



NNY Health

*Your connection
to the north
country's health
world.*

FREE

A Watertown Daily Times and
Malone Telegram publication

Daily updates: NNY360.com

Dec. 2025

Samaritan honors new physicians

18 DOCTORS, 12 ADVANCED PRACTICE PRACTITIONERS JOIN RANKS



Physicians Front Row L-R: Kelly Birchenough, DO; Emma Marquez, MD; Sameera Quraishi, MD; Nosheen, Sandhu, MD; Stephanie Zyck, MD. Back Row L-R: Matthew Ben, MD; Anthony Britton, MD; Biren Chokshi, MD; Caleb Atkins, MD; Matthew Kinnard, MD; Nicolas Jaeggi, MD; Michael Peyser, MD. Contributed.

■ **SMC adds
Interventional
Radiologist.**

PAGE 2

■ **Pumpkin carving
contest raises funds for
suicide prevention.**

PAGE 3

■ **JCC holds White Coat
Ceremony.**

PAGE 4

■ **Carthage hospital
awarded grant to grow
health care workforce.**

PAGE 5

■ **Massena woman
starts card drive
for nursing homes.**

PAGE 7

By Jonathon Wheeler
jwheeler@wdt.net

Samaritan is continuing to grow its workforce, recently adding 18 new physicians and 12 advanced practice practitioners this year during its New Physician Reception at the end of October.

"The growth of our medical staff underscores Samaritan's commitment to delivering high-quality, accessible care locally," Rory Sears, DO, Medical Staff President said in a news release. "We are proud to welcome these talented professionals, whose expertise and

dedication will make a meaningful impact on the health and well-being of our community."

Jennifer J. Haley-Saiff, director of physician recruitment and medical staff credentialing for Samaritan Medical Center, stated that they have had a great year.

"Overall, I feel that we've been very blessed to be able to recruit people to this area," she said.

Haley-Saiff said they have made an increase over the last decade in both recruiting and positions they have sourced.

"We have a lot that is very appealing and

specifically to OB (obstetricians)," she said.

Haley-Saiff said that they recruit physicians that will be satisfied living in the north country and looking for this type of environment, which can be attractive to physicians.

"What we have is a very safe, family friendly, affordable community," she said.

Another draw is the proximity to the Canadian border as some physicians have families that live north of the border.

As for the future of physician recruiting, Haley-Saiff said they use specific platforms like

See PHYSICIANS T2

*Learn more
inside*

Professional Connection Page 6

SMC adds Interventional Radiologist to staff

Samaritan Medical Center is pleased to welcome Interventional Radiologist Russell Reeves, MD, MBA, MS, RPVI, to its medical staff.

Dr. Reeves specializes in using minimally invasive image-guided procedures to diagnose and treat diseases- including cancers and cancer-related problems- in nearly every organ system. He completed his medical degree at Dartmouth College's

Geisel School of Medicine, in Hanover, N.H., followed by a diagnostic radiology residency at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, and a fellowship in Interventional Radiology at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine in Los Angeles. He is board-certified by the American Board of Radiology in Diagnostic Radiology with subspecialty certification in

Interventional Radiology.

Dr. Reeves also holds a Master of Science in Bioengineering from Clemson University and a Master of Business Administration from the Kanbar College of Commerce at Thomas Jefferson University.

He offers comprehensive services to treat conditions in many areas, including:

- Pain
- Vertebral compression fractures (from osteoporosis

or injury)

- Degenerative disc disease causing chronic lower back pain
- Lumbar spinal stenosis
- Knee, hip, and sacroiliac joint pain
- Women's Health
- Uterine fibroids causing heavy periods, pain, or pressure
- Pelvic congestion syn-



See RADIOLOGIST T3 Dr. Russel Reeves



Advanced Practice Providers L-R: Julia Bashaw, PA-C; Anna Garrabrant, FNP-BC; Patrick Ogden, PA-C; Danielle Sawyer, PA-C; Maggie-Anne Smith, PA-C.

Physicians

From T1

PracticeLink and PracticeMatch, or they will go to an association tied with the specialty the hospital is looking for.

