



Jeremiah Hocutt receives St. Mary's DAISY Award for excellence

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Athens, Ga. – Jeremiah Hocutt, a registered nurse who provides care in St. Mary's Emergency Department, has received St. Mary's DAISY Award for Nursing Excellence. He was nominated by the family member of a patient who was rushed to St. Mary's with seizures.



Jeremiah Hocutt, RN

"Anxiety was at its worst," the patient's family member wrote. "Jeremiah answered all questions and was very compassionate with both his patient and the family during a high stress situation. He even stayed past his shift and made sure to come in and check in with us.

"It's not only the patient to take care of, but also the family, and he took care of all of us. He made a terrible day slightly better by how humbled and kind he was. I am so thankful God put him with us in such a time of need," the nomination concludes.

"We are so thankful to this family for recognizing Jeremiah," said Ann Gomes, director of Orthopedics and chair of St. Mary's DAISY Committee. "He really does have tremendous empathy not only for the patient but for the patient's loved ones as they wait and worry. He is an excellent nurse who goes beyond providing care at the bedside to provide exceptional caring for the patient and the whole family. We are proud he is part of St. Mary's health care ministry."

A resident of Elberton, Hocutt has been part of the St. Mary's team since 2023, when he joined the ministry as a nurse extern. He was promoted to a staff RN after passing his nursing Board exams soon after joining the St. Mary's team.

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 5,000 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/>.

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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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