



A HEART FOR HEALING, ONE STEP AT A TIME

BY: SARAH MARILYN

Dr. Benjamin Hartger always knew he loved science—but it wasn't until he explored nearly every medical specialty that he found his true calling. "Podiatry struck the perfect balance," he says. "It allowed me to use my hands, form long-term relationships with patients, and still have a healthy work-life balance."

What ultimately drew him in wasn't just the medical side of podiatry—it was the people. "In podiatry, you see the impact of your care right away. You can take someone in pain and help them walk comfortably again. That's incredibly fulfilling," he says. "And unlike many specialties, I can spend real time with my patients. I can listen, explain, and build trust."

INDUSTRY INNOVATION >

HEALING THAT STARTS FROM THE GROUND UP

Dr. Hartger's passion lies in wound care and limb preservation—areas where he can make an immediate and meaningful difference. "I fell in love with wound care after working on a few foot reconstructions early in my career," he shares. "It's incredibly rewarding to help someone heal, regain their mobility, and reclaim their independence."



"He is wound care certified and treats any ulceration, wound, or injury from the knee down. "We make it a priority to see high-risk patients as quickly as possible—often same day or next day," he says. "Wounds can change fast, so early attention matters." Beyond diabetic foot care and complex wound management, the office also performs in-office procedures and small surgeries, offering a convenient and affordable alternative to hospital-based wound centers. "Facility fees can make care costly," Dr. Hartger notes. "We're able to deliver the same quality—if not better—at a fraction of the price."

To further expand this commitment, Advanced Foot Ankle and Wound is welcoming a dedicated wound care nurse, helping ensure seamless, ongoing care for patients managing chronic conditions. "It's all about continuity," says Dr. Hartger. "Wound care and diabetic foot care are about long-term partnerships, not quick fixes."

A PATH ROOTED IN COMPASSION

Before medical school, Dr. Hartger worked in adult foster care and group homes, caring for individuals who needed patience, understanding, and consistency. "That experience shaped how I practice medicine," he explains. "I learned that listening is one of the most powerful tools in healthcare. Every patient has a story, and when you take the time to hear it, you can treat them so much better."

That philosophy defines the culture at Advanced Foot Ankle and Wound, where Dr. Hartger believes in giving every patient time, attention, and empathy. "I'd rather over-explain to ten people than have even one person leave confused or uncertain about their diagnosis," he says. "Clear communication builds trust—and trust drives healing."

DECEMBER 5, 2025



BUILDING A PRACTICE WITH PURPOSE

The journey to leading Advanced Foot Ankle and Wound happened naturally. “The physician here before me was ready to retire,” Dr. Hartger recalls. “At first, the timing wasn’t right. But three years later, we crossed paths again, and everything clicked. I knew this was where I was meant to be.” Now, as the sole provider with plans to bring on an additional mid-level provider. Dr. Hartger has cultivated a thriving, community-centered practice grounded in quality care and collaboration. “We focus on quality referrals and lasting relationships,” he says.

BEST PRACTICES

AN OFFICE THAT FEELS LIKE FAMILY

From the moment you walk in, it’s clear that Advanced Foot Ankle and Wound is different. Patients often remark on the upbeat, welcoming energy that fills the space. “People tell us all the time that they can feel how happy our team is,” says Dr. Hartger. “We genuinely enjoy working together—and caring for our patients.” At the heart of that warmth is a small but mighty team: Alyssa, Sophia, and Brittney. Each brings compassion, experience, and a love for connecting with people. Whether it’s a warm greeting at check-in or the extra time taken to make sure every question is answered, the staff’s dedication shines through. “It’s that hometown feeling,” Dr. Hartger says proudly. “You’re not a number here—you’re part of our community. We laugh, we listen, and yes, sometimes we even talk about musicals. It’s joy, and patients can feel that.”

STEPPING TOWARD THE FUTURE

As the practice continues to evolve, the mission remains clear: provide exceptional, accessible care while treating every patient like family. “At the end of the day,” says Dr. Hartger, “my goal is simple—to give every patient the time, understanding, and care they deserve. That’s what good medicine is all about.”

