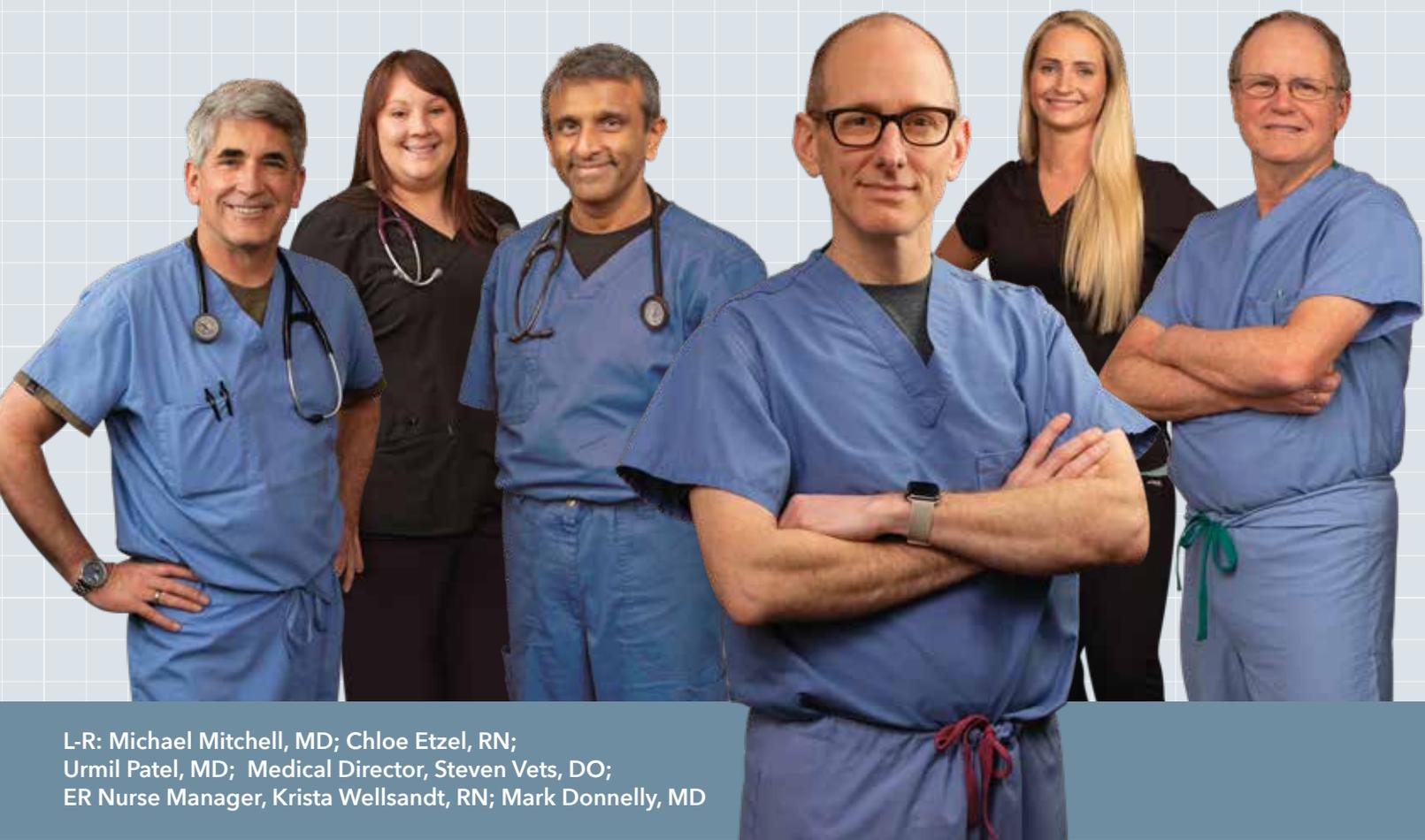


Santiam Community Connection

Spring 2021

Choose Santiam's ER First

Our ER Serves a Wide Range of Emergency Needs for Our Community



L-R: Michael Mitchell, MD; Chloe Etzel, RN;
Urmil Patel, MD; Medical Director, Steven Vets, DO;
ER Nurse Manager, Krista Wellsandt, RN; Mark Donnelly, MD

A Message from Maggie

It is hard to believe it has been over a year since we faced the reality of a pandemic, not to mention the devastation wrought by wildfires and a recent ice storm.

