



## Our Hearts go out to Grant County Heroes

The Community Foundation of Grant County, the Chronicle-Tribune and area businesses have partnered to help healthcare workers during this pandemic with the "Hearts for Healthcare Grant County" initiative.

"We looked at needs within our community and felt that Healthcare workers who are doing so much under very stressful conditions could use our help and encouragement during this time," said Linda Kelsay, Publisher Chronicle-Tribune.

Dawn Brown, President/CEO at the Community Foundation of Grant County stated, "At the Community Foundation we are blessed to witness authentic generosity every day. Although this is an unprecedented time in the history of the world, we continue to witness people helping, giving, and loving their neighbors and community in heartfelt ways-both big and small. I think we would all agree that there is certainly no audience at this time that deserves our gratitude more than our frontline healthcare workers. This is why we were honored to open the Hearts for Healthcare Grant County Fund at the Foundation".

"Hearts for Healthcare Grant County" has two components in which the community can participate. First, signs of encouragement can be spread by posting hearts in your windows and sharing good wishes online at the Facebook page "Hearts for Healthcare Grant County." You can add photos and good wishes on the timeline for the community to see when they need to be uplifted. Secondly since many healthcare workers are working overtime and under stressful conditions we are asking the community to donate to a fund that will be established at the Grant County Community Foundation. All funds will stay in Grant County to help healthcare workers pay for childcare, food, and other essentials during this time. Tax-deductible donations of any amount can be made online at [www.GiveToGrant.org/Hearts](http://www.GiveToGrant.org/Hearts). Alternatively, checks can be mailed to the Community Foundation at 505 West Third Street, Marion, IN 46952.

The foundation's board will utilize the donations to make grants to local healthcare organizations who want to help their employees who might need additional supports such as help with childcare or food due to extended working hours or the payment of bills for healthcare workers who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Please contact the Community Foundation for more information at 765-662-0065.

This section was produced to highlight the hard work going on in our community to fight COVID-19 and suppo workers making sacrifices to keep our community operating safely and effectively during these unprecedented times.



**A Special Supplement  
to the Marion Chronicle  
Tribune, April 25th, 2020**

# WE ♥ OUR HOMETOWN HEROES!



Join us on  Hearts for Healthcare Grant County --  
 See All The Hometown Heroes, send notes of appreciation,  
 add photos to the timeline!

# 'I can't quit and walk away now'

Marion firefighter postpones planned retirement celebrations to continue fighting COVID-19 at local hospital

By **ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI**  
amaciejewski@chronicle-tribune.com

After a 24-hour shift at Fire Station No. 2 and a 12-hour shift at the hospital, Cpt. Andy Weller goes to his back door, strips down and begins doing laundry.

This wasn't his typical routine during his 34-year career at Marion Fire Department (MFD), but the COVID-19 pandemic changed that — and multiple parts of his life — in March just before Weller planned to retire.

Although his daughter lives in Grant County, Weller hasn't seen her, his six grandchildren or his son who lives an hour away for nearly two months. He spends time with his wife, but even when he's off duty he does his job — quarantining himself to continue protecting the community he grew up in.

"I really try not to be around anybody," Weller said, explaining his new routines. "If I do have something, I'm not going to bring it into the house."

Working as a full-time firefighter and part-time EMT at Marion General Hospital, Weller said he understands the need to listen to health professionals' guidance since he said the biggest challenge and largest stressor is "the unknown."

"You come to work and you think, 'What are they going to throw at us today?'" he said. "It's very challenging right now, more so than anything else in my career."

"Even on a simple call, you don't know if that person has it or not," he continued. "You could have it right now and not know it. I could have it right now and not know it. So that's the scary part."

Both of his employers are emphasizing personal safety

to protect first responders, so Weller said his team is focused on staying healthy and educating the public about the virus to prevent situations like ones that occurred in New York City and other communities across the world.

"There are firefighters down in Indianapolis right now that are in quarantine. There's 51 firefighters in New Orleans (quarantined)," Weller said on April 2 during his last full day at MFD. "That would basically be our whole fire department because we've got 58 here... and we can't let that happen."

Although policies are evolving as health professionals learn more about COVID-19, they wear gloves and surgical masks on every call. If the patient is suspected of having COVID-19, a special code is used, alerting them to put on their hazmat suits.

"We are so used to getting to a scene and running right in and helping whoever needs to be helped, but on EMS runs, you can't do that anymore," Weller explained. "You have to distance yourself and try to ask questions before you make the decision of what you're going to do."

To help first responders, Weller said it's important for the community to follow the guidance of health professionals and local leaders, like following self-screening measures and communicating symptoms to dispatchers fielding 911 calls.

Following these protocols helps lessen the burden put on first responders, he says, which has proved to be stressful in recent weeks.

"We might not show it, but every single one of us is un-



Cpt. Andy Weller worked his last day at Marion Fire Department on April 4, but he canceled his post-retirement plans and is now working part-time as an EMT for the local hospital during the pandemic.



The department is keeping its HazMat gear ready for deployment and near the fire engine now that a novel case of coronavirus is spreading across Indiana and the world.

der a bit of stress," he said. "Will we admit that? No. We've got a job to do, and that's what we are going to do. But there's definitely stress. We have to watch out for each other. We've got to have each other's back."

Before states across the county began issuing stay-at-home orders, Weller planned to work his last full day at MFD Station No. 2 on April 2 and begin a quest to travel and fulfill experiences

on his "bucket list."

His last day as a firefighter was April 4, but he paused his post-retirement plans temporarily to continue serving the community.

"At some point you've got to hang the coat up and move on. I can't quit and walk away now though," he said. "I'm going to stay at the hospital part time. I've worked two jobs for over 30 years. I wouldn't know what to do with myself."

shouldn't treat firefighting as a job. He says they should treat it as a career.

"There's a difference between the two. With a career you take pride in everything you do. With a job you clock in and collect your paycheck, and I hate to see that," Weller said. "You couldn't ask for a better career."

The people he met at the station are not acquaintances to him. They're family, which makes it "bittersweet" for him to walk away, he says.

"I love these guys. They're my brothers... We are a pretty tight knit group, so it's going to be different now," he said on his last day. "I thought about it this morning on my way to work... It's tough, but you know when it's time, it's time."

MFD Chief Paul David said Weller has made a positive impact on the team, always putting the safety of his crew first and never shying away from making tough decisions.

"Throughout Andy's career on the fire department, I believe many guys admired his enthusiasm for the job," David said. "I served under Captain Weller and learned a lot. Andy always had the community interest at heart. Whether volunteering for community fire department functions such as the little league tourney, fighting fires, assisting ambulance calls or being the coordinator of the HazMat team, he strives for community protection."

Looking back on his time at MFD, Weller said he hopes he's been able to give back to the community what it's given to him. "It's a nice community to live in. It's a small town, so you know a lot of people. That makes it pretty cool," Weller said. "It's been a good career for me. Can't complain one bit about it."

You'll still find Weller on the front lines. He's just wearing a different uniform.

**We are Thankful for All Healthcare Workers!**

At Colonial Oaks we are working each day to care for your loved ones and to continue their progress with our number one goal of keeping them healthy and safe.

We have great gratitude for our staff and all healthcare workers plus frontline employees across Grant County.

God Bless you and stay safe, we will get through this together.

**Colonial Oaks**  
Health & Rehabilitation Center

4725 South Colonial Oaks Dr. Marion, IN 46953  
www.colonialoakshealthandrehab.com | (765) 674-9791

Facebook icon, Instagram icon, Twitter icon, YouTube icon, Accessibility icon

**We Salute All Healthcare Professionals**

Given the current health crisis it reminds us of the important work All Healthcare Professionals conduct on a daily basis all year round.

At Wesleyan we know how tough this is on everyone. Our staff continues to work tirelessly to keep your loved ones safe and healthy.

We appreciate their efforts and know that we will get through this together.

**Wesleyan**  
Health & Rehabilitation Center

765-674-3371  
729 West 35th Street • Marion, IN 46953

## A prayer guide from Marion General Hospital

PROVIDED BY  
JEFFREY HORSMAN  
MGH Chaplain

To help unite the community, Marion General Hospital Chaplain Jeffrey Horsman compiled a guide for Grant County citizens to use while praying.

