces representing members of the family. The two central vessels representing Dr. Broderick's parents, George and Mary Broderick, stand prominently, surrounded by each of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Several hospital employees and executives gathered for the unveiling of the large, newly redesigned sculpture which has become the focal point of the Lakeside lobby.

The administrative offices at Miami Valley Hospital North have moved to a new location. The offices are now located on the second floor in suite 239.

Upper Valley Medical Center

As part of re-entry, the UVMC Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation staff in early May began seeing cardiac and pulmonary patients in the new addition on the hospital's south side. Ground was broken last summer for the 7,600-square-foot addition, which more than doubles the size of the cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation department and provides a separate entrance for program participants. With the opening during the COVID-19 restrictions, patients using the rehabilitation services are asked to arrive at prescheduled times for safety purposes and to help adhere to the Responsible Restart Ohio order that requires social distancing. A parking lot southwest of the new building is designated for the patients and physicians.



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