
Answers to your questions from Good Samaritan Hospital

Last week, we made a commitment to this community: to share the impact of adding a second hospital in Kearney. We begin fulfilling that commitment today with this ad, which is the first in a series over the next several weeks that will answer many of the tough questions on your mind. This week's topic focuses on our ongoing work with our physicians to find a unifying solution to this issue. Thank you for the trust you place in Good Samaritan Hospital as your provider of care and a community resource.

Q: What is Good Samaritan Hospital doing to resolve physician issues and improve physician relationships?

A: The short answer is – we're doing a lot. Over the last several months, Good Samaritan has worked hard to gain a deeper understanding of our physicians' needs, concerns and desires. Throughout these efforts, our goal remains constant: to work together to create a local solution that brings together our medical community and strengthens Kearney and the region's healthcare.

The majority of our community's more than 120 physicians agree: a lot is at stake for the region. Good Samaritan serves a unique role as the only Level II trauma and regional referral center along a 450-mile stretch of interstate. We appreciate the physicians who stand ready to protect this vital care.

Together, with the help of national healthcare experts and a team of local physicians, we are currently developing a new physician leadership model within the hospital. This model has proven successful at hospitals like ours across the nation, and we are excited about its possibilities.

In recent years physicians have started many services that compete with the hospital, including catheterization labs, imaging centers, endoscopy centers, surgery centers and many other outpatient services. So while our services often overlap—and even compete—the hospital and the physicians have continued to work cooperatively to bring new technology and quality methods of care to patients. We have and will continue to work closely with the doctors on quality, safety and regulatory issues.

Regardless of whether or not a second hospital is built in our area, Good Samaritan is committed to working with physicians on a collaborative model that will carry our organization's 85-year mission forward with honesty and integrity.

Q. Is the money from Good Samaritan Hospital really leaving Kearney to be spent in other communities where Catholic Health Initiatives has hospitals?

*A: No, absolutely not. As a not-for-profit, Good Samaritan invests all revenues after expenses locally to improve the hospital and the community. So even though we are part of a larger healthcare system, **our dollars remain earmarked for us and only us.** Building and equipment investments alone in the last ten years have totaled more than \$138 million for Kearney's healthcare. In addition, we recently committed a \$65 million investment in the hospital's future—the largest one-time investment ever in Kearney.*

By looking at our West Tower, the new technology and equipment we've added recently, and our growing and expanding services, it's clear that Good Samaritan continually strives to further strengthen the quality of care offered here. Because we are part of a larger healthcare organization, what we return to the community far exceeds what we, as a stand-alone community hospital, could do by ourselves.

Good Samaritan takes pride in the fact that our Board of Directors is comprised of local community leaders. They, along with our local leadership team and the more than 1,550 employees, guide Good Samaritan in a way that fulfills our mission of caring for the poor and broader community through a wide array of healthcare services – especially Level II trauma and highly specialized medicine.

Questions? Steve will do his best to answer them!

Get answers by visiting our Web site, www.gshs.org, and clicking the "Preserving Kearney's Medical Community" button. Just leave your questions with "Ask Steve" (Steve Loveless, interim president and CEO) and he'll address the most frequently asked. This site also has timely information about the impact of a second hospital in Kearney.

† CATHOLIC HEALTH
INITIATIVES

Good Samaritan Hospital

Kearney, Nebraska

www.gshs.org