### Scriptures to read

- Psalm 91
- Psalm 23
- Jeremiah 17:14
- Isaiah 41:1-10
- Psalm 27:1
- Matthew 11:28-30
- Matthew 6:25-34

### Guidance for prayer

#### The Staff

There are dedicated workers all over the country working extremely hard during this time. Offer up prayers for them; they need it. Pray for safety, strength and wisdom as they fight off this disease.

The hospital has asked us to pray for these specific areas:

The leadership as they make tough decisions and guide the hospital in these tough times

Door screeners. They are checking out each person who enters the hospital EMT. They go out in the ambulance to reach those who are in need. They are on the front line.

Emergency Department. They are the first ones to see patients and determine the need.

Critical Care Department. They are caring for the most severe cases in the hospital.

Nurses and Doctors. They are perfectly acceptable to offer up prayers. As Christians, we believe that God is still good, that He is still in control and that He is working all of these things for our good. Bring your Bibles and offer up these truths.

Patient Care Technicians. They give regular care to each patient.

Respiratory therapists. They are the ones working directly with respiratory problems.

Housekeeping and Dietary workers. They are cleaning up and feeding us all, including patients.

Security/Hospital police. Keeping us all safe in these times.

The disruption in routine/elective medical care.

### The Sick/ Admitted People

Pray for healing and comfort. There is a lot of fear in all of our lives right now and they are certainly feeling it as well. As Christ followers, we believe that God still heals and performs miracles, so pray for them to happen.

Also, pray for families that are expecting either surgery or families expecting to deliver children during this time. Hospitals are not admitting visitors during this time so many individuals are facing these things without their family with them. Pray for God's hands to rest on them and bring them peace.

### The Families of those Effected

Pray for peace for the families that are effected. They are struggling with the fact that they might not see their loved ones again.

### The Hospital

This is both literal and symbolic. While we are at a physical location, be praying for God to be with those effected around the world. All hospitals around the globe are feeling the effects of this virus so take this time to lift them up as well.

### Scripture

In difficult times, we often have a hard time coming up with words to say. In these moments, we can offer Scripture up as prayer. The Word is filled with the truths of God, and it is perfectly acceptable to offer up these truths. As Christians, we believe that God is still good, that He is still in control and that He is working all of these things for our good. Bring your Bibles and offer up these truths.

### What you feel led to Pray

The Holy Spirit is moving, working and guiding all of us during this time. Lean in on the prompts you receive. If you feel led to pray for something specific, don't ignore it. God is laying it on your heart for a reason.

# Prayer unites community, uplifts front line workers

By ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI  
amaciejewski@chronicle-tribune.com

Honking horns and flashing lights brought the eyes of some Marion General Hospital (MGH) workers as they made their way toward the window of the hospital on March 31.

As the entire community went into self-quarantine mode after Gov. Eric Holcomb issued statewide restrictions to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, dozens of families gathered inside their vehicles in the overflow parking lot to show their support to the hundreds of people working on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The lights and sounds were accompanied by people hanging out from the windows of their vehicles displaying signs scribbled with hearts, stars and words of thanks.

While the commotion of car horns and flashing lights normally act as a sign of distress, the deafening sounds and light display meant something very different this time around.

"The staff (was) greatly moved," MGH Chaplain Jeffrey Horsman said. "They wanted to take a moment to go and see the cars gathered with their light flashing to signify they are praying. Then, (they wanted) to hear the horns blaring in tribute. Staff members have continued to ask me who is coming next and when it will happen again. I am very excited about this (has been) happening for a whole week, and I pray that many, many people and churches come out in support."

Every day since Horsman said Brookhaven Wesleyan Church organized the first prayer vigil outside MGH



Janlan Miller / Chronicle-Tribune  
Kinleigh Larimore (left) and Kalinn Larimore (right) hold signs at a prayer vigil thanking their family members and Marion General Hospital staff for fighting against COVID-19.

on March 31, people have shown up to pray for MGH staff and essential workers across the county.

With the help of Austin Everson from New Life Community Church, Horsman said they were able to set up things so religious leaders can broadcast prayers to people gathered in their cars or at home.

The prayers bring Horsman feelings of gratitude during these unprecedented times, and he said it helps people realize they are not "on an island" and alone but united as a community.

"It is very moving to lift up your community, the hospital staff and patients, and indeed our country and world as we deal with this crisis," he said.

"It is awesome to join together with others in prayer. From the perspective of a hospital employee, it is humbling and moving to see your community support you."

When the community gathers in prayer, Horsman said he thinks of Matthew 18:20, which says, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

"We are praying in concert

to humble ourselves before God and to ask for his help and his direction," Horsman said. "God told Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7: 'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.' I believe that is the kind of prayer we need. We need to humble ourselves before a loving God, and seek Him, not only individually, but as a community of faith and a geographical community. As we pray and seek to follow God, I believe God does hear us. He does grant forgiveness, and he does bring healing."

In this communication, Horsman said it is important for people to humble themselves and tell God, "We need you."

"It is an admission that we need him and rely on him... Prayer is also aligning ourselves with God, seeking his will. James said in James 4:2-3, 'You do not have because or three gather in my name, you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives,'" Horsman said.

"When we humble ourselves before God and pray in alignment with His will, miraculous things can happen."

To help with the efforts, MGH and local pastors have put together a prayer guide on the hospital's Facebook page. It contains scripture and a map of the MGH campus to guide people in their prayer.

Horsman said the outpouring of prayer has "amazed" the patients inside the hospital.

"Each one I have talked to has been very willing to receive the prayers of God's people," he said. "It is humbling."

As Horsman prays each day, he focuses on the long-term outcome.

"I pray for our faith community to unite together, for us to continue to seek God's face, and for healing to come to our land. I pray that this is not a single point in time event, but that this moves people to continue to turn to God and to follow Jesus with their whole lives," he said. "I pray this sparks an awakening in Grant County and in our nation as well."



## Hearts for Healthcare Grant County



MARION, IN

Comfort,  
Support, Dignity.

765.677.0684

SERVING THE GRANT COUNTY AREA

If you have questions about hospice care, visit us at htohoh.com

Heart to Heart Hospice  
honors Grant County  
healthcare workers by  
supporting the  
Grant County Community  
Foundation fundraiser.



# Cleaning staff plays vital role in prevention

The invisible fight against COVID-19: MGH Environmental Services staff work tirelessly to protect the community

By **ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI**  
amaciejewski@chronicle-tribune.com

In its fight against an invisible pathogen raging war against the world, Marion General Hospital goes through 91 gallons of disinfectant each week.

To put those numbers in perspective, MGH drains approximately 364 32-ounce bottles of cleaning solution each week – which is about 52 bottles every day – all in an effort to keep the staff and patients safe while fighting the novel coronavirus strain, COVID-19.

But that's not all. The nursing staff puts an additional 130 canisters of disinfectant wipes to use each week to further protect their patients.

"(Working on the front line of this pandemic) really puts into perspective the importance of the great work my team does every day," MGH Environmental Services (EVS) Director Ryan Schroerlucke said. "It takes a village and everyone on the team to make great things happen, and that's what we've done."

Every two hours, you'll find an MGH EVS employee making rounds in the lobby to wipe down highly-touched surfaces: every door knob, hand rail, light switch, chair and elevator button in sight. When they're not disinfecting various lobbies, the staff stays busy wiping down every keyboard, phone and machine to further protect the community from the spread of COVID-19.

In a 99-bed hospital with five floors encompassing thousands of square feet, cleaning all of these surfaces isn't an easy task.

Schroerlucke said his role in the fight "is nothing" compared to what his detail-oriented staff does every day. The EVS staff are the real heroes,

working tirelessly throughout their shift, he said.

"You need to have a good work ethic with a positive attitude because it's a lot harder job than people think," Schroerlucke said. "You're on your feet all day, lifting heavy trash and linen bags, being pulled in lots of directions for cleaning rooms, spills, etc., so it can be a stressful environment at times."

Armed with masks, gloves and other necessary personal protective gear to keep themselves and others safe, the EVS staff members go to work each day with a can-do spirit, taking their role seriously along with the rest of the health care team.

"They're hugely vital for the hospital," Schroerlucke said. "Without the EVS staff, we wouldn't have a safe, clean environment for patients."

Knowing that their work has a positive impact on the community keeps them going, Schroerlucke said. While the community does their part to flatten the curve, his staff is always up for any challenges the pandemic might throw their way.

"Each day is ever changing, but our main priority is the patients," Schroerlucke said. "We do everything for them. Tasks and priorities are constantly changing as we're constantly planning and preparing additional spaces or beds in case there's a surge of additional patients."

