The journey to a profession in medicine is not an easy one. For some, it’s a fairly direct route from high school, to undergraduate studies, and finally to medical school. However, for others, the path goes in several different directions before ultimately ending up in the right place. Each journey is completely different, with no two medical professionals taking the same approach. All of the experiences, good and bad, along the journey make up each individual professional. In some cases, when the paths of several health professionals end up in the same place, at approximately the same time, a local health clinic flourishes. This is precisely what has happened at the Fillmore County Medical Center (FCMC) in Geneva, NE. Several incredible doctors, physician assistants, nurses, and supporting staff have come together in a small, rural community to provide extraordinary care for the area. We have featured three women who have taken on important roles. Meet Dr. Beckman, Dani and Michelle.

The daily lives of healthcare providers can be like a rollercoaster. They have good days and they have very bad days. With all the ups and downs involved in the medical world, it is important to be surrounded by incredible people, to help pick you up when you are down and congratulate you when things go well. At FCMC, the providers are surrounded by wonderful co-workers. “Our providers and staff are wonderful. We’re like family. Having that type of relationship with your co-workers makes coming to work so much more enjoyable, no matter what is going on around you,” Jaeger boasted. Having providers who are happy where they are, have support all around them, and truly care about what their patients have to say combines for extraordinary care at FCMC.
Dr. Alanna Beckman

Dr. Beckman joined the team in 2014 along with her husband, Matthew Dunagan, RN, who happens to be the Operating Room Manager at FCH. She is a primary care physician, but also has a deep interest in obstetrics and gynecology. The happy couple have an 8½ month old son, James, who helps keep them busy when they aren’t working. Dr. Beckman enjoys being a part of the Geneva community because “it’s a friendly community.” She also mentioned, “It just has a great vibe. I love the small town feel. I especially love the fact that I can go for a walk and see kids outside, riding their bikes, mowing, shooting hoops, etc.”

There are things she likes to do outside of her everyday life. “I really enjoy reading and traveling. Traveling is probably my favorite thing to do,” Alanna said. Not only that, but she also enjoys cooking. “I’ve gotten into using a pressure cooker lately. My favorite thing to cook right now is this Tai Chicken recipe I make in that,” she explained. So, if you’re having trouble mastering the pressure cooker, you may need some tips from one of your local health care physicians!

“We provide really good service and great follow up. I feel like we offer a very wide range of tests and treatments right here. We can take care of most problems here and the things we can’t take care of, we are well equipped to set them up with the care they need in a timely manner.” Of the patients, Alanna said, “I think they appreciate the care they get and they feel listened to by their providers.”

Dani Jaeger, PA-C

Dani is one of five Physician Assistants at FCMC. “For as long as I can remember, I’ve wanted to be involved in medicine. My dad was an EMT and I always wanted to be able to help people like that,” Jaeger said. “I did a 12 week rotation here when I was in school at UNMC. I loved the staff and the patients and hoped to get a chance to come back here full time. I’m also from the area, so it worked out perfectly!” She also mentioned that she loves taking her kids on walks around town and making connections with so many wonderful people in the community. “Geneva is a small town, near my hometown, and has a very similar lifestyle to the one in which I grew up. Jacob and I always wanted to raise our kids in an environment like this,” she mentioned. Dani and her family certainly enjoy being a part of the Geneva community. However, having a great job certainly helps you enjoy where you are. When asked what she enjoys most about her job, she replied, “I enjoy getting to help people and making a difference in the lives of those around me. That’s why working in a small town is so rewarding; you get to see the impact you are making!”

“I care about my patients and try to put specific emphasis on making them a part of the decision process and listening to what they have to say,” she said. Jaeger also mentioned she doesn’t feel like she is the only one that takes the time to do that at Fillmore County Medical Center. “It is very easy to see that each of the providers at FCMC truly care about their patients,” Dani continued.

Michelle Dorsey, PA-C

Not every medical professional feels like they are called to the medical field at a young age. It took our next featured Physician Assistant several years and a lot of traveling to finally get her mind set on joining the field. Michelle Dorsey first spent some time in New Zealand and then headed to South Africa. “Both places are beautiful, but in very different ways. I loved the lifestyle in New Zealand and the diversity in South Africa,” she recalled. While in New Zealand she researched ovarian follicle development and a laboratory of a reproductive clinic in South Africa. Michelle returned to the states and worked for a short while before she needed a new adventure. So, off she went to Japan to teach English. She was there for a little over a year before she found her true calling.

Being a part of the FCMC has been a great experience for Dorsey. She said, “The relationships we have as a staff are wonderful. It’s like a family. We all look out for one another and work really well together.” Michelle noted that the patients are the most enjoyable part of being a PA. “It all comes down to the patients. I love the challenges each one brings. The daily interaction with them is my favorite thing,” Dorsey explained.

She also loves being a part of the family practice side of things. “I enjoy getting to see the same patients often, so I get to form relationships and watch them grow. That is very rewarding,” she commented. Michelle makes sure her patients feel like they are being heard. She always tries to spend enough time with each and every one of them. “I want to make sure I address all of their questions and make them feel like they’ve accomplished something too. I try to always be welcoming and approachable,” Dorsey said.