Though it would be easy to describe it as a year of crisis; I believe it has been a year of reflection and hope. A light has been cast on our collective humanity. We have chosen to put health before wealth; we have made sacrifices to put the vulnerable first; and, we have refocused our lives on what truly matters.

As I finish up my first quarter as President & CEO of Santiam Hospital, I am incredibly proud of our work over the past year. Our hospital and clinics staff have shown unwavering dedication in the face of immense risk, we are not only here, but active in administering the health of our communities. We are innovative in our response as shown by our Covid Task Force, our SalviaDirect Covid Testing with Sarah Comstock, Phd, with our committed Laboratory Staff, and our Pharmacy staff with our truly remarkable Covid vaccine program. The Santiam Hospital vaccine program has been at the forefront of vaccinating the entire region of independent healthcare personnel and first responders - first. A proud moment for Santiam Hospital.

We are committed to becoming provider-driven, as demonstrated by the appointment of Steve Vets, DO as Chief Medical Officer and Erin Cramer, PA-C as Director of Medical Clinics. I am also pleased to welcome new board members to our team. Among them is Genny Baldwin, a former Santiam Chief Nursing Officer for over 28 years. I personally welcome Genny to our Board, as on behalf of Santiam Hospital, we owe her a debt of gratitude. For without her, Santiam Hospital would not be where we are today. Thank you, Genny, for your commitment and strength you have brought, and continue to bring, to Santiam Hospital. We look forward to your leadership on our Board.

You, our communities, have a choice when it comes to your healthcare, and I hope you will choose Santiam Hospital. We are the very best first gateway to your medical care. As I say to all staff and clinicians: My door is *always* open; please walk in.

To you, our neighbors, I say: Our door is *always* open, please walk in. We are ready to serve you with the highest quality care and true compassion.

“ *It is an honor to lead Santiam Hospital. I am grateful for the firm foundation built over the years by Terry Fletchall, the Board of Directors, our providers and staff, and by you, our local community. I look forward to building on this foundation while bringing my unique perspective to cultivating excellence at Santiam Hospital.* **”**



Yours in gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie".

Maggie Hudson, MBA
President & CEO
Santiam Hospital



Santiam ER Ready to Serve a Range of Emergency Needs

Santiam Hospital's Emergency Department is a Trauma Level IV facility, equipped to diagnose and treat a wide range of major and minor injuries and illnesses. The Emergency Room is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Chloe Etzel, RN
House Supervisor

Specialty Treatment

A wide range of specialists are available on call to the Santiam Emergency Department. Surgical Services, Obstetrics, Orthopedics, Pulmonary, and Cardiology are just a few of the departments available to provide guidance on treatment or to attend patients in person at the ER. The hospital's Diagnostic Imaging Department, with state-of-the-art equipment, is available to conduct tests and read results.



Steven Vets, DO

"Though we are a small community hospital, we have many of the services you would expect at a larger facility," says Steven Vets, DO, former director of the Emergency Department and now Santiam's first Chief Medical Officer. "Some people might be anxious about the services at a smaller hospital, but in some ways we can get the diagnostics faster and get you treated here or moved elsewhere."

Santiam Hospital ER can make follow-up appointments with specialists and notify a patient's Primary Care Physician they have been seen.

Timely & Compassionate Care

At Santiam Hospital ER, patients can expect an average wait time of less than 15 minutes for triage and to see a physician within 30 minutes of arrival.

"We want to be as efficient and timely as possible. We want to get you in and out, but cover all the bases" says Krista Wellsandt, RN, Nurse Manager who supervises a team of 25 nurses who support physicians and provide patient care in the ER.