On top of routine cleaning, Schroerlucke's staff helps move equipment and furniture around the hospital to stay in front of the virus, sometimes cleaning entire rooms from top to bottom just to be sure the hospital is ready for the worst-case scenario.

"For my staff, there have been almost daily requests for more cleaning above and beyond what we normally



Bill Brockman, Michelle Miller, Paula Pittman, Betty Nesbitt, and Phillip Boyd hold signs that say "Keep it clean."



Rachel Little smiles for the camera while working at Marion General Hospital.



Caleb Neumann and Rachel Pruitt pose for the camera during their shift at MGH.



James Little sweeps a hallway in the hospital during his shift.



Michelle Tribollet holds a sign that says, "Keep calm and clean on," while working at MGH's main campus.

clean, but my staff have been awesome at understanding that these requests are to protect patients, visitors and their coworkers," he said. "They've been amazing with everything that's been thrown at them the last couple weeks."

With no clear end in sight, Schroerlucke's staff began brainstorming ways to help preserve personal protective equipment at the hospital to ensure it can outlast COVID-19 as researchers develop a vaccination.

One part of that was putting around the hospital to stay in front of the virus, sometimes cleaning entire rooms from top to bottom just to be sure the hospital is ready for the worst-case scenario.

As national stockpiles of N95 masks began to run on short supply, Schroerlucke's

staff thought to use ultraviolet (UV) light systems to disinfect N95 masks so that doctors, nurses and other medical professionals can reuse their masks as many times as possible before having to throw them away.

The best way for the public to help MGH is to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Indiana State Department of Health guidelines, Schroerlucke said, to keep the virus at bay.

While washing your hands and staying home is key to fighting COVID-19, Schroerlucke said community support is just as important.

"A smile, friendly greeting, or thank you to my staff goes a long way," he said. "They love being here to create a safe healing environment for the patients, and that recognition goes a long way."



Danyell Heater takes a break from her disinfecting duties to pose for a picture.



Micah Slagle is surprised as someone takes his picture as he shows up to work at MGH.

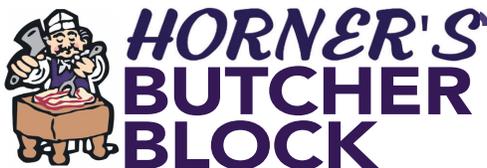
## We Salute All Frontline Heroes!



At Horner's we are proud to be Grant Counties Only Locally Owned Grocer. We are certainly going through challenging times, but with faith and understanding we know we will all get through this together. We have worked with our current suppliers and even reached out to other suppliers who have overstock due to the crisis so we can continue to bring you the BEST Quality Products at the BEST Value! We appreciate our dedicated team who continues to serve you in a safe environment to protect their and your health. We pray for your good health. And want to reach out to all frontline employees to say Thank You for your hard work and efforts.

**The Horner Family**

Thank You  
for Your Understanding and Support!



825 East 30th Street, Marion (765) 662-6112

**Senior & Essential Workers Special Hours**  
From 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. Daily & Sunday.

201 North Main Street, Fairmount (765) 948-4433

302 North Harrison St., Alexandria (765) 705-4054

**Regular Shopping Hours:**  
From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Daily & Sunday

<http://hornersbutchersblock.server8.shoptocook.com>  
**PAY YOUR UTILITY BILLS HERE!**

# Community provides support to MGH

By **ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI**  
amaciejewski@chronicle-tribune.com

While health care workers fight on the front lines, the Grant County community has come together to provide support.

As employees walked into Marion General Hospital (MGH) in late March, sidewalk chalk messages greeted them to start their shifts. As the days passed, more and more messages popped up, and Grant County residents began adorning their homes with lights and signs to uplift workers on the front line of the pandemic.

Their messages had a positive effect on the morale inside the hospital, according to MGH administration.

"It made us feel like people in our community genuinely care about us and are

supporting our efforts to provide care for our community members," MGH corporate compliance officer Sarah Evans said.

On top of that, donations have been pouring into the hospital.

Within a span of three weeks, more than a dozen organizations and businesses donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to MGH workers. One day, Harbor Freight donated two skids of PPE, and on another day Industrial Maintenance Specialists donated an entire skid of Tyvek suits, which are used by hazardous material (HazMat) professionals.

The teachers and staff of Converse Elementary School collected all of the school's hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies and donated them to the cause, while numerous



Marion General Hospital employees accept a donation of personal protective equipment while practicing social distancing by standing 6 feet apart.

fast food restaurants and food establishments donated pizza, snacks and other food items to keep the staff prepared for anything that lied ahead.

"MGH has truly felt blessed by our community members," Evans said about the outpouring of support. "We feel valued and appreciated for all we are doing to meet the health care needs of our community."

Inside the hospital, Evans said workers are keeping their morale up by continuously supporting one another and taking on new job responsibilities to help in every way they can.

Every day, Stephanie Hilton-Siebert, President and CEO of MGH, sends a video message out to inform the staff of any new developments and updates before sharing

words of encouragement to everyone in the organization. All of these things, along with hundreds of thank yous and messages from Grant County residents on the MGH Facebook page, are making a difference, and MGH staff encourage the community to keep engaging workers on the front lines, inside and outside the hospital.

"Unity throughout the com-

munity is essential as we all work together to do our part to reduce the spread of the virus, meet the needs of those who are impacted by illness and support one another as we overcome each challenge that we face along the way... Continue to support your family and friends through this challenging time remotely," Evans said. "Words of encouragement and support through social media of our staff has been very uplifting to continue on this journey that is requiring great endurance by our team members."

The best way people can help the fight is to continue to observe the recommendations for social distancing, according to Evans.

"That is the best step everyone can take in reducing the spread of COVID-19," Evans said.

## 'Light the match and people will come' | Lane-Riefler organizes volunteer effort to check on neighbors during pandemic

By **SAMANTHA OYLER**  
soyler@chronicle-tribune.com

As the novel coronavirus COVID-19 sweeps the nation, local agencies are getting creative with how to help. While some are lending their money, others are lending their ears.

Jennifer Lane-Riefler, executive director of Cancer Services of Grant County, has organized "Operation Checking in on Our Neighbors," an initiative dedicated to helping keep in contact with neighbors during this time, especially those at risk.

"I learned very early on ... one person can make a difference," Lane-Riefler said.

Lane-Riefler first got started organizing this initiative during Hurricane Hugo.

She said her sister-in-law was alone in South Carolina during the hurricane, weathering out the storm in the bathtub of her condo.

"The fear from her and everything just rattled me, and I

kept saying 'someone needs to do something...' I kept watching the news, and I thought to myself, 'Wait a minute, you're somebody. Do something.' And that's how it started," Lane-Riefler said.

When she decided this, Lane-Riefler said she realized just how much she could really do.

Having experience in the trucking business, Lane-Riefler used her connections to have companies donate drivers and equipment to receive and deliver items the Red Cross said would be needed. She said her team got supplies to the areas impacted by the hurricane before the Red Cross could because they didn't have the obstacles larger organizations needed to overcome.

"There's no red tape ... Sometimes individuals can get beyond that," Lane-Riefler said.

So when the coronavirus pandemic hit Grant County, Lane-Riefler was ready with

ideas. With a background in health sciences, Lane-Riefler said her experience and research showed that the county's emergency systems were at risk of becoming overwhelmed, leaving some people to fend for themselves.

She reached out to Grant County Emergency Management Agency Director Bob Jackson and told him she wanted to create a network of volunteers.

"He said that was the one piece we didn't have," she said.

She created an email address and took to social media to spread the word about her plan, reaching out to necessary health care officials as well.

"There's a lot of people out there who want to help, so all we have to do is ask for help," Lane-Riefler said.

Along with calling neighbors, Lane-Riefler said some volunteers are cooking and delivering meals, delivering groceries, picking up mail and

more, all while maintaining recommended physical distances.

"This also, I think, just reminded people, let's just call and check on our friends. Let's see how everybody's doing. It takes just one phone call to find out that someone is struggling. If we are able to find a resource for whatever they need, that struggle is over and they can concentrate on getting better and dealing with these uncharted waters," Lane-Riefler said.

Along with helping those in need, Lane-Riefler said "Operation Checking in on Our Neighbors" can create a snowball effect of positivity, which can help during these uncertain times.

