



For Immediate Release

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### **Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital Receives Rural Health Award**

*Award Recognizes Hospital's Efforts In Addressing Community Health Priorities*

Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup> — The Wisconsin Office of Rural Health will present Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital in Merrill with an award recognizing their contributions to rural health in a ceremony on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ascension Good Samaritan will receive the Outstanding Contribution to Rural Health Award in recognition of the hospital's innovative approach to help those in their rural community. Two of the hospital's programs are highlighted for their contribution to rural health. The Community Paramedic Program is a partnership with the City of Merrill Fire Department Paramedics in which local paramedics provide free follow-up visits for recently-discharged patients who suffer from particular medical conditions. And, the Tooth Fairy Fund financially assists those who present with tooth pain at the emergency department to receive treatment at a local federally qualified dental clinic nearby.

Ascension Good Samaritan was nominated for the award by the Lincoln County Health Department. Says Shelley Hersil, Health Officer with the Lincoln County Health Department,

*"ASGH provides our rural community with passion, dedication, and leadership to make the City of Merrill and Lincoln County a healthier place to live. Good Samaritan has been invaluable when working with their patients, stakeholders and organizations in [the] community."*

The awards also recognize the hospital's efforts in addressing health priorities in their community, igniting community coalitions on oral health, nutrition, mental health, and substance abuse. The Menard Health Center on the hospital's campus facilitates numerous programs and services for community outreach.

The ceremony will take place on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm in the Outpatient Surgery Waiting Area at Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital, located at 601 S Center Avenue in Merrill.

The awards are part of a celebration of [Rural Health Day](#), a day that highlights the unique challenges rural communities face: issues like provider shortages, lack of broadband, and lack of transportation. This year's Rural Health Day falls on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.