

# Feature Story

## Andrea Teschler



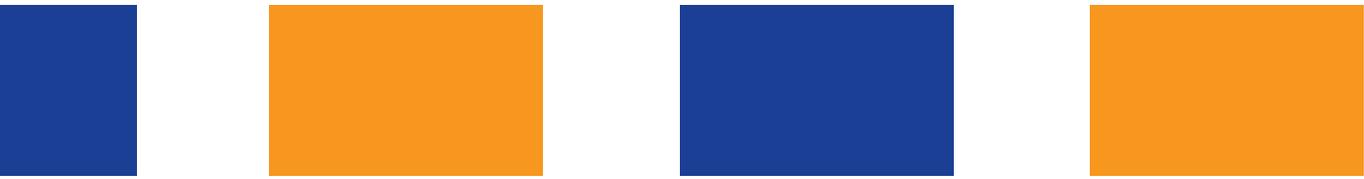
The pain clinic at Samaritan Regional Health System is here in Ashland to help members of this community cope with their pain, but it also provides peace of mind. It is a convenient, local resource that will be available when they need it. Its association with Samaritan hospital assures them that they will be treated with the friendliness and compassion that they have come to expect.

Andrea Teschler is a 51 year old woman who is happy that there is a pain clinic in her hometown, “It puts the worries of future pain on the back burner” she said.

Andrea moved to Ashland 15 years ago to get married and to raise her kids in a better community. She was living in a small town with no local hospital. The closest hospital was a 30 minute drive. She was always concerned that one day she would not be able to get herself or her family to the hospital enough.

Andrea said that as a mother she is happy to now have Samaritan hospital just a short drive down the street. She is happy that Samaritan has opened a pain clinic, and she believes that it is an important addition to the community.

Andrea is a mother of two, and she is still chasing them around as if they were toddlers. With a daughter who is a high school sophomore and varsity track athlete, Andrea doesn't want to have to worry about missing any of her track meets. “My kids are the most important thing in the world to me. I could never see myself missing one of my daughters track meets due to pain, which is why I am happy that Samaritan offers pain management so I won't miss anything.” Her son is a college student and a wrestling coach. She explains that sitting on the bleachers for an entire day can make anyone uncomfortable. She states that “I want to be able to watch my son's team compete for years to come.”



Andrea has been working for ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) for over 20 years in a job that can cause physical wear and tear. “Yes, working for ODOT over the years has put pressure on my body,” Andrea said. When asked how she feels her job has affected her, she said, “as a bridge inspector I have to climb up the side of hills, I have to crawl through the tunnels under the bridges, and sometimes I have to repel down the sides of the bridge. This job is very demanding in a physical respect.” She feels lucky that her job has not yet left her suffering in pain, but she fears that this may happen as she gets older. Andrea states that “knowing how much I ask of my body every day at work, I do fear how it will affect me in the future.”

“It puts the worries of future pain on the backburner”

Andrea has worries about the future, but she has already witnessed the effects of chronic pain on a family member. She talks about how her husband felt before he received his hip replacement, “Before the pain clinic opened my husband’s hip started to give out on him. He put off the surgery as long as he could, because he was young for a hip replacement. He could not go to any of his

kids’ school or sporting events due to the pain. He also could not do some of the daily chores around the house without having to rest for hours. We would try to take weekend family trips but the pain was too much for him, and forced him to stay home. She states that “my husband put the hip surgery off for 3 years!” Andrea further reflected that a local, pain clinic would have been a great help during this time.

With memories of her husband’s experience and fears about the future, Andrea sees the pain clinic as an important addition to the community. “I live a very active life and, if I want to continue living my active life, I might need the pain clinic.”

Andrea will use the pain clinic when chronic pain becomes a problem for her. She realizes that she in control of her own body and pain should not take over her life. The pain clinic will ensure that she can continue her daily routines. She will not miss out on family activities and children’s events that bring her so much joy.



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