The hospital will also utilize Fort Drum, where they have gotten some physicians from after they have completed their military service, Jennifer Poggi, physician recruiter with Samaritan Medical Center said.

Samaritan Medical Center has 190 physicians on average on their medical staff with military physicians typically serving as orthopedic surgeons, and historically labor and delivery.

The following physicians were welcomed:

Jeffrey Amidon, DO – Internal Medicine/Long Term Care
Caleb Atkins, MD – Family Medicine
Matthew Ben, MD – Gastroenterology

Kelly Birchenough – OB/GYN Hospitalist

Anthony Britton, MD – Family Medicine

Biren Chokshi, MD – Orthopaedic Surgery

Elizabeth Cooley, MD – Family Medicine/Long Term Care

Peter Hughes, MD – Urology

Nicolas Jaeggi, MD – Family Medicine

Matthew Kinnard, MD – Orthopaedic Surgery

Maksim Liaukovich, MD – Hematology/Oncology

Volha Liaukovich, MD – Hospitalist

Emma Marquez, OB/GYN

Michael Peyser, MD – Breast Surgery

Sameera Quraishi, MD – Nephrology

Nosheen Sandhu, MD – Family Medicine

Edin Zvornicanin, MD – Hospitalist

Stephanie Zyck, MD – Neurosurgery

Also recognized this year were twelve new advanced practice providers (APP). APPs are high-

ly trained medical professionals who care for patients under the supervision of a physician.

The advanced practice providers recognized included:

Julia Bashaw, PA-C – Family Medicine

Yoel Cruz, ANP-C – Geriatric Medicine

Anna Garrabrant, FNP-BC – Cardiology

Noah Gates, PA-C – Emergency Medicine

Robyn McGowan, PMHNP-BC – Psychiatry

Kathleen Murphy, FNP-C – Medical Oncology

Patrick Ogden, PA-C – Orthopedic Surgery*

Danielle Sawyer, PA-C – Cardiology

Kathy Schaer, FNP-C – Emergency Medicine

Maggie-Anne Smith, PA-C – Palliative Care

Tammi Worden, FNP-C – Interventional Radiology

Marisa Yates, PA-C – OB/GYN

Samaritan's Plaza Imaging & Lab Center Recognized for Excellence in Computed Tomography

WATERTOWN — Samaritan Medical Center is proud to announce that its Imaging & Lab Center at the Samaritan Health & Wellness Plaza, 1575 Washington St., has been awarded three-year accreditation in Computed Tomography (CT) by the American College of Radiology (ACR).

ACR accreditation is a significant achievement that reflects the highest level of image quality and patient safety. To earn this voluntary accreditation, the Plaza Imaging & Lab Center underwent a rigorous peer-review evaluation by board-certified radiologists and medical physicists, who assessed image quality, personnel qualifications, equipment performance, quality control, and quality assurance programs.

"This accreditation reinforces our ongoing commitment to providing the highest standard of diagnostic imaging for our community," said Jennifer Lundy-Kalin, Samaritan Radiology Manager "We are proud to add CT to our list of accredited services at the Plaza, where patients have access to outpatient imag-

ing, laboratory services and much more in a modern, patient-centered setting."

In addition to its new CT accreditation, the Plaza Imaging & Lab Center is already ACR accredited in mammography and ultrasound. It is located under the same roof as Samaritan's Watertown Family Health Center, Women's Wellness and Breast Care, and Addiction and Behavioral Health Services, improving access to care and streamlines diagnostic testing for patients throughout the region.

CT scanning — sometimes called CAT scanning — is a noninvasive medical test that helps physicians diagnose and tailor treatments for various medical conditions. Samaritan Medical Center performed nearly 140,000 imaging tests in 2024, including 31,440 CT scans total.

For more information about Imaging Services at Samaritan Medical Center, please visit samaritan-health.com/imaging.

