

Dave Cooper

Lab Information Systems Administrator

Clark Memorial Health
Jeffersonville, Indiana



In the ever-changing world of healthcare, Dave Cooper is a cheerful constant. He started in Clark Memorial Health's lab as a registered medical technologist four decades ago. Now, as lab information systems administrator, he expertly puts patients facing needles and tubes at ease.

A clinician's human touch can create a positive experience and help them feel special and important. That is where Dave shines. He will draw a smiley face on a child's band-aid so the youngster leaves on a happy note — so happy, in fact, that she can't wait to show her school friends the next day.

When labs are needed for struggling elderly or disabled patients, he visits them at home to retrieve samples. During the thick of the pandemic, Dave worked tirelessly, processing COVID-19 swab collections at the hospital drive-thru and isolation room. And he and his toolbox became a familiar sight when some of the hospital labs developed problems with printers. He knew a fix was crucial to providing faster lab results for patients.

"Dave has a dependable reputation for helping," says CEO Martin Padgett. "Team members know they can call on him to help collect specimens in the Outpatient Lab, Emergency Department, Critical Care or Med-Surg."

Dave's upbeat reliability also shows in his volunteer work across the Ohio River in Louisville, Kentucky, where he lives. He handled lab work at Family Community Free Clinic until the lab was closed during the pandemic.

"Dave knows that every single job in patient care has vast importance and lives that in his daily life at work."

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At Casa Latina Catholic Worker House, he helps with maintenance and volunteers at special events to support the center's immigrant women and children.

"Dave can be found here every Thursday night, bringing food to our community dinners, and at monthly clean-ups," says a Casa Latina representative. "He is readily on call for any crisis in the house."

"Dave's compassion toward others is exemplified by his actions."

For the past 10 years, he has greeted the 100 guests a day that come through St. John Center for Homeless Men, answering phones and handing out towels and hygiene supplies.

Thanks to Dave and other volunteers, St. John Center staff are able to provide support with tasks like finding and applying for housing, looking for jobs and acquiring important legal documents, like birth

certificates and Social Security cards. In 2021, this teamwork meant that 320 people were able to move into housing.

A volunteer coordinator at St. John Center describes Dave's humanitarian heart this way: "Barack Obama said, 'The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you.' Dave Cooper exemplifies President Obama's words by spreading hope to individuals experiencing homelessness."

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