As CommonSpirit Health, we make the healing presence of God known in our world by improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are vulnerable, while we advance social justice for all.

Sacred Stories convey ways our mission is being lived out by the gifted people in our ministry. We invite you to use these stories for inspiration, as a meeting reflection, or to encourage discussion with your team.

God’s Perfect Timing

“God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.”
- 1 John 4:16

My husband and I go dancing every Friday night. Typically, we’re out until 11:00 p.m.; however, this particular evening, there was a special event, and we danced until 1:00 a.m. On the way home, I craved ice cream, so we stopped at a fast-food place but found that their ice cream machine was broken. I gave up my dream of ice cream, and we headed home. As we drove up our street, we saw three police cars and two tow trucks. There must have been an accident, and we were glad we had missed it.

As we continued up the street, we saw a woman walking unsteadily. My husband rolled down his window and asked if she was ok. She replied, “No.”

I got out of the car and ran to her side. She collapsed to her knees. I called 911 while asking the woman to talk with me. She told me her name and that she had a device to monitor her heart, but it had been ripped off. Suddenly, she fell back onto the grass, completely unconscious.

I checked her pulse; she wasn’t breathing. As I sternal rubbed her, she took a breath and said she felt nauseous, so I rolled her into a recovery position. I did all this three more times, then the ambulance arrived.

When I came to work on Monday, the woman was at our hospital. I went to her room and explained who I was.
The patient began to cry and thanked me for helping her. I told her how God had aligned our paths perfectly: my husband and I were out later than usual, there was no ice cream; we had avoided a bad car accident. It was all in God’s perfect timing so we could find each other at the right moment.

I talked with the patient daily while she was in the hospital. We shared our favorite bible verses and talked about our families.

After she was discharged, she sent me a card. “I just wanted to say thank you so very much for being there in the right moment and for caring about what happened to me,” she wrote. “Not many people would have stopped and kept me alive. Thank you so much. I cannot say it enough, but God was watching over me. My children thank you, and I do too. Thank you for caring.”

Submitted by
Leigh Bagshaw

When have you experienced being “at the right place at the right time”?

As health care professionals, we often don’t know the “outcomes” of our efforts in the lives of patients. Think of a time you know you made a difference and savor that memory.