5th Annual Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest Raises Funds for Jefferson County Suicide Prevention Coalition

On October 11, St. Lawrence Scuba Co. celebrated a milestone year with its 15th Annual Charity Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest, bringing together families, spectators, and more than 25 certified scuba divers for a one-of-a-kind fall tradition in Cape Vincent. This year, the event proudly supported the Jefferson County Suicide Prevention Coalition.

Divers descended beneath the surface of the St. Lawrence River to carve their pumpkins, showcasing creativity and skill in a challenging underwater environment. When the carvings were complete, guests enjoyed a meal provided by St. Lawrence Scuba Co. as judges reviewed each pumpkin and selected winners across six prize categories.

Following the awards ceremony, Beth Solar, Co-chair of the Jefferson County Suicide Prevention Coalition, addressed attendees. She highlighted the importance of suicide prevention efforts across the county, emphasizing the need for continued awareness, education, and access to local mental health resources.

This year's event raised \$1,821, all of which was donated to the Jefferson County Suicide Prevention Coalition to support their ongoing efforts to promote mental wellness and prevent suicide in the



Participants in the 15th Annual Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest. Contributed.

community.

The Jefferson County Suicide Prevention Coalition expressed its gratitude to St. Lawrence Scuba Co. and all participants and looks forward to future collaborations—including next year's carving contest.

Members of the St. Lawrence Scuba Co. carve pumpkins in the water on Oct. 11 for their annual Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest. Contributed.



The Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest raised \$1,821 for Jefferson County Suicide Prevention Coalition in October. Contributed.

Radiologist

From T2

drome (chronic pelvic pain from vein reflux)

- Men's Health

Varicocele (swollen scrotal veins causing pain or fertility issues)

- Enlarged prostate (BPH) causing difficulty urinating

- Cancer

- Liver tumors (primary or metastatic)

- Other solid tumors in the

lungs, kidneys, bones, or soft tissues

- Liver Disease

- Cirrhosis

- Ascites

- Jaundice or bile duct blockage from stones, strictures, or tumors

- Arterial (Artery) Conditions

- Peripheral artery disease (PAD) causing leg pain when walking

- Critical limb ischemia (severe blockages threatening limb loss)

- Venous (Vein) Conditions

- Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) – blood clots in deep leg or arm veins

- Pulmonary embolism (clot traveling to the lungs)

- Varicose veins or superficial vein reflux causing leg swelling/pain

- Chronic venous insufficiency with leg ulcers

- Urinary Tract Issues

- Kidney or ureteral stones causing pain, infection, or blockage

- Ureteral strictures or obstructions needing drainage

"I'm honored to join a team that shares my commitment

to compassionate, high-quality care," said Dr. Reeves. "Interventional radiology is a powerful tool for diagnosing and treating a wide range of conditions, from varicose veins to cancer. My goal is to ensure North Country patients have access to the same cutting-edge procedures available in major medical centers without having to leave the local area."

"Samaritan is fortunate to have Dr. Reeves on its medical staff," said Dr. Mario Victoria, Vice President for Medical Affairs and Chief Medical

Officer at Samaritan Medical Center. "With his expertise in advanced, minimally invasive procedures, he is a great addition to our hospital and a tremendous benefit for the health and well-being of our community."

Dr. Reeves is accepting new patients. To refer a patient or schedule an appointment, please contact Samaritan Interventional Radiology at 315-786-4879.

For more information, visit samaritanhealth.com/interventional-radiology/.

JCC holds White Coat Ceremony



WATERTOWN — Jefferson Community College (JCC) held its annual White Coat Ceremony earlier this fall to welcome new students to the nursing program. During the White Coat Ceremony, students were robed with their first white coats, the traditional dress of nursing professionals. Student participation in the White Coat Ceremony affirms their commitment to a profession of caring and com-

passion using the knowledge and skills necessary to care for all in need. Jefferson's nursing degree program is ranked number two in New York State by Nursing Schools Almanac.