"Giving people a way to have a release, I personally believe that being able to help others is a great way to weather any storm," she said. "It helps them to help people, and it helps them to feel better because they know that they made a

difference in that person's life."

Lane-Riefler said she speaks from experience, describing herself as a stubborn person who surprised herself when she first started helping out.

As the pandemic progresses, Lane-Riefler said the operation will become whatever it needs to be in order to serve the community. She encourages people to reach out to her. When people do reach out, she said she will follow up to connect people with resources for "whatever comes up, whatever the situation is."

Even if she's not sure of how to help, Lane-Riefler said she'll talk with health professionals to find answers.

While the operation is simple, Lane-Riefler said the reception has been great and the need is apparent.

"I think the biggest thing is just giving people hope, letting them know that they're not alone and people do care ... People helping people is a big deal," Lane-Riefler said.

While Lane-Riefler hopes the pandemic will soon be over, she believes it will get busier before it gets quieter.

"Who knows what tomorrow brings," Lane-Riefler said.

Though she's maintaining this operation, Lane-Riefler is still keeping things running at Cancer Services of Grant County, despite the fact that the pandemic has altered the organization's biggest fundraiser, the Walk of Hope.

"I'm well aware of what this is doing to my organization," Lane-Riefler said. "These wonderful organizations need the support of our community."

She encourages those who want to help to reach out however they can.

"You just have to light the match, and people will come," Lane-Riefler said.

If you are in need or would like to help with "Operation Checking in on Our Neighbors," email c19operatingranchcounty2020@gmail.com



The Community Foundation of Grant County, Chronicle-Tribune and many businesses have partnered to help Healthcare workers during this time of National Pandemic with **"Hearts for Healthcare Grant County"**

"Hearts for Healthcare Grant County" has two components in which the community can participate. First, signs of encouragement by posting Hearts in your windows and sharing good wishes online at [Hearts of Healthcare Grant County on facebook](#).

Secondly donate to a fund that was established at the Grant County Community Foundation with all funds staying in Grant County to

help healthcare workers pay for childcare, food, and other essentials during this time.

Tax-deductible donations of any amount can be made online at [www.GiveToGrant.org/Hearts](http://www.GiveToGrant.org/Hearts). Alternatively, checks can be mailed to the Community Foundation at 505 West Third Street, Marion, IN 46952. Please contact the Community Foundation for more information at 765-662-0065.



**Hearts for Healthcare Workers**

We invite you to join in this national campaign to show your support and to thank your local healthcare workers!

- Cut out the heart. Or print out a another heart and color decorate it.
- Display on your front door, windows or mailbox
- Post a photo to social and use #HeartsForHealthcareWorkers



**Have fun and thank you!**

**A Very Heartfelt Thank You to our Sponsor of this page Raven-Choate Funeral Home.**

**God Bless Our Healthcare and All Frontline Emergency Personnel for Protecting Us and Keeping Us Healthy in this time of need.**




*Raven - Choate*  
 • FUNERAL HOME •  
 1202 Kem Rd • Marion, IN (765) 664-6271  
[www.ravenchoate.com](http://www.ravenchoate.com)

# WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

The Community Foundation of Grant County has believed in its mission to connect people, resources, and causes to promote sustainable impact towards the betterment of Grant County for over 35 years. And it's because of uncertain times like this that we created our **GIVE TO GRANT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND** many years ago. **WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!** COVID-19 has affected every part of our lives—our jobs, our health, our financial stability, our kids' education, our travel plans and everything in between. As much as the coronavirus has forced us to physically separate, our community has responded with equal fervor in coming together to help those in need.

Generous donors have contributed to this fund with the understanding that the Community Foundation Board of Directors would utilize these resources where needed most in responding to critical needs and opportunities. And it's because of these donors that our Board was able to designate \$150,000 towards Rapid Response Grants and address our community's most pressing and emerging needs, specifically with organizations working with our most vulnerable citizens. We recognize that our social service organizations have direct knowledge of these everchanging critical issues, while also maintaining strong relationships with the citizens they serve.

Additionally, two more funds were established to support our hometown heroes, healthcare workers, and first responders: the **GRANT COUNTY EMA PASS-THROUGH FUND** and the **HEARTS FOR HEALTHCARE PASS-THROUGH FUND**. We are proud to be a part of such a generosity in Grant County.

Since March 20, 2020, the Community Foundation has awarded Rapid Response Grants totaling over \$90,688 to support nonprofit organizations that serve communities most directly impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Learn more about these grants by visiting [www.GiveToGrant.org/Rapid-Response-Grants](http://www.GiveToGrant.org/Rapid-Response-Grants).

Grant County is wrestling with difficult issues now and will experience new challenges in the weeks and months ahead as our community deals with the coronavirus that has spread across the globe. Donating to any or all three of these funds will make a significant impact in Grant County's fight to combat the coronavirus.

## TO SUPPORT COVID-19 RELIEF EFFORTS IN GRANT COUNTY, PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO ONE OF THESE THREE FUNDS BELOW:

### **GIVE TO GRANT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND**

Provides flexible financial support to trusted nonprofit partners across Grant County who are responding to critical needs related to COVID-19.

Learn more about this fund:  
[GiveToGrant.org/IMPACT](http://GiveToGrant.org/IMPACT)

### **GRANT COUNTY EMA PASS-THROUGH FUND**

Supports the Grant County EMA in supplying Personal Protective Equipment and needed materials for combating COVID-19.

Learn more about this fund:  
[GiveToGrant.org/GCEMA](http://GiveToGrant.org/GCEMA)

### **HEARTS FOR HEALTHCARE PASS-THROUGH FUND**

Provides childcare or food for healthcare workers working extended hours or to pay bills for employees who contract COVID-19.

Learn more about this fund:  
[GiveToGrant.org/HEARTS](http://GiveToGrant.org/HEARTS)

## Give Your Charitable Donation:

Online: [www.GiveToGrant.org/DonorMarketplace](http://www.GiveToGrant.org/DonorMarketplace)

Mail a Check: 505 West Third Street, Marion, IN 46952

(Indicate IMPACT, EMA, or HEALTHCARE in the memo line)

Via Venmo @GiveToGrant (Include a fund name in your post.)



## FOR MORE INFO CONTACT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TEAM:

765-662-0065 | [SayHello@GiveToGrant.org](mailto:SayHello@GiveToGrant.org) | [www.GiveToGrant.org](http://www.GiveToGrant.org)

# Working on the front lines



Photo provided by MGH  
 Medical and surgical nursing staff work together on staffing plans and coordination of patient needs at the hospital during the pandemic. Pictured from left to right are Kris Davis, Jenn Price, Rae Taylor and Michelle Jeffery.



Photo provided by MGH



My daughter works for Marion Pediatric. Cynthia Smith said. "She is standing on the front line. She loves her patients and gives her best every day. Her Dad and I worry about her on the front line, not only for her but her children. She is a dedicated care giver and wears her heart on her sleeve every day because she cares."



Thank you Amber Pritchett, a Marion General Hospital critical care nurse.

## Letters to the editor

### A message for health care workers and first responders

**Editor,**  
 I am not really sure where to begin or how to express my gratitude for the risks (health care workers and first responders) are taking on behalf of each of us every day. As has been said in so many ways these past few weeks, each of you are heroes who run towards the danger and unknown as we hunker down in our homes, waiting for the all clear.

While I know that you prefer that we stay in place to keep from spreading this potential killer, I can't help but admire each of you who took an oath and in these times of danger continue to persevere and put your own lives at risk for each of us.  
 I know in the end we will all be stronger. We will all be more appreciative and we will have a new outlook on life in general. It is with all those outcomes that again I just humbly thank you and pray for each of you today, tomorrow and for weeks and months and even years from now as you continue to do what you do no matter what the situation, and no matter who the patient is.

For your dedication to your profession and this community, I stand in awe and wonderment and know that for so many you are a testament of what is good and right in this society.

**Linda Wilk,  
 Marion, Indiana**



Thank you, Cpt. Jordan Lamb, who works at the Marion Fire Department.

### Honoring those showing compassion during COVID-19

**Editor,**  
 I want to commend Aldi grocery for going the extra mile to protect their customers during this pandemic. On April 11, I was at Aldi and they had two very friendly young ladies sanitizing the grocery carts for the next customer. In addition, there was no fee to use a cart.

What an innovative and generous idea for protecting the public against this virus.  
 We will get through this with all the good people of Grant County. Thank you all, especially the medical profession and all first responders.