"We make time to spend with patients, to have more in-depth conversations."

Dr. Vets echoes Wellsandt's commitment to efficiency and compassion.

"I love Santiam Hospital; I absolutely love it. Even though I live closer to Salem, I will always go there. The doctors are thorough, they listen to you and the nurses are very friendly and respect you as an individual. I trust them with everything. I'm now seeing Dr. Brewer and she is amazing!"

Amanda Bushong Johnston arrived at Santiam Hospital Emergency Room suffering heavy bleeding as a side effect of hormones prescribed for an irregular menstrual cycle. On arrival she was seen promptly then diagnosed and treated by Amanda R. Johnston, DO. A follow-up appointment was made for additional treatment at the hospital and since then Amanda has been a patient at Santiam Women's Clinic with Jennifer Brewer, MD, OB/GYN, who is helping manage her condition.



Jennifer Brewer,
MD, OB/GYN

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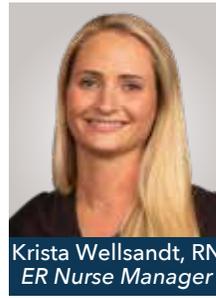
Santiam ER

continued from page 3

"In the ER we can see people at their best and worst - the full breadth of humanity. I try to teach my staff to be mindful that this may be a watershed moment for the patient, no matter how routine it may feel for us," he says.

"We aim to be calm, collected, and to show empathy, while being energetic and personable."

Wellsandt has worked at Santiam Hospital for 13 years. She started as a CNA and, like many other nurses at Santiam, cross-trained in multiple departments before settling into the Emergency Department.



Krista Wellsandt, RN
ER Nurse Manager

This experience allows many ER nurses to provide continuity of care for patients. It's not uncommon for patients who are admitted and treated at Santiam Hospital, to have the same nursing staff accompany them through the treatment process.

"It humanizes the experience," says Wellsandt. "It's also rewarding for the nursing staff. We get to see the progression of patients who come through the ER and see them discharged once they have recovered."

“ Making the decision to drive further from Salem to Santiam Hospital is a no-brainer. Is there one Emergency Department anywhere else that would expend extra effort for their patient? ... Not likely from my experience. Your entire team shows more than just an expected professionalism. They show compassion and concern with an attitude of humanitarianism that goes beyond bounds. **”**

Jim Nixon of Salem visited Santiam Hospital Emergency Department in October 2020 with severe abdominal pains. Upon arrival he was admitted quickly and underwent a CT scan. This led to a quick diagnosis and treatment plan as clinicians at Santiam conferred with Mr. Nixon's Salem-based GP to discuss his condition, arrange for care and follow up. In January Mr. Nixon had another reason to visit Santiam Hospital Emergency Department with chest pain. Emergency department providers assessed Mr. Nixon, ordered the necessary tests and consulted with Santiam Cardiologist Benjamin Lee, DO, FACC, who worked with attending physician Joaquin Espinoza, MD, to expedite a stress test.



Joaquin Espinoza, MD



Dr. Michael Mitchell assessing vitals on a patient at Santiam Hospital ER

Stabilization & Transport

In some cases, a patient may require care that is outside the scope of what is available at Santiam Emergency Department. In those instances, time is of the essence to transport the patient to the next level of care.

Physicians and nursing staff diagnose and stabilize the patient, and may initiate treatment before transport.

"We may not provide the definitive care, but we can initiate treatment and manage your care so that when you get where you are going, you are one step ahead," says Wellsandt. "When you are talking about things like a heart attack or stroke, getting those initial medications is vital."

In order to transport patients swiftly to another facility, Santiam Hospital operates its own fleet of modern ambulances staffed with paramedics and EMTs.

"When a patient needs to be moved, it can happen very fast," says Vets. "With three crews available at any given time, we never have trouble getting people transferred."

The hospital also operates a helipad for use by Life Flight.



Above, Director of Pre-Hospital Services & Emergency Management, Adam Maurer, EMT-P.

In the ER your care team will include an MD, RN and EMT.