Receiving their White Coats were first year nursing students at Jefferson Community College, in front from left, Samantha A. Shockley, Watertown; Lindsay D. Lee, Fort Drum; Genesis E. Castro Velasquez, Watertown; Alyana M. Lynch, Adams; Alahna S. Lawrence, Fort Drum; Carli C. Freeman, Lowville; and Tiffanie S. Perea, Watertown. In the second row are Rachel T. Verdier, Evans Mills; Samira Garcia Valladares, Fort Drum; Shauna L. Patrick, Lowville; Jessica L. Parizo, Fort Drum; Savana L. Sullivan, Harrisville; and Caroline J. Smith, Fort Drum. In the third row are Anne L. Brissault, Fort Drum; Hazel Mariano-Maldonado, Carthage; Katherine E. Foist, Carthage; Yen Sy, Black River; Jacqueline McVay, Fort Drum; and Daniela Hughes, Calcium. In the fourth row are Isaiah P. Evans, Watertown; Olivia J. Ruiz, Fort Drum; Mayaanne E. Collins, Watertown; Gretta F. Maitag, Chaumont; Jordan M. Spencer, Copenhagen; Kailey D. Dudley, Watertown; and Lauren Ambrose, Adams Center. In the fifth row are Danielle Ward, Adams Center, Yaimed E. Rivera, Fort Drum;

Alayna N. Furlough, Watertown; Olivia C. Dalin, Watertown; Emilia R. Spencer, Dexter; and Maklia M. Orso, Copenhagen. In the sixth row are Cassidy J. Juell, Hammond; Taryn B. Twombly, Carthage; Ryan E. Horten, Harrisville; Elissa Davis, Evans Mills; and Kayleigh Hulbert, Dexter. In the seventh row are Kimberly E. Knapp, Clayton, Madison P. Longamore, Watertown; Jerrica J. McCreadie, Watertown; Yanselis Alicea, Adams Center, Savannah M. Paquette, Fort Drum; Breanna Fuller, Carthage; Nevaeh Taylor, Black River; and Madison Netto, Brownville. In the eighth row are Riley L. Cannan, Watertown, Tara A. Carroll, Watertown, Madelyn A. Hunter, Evans Mills, and Jocelyn N. Wines, Watertown. In the ninth row are Samantha L. Reynolds, Watertown; Ashley L. Cahill, Evans Mills; Justin M. Warren, Carthage; Kallie Raso, Watertown, Tera K. Lacey, Theresa, Emma Hughes, Dexter, Kelly Q. Laird, Carthage. Unavailable for photo: Joshua W. Brooks, Dexter, Jenna B. Dinzler, Watertown, Kelsey M. Woodfin, Evans Mills. Photo provided by JCC

Accepting New Patients at Family Health at Malone!

Where Compassion Meets Quality.

Award-winning health care right here in the North Country.



HHN.org

New Accelerated Nursing Program Helps Army Medics Transition to Civilian Careers



By Holly Boname
FDRHPO

In 2022, the Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization's (FDRHPO) Recruitment, Retention & Education Committee identified major barriers faced by Army Medics (68W) transitioning from military service to civilian Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) careers. Despite their advanced medical training, these skilled professionals often had to repeat coursework and start from the beginning in New York's nursing programs—costing valuable time, money, and talent.

To address this issue, FDRHPO convened a workgroup that researched successful models in other states and compared Army Medic training with New York's LPN curriculum. In collaboration with Jefferson-Lewis BOCES, the team developed an accelerated Practical Nursing Program specifically tailored for Army Medics. This innovative program can now be completed in just five months, a significant reduction in time compared to traditional programs.

After review and approval by multiple state agencies, the program has been officially approved—the first of its kind in New York State. The inaugural class is set to begin in February 2026, marking a major step forward in supporting service members' transition to

civilian healthcare careers and strengthening the North Country workforce.

"At FDRHPO, we are deeply committed to strengthening the healthcare workforce by supporting our transitioning service members," said Beth Solar, Workforce Outreach Manager for FDRHPO. "Army Medics have tremendous experience and skill, and this program helps ensure their talents continue to serve our communities while filling critical healthcare roles."

The Army Medic to Practical Nursing Adult Education Course will be offered at Jefferson-Lewis BOCES' Globe location in Watertown, running weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Graduates will be eligible to take the NCLEX-PN exam and apply for New York State LPN licensure upon completion.