**Marcia Atkinson  
 Gas City, Indiana**



Thank you, Gina Deaton, who works at the Marion Veterans Affairs campus.

### Stay proud, stay strong Grant County

**Editor,**  
 Difficult to find the right words...My heart, love and prayers go out to all those who are serving on the front lines as well as those that are not quite as visible but are still playing a huge role.

I was fortunate to be able to attend one of the prayer vigils at Marion General Hospital. It was likely the most emotional and powerful event ever. Just seeing all the support and feeling all the love was so moving. Some of the staff were able to slip out to the sidewalks or the heliport to see all of their supporters. My son is a front liner, and he was up there watching over me.

I thank the community for coming together - all who have placed signs, provided meals, left encouraging words and messages on the sidewalks, donated supplies and for all the hearts hanging on doors and windows supporting Hearts for Healthcare.

I'm very proud of our community and pray daily for staying healthy and strong.

**Diana May  
 Marion, Indiana**



Thank you, Starlina Foudray Hines, who works 12-hour shifts at Marion General Hospital's emergency room.



A hospital provider and nurse collaborate on a patient plan of care based on clinical indicators. Pictured from left to right are Carlos Blanchard, NP, and Emily Bundrick, RN.



Photo provided by Rachel Litts of MGH  
 An EVS worker ensures the facility is properly cleaned and disinfected for the safety of patients and staff.



Photo provided by MGH



Photo provided by MGH



Photo provided by MGH



Photo provided by MGH



Photo provided by MGH



We are pleased to offer you a couple stories from our own Jerry Pattengale. Many of you know him from his award-winning column, or his current book and TV series. We asked him to revisit his Buck Creek stories with a present day twist. He never fails to provide an entertaining lesson while "telling the truth with a smile."

We hope you enjoy these stories by the Hoosier boy who entered Marion College (IWU) in 1975 at age 16, a graduate, and homeless. He has since travelled the world, lived in a castle, and a forest has fallen to print his books. He even spoke to the United Nations in February. Jerry believes that education and/or faith are the only roads to a fulfilling life, and his mantra remains, "The dream needs to be stronger than the struggle."

## Unwanted Surprises and Healthcare Heroes

Jerry Pattengale

When the four-foot-long snake dropped in front of me, my shower was over.

It's one thing to run into your living room screaming. It's quite another to do it naked.

I sounded like a high-pitched rap-off between Blake Shelton and P. Diddy with a touch of Willy Nelson, and more obvious than Kanye West at a Swift concert.

I had just noticed the snake above me in the unfinished rafters when it began to lower itself.

It was surrealistic—a snake, me with no fig leaves and I wasn't in Eden.

As I looked for my towel—thud!

Silent screams. Frozen reaction. Just me and the snake—an unwanted surprise for a naked boy from the backwaters.

My dad had finally begun to add an indoor bathroom to our Buck Creek home, nestled near the bank of a hill with underground springs.

Our Spartan flat-roofed house was on a floodplain, with Sugar Creek snaking through our land. It was wet, overgrown property frequented by an assortment of reptiles. But they were always outside the house... well, until now.

Although the plumbing worked, I could still see the sky through the quasi-permanent plastic roof sagging from puddles of rain.

Dad was at his usual watering hole. Nine of us remained at home with no phone or car, left to devise a reptile removal plan.

"Maybe music would hypnotize it like the cobra on Johnny Quest."

"Let's put a trail of bread crumbs."

If snakes knew English, this one would be having a hissing fit of laughter.

As the oldest son—all of 12—it fell to me to be the leader.

Finally dressed in my briefs and surrounded by four hysterical sisters and three younger brothers, who considered me some sort of divine snake conqueror, I took action.

Crammed in the unfinished doorway, my sibling audience watched as I drew my bow. The hunt was on.

Razor-sharp arrows do serious damage to an uncovered plywood floor and unpainted sheetrock. They didn't damage the snake at all. I would have had to hit the thing.

Eventually, I resorted to stabbing at it with the arrow.

I had visions of becoming a snake-conquering hero—Buck Creek's Asclepius. In reality, my mother actually finished it off as it wrapped tightly around her strong German forearm.

For her, it was yet another episode in her impoverished life of bad but almost unavoidable situations.

She weathered numerous house moves, cold and drafty winters, an absent husband, and no social life. Finally, we had found cheap Indiana land and it was our chance to have our own home.

Beautiful land, but in a floodplain. Land susceptible to acts of God out of our control.

We had to drive through Sugar Creek to get to our house.

On occasion, the current pushed our dated station wagon downstream. Mom screamed as Dad calmly set aside his brown long-necked Falls City, opened the door and began carrying us to shore.

When the creek rose, Dad parked along the gravel road and loaded us a couple at a time into a homemade flat bottom rowboat. He had fixed a cable across the creek about shoulder high and used his hands to pull us to the other shore.

Every trip, Mom would cry from shore, and though unchurched and non-religious, would pray our loud with eyes wide open. Her prayers were laced with expletives about Dad.

For \$16,000 on a land contract, we managed to buy 14 acres of throwaway land.

## The Poster Girls of Buck Creek and the COVID Stage

Jerry Pattengale

Ginger of Gilligan's Island had a smooth baritone voice and facial mole that captured our collective soul. She was our Buck Creek hottie. Why "The Professor" kept trying to leave that island was beyond us! And so began our string of Buck Creek poster girls.

In Jr. high, it was Barbara Eden in her Jeannie jammies. Ellie May Clampett's "Gee-whiz" simplicity made us googly eyed. Wonder Woman hypnotized us with her two-fisted hip pose and frontal armor. Farrah Fawcett's red swimsuit poster decorated our late 1970s dorm rooms. And after Grease, we'd go into our Travolta swagger, comb one side of our hair, and sing "You're the one that I want!" while holding Olivia Newton John's LP cover. Of course, this occurred against a spontaneous backdrop of musically-challenged guys humming the chorus—"Ooh, ooh, ooh!"

I suppose most boys have been fascinated with beautiful women, and the same is true of men-boys. My grandpa had Rockwell's Rosie the Riveter picture next to a Hudson hupcab above his workbench, and his sons a Marilyn Monroe shrine in their uptown garage. Many centuries earlier, the Italians had their Mona Lisa fascinations, the English Tudors their Anne Boleyn, the Romans their first-century wall paintings at Pompeii, the Egyptians their Nefertiti reliefs and the Babylonians their clay busts of Inanna.

Cindy (my wife) and I shouldn't have been surprised when our "adopted" teenage Chinese "sons" gave us a wooden inlay of Ancient China's "Four Great Beauties." Their legendary looks allegedly caused the

moon to shy away, fish to become so entranced that they forgot to swim and sank, and birds to forget to fly and plummeted to earth.

God created us to recognize beauty, and though culturally influenced in some aspects, all non-reprobate humans continue to be stunned by the spectacular. Princess Di's face appearing on a storefront's large screen can stop traffic. Likewise, a double rainbow can prompt Chicago employees nearly to tip the Sears Tower by all running to office windows. And like C. S. Lewis, we lock onto standards such as Shadowlands that forever frame our thoughts of tranquil beauty.

Artists captivate us with creative representations of beauty, such as Chihuly's blown glass series, "Seaforms." During a visit to the Columbia, South Carolina museum, one of his masterpieces literally took my breath away. The six-foot bright yellow transparent fanned glass rimmed natural beauty, it arrested my unsuspecting mind. Another Chihuly mesmerized me when I realized that the bright 20-foot tower in the Salt Lake City museum is actually hundreds of his interwoven creations.

I had a similar experience in Indiana Wesleyan University's art gallery a few years ago upon seeing Rod Crossman's "Fantasy" series. While the central painting was still leaning against the wall awaiting mounting, the light caught its painted Venus statue. She dazzled. I froze. She was standing there on canvas, in an unexpected place—a virgin pond deep within a thick forest. Painted just beyond was a surprised angler making

the discovery as he walked through the last clump of trees. With fly rod still in hand, he too had that frozen look of fascination. The master artist had somehow captured the essence of unexpected beauty.

I saw this unexpected beauty anew this week, this time in still photos of healthcare workers after long shifts in COVID units. Men and women staring into my soul, into our collective soul as a country, our global soul as humans. If I had Crossman's gifts I could sketch from memory many of their expressions. From their tired eyes and disheveled hair to their worn skin and lines from facial protection.

