

ASANTE® News

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Asante caregivers find opportunity for life-saving acts

Ron Johnson's version of the story is that several Asante caregivers – including his primary care physician, an echocardiographer and an emergency department physician – each looked at him and saw an opportunity to make a difference.



Ron and Judi Johnson at Mt. Bachelor a month after cardiac event

Ron had been feeling ill for about a week and a half when he contacted his doctor, Asante Physician Partners family medicine specialist [Chris Morgan, MD](#), on Dec. 7. Blood tests and a visit with Dr. Morgan revealed nothing that explained Ron's flu-like symptoms, but something wasn't right. Ron was sent to Asante Imaging for an echocardiogram.

"Dr. Morgan looked at me and just knew he could not send me home with simple instructions for fluids and bed rest," Ron, of Jacksonville, wrote in a letter of thanks that has become a new installment on the [Asante Moments](#) web page.

The echocardiographer was asked by Dr. Morgan to look for evidence of pericardial infection, and found none. But she shared what Ron called "some unexpected content" from the echo test with Dr. Morgan and cardiologist [Junyang Lou, MD](#), and both doctors agreed that Ron should immediately be checked into the Emergency

Department at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center.

"I was checked in swiftly and had a front row seat for the amazing activity that occurs in an ER staffed with compassionate, determined professionals," Ron said. "Their teamwork and cohesion was remarkable.

"While it took me a long time to grasp the danger I was in, it only took the emergency doctor, [Victoria Harris, MD](#), and the ER staff moments to act decisively."

Ron was in atrial fibrillation – his resting heart rate was at 180 beats per minute and rising.

"I was dying and I didn't know it," he said. "But the right people did know and they reversed that outcome.

"The swiftness of the circumstances I found myself in – combined with my own compromised condition – did not lend itself to the remembrance of names. However, the faces of genuine compassion will never be forgotten."

Ron spent a few days in Asante Rogue Regional's Cardiac Care Unit, where his heart rate was returned to normal and stabilized. He said he was led from a place of crisis to "a place where a

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healthy future still exists.”

“I have concluded that I am alive today and progressing toward recovery because of Asante’s culture that fosters individual and collective extraordinary acts of compassion,” Ron said.

“A thank you will never be enough, but here it is anyway – thank you for my life.”

Asante Moments is a campaign – online and in local media – in which patients, family members and Asante staff members are being asked to share the moments with Asante that have brought positive changes to their lives. The campaign is intended to help build relationships between the organization and regional employers, insurers, health care providers and other partners as the transition into a population health model gains momentum.

Those who know of a patient story that would make a good Asante Moment – one that is inspiring and personal – can send a brief email to lauren.vansickle@asante.org describing the interaction. She will follow up with any next steps.

Asante News is published every Tuesday. Deadline for submission of articles is every Friday. Send via e-mail to asantenews@asante.org.
Question or suggestions: Call Communications and Marketing at (541) 789-3510 or extension 13510.