"We're proud to honor the expertise of Army medics by offering a five-month Practical Nursing pathway that values their service and accelerates their entry into civilian healthcare. It's a meaningful step for our veterans and a vital benefit to the North Country's healthcare system," said Jeff Ginger, Director of Career and Technical Adult and Continuing Education, Jefferson-Lewis BOCES.

Approved by the NYS Bureau of Veterans Education and MyCAA for Military Spouses, this program underscores the community's

commitment to supporting veterans and military families.

Applications are now open for both fall and spring sessions, depending on enrollment.

For more information or to register, visit www.boces.com/armynurse or contact Mrs. Davis, Health Careers Coordinator, at 315-779-7230.

Carthage hospital awarded grant to grow health care workforce

Staff report

CARTHAGE — Carthage Area Hospital (CAH), a member of the North Star Health Alliance, has been awarded a five-year, \$5 million grant from the New York State Department of Health's Healthcare Education and Learning Pathways (HELP) program. The investment targets the North Country's healthcare workforce shortage and will launch CAH's

Rural Health Care Employment and Advancement Program (RHEAP), a regional initiative that builds rural workforce skills and opens clear pathways into healthcare careers.

How is this tuition program unique?

Unlike many tuition programs within healthcare that require participants to work for the sponsor after

See GRANT 7

FDRHPO
Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization

Building a Patient-Centered System for Health

- Population Health
- Health Information Technology
- Mental, Emotional and Behavioral
- Health Workforce
- Emergency Medical Services
- Clinical Quality Improvement

120 Washington Street, Suite 230, Watertown, New York 13601 * 315-755-2020

Pediatric Expansion

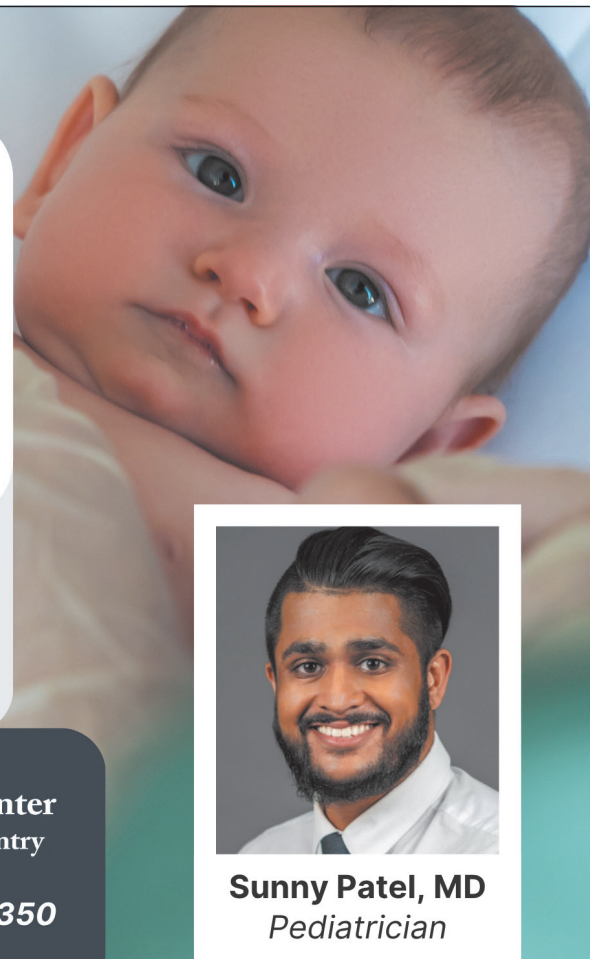
At our Ogdensburg Health Center!

Medical Check-Ups
Vaccinations
Care Coordination
WIC Referrals



Community Health Center
of the North Country

102 Ford Street | 315.713.9350



Sunny Patel, MD
Pediatrician

YOUR LOCAL PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION



Contact Angel

**315-661-2457
or 315-782-0400**

email: aspencer@wdt.net

BARTLETT
AND SONS
✓ PLUMBING ✓ HEATING ✓ AC

315-232-3280

★ 24 EMERGENCY SERVICE ★

✓ PLUMBING ✓ HEATING ✓ AIR

58 N. Main Street, Adams • 315-232-3280

SHERMAN ELECTRIC

Residential & Commercial
Electrical Supplies

Distribution Equipment, Conduit,
Lighting Fixtures, Wiring Devices, etc.

