

# THE Importance of Caring

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my journey into health care



## Thomas Jaixen, RT (R) (MR) (CT)

CATH LAB TECH

Thomas Jaixen, RT (R) (MR) (CT), is absolutely captivated with the technological side of health care.

The Platte Center, Nebraska, native originally started studying biology at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska, but by the time he received his bachelor's degree, it was in radiation science at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. That was also when he received his certification in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT).

**"I have always liked science and technology,"** he said. **"Radiology was a good blend of both. I was fascinated with the way an MRI scanner works, and by how much physics and technology goes into it."**

Jaixen started working at Columbus Community Hospital in diagnostic imaging in November 2020, and in May 2022, he started as a cath lab technician in the hospital's newly opened cardiac catheterization lab.

In the lab, cardiologists insert a long, flexible tube into the patient's artery,

then thread it through the blood vessels into the heart, which they view through X-ray. They can insert instruments into the heart through the tube and use them to clear clogged arteries, insert stents and perform various diagnostic procedures. In his job, Jaixen helps set up the room with sterile instruments, and runs the X-ray machine and assists the cardiologist during the procedure.

Jaixen says he never saw himself as a cath lab tech before coming to CCH, but the hospital has allowed him to experience a wide range of job opportunities — including helping people with heart problems.

**"At previous jobs, if you were hired to do CT, then that is all you did,"** he said. **"Here are CCH, you can be doing CT, take a couple X-rays, then run over to the operating room and run the C-arm during a surgery. CCH lets you use all the skills you have."**

Jaixen encourages anyone interested in health care to seek out a job shadowing opportunity — making sure to ask as many questions as possible.

In his free time, he enjoys running, working outside, and playing with his three children — Carson, Madeline and Anna.

**To learn more about the opportunities available at the hospital, visit [columbushosp.org](http://columbushosp.org).**