
Answers to your questions from Good Samaritan Hospital

Good Samaritan Hospital made a commitment to this community: to share the impact of adding a second hospital in Kearney. This ad, third in a series, answers some of the tough questions on your mind. Thank you for the trust you place in us!

Q: Is it true that Good Samaritan Hospital hires physicians in direct competition with specialists already available in Kearney?

A: Good Samaritan Hospital continually assesses the Kearney community and surrounding region to determine the healthcare needs of its residents. Like nearly all systems our size, we compare the number and type of physicians in the region with data provided yearly by a national firm that identifies population mixes and needs of residents.

If this community needs assessment identifies a specific physician shortage, and other local healthcare providers have been unable or have chosen not to recruit the additional physicians needed to meet those needs, Good Samaritan has fulfilled this need and recruited additional physicians. Those decisions have been made locally. Of the more than 120 physicians on staff at Good Samaritan, 14 are employed by Good Samaritan Hospital.

Q: How will Good Samaritan identify a new CEO and how far along is the hospital in that process?

A: The search for Good Samaritan's new leader is led by the GSH Board of Directors with input and representation from Catholic Health Initiatives, the hospital's owner.

Our Board of Directors is working to find the right fit and the right qualifications for our next leader. Comprised of local community leaders, the GSH Board of Directors has the best interests of the region in mind. Catholic Health Initiatives' representation in this process includes help in identifying CEO candidates who fit the established description:

"The desired candidate will have a track record as a successful servant leader with a proven record of achieving results. The successful candidate will have solid experience as a CEO or COO, operating a complex hospital within a multi-unit healthcare system. Candidates will have proven leadership and relationship building ability and must be adept at developing strong partnerships with physicians, employees, board members, and community constituencies."

Currently, the search committee is in the process of reviewing resumes and preparing to interview applicants. It is hoped that strong candidates will be at GSH for on-site interviews in April.

Q: Why is Good Samaritan Hospital a member of Catholic Health Initiatives and how does it benefit from that membership?

A: To answer that question, we need to take a step back in our history. Good Samaritan Hospital was founded in 1924 by the Sisters of Saint Francis of Colorado Springs. They saw a need in this community for medical services, and they worked with the community to be able to offer them. For many years, Good Samaritan was operated by the Sisters—many of whom lived on the hospital's fifth floor. As time went by and healthcare began to change, the Sisters of Saint Francis became partners with Cincinnati-based Sisters of Charity in 1987 to be able to continue their healthcare missions. In 1995, the Sisters of Saint Francis transferred sponsorship of Good Samaritan to the Sisters of Charity. Finally, in 1996, Sisters of Charity, Catholic Health Corporation of Omaha and Franciscan Health Systems of Aston, Pa. combined to form Catholic Health Initiatives. These forward-thinking organizations knew that operating in the way they had been would not allow them to continue their health ministries into the future. They made difficult, yet necessary changes that have allowed the hospitals and medical facilities sponsored by those organizations to further the mission they were founded upon.

Being part of this larger system gives Good Samaritan access to resources and economies of scale that, as a stand-alone hospital, we could never do on our own. We benefit from reduced supply costs—the concept of "buying in bulk" really translates here. Our pharmacy is another example of the benefit of being part of a larger organization. Through our partnership with CHI and its facilities across the country, we have access to medications even during shortages and bulk pricing factors in here as well.

But more importantly, CHI shares Good Samaritan's charitable mission of caring for the poor and providing healthcare services that the community needs, regardless of their ability to pay. As part of Catholic Health Initiatives, Good Samaritan Hospital has been able to invest \$138 million in capital improvements over the last ten years in Kearney—and an additional \$65 million in building expansion, as well as many millions more in capital improvements are planned in the coming years. This commitment and investment allows GSH to support less-lucrative medical services that the community needs. Kearney also benefits from the many faith-based elements that make Good Samaritan's local care truly unique, including a clinical pastoral care education program, ethics consultation and healthier community initiatives.

Ask Steve

www.gshs.org

Got questions? Get answers by visiting our Web site, and clicking the "Preserving Kearney's Medical Community" button. Just leave your questions with "Ask Steve" and he'll address the most frequently asked.

† CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

Good Samaritan Hospital

Kearney, Nebraska

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