



## Amber Bouchard receives St. Mary's DAISY Award for excellence

Contact: Mark Ralston, Public Relations Manager  
706.389.3897 | [mrалston@stmarysathens.org](mailto:mrалston@stmarysathens.org)  
July 1, 2025

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Athens, Ga.** – Amber Bouchard, a registered nurse who provides care in the Neuroscience Unit of St. Mary's Hospital, has received St. Mary's DAISY Award for Nursing Excellence. She was nominated by the granddaughter of a patient who was nearing the end of life.



*Amber Bouchard, RN*

"Amber was the greatest!" she wrote in the nomination. "She was such an angel during the transition of my Grandmother. Amber was kind, gentle, attentive and showed so much empathy! Her dedication, attentiveness, kindness, compassion, empathy and concern meant so much during this time. God sent an angel in Amber. Amber, we were blessed to have you during that time. You are the best!"

"Amber is an exceptional nurse who truly lives our Mission to serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence," said Ann Gomes, director of Orthopedics and chair of St. Mary's DAISY Committee. "Her nursing skills are excellent, but she also goes above and beyond to combine high-level care with higher-level caring. We are honored that she is part of our team."

Bouchard is a resident of Athens and joined St. Mary's in December 2022.

### 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/>.

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.

## 2 | Amber Bouchard receives St. Mary's DAISY Award

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.

# # #