

Healthy LIVING



**DCH TEAM GETS
CAITLIN BLEDSOE BACK
TO HER ACTIVE LIFE**

DCH TEAM GETS CAITLIN BLEDS

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On a brisk winter day in December, Caitlin Bledsoe was taking her beloved horse for a short trail ride when one of the family's dogs came up out of the creek and spooked the horse. Caitlin was on her way to the ground and thought she was landing on her feet. Due to the frozen uneven ground in the field, she landed harder on one leg at an awkward angle.

"I knew instantly that I had broken my leg pretty badly," she recalled. "I was able to get my phone out of my pocket to call my sister whose house was nearby and asked her to come help."

Caitlin's sister called 911 and a DCH ambulance arrived quickly as did a crew of volunteers. "The EMTs were amazing and worked quickly and precisely to help alleviate my pain and fears," said Caitlin.

DCH EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Upon arriving at the Daviess Community Hospital Emergency Department, Caitlin was quickly placed in an exam room. It was only a short amount of time before Emergency Physician Dr. Trowbridge and Nicole Wafford, RN, came in the room to assess her condition. Caitlin's parents were then invited into the room to be with her and to help with medical decisions. After the x-rays were taken, Andy Houchins, PA-C, was paged to come in for an orthopedic consultation.

"Andy was very personable and explained everything that would be involved with repairing my leg before Dr. Marcus Thorne (orthopedic surgeon) arrived," Caitlin recalled. "Dr. Thorne then came in and explained his background with this type of injury and the surgery needed for the repair. He did a great job of explaining the next steps for surgery and recovery."

Caitlin was then admitted and moved to the Med Surg floor at DCH where she stayed for the remainder of her hospitalization.

CAITLIN'S HOSPITAL STAY & SURGERY

Caitlin's move to the Med Surg floor happened after visiting hours were over. The hospital staff made an exception to the visitation policy so that her parents could stay for a little while longer as she settled in for the night. Her sister was also able to deliver a meal for her that evening because it had been a long time since she had eaten.

"Once my family left for the night, my nurse regularly checked in on me and was quick to answer my calls whenever I needed anything," Caitlin said.

Caitlin was also grateful that the nurses who took over her care the following morning were also very professional and attentive. Dr. Thorne and Andy Houchins, PA-C, visited her room to check in on Caitlin's condition and to give an update on an approximate surgery time. There was a slight delay due to the surgery scheduled before Caitlin's was taking more time than expected. Caitlin and her family were updated throughout the entire morning until she was wheeled to the operating room.

GO BACK TO HER ACTIVE LIFE

“The OR nurses that were preparing me for surgery were so nice and calm, which eased my nerves,” Caitlin explained. “My anesthesiologist then went over everything to be expected regarding the anesthesia. I don't remember much after that, but my parents told me that while I was in recovery, Dr. Thorne did a great job of explaining how the surgery went and answered their questions.”

Caitlin was impressed with the nurses and physical therapists at the hospital who were involved with her care immediately following surgery until she was able to go home. She also appreciated that Dr. Thorne and Andy Houchins visited her a couple times each day to assess the healing process and to see how she was feeling.

PHYSICAL THERAPY AND CHECK-UPS AT THE CORE CENTER

Soon after her release from the hospital, Caitlin was scheduled for physical therapy with Misty Petro at the CORE Center. She was relieved that Misty made her physical therapy sessions fun and enjoyable even during the more painful days.

“Misty listened to my goals and helped get me to where I wanted to be in order to get back to my normal life,” said Caitlin. “She gave me at-home exercises to help gain the strength back in my leg and relieve the tightness in my muscles. I followed her instructions to a tee, which helped speed up the process.”

According to Caitlin, the entire staff of the therapy department and Dr. Thorne's office at the CORE Center were extremely nice.

“Carol at the reception desk was always smiling when I came in for therapy and knew my name just

**Dr. Marcus Thorne &
Andy Houchins, PA-C**

after a few visits,” Caitlin recalled. “She was extremely helpful in scheduling and answering any questions I had. It felt like she took a personal interest in my progress.”

In her follow up appointments with Dr. Thorne, Caitlin appreciated that he was thorough in explaining how her leg was healing and what she should expect at the next appointment. She recalls that Dr. Thorne had light-hearted conversations with her during the appointments which made her at ease and feel important instead of “just another patient”.

She made it clear to Dr. Thorne that she wanted to get back to riding horses as soon as possible. He gave her reasonable timeframes for when that might happen, including when it would be safe for her to get on a horse and go for a leisurely walk and how to proceed from there. She appreciates that Dr. Thorne and his staff are there to answer questions or concerns even after she was released to normal activity.