GREAT PRICES!

417 S. Clinton St.
Carthage, NY **315-493-3050**

Over 100 years of knowledge and experience!

TIC TOC CLOCK REPAIR
★ Alex MacKinnon ★

All Kinds of Spring
and Weight
Driven Clocks

Pickups and
Delivery Available

Phone:
315-778-1287

ZEHR
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.

SALES • INSTALLATION • SERVICE

Let our family help your family with your heating & air conditioning needs

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED All employees are
Zehr Family Members!

24-Hour Emergency Service
FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED
CALL 315-788-5828

JOYNER'S, INC.
AUTHORIZED KIOTI DEALER

KIOTI

2506 US RT. 11
MANNVILLE, NY
315-465-6661

**AUTOMATIC STANDBY
GENERATORS** **GENERAC**

24/7
AUTOMATIC
POWER PROTECTION

Back-Up Power
For Your Home Or
Business

KIERNAN
CONTRACTORS, INC. **315**
ELECTRICAL AND UTILITY CONTRACTORS **348-4049**

Massena woman starts card drive for nursing homes

By **BOB BECKSTEAD**

bbeckstead@wdt.net

MASSENA — A Massena woman wants to make sure nursing home residents have a happy holiday season.

Jennifer Dumers, the organizer of the “LeeAnn’s Loving Spirits Card Train Project,” is asking people to send homemade or store-bought Christmas cards to residents in Massena’s two nursing homes.

“Leeann’s Loving Spir-

it’s is a Christmas card train project for our local nursing home’s resident’s. We ask the surrounding communities to send cards to our local nursing homes to have the Activities Center’s staff hand them out to the residents,” she said. “These cards bring lots of joy and smiles to all of the residents and the staff who get to see their smiling faces.”

Dumers said the cards can be store bought or “homemade from your hearts.”

“You can send as many as you want,” she said.

Dumers had started a successful month-long “card train” in July 2023 in honor of a 37-year-old friend, LeeAnn M. Planty, who died of cervical cancer in August 2017. She would have celebrated her birthday on July 1.

She got together with Danielle Cross from the Massena Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, and they came up with the idea. She is also working with Kiara Storm.

When one of the employees sees a resident having a bad day, they will hand the resident a card to open to bright their day.

The initial July 2023 card train was so successful that they started it again in December 2023 to share holiday cheer with the nursing home residents. Now, it has returned for another year.

If someone is interested in making a homemade card, a get-together will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 6

at the Nicandri Nature Center. Join in at any time, and all supplies will be provided.

“Come on out and make a card for our local seniors,” Dumers said.

Cards can be sent to the Massena Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, C/O Danielle Cross Activities Center, 89 Grove St., Massena, N.Y. 13662, or North Country Nursing and Rehabilitation, C/O Activities Center, 182 Highland Road, Massena, N.Y. 13662.

Grant

From T5

graduation, RHEAP is designed to serve the entire North Country. Graduates won’t be tied to Carthage or its sister campus (operated by CAH); they can take their skills to any provider in the region. Hospital leaders say that structure is intentional: the goal is a stronger workforce for every hospital, clinic, and ambulance service in the region.

“That money will be used to train up to 40, perhaps a few more, healthcare professionals in our region each year,” said Richard Duvall, CAH’s president and CEO. “All healthcare facilities in the North Country are facing the same problem with recruitment. Our view on this is that a rising tide raises all ships. The goal is to train as many people within our communities to be healthcare professionals and to serve our patients. It doesn’t matter where they work, it’s just important to have them available to provide the care needed.”