“ Dr. Haputa was professional, comforting and knowledgeable. I was very scared but he reassured me and told me exactly what he was going to do. It was nothing but positivity from him. When I came out of surgery I was so happy I was singing and so was Dr. Haputa! ”

Nadine Montoya and her husband arrived at Santiam Hospital Emergency Department during a wide-spread power outage. With a piece of food lodged in her esophagus for several hours, she was scared and in pain. Thankfully it was business as usual at the hospital, with back-up generators in use and medical staff who quickly put her at ease while assessing her condition.

Andrew Haputa, MD, FACS was called in to surgically assist. Before the procedure, Dr. Haputa discussed Montoya's health history, including previous problems with swallowing, and taking that into account, carefully cleared her esophagus. Based on observations during the procedure, Dr. Haputa arranged for several important tests to explore the underlying causes of Montoya's swallowing issues.



Andrew Haputa,
MD, FACS

Welcome Santiam Hospital's First Medical Director, Dr. Steven Vets



Steven Vets, DO

Dr. Vets is the first medical director with Santiam Hospital and Clinics. He is a physician who provides guidance and leadership on the use of medicine in a healthcare organization.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Vets moved to Oregon in the 1990s. "I loved Oregon from the first visit and decided to stay forever. This was not in the cards, as I went back East for 10 years to get medical training, but I always had an eye on returning."

In 1998, Vets took a job as a nurse at Santiam Hospital.

"It's a proud job," he said. "The best part of a nursing career is the variety, and at Santiam Hospital I had the opportunity to work in a variety of areas. There is also a clear and closer relationship to the community that is lacking in most big hospitals."

In 2000, Vets decided to become a doctor. He earned his doctorate from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. He did his residency at the University of Buffalo and a fellowship in Morristown, NJ, at a Mount Sinai affiliate.

Dr. Vets loves to spend time with his wife, Veneta, a pediatrician, and their children. He also loves to fly airplanes and gliders, a life-long passion.

Santiam Hospital Leads Regional COVID-19 Testing Efforts with Saliva Direct



Sarah Comstock PhD & Janine VanSant, MD

What started as a way to address supply chain issues early in the pandemic has put Santiam Hospital at the forefront of testing on the West Coast.

Since last spring, Santiam's infectious disease specialist Janine VanSant, MD has worked with Dr. Sarah Comstock, an Associate Professor of Biology at Corban University, to develop reliable and accurate COVID-19 tests. Now the hospital is the first to offer SalivaDirect to the public and is one of only five locations offering it on the west coast.

SalivaDirect uses an open source protocol developed by Yale School of Public Health. The non-invasive test relies on enzyme-based technique to isolate and detect the COVID-19 virus in saliva. While it is just as sensitive as other PCR tests, it has many advantages:

- **Ease of Use.** Patient collects their own sample by simply spitting into a test tube, rather than nasopharyngeal swab.
- **Remote Testing.** Patients mail in their samples, which opens up possibilities for testing in geographic areas without regular access to healthcare providers.
- **Ability to Process More Tests.** Processing the test takes about half as long as those using nasopharyngeal swabs, meaning that more samples can be analyzed in a shorter amount of time. This school year, Santiam Hospital worked with Cascade Collegiate Conference to test athletes competing in sports and hopes expand to other contracts.
- **Lower Cost.** Because tests can be run in batches, SalivaDirect is less expensive than other PCR tests and rapid tests. Santiam Hospital lab is currently processing about 1,200-1,500 tests per week, with a capacity for up to 7,500 daily.

- **Travel Screening.** SalivaDirect is an easy-to-use test that meets standards for qualified travel.

Though vaccines are helping slow the spread of COVID-19, testing remains critical and will be for the foreseeable future, says Dr. VanSant.

The next step is to open SalivaDirect to the public for use prior to travel. Plans are also in the works to pursue more contracts with schools (the hospital has already processes specimens for Western Oregon University, Eastern Oregon University and George Fox University), as well businesses for employee screening.

"Access to testing is also still a big problem in Oregon," says Dr. VanSant.