“If it wasn't for Dr. Thorne, Andy Houchins, Misty Petro, and the rest of the DCH team, I wouldn't be back to hiking, trail riding and enjoying my active life,” said Caitlin.

COVER PHOTO

Caitlin Bledsoe and her horse, Merlot.



Congratulations!
**2022 CLINIC
NURSE OF THE YEAR
Susan Marchino, RN
ONCOLOGY CLINIC**



**2022 INPATIENT
NURSE OF THE YEAR
Danielle Peltze, RN
OB DEPARTMENT**



DCH FOUNDATION HOSTS 7TH ANNUAL “KENTUCKY DERBY FUNDRAISER”

about the much-needed expansion/renovation of the hospital’s ICU and Emergency Department. All speakers emphasized the importance of community involvement and expressed their appreciation for the evening’s support and participation.

Dr. Susec explained some of the reasons the expansion will benefit DCH patients. “The goal is to keep as many patients requiring admission at DCH as possible to grow the hospital provided we have resources to care for them,” he remarked. “By expanding our Emergency Department by 40%, we will be able to see patients faster, reducing length of stay, improve safety, and improve patient satisfaction.”

“Successful completion of these vital improvements to the facility will be directly impacted by the proceeds from this year’s fundraisers,” said Tracy Conroy, CEO.

The DCH Foundation has been very supportive of numerous hospital projects over the past several years and has raised over \$1 million for projects such as 3D Mammography, The Lohano Center for Advanced Medicine, Perinatal Navigator program, Health Career Scholarships, the Bedford Road Beautification project and much more. The ICU/Emergency Department campaign is, by far, the most ambitious project for the Foundation as they hope to raise several hundred thousand dollars in the next 18 months to help offset the cost to the hospital.

“The Daviess Community Hospital Foundation has made a commitment to help provide support to the ICU and Emergency Department expansion and renovation,” stated Steiner. “I am thrilled to share that the funds raised this year through our Kentucky Derby Fundraiser total more than \$25,000.00. Donations are still being accepted as we know that the need is greater than what has been raised thus far.”

The DCH Foundation wishes to recognize Home Building Savings Bank, Lohano and Associates, Thompson Insurance, Old National Bank, True Scripts Management Services, Lasata Winery, and Lents Lock and Safe who were sponsors of the event this year.

Next year’s event will again be held on the first Saturday in May to coincide with the Kentucky Derby. **For more information on the DCH Foundation efforts, please contact Angie Steiner at 812-254-8858 or asteiner@dchosp.org.**

Committee Members

(left to right): **Erica Frances, Lynn Goodwin, Andrea Ellis, Alicia Fields – DNP, Angie Steiner, Marsha Matteson, Brandon Smith**

It was a beautiful, warm day in southern Indiana on May 7th as the Daviess Community Hospital Foundation hosted their 7th Annual “Kentucky Derby Fundraiser”. A sellout crowd of 144 people were registered for the event with the purpose of raising money to support the ICU & Emergency Department renovations at DCH.

“Due to the growth of this event, we held it for the 2nd year at the Ed Lee North Chapel in Washington,” stated Angie Steiner, DCH Foundation Director. “It is a perfect location with ample space to mingle, dine and dance. Our sincere thanks to Andy Arvin for donating this beautiful space to us for the event”. Steiner also noted that there were many activities to keep the guests occupied including bourbon tasting, wine tasting, chances for a lady’s ring, and viewing of the online auction items up for bid this year.

Women were encouraged to wear hats or fascinators similar to those worn at the Kentucky Derby race at Churchill Downs. Men were also encouraged to wear a hat or tie that reflected the theme. Prizes were awarded for best Ladies Derby hat best Men’s Derby tie and/or hat. Winners were Marilynn McCormick of Louisville, KY, for best hat/fascinator and Darrell Jones of Washington, IN, for best tie/ensemble. Jen Houchins, DCH Marketing Coordinator, was on hand to capture the fun as guests posed in their Derby attire.

Event guests were seated at reserved tables where they watched the exciting and unexpected conclusion of the 148th running of Kentucky Derby on live television. Foundation Board member Alicia Fields, DNP, welcomed guests and offered a prayer before the dinner.

After dinner, guest speakers Tracy Conroy, CEO, Dr. Suresh Lohano, and Dr. Otto Susec shared information

A COLORFUL PATIENT – PATTI DANNER

When you first meet Patti Danner, her colorful personality (and gorgeous strands of purple and blue hair) leave a lasting impression. It would be easy for someone in her shoes to be somber and reserved, but Patti is determined to stay positive and not let cancer bring her down. She has even shared her cancer journey through the blog she writes as editor of the “Green County Daily World.”