They are beautiful. Most heroes are. Their images bring tears. They arrest my body. The world stops spinning for just a moment as they look at me. At us. And as we redound their gaze.

If I had Chihuly's giftedness, I would craft a memory, salute through form and color a symbol of their service—men and women freeze-framed in our collective history. It would be the tallest of exhibits, the grandest of displays.

If I had the screen writing ability of Sherwood Schwartz who created Gilligan's Island for CBS, or the brilliance of MASH's creator, Larry Gelbart, I would creatively bring their stories before us. Perhaps on the other side of this pandemic we can resonate with their humanity through humor, and applaud through lighter exchanges their heroism.

If I were Sergio Furnari, sculptor of the iconic "Lunchtime on a Skyscraper" (ironworkers on a beam) that resonated with the men "that

the "oughtness" that C.S. Lewis says guides us to do good—pious souls, with many heroes among them—including Father Berardelli, a "Martyr of Charity" who gave his ventilator for a younger person to live.

These workers are helping with a crisis, heroes amongst us all. Thanks to those applauding them from windows. To the many companies retrofitting to give them protective equipment. To governors and the Administration for marshalling our resources.

Everyday that our daughter-in-law, Ericka, walks into the South Bend hospital, we pray. She's a new mother helping others about to be. Every step, every patient, every doorknob turned, is a risk to her and her own family. But not to take those steps is a risk to a new life entering this world.

In our own way, we salute from our window at 7:00 PM, or whenever neighborhood nurses drive by, and pray without ceasing.

The next time a snake drops in front of you, remember that it may be a symptom of a larger problem. But like nursing heroes, such knowledge doesn't negate the immediate danger. And what's scarier for them, it is cannot see the enemy only its path.

To those mask-lined faces serving the rest of us, I humbly tip my keyboard. As one of the vulnerable, older and surviving a quadruple bypass, social distancing prohibits options. But God's giftfulness allows me to try with my keyboard to salute you through Windows.

My friends in the healthcare known and unknown. The dream needs to be stronger than the struggle. Thanks for engaging on our behalf, and keeping dreams alive for countless families.

Jerry Pattengale, author of dozens of books including the recent "Inexplicable: How Christianity Spread to the Ends of the Earth," and the accompanying TV series on TBN. He is the inaugural "University Professor" at Indiana Wesleyan University and a founding scholar of the Museum of the Bible (DC).

the "oughtness" that C.S. Lewis says guides us to do good—pious souls, with many heroes among them—including Father Berardelli, a "Martyr of Charity" who gave his ventilator for a younger person to live.

These workers are helping with a crisis, heroes amongst us all. Thanks to those applauding them from windows. To the many companies retrofitting to give them protective equipment. To governors and the Administration for marshalling our resources.

Everyday that our daughter-in-law, Ericka, walks into the South Bend hospital, we pray. She's a new mother helping others about to be. Every step, every patient, every doorknob turned, is a risk to her and her own family. But not to take those steps is a risk to a new life entering this world.

In our own way, we salute from our window at 7:00 PM, or whenever neighborhood nurses drive by, and pray without ceasing.

The next time a snake drops in front of you, remember that it may be a symptom of a larger problem. But like nursing heroes, such knowledge doesn't negate the immediate danger. And what's scarier for them, it is cannot see the enemy only its path.

To those mask-lined faces serving the rest of us, I humbly tip my keyboard. As one of the vulnerable, older and surviving a quadruple bypass, social distancing prohibits options. But God's giftfulness allows me to try with my keyboard to salute you through Windows.

My friends in the healthcare known and unknown. The dream needs to be stronger than the struggle. Thanks for engaging on our behalf, and keeping dreams alive for countless families.

Jerry Pattengale, author of dozens of books including the recent "Inexplicable: How Christianity Spread to the Ends of the Earth," and the accompanying TV series on TBN. He is the inaugural "University Professor" at Indiana Wesleyan University and a founding scholar of the Museum of the Bible (DC).

made America" after 9/11, I would rub raw my hands trying to capture the heroic healthcare workers. Perhaps nurses in masks entering a hospital through a gauntlet of cheers, or exhausted workers pausing to pray.

But for now, the stark reality is too tough. Too daunting. Too current—as people, some whom I know, still struggle for their lives.

I enjoy beautiful things more deeply than even imaginable in my Buck Creek youth, more profoundly than our glub fascination with poster girls.

Beauty is not to be taken for granted, but granted for the taking—maturity is what we do with it and for it. From people to pets and the planet, there are beautiful things that demand our best thinking. And our nurses, doctors and healthcare professionals are such worthy subjects.

Oh, I suppose Hannah Montana posters replaced ours in Buck Creek treehouses. But there's hope that their millennial owners have learned to appreciate a deeper beauty, and decades from now at a class reunion laugh while they hum "The Best of Both Worlds." After all, some of those singing will likely be doctors and nurses, inspired this very season by hospital heroes.

Jerry Pattengale, author of dozens of books including the recent "Inexplicable: How Christianity Spread to the Ends of the Earth," and the accompanying TV series on TBN. He is the inaugural "University Professor" at Indiana Wesleyan University and a founding scholar of the Museum of the Bible (DC).



After working all day, members of the Grant County Sheriff's Department spent nearly an hour in prayer outside Marion General Hospital for all workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Sheriff's deputies 'band together' for community

By ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI  
amaciejewski@chronicle-tribune.com

If you see blue and red emergency lights flashing in Marion General Hospital's parking lot, don't be alarmed.

Grant County Sheriff's Department (GCSO) deputies and other law enforcement agencies are stopping by the hospital before and after their shifts and using their lights as a symbol of support to all workers on the front lines of this pandemic.

"We are here for support. We are showing them that we care for you," said Doug Jentes, a GCSO deputy, as he sat in his transport van with his wife to pray. "We are praying for you here. We are praying for you while we're at home. They don't have the choice to get to stay home... because they're our defense... It's important for them to know that they're our heroes right now."

Jentes was at one of the first prayer gatherings at the hospital, and he witnessed the positive impact that resulted from 50-60 cars in the parking lot blaring their horns. He wants to carry that on as long as the pandemic is affecting the community to support those making sacrifices.

"There was a lot of raw emotion," Jentes said as he described that evening. "I know one guy in there that won't see his family for the next couple of weeks because he's in there working and taking the quarantine as seriously as he can. So we want to just show support for those who are tending to the sick, helping the sick by lifting them up in prayer and with our thoughts. If nothing else, we are showing them that we are here for them."

He also emphasized how their prayers are for all front



Red and blue emergency lights from his fellow deputies light up the dashboard of Doug Jentes' transport van as he and his wife pray on April 2, outside Marion General Hospital.

line workers, like his son-in-law who works at a grocery store and the custodial staff protecting people's lives through their work.

"I think everybody has learned to appreciate the small jobs," he said. "We have to appreciate the dirty work that has to be done. Who knows where we would be without them... It's those people that we need to thank for just going along with the daily grind to keep things moving."

At the sheriff's department, Jentes said people are stepping up to take night shifts at the jail and taking on extra responsibilities to do their part during these unprecedented times.

"I couldn't work with greater men or women," he said. "We've all banded together, from the sheriff all the way down. We are all like, 'Let's work together and get things to where they need to be so we're safe for each other and the community.'"

Protecting first responders and people on the front lines is vital, Jentes said. To help protect deputies and officers, the sheriff's department is using new technology to

write reports remotely, limiting face-to-face interactions while still getting the necessary jobs done, all to help stop the spread of the virus.

"With medical calls, we still send officers, and we will continue because that's our duty," he said. "We don't think about it all the time, but even our jail officers are going to be coming in contact with it more than likely, so we pray for them and their families."

These recent weeks have been different and stressful, but Jentes said he uses prayer to fight that.

"My belief and my faith is that my God is bigger than this," he said.

He hopes that people will show up in their cars at all hours of the day and remain in their cars to show their support for people working morning and night shifts.

"I think it's important... that we show up as a community. Even if you're on your lunch break, why can't you just stop here?" he said, adding that selflessness is key to getting through tough times.

Throughout it all, his message remains the same

for everyone doing their part in this battle against COVID-19.

"We love you," he said.

# Leading the fight against COVID-19

MGH recognizes Infection Control Coordinator for rapid, selfless response to pandemic

By ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI  
amaciejewski@chronicle-tribune.com

While every health care worker in Grant County plays a vital role in the care of the community, one Marion General Hospital (MGH) employee has gone above and beyond, according to hospital administration.