“We are emphasizing providing tests in communities without access to reliable healthcare: farms and agricultural workers, people of color. It’s easy to set up a testing station so they can operate on their own. That is where we see that going big picture.”

Janine VanSant, MD

Santiam Hospital at the Forefront of Vaccine Efforts in Marion County



Dr. Brooke Renard and nurse Aggie Jaeger, RN with Scio Middle School teacher Troy Thomas

In addition to leading the region in COVID-19 testing innovation, Santiam Hospital was the first in Marion County to serve as an Open Point of Distribution for the COVID-19 vaccine.

When the hospital received its first shipment of 3,600 doses of the Moderna vaccine we were able to vaccinate 480 Santiam Hospital employees, and then quickly offered vaccines to additional Tier 1A recipients in the region. Through these efforts, the hospital was able to vaccinate healthcare workers, first responders and staff at 70 clinics and agencies in the Marion County region, including medical, dental, clinical staff, providers, EMTs, nurses, frontline workers with Life Flight and Falck Ambulance, as well as a number of police and fire department personnel who were eligible.

Since then, Santiam Hospital has put into place a pre-registration system to alert eligible members of the public as we move through the next vaccine sequencing levels.

To learn more about upcoming vaccine clinics and to register, visit: www.santiamhospital.org



Teachers Stephanie Anderson and James John with their children Oliver and Lincoln after receiving their first round of COVID-19 vaccinations at Santiam Hospital



Spanish Teacher Elijah Neves

Santiam Hospital Receives Marion-Polk Medical Society's 2021 President's Award

In recognition of the incredible work being done by the hospital's Service Integration Team (SIT), the Marion-Polk Medical Society recently awarded Santiam Hospital its 2021 President's Award. The award specifically highlighted SIT's wildfire relief efforts in partnership with the Santiam Canyon Wildfire Relief Fund (SCWRF).

In the immediate aftermath of the Santiam Canyon wildfires of September 2020, SIT led emergency relief efforts and support services for survivors. SIT quickly opened two resource centers staffed with hundreds of volunteers who distributed numerous in-kind donations of emergency supplies to those affected, along with hot meals. As those initial emergency needs were filled, the focus shifted to long term needs and helping Canyon residents affected by wildfires get back on their feet. As of March 2021, SIT has registered 1,105 households for services, with a focus on providing case management to navigate everything from FEMA appeals to SBA and insurance claims. SIT has also assisted survivors as they file grant applications, and replace durable medical equipment, DMV records and other essential documents.

In addition to goods and services, SIT has been able to make financial distributions through SCWRF, which has raised over \$3 million toward a goal of \$5 million.

Deana Freres, founder of the SCWRF Committee, dedicates 30 plus hours a week to the recovery of the Santiam Canyon collaborating closely with

Melissa Baurer on the unmet needs of survivors. Thank you Deana!

A very special thanks goes out to our SIT crew, led by Melissa Baurer, SIT Coordinator & Community Liaison. They have worked tirelessly on behalf of the survivors of the Santiam Canyon wildfires.

Thank You!

Santiam SIT Wildfire Relief Staff

Kelly Andersen	Michelle Leseter
Alita Batham	Sonya Ryland
Melissa Baurer	Tanni Swisher
Jacob Bentz	LaRrie Vetter
Colleen Bradford	Amelia Williams
Ed Diehl, Board Member	
Ron Etzel, Board Member	



For information on how to access support, donate, or volunteer, visit www.scwrf.org.

Lower row (left to right): Jacob Bentz, Kelly Andersen, LaRrie Pattyn-Vetter, Amelia Williams

Upper row (left to right): Alita Batham, Sonya Ryland, Michelle Laseter, Tanni Swisher, Colleen Bradford, Melissa Baurer





May 5th–June 5th Community Annual Fun Run & Health Walk

We miss our annual Community Fun Run and Health Walk Event. It's a great way to welcome summer and fitness within our community. This year while being safe, get out, get moving, and choose health!

