



Brianna Fouche receives St. Mary's DAISY Award for nursing excellence

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Athens, Ga. – Brianna Fouche, a registered nurse who provides care in the Intensive Care Unit of St. Mary's Hospital, has received St. Mary's DAISY Award for Nursing Excellence. She was nominated by a nursing student she precepted in the spring.



Brianna Fouche, RN

"Brianna has shown me how to be a caring and compassionate nurse," the student wrote in Fouche's nomination. "She excels in patient care while also being a team player. I have seen her place smiles on patients' faces that have experienced major life changes, and she is quick in action when things do not go as planned."

The student especially recalled a time when Fouche was providing care to a patient with recently diagnosed stage 4 cancer who was not expected to recover.

"Brianna created such a genuine relationship with this patient, making them smile and laugh, giving them a positive memory to reflect on while staying in the hospital," the student writes. "She has taught me so much about what being a nurse means."

"All of our nurses aim to provide high-level care with higher-level caring, but Brianna truly excels," said Ann Gomes, director of Orthopedics and chair of St. Mary's DAISY Award Committee. "It's not easy to bond with a patient who has a life-limiting illness. You have to be both strong and vulnerable, knowing you'll be crying when they are gone, but it's what exceptional nurses like Brianna do. We're so happy she is part of our ministry."

Fouche is a resident of Jefferson and joined St. Mary's in June 2021.

About the DAISY Award

The DAISY Award is an international recognition program that celebrates the skillful and compassionate care nurses provide day-in and day-out. It was created in gratitude for the nurses who provided care to Patrick Barnes, a 33-year-old husband and father who lost his fight against a deadly autoimmune disease in 1999. His family created the DAISY Foundation, which now partners with more than 6,500 hospitals and schools in all 50 states and around the world to honor and inspire extraordinary nurses. Learn more about the DAISY Award at <https://www.daisyfoundation.org/>.

2 | Brianna Fouche receives St. Mary's DAISY Award

At St. Mary's, each DAISY Award recipient is recognized at a public ceremony with their colleagues. They receive a certificate, a DAISY Award pin, and a stone sculpture entitled "A Healer's Touch" that is hand-carved by sculptors in Zimbabwe. In addition, they and their colleagues are invited to celebrate the occasion with cinnamon rolls, a treat Patrick would request – even though he couldn't eat them – as a thank-you to the nurses caring for him.

Anyone can nominate a St. Mary's nurse for the DAISY Award, including patients, patients' family members, providers, and colleagues. Any nurse in the St. Mary's system is eligible, including those at all three hospitals as well as home health care/hospice services and medical group offices. The nomination simply asks you to share your story of why a nurse is special to you. St. Mary's honors eight nurses each year.

There are two ways you can nominate a St. Mary's nurse:

- Visit St. Mary's DAISY Award webpage at <https://www.stmarys-health.org/for-patients/after-your-stay/daisy-award>
- Contact Melissa McDaniel, Marketing Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator, at 706.389.3892.

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