“I was in a hospital emergency room last year having a heart attack,” she recalled. “First of all, I didn’t feel like I was having a heart attack. Then the lab work in the Emergency Room showed Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL), which was a total fluke.”

Patti then learned that Leukemia is a cancer of the blood and bone marrow. CLL is one of four types, each identified based on the type of cell involved and the rate of the disease progression. CLL tends to show up in families, and Patti revealed that her sister also had CLL. A normal white blood cell count ranges between 4,500 – 11,000 cells per microliter of blood. Anything higher than 11,000 means measures need to be taken to combat the rising white cell count. Patti recalls that her count was much higher than the normal range.

Soon after her first blockage was discovered, she moved back to Linton from Washington State and was receiving medical care from a cardiologist. She was on track to have double bypass surgery when her lab work revealed a drastically elevated white blood count.

Her cardiologist explained that he could not proceed with any heart procedures until she met with an oncology/hematology specialist. That was when Patti was first introduced to Dr. Thomas Waits and the oncology team at Daviess Community Hospital.

“I had never observed a medical team that seemed to adore the doctor they work for more,” she recalled.

Dr. Waits explained to Patti that her white cells were affecting her red cells, causing a condition called hemolytic anemia.

Dr. Thomas Waits and Patti Danner

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She had gone from “stage zero” to “stage three” cancer in a short time. Treatment was ordered immediately. For the last several months, Patti has been spending two or three days per month at Daviess Community Hospital where she receives Gazyva (obinutuzumab) infusions.

Infusion days are long, so Patti brings her notes for stories she is writing for the newspaper, as well as games, a sketch pad and other things to pass the time.

In February, she began chemotherapy with a daily pill called Venetoclax. “With this drug, my hair won’t fall out and I won’t have mouth sores or nausea like other treatments,” she explained. Patti will take this form of chemotherapy for a total of twelve months.

After just three infusions, the DCH Oncology team informed Patti that her numbers looked good and had dropped dramatically.

“it’s working,” Dr. Waits told her. “It’s working really well.”

Patti appreciates the DCH Oncology Center. “The chairs are comfortable and dancing is allowed,” she mused.

In her blog, Patti shared with her readers – “I’m not a survivor yet, but you better believe I’m a fighter.”

As Patti’s journey through infusions continues, the DCH Oncology team is with her each step of the way.

“I really don’t mind the short drive from Linton for the infusions and lab work,” Patti explained. “From the oncology nurses to x-ray techs to the admitting office to the laboratory staff, I’ve been treated like I own the place by everyone at DCH. I don’t have any blood-family here in the Midwest, but at DCH, I feel like I do.”



Patti with Lynn Williams, RN and Sharon Mead, RN, OCN, ONN-CG



DCH FOUNDATION RECOGNIZES 2021 HEALTH CAREERS

Daviess Community Hospital Foundation held the 2022 Health Career Scholarship Award Reception on Sunday, May 22, 2022. The recipients, special guests, hospital personnel, and Foundation Board members attended the reception in the DCH Education Center. Ten area students were recognized for their academic accomplishments and awarded scholarships totaling \$10,000.00 from the Health Careers Scholarship Fund. One student received a \$1,000.00 scholarship from the DCH Auxiliary. The Daviess Community Hospital Foundation also awarded one nursing student \$500.00 from the Helen Arthur Memorial Scholarship for Nursing.

Since the beginning of the scholarship program, 186

recipients have received \$206,850 in Health Career Scholarship awards from the DCH Foundation. Students from Daviess, Martin, and Pike Counties as well as employees and dependents of Daviess Community Hospital attending accredited educational institutions pursuing health care fields of study are eligible to apply.

Committee members Alicia Fields, DNP; Gina Wagler, Carol Olson, Jordan Sherman, and Marilyn McCullough were pleased with the caliber of applications this year. "There were so many great applications this year," said Alicia Fields, Committee Chairperson. "We are grateful to be able to give out these scholarships to such deserving students."

The following students were recognized at the reception as second year recipients:

JENNA GRAY has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for a second year from the Daviess Community Hospital Foundation. Jenna is the daughter of Shawn and Kelly Gray. She is a member of the 2019 graduating class at Washington High School. Jenna continues to pursue Rehab and Communication degree at Indiana State University.

KATIE WAGLER has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for the second year from the Daviess Community Hospital Foundation. Katie is the daughter of Merlin and Phillis Wagler. She is a member of the 2021 graduating class at Barr-Reeve High School. Katie continues to pursue a degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography from the University of Southern Indiana.