Join in the fun and win prizes with Santiam Hospital's virtual fun run!
It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

**1 Sign Up Between
May 5th & June 5th**
Conquer one (or all) of our
family-friendly, local routes

2 Track your progress
Use the app MapMyRun
then download and submit
your results to be eligible
for prizes

3 Collect Prizes June 5th
Santiam Hospital
9:00am-12:00pm

- 3K: Water Bottle
- 5K: Running Socks
- 10K Running Visor

Finish all three routes and
collect all three prizes!



Scan this code and visit us
on Facebook or
santiamhospital.org
for more information



From left to right: Ron Etzel, Board President; Ed Diehl, Board Secretary; Randy Mickey; Maryann Meredith; Norm Rauscher; Genny Baldwin; Mike Odenthal, Board Vice-President; Pam Ray and Victor Kintz.

Getting to Know Your Santiam Hospital Board Members

Santiam Hospital Board of Directors is the governing body of Santiam Hospital. The Board of Directors provides oversight of Hospital affairs and is the steward of Hospital resources. Our Board of Directors has the experience, commitment, and understanding of hospitals necessary for Santiam Hospital's continued development and growth. Board Members are selected from and affirmed by the Hospital Membership. Board Members represent unique geographic areas relative to Santiam Hospital's service area. As a community based independent not-for-profit acute care hospital, Santiam Hospital Board of Directors truly represent the citizens of the communities it serves.

Ron Etzel (Area At Large, since 2001) is retired from a long career at Norpac Foods and since 2013 has been a member of the Sublimity Planning Commission.

Michael Odenthal (Stayton • Sublimity, since 1999) graduated from Oregon State University, and served 13 years in the U.S. Army. He is currently employed at the Dept. of Agriculture.

Randy Mickey (Detroit • Idanha • Gates • Mill City • Lyons • Mehama • Elkhorn, since 1987) owned and operated the Mill City Pharmacy for 36 years.

Victor Kintz (Stayton • Sublimity, since 2003) is Director of Operations with Polaris Group and has over 25 years' experience in the healthcare industry.

Maryann Meredith (Detroit • Idanha • Gates • Mill City • Lyons • Mehama • Elkhorn, since 1998) is a lifelong resident of the area who attended Oregon State University. She has experience in bookkeeping, retail, and teaching.

Norm Rauscher (West Stayton • Aumsville • Scio • Turner, since 2016) was born in Sublimity and graduated from Oregon State College; he holds an MS from the University of Washington and an MBA from Auburn University. Norm spent 30 years' active duty in the USAF, retiring as a Colonel in 1986.

Ed Diehl (West Stayton • Aumsville • Scio • Turner, since 2017) was raised in Plains, Montana; he holds a Bachelor and Master Degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University. Ed founded Concept Systems Inc; he is co-owner of Motorized Precision.

Pamela Ray (Area At Large, since 2019) is Finance Officer for the City of Turner. She received an AA in Accounting from UCSB and later earned a BA in Hospitality Management. Pam left the accounting field temporarily to pursue the dream of attending Le Cordon Bleu..

Genny Baldwin (Area At Large, since 2021) holds a Bachelor of Nursing from OHSU. She retired from Santiam Hospital after working in healthcare for over 50 years. She worked 36 years as an RN at Santiam Hospital, 28 of those years as the Chief Nursing Officer.

Santiam Hospital Receives the Hope Award

Santiam Hospital's partnership and collaboration with the Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank (PNTB) was recently recognized through the Hope Award.

Saving lives through organ donation is only a small part of what this award symbolizes," says Kristine Looper RN, IMCU/Critical Care Nurse Manager. "The award is for all of the staff who have been involved, and for those people who have died and were able to donate eyes, tissue, and organs."

"In the midst of tragedy there remains hope, not only for someone in need of a transplant, but also for the donor family in the legacy left by their loved one," says Andrea Vandomelen, Hospital Development Manager at PNTB.

The beautiful glass award is in a teardrop shape to symbolize the tears of love, of loss, of life renewed and of shared gratitude for the final act of kindness by an organ donor.



The Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank is the federally designated organ procurement organization serving Oregon, Southwest Washington and Western Idaho. It is part of the United Network for Organ Sharing's Region 6, which includes all of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. They provide support to donor families and ensure clear communication between the donor family and recipient.

The Perfect Side Dish for Spring

Add Oven Roasted Asparagus to Your Dinner



Oven roasted asparagus is a year-round customer favorite, but it's best with fresh Oregon asparagus from April to June. They make a great side dish to most any main and are always a welcome addition to a veggie tray for summer patio dining. I always make extra to put in the fridge for later. The secret is to NOT overcook it! It's perfect when it's soft, but does not droop or bend when you pick it up.

Happy roasting!

Sharlene Trexler, Trexler Farm
trexlerfarm.com

One pound serves 2-4

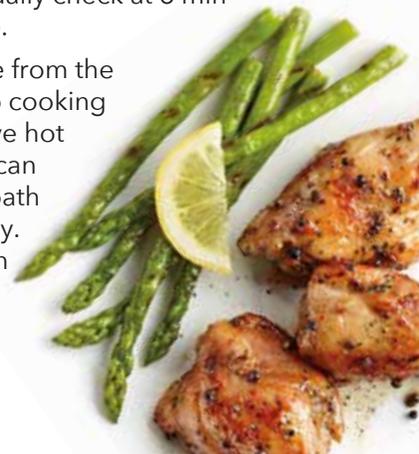
1. Pre-heat oven to 400°F. Before cooking, remove the woody part by grabbing the stalk of asparagus at either end and bend it until it snaps. It will naturally snap where it starts to get tough. (When you purchase a bundle, turn it over and look at the bottom ends. The more white you see, the more stalk you will probably be discarding.)

2. Cover a baking dish with foil for easy clean up. If possible, try to use one with low sides.

3. Arrange the asparagus in a single layer on the baking pan and drizzle with olive oil. Roll the stalks around a little to coat, then sprinkle with parmesan cheese, a little garlic, salt (or salt replacement) and pepper.

4. Bake uncovered in the preheated oven just until tender (7-11 minutes for smaller stalks, and 12 to 15 minutes for larger ones). I usually check at 8 min and add 1-2 minutes at a time.

5. Once done, quickly remove from the baking sheet or they will keep cooking and can become mushy. Serve hot or at room temperature. You can plunge immediately into ice bath if you are not eating right away. Optional: Sprinkle with lemon juice or a balsamic glaze for a fun zip of flavor.



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Treasurer, Marlene McCoy
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santiamhospital.org

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Santiam Hospital Clinic Locations

Santiam Hospital & Clinics accept all insurance including all Medicare plans, OHP, Kaiser Permanente & Blue Cross.

Primary Care Clinics

Aumsville Medical Clinic
503.749.4734
205 Main Street, Aumsville

Santiam Internal Medicine Clinic
503.769.7151
1401 N 10th Ave Ste 200, Stayton

Santiam Medical Clinic
503.897.4100
280 S 1st Ave, Mill City

Cascade Medical Clinic
503.769.7546
1375 N 10th Ave, Suite B, Stayton

Santiam Medical Associates
503.769.6386
1401 N. 10th Ave, Ste 100, Stayton

Sublimity Medical Clinic
503.769.2259
114 SE Church Street, Sublimity

Specialty Clinics

Santiam Cardiology Clinic
503.769.9118
1401 N 10th Ave Ste 200, Stayton

Santiam Orthopedic Group
503.769.8470
1369 N 10th Ave, Stayton

Santiam Pulmonary Clinic
503.769.9455
1401 N 10th Ave, Ste 200, Stayton

Santiam General Surgery Clinic
503.769.3785
1371 N 10th Ave, Stayton

Santiam Podiatry Clinic
503.769.7960
1371 N 10th Ave, Stayton

Santiam Women's Clinic
503.769.9522
1373 N 10th Ave, Stayton

Santiam Infectious Disease Clinic
503.769.7151
1401 N 10th Ave Ste 200, Stayton