This person is Angie Kitashoji, Infection Control Coordinator for MGH.

Over the past several weeks as MGH modifies its Emergency Operations Plan to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, many physicians and employees have worked tirelessly to ensure the organization is prepared for the coming days and weeks, officials say. During this all, Kitashoji has stepped up to the challenge of keeping the entire staff informed of best practices to beat the virus, MGH Corporate Compliance Officer Sarah Evans said.

"Angie's thorough dedication to understanding the virus, its routes of transmission and personal protective equipment requirements, testing algorithms and availability are just a few of the areas of focus she has carried for MGH," Evans said. "Angie monitors the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) guidelines to ensure that MGH is compliant with PPE and testing algorithms and requirements on a regular basis. As we learn more about the COVID-19 virus, these recommendations have continued to evolve."

She has been instrumental in tracking these changes and communicating with employees how to safely care for potential COVID-19 patients," Evans said.

The infection control coordinator is in charge of putting in place a process to control a virus, protecting employees treating potentially infected patients and reducing potential spread of infection.

Since MGH activated its Incident Command Center in mid-March in response to the novel coronavirus, Angie has participated in collaborative efforts between materials management, plant engineering, employee health and a variety of other departments.

She has also played an integral role in working alongside Grant County Health Officer Dr. William David Moore and Grant County Public Health Nurse Amber Turner.

"Her efforts ensured that everyone had the most recent information and understanding of the requirements and needs to take care of potentially infected COVID-19 individuals..."

The collaboration of efforts between agencies has been pivotal in the local response efforts to attempt to control the spread of this virus," Evans said.

While MGH officials said they are proud of every single employee's hard work, they said Kitashoji has been selfless in her response to COVID-19.

"Angie has worked countless hours over the past month. She is an excellent resource to our providers, staff and our community," MGH chief nursing officer Cindy Furrell said. "Angie has proven to be a true Hero."



KITASHOJI

## Our Hearts are with Our Healthcare Workers!

 Gayle Arnes Owner/Funeral Director	 Danielle Nelson Funeral Director Monument Representative	 Dennis R. Smith Funeral Director
 Amy Downing Pre-Arrangement Counselor	 Kathi Solms Administrative Assistant	 Kari Sheets Administrative Assistant
 Renée (Smith) Glass Administrative Assistant	 Dee Ballinger Assistant	 Jim Neal Grief Care/Family Service Representative
 Mackenzie Corbin Pet Services Coordinator and Therapy Dogs Handler		

# ARMES-HUNT

FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES

**FAIRMOUNT CHAPEL**  
415 S. Main St.  
Fairmount, IN 46928  
765-948-4178

**COLLEGE PARK CHAPEL**  
4601 South Western Avenue  
Marion, IN 46953  
765-573-6500

**JONES SMITH CHAPEL**  
259 N. Main St.  
Upland, IN 46989  
765-999-2191



**It's Not Only Super Hero's That Wear Capes!**



**We Salute All Healthcare Workers for the Brave Work They are Doing!**

During this time of Coronavirus we want to Thank All of people who are helping us stay well and giving unselfishly to make Grant County A Better Place to Live, Pray, Work and Play!

# CHUCK'S

**#1 in the #2 Business**

<p><b>MARION</b> 765-664-2536</p> <p><b>HARTFORD CITY</b> 765-348-1090</p>	<p><b>WABASH</b> 260-563-3012</p> <p><b>KOKOMO</b> 765-459-8466</p>	<p><b>HUNTINGTON</b> 260-355-0844</p> <p><b>HAMILTON COUNTY</b> 317-903-8595</p>
--	---	--



# Providing critical care for those with disabilities

Carey Services works to serve nearly 100 local clients, including those with underlying health conditions

By **TIM TEDESCHI**  
 tedeschi@chronicle-tribune.com

Carey Services employees are continuing to provide care for approximately 100 individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in their homes during the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

Carey Chief Operations Officer Yolanda Kincaid said the agency has more than 150 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who are continuing to help individuals "achieve the greatest degree of independence possible" throughout the state's stay-at-home order and other restrictions.

"In many cases, the individuals who receive services have very complicated medical situations," she said. "In dozens of locations in Grant County, and beyond, there are DSPs who are working within teams around the clock to provide families' loved ones the supports that are desperately needed."

Carey's facility-based day services and employment opportunities have been paused due to social distancing recommendations. Kincaid said, which has allowed more DSPs to serve residential clients. Kincaid said many DSPs have been picking up extra shifts and working overtime to make sure in-

dividuals requiring 24/7 care are being taken care of while continuing to monitor themselves, their clients and their clients' families for symptoms of COVID-19.

"They are assuring that folks have the groceries, supplies and medications that they need. They are assuring that the health and hygiene needs are met in safe and respectful ways," Kincaid said. "They are providing opportunities for learning and education. They are the conduit for individuals to connect with their loved ones through the phone or some other use of technology like a video chat during a time where the people we serve are not able to receive visitors."

DSP Heidi Hutchinson said the basics of her job have stayed the same, but a lot has also changed in the past few weeks. She said she is working in a different group home than she normally works in during this time and has been focusing on trying to keep the individuals living there who are used to working Monday through Friday on a new routine staying at home.

"They're used to a set routine and when this pandemic happened, they're at home, they stay home, they're not able to go out and do things that they would like to do because of the virus and the possibility of them getting it," she said. "... They love to go out and they love going to work and they can't go be-

cause of the pandemic going on right now, so it's definitely a huge changeup not only with what they're used to, but what we're used to."

Despite the new challenges, Hutchinson said, her family and the individuals she works with keep her motivated to come into work each day in the midst of the pandemic.

"If we all decided to stay home, who would care for our individuals?" Hutchinson said. "I enjoy going to work. I enjoy helping my individuals do the best that they can, you know, and there's a lot of motivation behind me."

DSPs have become more than staff to the individuals they work with, Hutchinson said, especially as clients have questions about COVID-19.

"We're somebody they can come and talk to because they're worried about what's going on. My individuals, they watch the news on a daily basis, they have questions, they want to know what's going on," she said. "We're here to help them the best that we can in this time and that helps out a lot to know that my job is helping people in a time that is a really tough time right now."

Hutchinson said she has seen her coworkers grow closer together as they provide care in an unprecedented situation. While she does worry about coming in contact with the virus, she said she and other DSPs are limiting their travel to work and home and are thankful for Carey's proactive response. "I feel safer than I would



Photo provided by Carey Services  
 Carey Services Direct Support Professional Heidi Hutchinson stands in the kitchen of the Upland group home where she's working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

say a lot of other people's jobs because they did a fantastic job of when the coronavirus started picking up, shutting down day services and all of that stuff to where the chances of not only the individuals getting it but the staff touching it as well (were lowered)," she said. "The individuals, it's hard for them, but they are doing awesome with it. You'll see them come closer together."

Director of Fund Development Greg Maynard said as agency management has witnessed workers going above and beyond to serve clients during the pandemic, Carey is working to support its staff both with the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) like gowns and masks as well as with morale boosters like providing and delivering meals to DSPs during their shifts.

"So they're stepping up and we're trying to support them as much as we can from an

agency level because they're the ones doing the work," Maynard said. "And a lot of us behind the scenes are just trying to get out of the way and let them do their job and getting them what they need."

Like most health care providers, Maynard said Carey is struggling to keep stocked with PPE supplies. He said the community is helping, including some people currently making masks for Carey.

"I think now we're in good shape, we're in OK shape on that, but looking down the road I know those things don't last forever so we've still got to keep trying to find equipment," Maynard said.

Even though there are not many opportunities for community members to volunteer with Carey right now, Maynard said there are still ways to support the agency during this time. Carey Services is currently hiring and

also accepting PPE, he said, and the community can look out for more ways to help in the coming weeks.

"If people need work, definitely let us know on our website or through Facebook," Maynard said. "We're just trying to just let folks know that yeah, we're still open for business, our folks are still being served and there's a lot that goes with that that we're going to be reaching out about."

Maynard said he has been proud to watch Carey's staff work together during the pandemic.

"Our mission statement is turning abilities into opportunities and I think in this time all of us at the agency are having to take that in a little different spin of what abilities do we have with the people we are working with," he said. "We've definitely got some opportunities in front of us that we've never faced before."