RHEAP lowers the cost of pursuing a career in healthcare and advancing or staying in it. The program will cover full tuition, fees, books, and licensing costs for eligible participants. Annual funding is

expected to support 15 full scholarships for Registered Nursing programs at North Country colleges and universities such as SUNY Canton; two full-time paramedic students (including an hourly stipend during their required training); 10 to 20 micro-credential learners in areas like radiologic technology, phlebotomy, healthcare management, and mental-health support; and three to five additional full-time students in other healthcare-related degree paths.

“We see a void in nurses. We see a void in techs and phlebotomy, in EMS, and all sorts of different roles,” said Rebecca Schmitt, Director of Staff Development and Occupational Health. “This grant really allows us to increase the numbers of healthcare workers in the area.”

The program also tackles the everyday barriers that often derail students. Each year, RHEAP will set aside funds for child care stipends, transportation support, and tutoring. This is the kind of practical help that can make the difference between dropping out and graduating.

Built on partnerships, Carthage hospital will not do this work alone. Building on a long-standing partnership with SUNY Canton, a

portion of the HELP award will fund Program Engagement Coordinators (PECs) at both Carthage Area Hospital and SUNY Canton. These coordinators will check in with students each month, help them navigate academic and clinical requirements, connect them with services such as tutoring and child care, and troubleshoot issues as they arise. Teams from both sites will meet regularly to share data and coordinate support across the region, including with affiliates such as Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center and other North Star Health Alliance members.

The grant will also support SUNY Canton programs that provide hands-on preparation and tutoring. The college will run a seven-week Healthcare Success Boot Camp each summer that blends classroom learning with practical skills and regular assessments from dedicated instructors. Funding will also provide a part-time nursing tutor at SUNY Canton to give RHEAP nursing students extra help when they need it.

Across the North Country, participants can choose the school and format that fit their lives. RHEAP supports in-person, online, and hybrid programs at

accredited institutions, including SUNY Canton, BOCES, Clarkson University, St. Lawrence University, Jefferson Community College, North Country Community College, and others. That flexibility is meant to accommodate work schedules, family responsibilities, and deployments, which are especially important for transitioning Fort Drum soldiers and military spouses, who are among the target audience for the program.

“We can build partnerships with people in the community who otherwise might not be able to pursue this training,” said Eliza Dusharm, senior vice president of human resources. “This is about opening doors.”

RHEAP is open to new students looking to enter the healthcare field, current workers looking to advance their skills, and transitioning service members and spouses. The first application window is expected to open by the summer of 2026 for fall 2026 enrollment.

Ahead of that launch, the hospital will convene a committee of community partners from healthcare, workforce, and education organizations across the region to shape the application and selection process. The committee’s charge is to ensure a fair, transpar-

ent, and consistent review, to align selections with regional workforce needs, and to promote broad access for residents from diverse backgrounds and communities.

Workforce shortages have strained rural hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and EMS for years. RHEAP addresses the root causes by covering tuition and everyday costs, adding tutoring and advising, and allowing graduates to work anywhere in the region. The result is a larger, steadier pipeline of nurses, EMTs, paramedics, and allied health professionals serving Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, and neighboring counties.

By investing in people, not just positions, Carthage is turning a state grant into a long-term regional solution. Whether a participant ends up at Carthage, in Potsdam, in Watertown, or on an ambulance in a small town, the region wins. With flexible training, strong academic partners, and practical support, RHEAP will deliver a workforce ready on day one. The first cohort begins in 2026, laying the foundation for more skilled professionals, faster access to care, and a stronger healthcare system across the North Country.



Since 1881, Samaritan has been at the heart of healthcare in the North Country —
providing comfort, healing, and hope to generations of families. Our mission is simple:
to care for our community.

Now, we're looking for dedicated professionals like you to help us write the next chapter.
Whether you're a nurse, technician, therapist, or support team member,
you'll find more than a job here — you'll find a calling.

At Samaritan, you'll work alongside talented, compassionate caregivers who treat every patient
like family. You'll be supported with opportunities for growth, competitive benefits,
and the satisfaction of knowing your work truly makes a difference.

Our Legacy. Your Opportunity.

Join us in continuing a tradition of care that has defined our region for more than a century.

Apply today at samaritanhealth.com/careers.

