

The logo for Elizabethtown Community Hospital features a large, light green stylized 'ECH' monogram. A horizontal line with circular end caps passes through the center of the monogram.

Elizabethtown Community Hospital

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Gary Dickerson, of Lewis, received medical care at Elizabethtown Community Hospital during a major heart attack – early interventional care during the “golden hour” – that helped save his life.

The care that Gary received is one example of the type of care provided by the hospital for its community members. **The hospital is asking for your support** so that it can continue to provide life-saving emergency treatment, along with other important programs and services.

The medical community regards the “golden hour” as the most important period of time during a life-threatening situation. Medical intervention received during that critical time can save a patient’s life. This is why emergency medical services transport patients to the hospital so quickly; patients must be treated within that golden hour.

It is also the premise behind the establishment of federally-designated critical access hospitals like Elizabethtown Community Hospital. In this rural area, ECH provides care in those first critical minutes.

Elizabethtown Community Hospital’s role

When people in the local area are victims of car accidents, strokes, heart attacks or serious illness, they are brought to ECH. During life-threatening situations, **ECH has a very specific role: to triage, treat and transport to a facility offering specialized care. It stabilizes patients so that they CAN survive the trip** to the cardiac unit, stroke center, burn unit, surgical facility or trauma center. Essentially, **ECH serves to extend the patient’s “golden hour.”** Without critical access hospitals like ECH, many patients would simply not survive the trip to another facility.

Gary was cared for in the ECH emergency room by people who have known him for years. His physician arrived and nurses administered the early-intervention medications and techniques to ensure that Gary would survive transport to a cardiac center. The staff at ECH spoke with the cardiac team so that they knew exactly what to expect upon Gary’s arrival.

Gary’s wife, Jean, offers appreciation for hospital staff. “If staff at ECH was not efficient and well-trained ... had they not performed the right treatment and made the right arrangements ... my husband’s outcome would have been entirely different. I have nothing but praise and gratitude for ECH. It is an incredibly important part of this community.”

ECH purchases an ambulance, cuts transport time by over 50%

Historically, ECH relied on an ambulance service to provide transport for its patients. However, it had to travel from Plattsburgh to Elizabethtown, pick up the patient and travel back to Plattsburgh; or occasionally, Burlington. On the day of Gary's heart attack, the ambulance was nearby – luckily, there was no need to wait. Because in Gary's case, there was simply no time ... it was a serious situation, ultimately requiring a 5-way bypass.



To shorten transport time between ECH and facilities located many miles away, the hospital purchased its own ambulance. The transport ambulance is stationed at the hospital, ready to transport a patient in minutes. As the medical staff stabilizes the patient, the ambulance crew prepares the vehicle. **Rather than 1½ hours (or more) it now takes 45 minutes to transport a patient.**

Staff commitment to the community

ECH staff members believe that they have a vested interest in the well-being of their friends and neighbors. They are intimately aware of their contribution to the well-being of those who live in the region, and they take that responsibility seriously. Staff that took care of Gary Dickerson was skilled, quick-thinking and caring. They were very aware that they were taking care of “one of their own.”

This small, community hospital saves many lives each year, while supporting the overall health of its community. It is asking for your support. **Would you please consider making a donation to the hospital's annual campaign?** Gifts may be made using the enclosed card and postage-paid envelope or by visiting the hospital's website: www.ech.org.

Your gift will allow the hospital to continue its important work; saving lives and ensuring the continued health and well-being of those in the area.

On behalf of Gary, and patients just like him, thank you.

Sincerely,

Jane Hooper
Director of Community Relations

Elizabethtown Community Hospital is a not-for-profit organization and your contribution is tax-exempt as allowed by law. The hospital's federal tax ID# is 14-1364513.