At the United Way of Grant County we are working with many frontline organizations to help us all through this national crisis. It takes a community to embrace all the precious hearts in Grant County. We are proud to be part of the solution. Together we will get through this.

If you would like to volunteer or help financially go to [www.unitedwayofgrantcounty.org](http://www.unitedwayofgrantcounty.org) or call us at 765-662-9811.

Bless all our frontline people and our Healthcare Community our hands and hearts are with you!

**United Way**

**United Way Of Grant County**  
*Building Stronger Families in Grant County!*  
 215 South Adams St., Marion, IN 46952

## Hospital worker by day, seamstress by night

Marion General Hospital health care worker spends free time sewing masks to meet community's needs

By ANDREW MACIEJEWSKI  
Chronicle-Tribune Editor

When Cara Horner heard about the shortage of masks around the nation and globe while watching the news one night, she immediately jumped into action.

She'd seen a mask pattern from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) online and thought it looked easy enough to make, so she started watching videos and looking around her house for supplies. She had some extra fabric laying around but didn't have any elastic, so she started using hair ties to begin making her first batch of masks.

"I'm not a seamstress by any means but thought I'd give it a try, and it worked," she said. "I got out the old sewing machine and got busy with any of my downtime. I just started making them and passing them out."

One night after working her typical shift from about 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Marion General Hospital (MGH) as a physician's practice manager, she drove an hour home and began working only to look up from her sewing machine to see it was getting close to 1 a.m.

"I was like... uh oh, I need to stop. My husband was like, 'You going to take a break from the masks so we can spend some time together?'" she said with a laugh. "I'm going to take a break tonight and tomorrow, but I'll get back at it this weekend."

Since she started making them, she's had dozens of people ask her to make masks for her so they can use them while at the gro-

cery store or out and about so they are protected and can continue doing their jobs at the hospital.

While nurses and physicians in direct contact with COVID-19 patients use surgical masks, the CDC recommends that the general public wear masks to help prevent the spread of the virus, so Horner started handing out the masks to her front end staff members and cleaning staff to help cut down on the hospital's demands for N95 surgical masks.

Her motivation to make masks in her spare time is the same motivation that got her into her health care career, Horner said. She wants to help her community through her work, and this is just another way she tries to lend a hand.

"It also helps me stay positive to keep working at home and do something with my hands. It gives me peace of mind knowing that my small gesture might go a long way. It helps your stress levels to be at home doing something, not sitting on my rump," she said with a laugh. "I feel like I'm being productive this way."

When she chose her career, she thought about how her grandmother encouraged her to find a passion that made her feel fulfilled at the end of the day. Before coming to MGH, she ran a clinic at another hospital near her home in Muncie, but when the opportunity arose in July of last year to begin a position at MGH, she took it.

"I had heard great things about MGH... They do great things for the community, so here I am... It's just something I've had a



Photo provided by MGH

Marion General Hospital staff member Cara Horner and multiple volunteers have sewn hundreds of masks for health care workers and members of the public to help meet the demand for personal protection during the pandemic.

passion for," she said. "It takes a lot of people to make a corporation run, so I'm just trying to do my part."

Sewing masks is almost therapeutic to Horner, and she said anyone who wants to chip in can help make masks or headbands that have buttons on them that allow for people to strap their masks to the headband so that the elastic doesn't wear out people's ears.

"If anyone has any spare time to help supply those, that would be a big help too," she said.

While people have been offering her money for her masks, she isn't accepting monetary donations. She just wants to help out from the goodness of her heart.

"I'm just doing it for the kindness that everyone needs," Horner said.

## Local nursing homes spread happiness amid isolation

By HOLLY GASKILL  
creport@indy.rr.com

For many nursing home residents, a change in routine can throw everything off balance.

"One woman is upside down right now," said Rich Orrell, Wesleyan Health and Rehabilitation Center administrator. "We're doing things differently, here and everywhere."

Residents who once congregated together for meals, activities and chapel services are now spending increased time in their rooms in compliance with self-isolation measures. However, some local care facilities have gotten creative to bring their residents together while following national, state and local guidelines.

"It's something of a magnitude that we've never experienced," Orrell said. "We want to be the calm in the storm, to bring peace and entertainment to our residents while introducing social distancing and other measures."

For Palm Sunday on April 5, Wesleyan Health and Rehabilitation Center held a worship service in the parking lot. Visitors stayed parked in their car, honking their horns to greet residents. Then, Orrell and the chaplain led the group in song and prayer.

The following Sunday, residents received Easter treats and gifts from their friends and family.

Day to day, activity directors have been bringing karaoke, bingo and other

"I'm just doing it for the kindness that everyone needs," Horner said.



Photo provided by Rich Orrell

games directly to the residents' rooms. Orrell said they have been serving special meals, snacks and happy hour specialties as well.

"Being in their rooms a lot of the time, just watching the news, it can be really scary," Orrell said. "We want to take this unique situation and accommodate in the everyday ways that we can."

As vice president of public relations for American Senior Communities (ASC), Sherri Davies has also been working with University Nursing Center (UNC) and

their other facilities to create meaningful moments during this time. Residents have been able to FaceTime and Zoom their friends and families, as well as receive

window visits.

Some of the most unique window visitors, however, have come with the ASC Calvary's Horses for Hope.

"It's a beautiful thing that we've had the opportunity to be a part of," Davies said. Led by a trainer, horses will travel from window to window to greet residents.

Davies said UNC was happy to be on the list of locations where the horses stop by to cheer up residents.

While trying to bring moments of togetherness, both Davies and Orrell have said each new day comes with new information and regulations for resident and staff safety.

Hospice is **Family.**

Family LifeCare  
is partnering with  
**Visiting Nurse**

NEW LOOK. SAME GREAT CARE.

Phone: 260-435-3222  
Toll-Free: 800-288-4111

www.VNFW.org



Photos provided by Rich Orrell



“We have been preparing for the worst and praying for the best,” Orrell said. Orrell said Wesleyan Health and Rehabilitation Center has developed a COVID-19 unit, where any one infected would be quarantined and attended to by separate staff. In the meantime, both nursing homes are using personal protective equipment at all times and being proactive in protective measures. “Right now, some of the

(personal protective equipment) we need is hard to come by – everything is worth its weight in gold,” Orrell said. “We don’t have an abundant supply, but it’s adequate.” At the end of the day, Orrell and Davies said they hope to bring both head and heart together to create a safe home for residents. “We’re on the front lines,” Orrell said. “You hear always about hospitals and clinics, as you should, but we’re right here with them.”



Our Hearts are with You! Stay Safe, Stay Healthy and Stay Home.

**Connie Zirkle** 765-618-0755

We Salute Our Family members who are Healthcare Professionals Shelly Rodabough, Jessica Gotschall and Alison Thompson. Plus All Healthcare and Frontline workers in Grant County.

Larry & Cindy Korporal 251-0105

We Salute All Our Hometown Heroes For Their Great Service During These Tough Times.

**Sandi Jones** 765-661-3013

**Our Hearts Are Reaching Out to All Healthcare Workers and Frontline Employees During This Time. As Local Realtors We Are Your Friends and Your Neighbors. As Many of Our Community Are Safe in Their Homes, Our Healthcare Workers and Frontline Employees are There for Us. We Just Want to Say Our Hearts Reach Out To You!!**

*Home is Your Safe Haven!*

**Linda Kitts**  
Owner & Broker  
765-661-1069

**Evan Blinn**  
765-661-0838

**June Brown**  
765-618-2828

**Stephanie Nichols**  
765-669-3388

*We Salute All Healthcare & Frontline Workers!*



# THANK YOU!

To all Grant County healthcare workers frontline employees -- The Chronicle-Tribune says thank you for doing your part to protect and serve our community.

Whether you are providing essential services or just staying at home to stop the spread of this virus, you are making a positive impact during this pandemic. If you're helping a friend in need or doing one of the thousands of acts of kindness we have seen during this national crisis, your hard work makes us feel blessed to be in Grant County.

This section was produced to highlight the hard work going on in our community to fight COVID-19 and support workers making sacrifices to keep our community operating safely and effectively during these unprecedented times.

We are all in this together, and we will get through it by uniting as a community. It hardly seems like saying thank you is enough, but just know it comes from the heart. Our prayers and thoughts are with you. We also would be remiss not to thank our own dedicated team that has worked daily to bring you the news.

**Chronicle-Tribune**  
[www.Chronicle-Tribune.com](http://www.Chronicle-Tribune.com)