You may have noticed that our patient stories often focus on the importance of a medical home—a source of comprehensive, high-quality medical care, and dedicated staff who coordinate that care. Coweta Samaritan Clinic has been that home for Erin Wilkerson for the last four-and-a-half years. “It’s more than primary care,” Erin explains. “It feels like an extended family. When I walk through the door, they know me.”

Erin’s relationship with nurse practitioner Rhonda Whitton is especially close. “Rhonda is always willing to listen to any complaint, whether it’s small or big. She never rushes me.” This thoroughness paid off last year when Erin came to the clinic with pain on the left side of her chest. Rather than leave anything to chance, Rhonda sent Erin to Piedmont Newnan for a mammogram. Further testing uncovered not one, but two lumps in her right breast.

“I was very hesitant to have surgery. I didn’t want to be put under because I have two small kids. But Dr. Frank Powell talked me through it.” Dr. Powell was able to remove a lump before it turned to cancer and will continue to follow up with Erin’s care.

Routine testing during that appointment at Coweta Samaritan Clinic also revealed that Erin’s blood sugar was high. Erin remembers that Rhonda called her at work to discuss the results with her. “That day I went home and threw away all my sodas away. I haven’t had soda in a year, and I’ve lost 50 pounds. I also became a member of the YMCA through the Samaritan Clinic. Rhonda saved my life. She’s done so much.” Through referral from Coweta Samaritan, Erin also receives ongoing care from Dr. Jeffrey Folk for a heart murmur.

When asked why it’s important to support Coweta Samaritan Clinic, Erin Wilkerson finds it easy to explain. “People like me who struggle—a single mother who can’t afford regular health insurance—I’m not treated like that person. When I walk through that door, I’m treated as Erin, a woman, a person. Just because I don’t have health insurance doesn’t mean I can’t get good health care. It’s here. People like me in need, we’re just people. We’re all the same from different walks of life, and we all need healthcare. This is the place to get it.”