Photo (Left to right): Adeline O'Brian, Katie Wagler, Annie Graber, Selena Mascorro, Abbie Mattingly, Sarisha Lohano, Jianna Hughes, Jocelyn Helms. Not present: Jenna Gray, Magdalena Miller, Allison Miller, Hailey Raber.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

SELENA MASCORRO has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for the second year from the Daviess Community Hospital Foundation. Selena is the daughter of Dorothy Knepp. She is a member of the 2021 graduating class at Barr-Reeve High School. Selena continues to pursue a Biology/Pre-Dental degree at Indiana University.

Seven students were first year recipients of the Health Careers Scholarship awards of \$1,000 from the DCH Foundation:

ANNIE GRABER has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Daviess Community Hospital Foundation. Annie is the daughter of Dave Graber and Tracy Devine. She is a member of the 2018 graduating class at Barr-Reeve High School. Annie will pursue an MD degree at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

SARISHA LOHANO has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Daviess Community Hospital Foundation. Sarisha is the daughter of Dr. Suresh and Kavita Lohano. She is a member of the 2022 graduating class at Gatton Academy. Sarisha will pursue a degree in Biology/ Pre-Med at the University of Kentucky.

JOCELYN HELMS has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Daviess Community Hospital Foundation. Jocelyn is the daughter of Dr. Lana and Chuck Helms. She is a member of the 2022 graduating class at Barr-Reeve High School. Jocelyn plans to pursue a biology/pre-dental degree at the University of Southern Indiana.

MAGDALENA MILLER has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Daviess Community Hospital Foundation. Magdalena is the daughter of Kimberly Miller. She is a member of the 2022 graduating class at Barr-Reeve High School. Magdalena plans to pursue a Nursing degree at the University of Southern Indiana.

HAILEY RABER has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Daviess Community Hospital Foundation. Hailey is the daughter of Sonya Raber and John Raber. She is a member of the 2022 graduating class at Barr-Reeve High School. Hailey plans to pursue a degree in Biology at the University of Southern Indiana.

JIANNA HUGHES has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship courtesy of the Daviess Community Hospital Auxiliary and is a second-year recipient. Jianna is the daughter of Thomas Hughes and Jane Hughes. She is a member of the 2021 graduating class at South Knox High School. Jianna continues to pursue a nursing degree at the University of Southern Indiana.

ALLISON MILLER has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Daviess Community Hospital Foundation. Allison is the daughter of Mark and Shawna Miller. She is a member of the 2022 graduating class at Barr-Reeve High School. Allison plans to pursue a Communication Sciences degree at Indiana State University.

ABBIE MATTINGLY has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Daviess Community Hospital Foundation. Abbie is the daughter of Bonita and Alan Mattingly. She is a member of the 2022 graduating class at Washington Community Schools. Abbie plans to pursue a degree in Nursing at the University of Southern Indiana.

ADELINE O'BRIAN has been awarded a \$500 Helen Arthur Memorial Scholarship from the Daviess Community Hospital Foundation. Adeline is the daughter of Darrell O'Brian and Racquel O'Brian. She is a member of the 2020 graduating class at Washington Catholic High School. Adeline is pursuing a degree in Nursing at the University of Evansville.

The Helen Arthur Memorial Scholarship Award honors Helen Arthur, a local resident who was unable to fulfill her desire to become a nurse after contracting tuberculosis. The scholarship recognizes the women of Omega Alpha Chi, a local homemakers group, who in 1954 established and named a Helen Arthur Memorial Educational Loan Fund for students pursuing medical careers. In 2006, the group gifted the balance of the fund to the DCH Foundation to support the scholarship program. Miss Arthurs family continues to support this scholarship.

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ANNUAL DCH WE CARE AWARDS

As employees of Daviness Community Hospital, we believe that there is no higher responsibility than to provide and ensure high quality and a caring environment for our patients, customers, and coworkers. We know that individually we are only one person, but we also know that it only takes one person to make a difference, either positive or negative.

When we choose to work at DCH, we are choosing to embrace the following standards of behavior in order to promote the mission and vision of our organization. We all agree to demonstrate a willing attitude, excellence in customer service and communication, be accountable, show respect, and embrace commitment by adhering to the behaviors specified in this document... because WE CARE.

While many deserving employees were nominated, the following employees were recognized during 2022 Hospital Week for the following:



WILLING ATTITUDE

Tia Oaks

Behavioral Health



ACCOUNTABILITY

Susan Arnold

Accounting



**EMBRACE
COMMITMENT**

Jasmine Houchin

Lab



**EXCELLENCE IN
CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Ashley Lewis

Dietary



RESPECT

Jessica Devine

Emergency Room



OVERALL WINNER

Amy Wagner

Employer Solutions



COMMUNICATION

Michele "Mickey" Deitz

Physical Therapy

*Congratulations to all of
these outstanding employees!*