



Vitruvian Health

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INFORMATION

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Hamilton nurse receives Heart Hero Award

DALTON, Ga. (May 27, 2025) – Alison Caraway, RN in Hamilton Medical Center’s cardiovascular intensive care unit (CVICU), recently received the Heart Hero Award for her actions that led to a positive patient outcome.

Abiomed, parent company of Impella heart pumps, recently partnered with local representatives to implement the Heart Hero Program in the area.

An Impella heart pump is a temporary artificial heart pump that supports a patient’s circulatory system during procedures or when the heart’s pumping function is compromised. It works by pulling blood from the left ventricle and pushing it into the aorta, effectively assisting the heart and improving blood flow to the rest of the body. This can help protect organs, reduce the workload on the heart, and enable patients to undergo procedures they might not otherwise be able to safely handle.

Caraway specializes in Impella therapy and manages critically ill Impella patients at Hamilton. She is known for going above and beyond by attending optional training to stay up to date, is well-read on best practices, and does not hesitate to lean on others to ensure the best possible outcome for her patients.

“I want to take a moment to recognize the outstanding work of Alison Calloway, RN. Her exceptional clinical judgment, calm under pressure and compassionate patient care have made a significant difference in the outcomes for our patients,” said Sonny Achtchi, MD, interventional cardiologist. “During a recent complex case, her proactive communication and meticulous attention to detail ensured seamless coordination and optimal patient management. Alison exemplifies the gold standard in nursing, and it’s a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated professional. Thank you for shining brightly, Alison. Well done!”

The Heart Hero Award recognizes a nurse who demonstrates exceptional knowledge, compassion and leadership. The goal of the program is to create a supportive community of healthcare professionals and celebrate the strength and influence it provides.

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Photo: Alison Caraway, RN, recently received the Heart Hero Award. From left are Jacob Whitener, RN, medical intensive care unit (MICU); Brandy Salazar, director of Critical Care; Peyton Brooker, RN, surgical intensive care unit (SICU); Tara Skiffen, MICU clinical manager; Caraway; Ashley Painter, cardiovascular intensive care unit (CVICU) clinical manager; Laura Koger, RN, MICU; and Keri Hallman, Impella representative.