

THE
PARTNERS OF
HSHS ST.
JOSEPH'S
HOSPITAL

Stethoscope

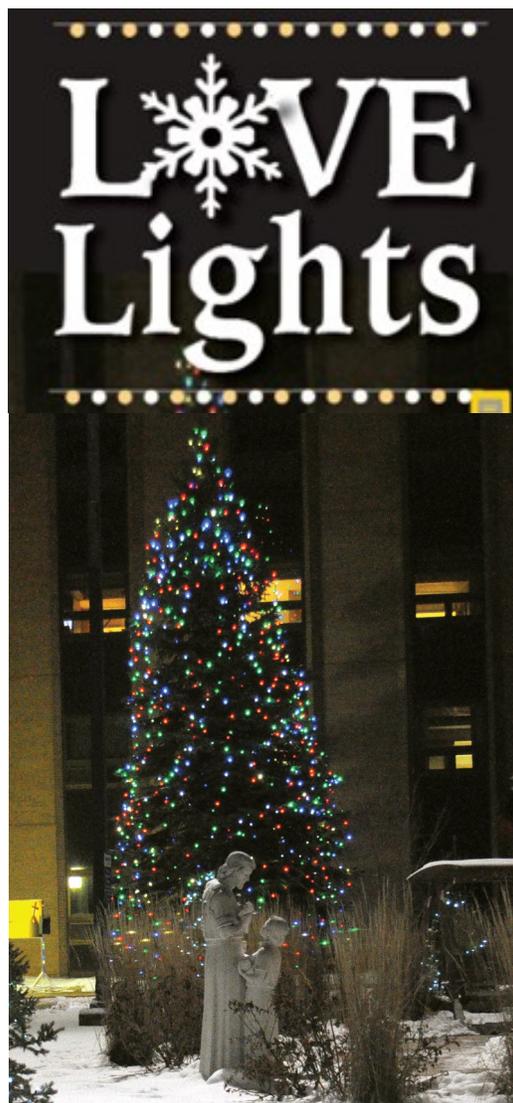
VOLUME XXXVI, ISSUE IV

FALL 2020



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You're invited to Participate in the Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Love Lights

Our annual Love Lights program will get underway in October with the mailing of the brochures. The tree lighting ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 3rd. Due to COVID, the remembrance ceremony in the Chapel will not take place. Weather permitting, a short service and the tree lighting will be held in the Healing Garden at 4pm. Beginning this year, the suggested cost per light will be \$10.00, with a minimum of \$5.00 per light. This is a great way to remember and honor your loved ones and those individuals important to you.

*Kay Engebretson
Chairperson*

Letter from Our Partners President



As we head into Fall, we can pause, look back, and wonder how we made it through the last 7 months! Many of you are working from home, helping family members with childcare, and/or keeping our young students on task. You may have learned a new technology such as Zoom or Google Meet to keep in touch with family and friends. We have all been hopeful that our lives would get back to normal soon. But it looks as though it will be a while before we can gather again in person. Brandy Sikora will keep us informed as to when we can safely meet at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Fall can also bring to mind the prayer of St. Francis. His Feast Day is celebrated on October 4th. During the last few months, we have all in some way put the words of the St. Francis prayer into action. There has been a lot of despair, doubt, and sadness due to anxiety and uncertainty. The St. Francis prayer can help us sow hope, faith, and joy. We are all instruments of our Lord's peace.

We had hoped to hold the Membership Luncheon that was scheduled for October 14th and the Charity Ball that was rescheduled for October 24th. Unfortunately both events have now been cancelled. Amber Leibrandt and the Charity Ball Committees continue to plan for "White Star's Queen of the North Seas" to be held in May 2021. We are still selling raffle tickets. The proceeds of the raffle tickets will be our main fund raising opportunity for the foreseeable future. So, if you are able, please consider purchasing a raffle ticket. If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket and have not been contacted, you can call Brandy Sikora at 715-717-7439. The raffle drawing will take place on October 24th.

And there is some positive news! Volunteers are now allowed in the hospital and planning continues for our Christmas Love Lights. Also, Roger Elliott's Community Garden Committee has had a great year! Please see Roger's report in this Stethoscope. Dianne Fish's Walking Club continues to meet and walk while safely socializing. And while the Partners' Council is not able to meet in person, we continue to meet via Zoom. The Partners' Council is cautiously optimistic as planning continues for 2021 events.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Volunteer Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. Please contact me at maryrosewilli@gmail.com with any questions or concerns. Take care and stay safe and healthy!

WHA Partners Annual Convention

The WHA State Convention has been cancelled due to safety concerns relating to the Coronavirus. A virtual business meeting will be held on October 7th. Two delegates from our Volunteer Partners will vote on any items on your behalf.

*Mary Rose Willi
Partners President
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital*

Budget and Bylaws

The current year Partner's budget has been approved by the Partner's Council, but has not been approved by you, our members. Normally, the budget is approved at the July meeting which was cancelled due to the Coronavirus. So, at the next Membership luncheon (date to be determined), the budget will be presented for your discussion and vote.

The proposed bylaw changes that were sent to you in the Spring Stethoscope still need to be approved at a Membership luncheon. The bylaws are also usually presented at the July meeting. In addition to the budget, the bylaws will be discussed and voted on by you, our members.

*Mary Rose Willi
Partners President*

Community Garden

Another great year of donating to the food pantries and free kitchens in the Chippewa valley is coming to a close. Our long-term gardening friends and some new ones have stepped up once again to help alleviate the hunger crisis in the area. All of our plots were reserved this year and three of them were planted and harvested by persons needing produce for their own tables.

Milestones and Other News:

- Our beekeeper, Don Hauser had to repopulate both hives this spring after the entire population of bees died over the winter...again. The replacement bees didn't exactly thrive this summer either, but Don continues to work with the hives in our garden and we hope future seasons will be productive once again.
- Our little 18-tree apple orchard is four years old now and our good friend Don Albrecht of the Albrecht Nursery on Hwy 124 pruned them for us again this spring and has graciously volunteered to mulch and compost around the tree trunks annually. The plan is that he will be planting some native plants around them as well. Many thanks to Don for helping ensure the sustainability of the little orchard. I harvested a few apples again this year and donated them to St. Francesca's Food Pantry. There were almost an equal amount of apples that had been attacked by wasps and were not fit for donation. However, they were peeled and cubed and placed in my freezer for use in slab-apple pies that will be enjoyed by our gardeners at our COVID-compliant, social-distancing Harvest Celebration to be held outdoors at the Albrecht nursery in a few weeks.
- All of our gardeners have done a wonderful job this year – our volumes as of this issue are at about 2,300 lbs. There is quite a bit more produce to be harvested, though, and we may even get to 3,000 lbs like we did a couple of years ago. By the end of the season we should be at a total of over 14,000 lbs. That's over 7-1/2 tons donated since 2013! Cathy Lombard stepped up and managed 8 plots this season and they are producing at a phenomenal rate. Veteran gardeners Rick Beckler and Don Hauser tended 3 plots each and continue to add large volumes to our total harvest. Our retired rehab ladies had a plot that did very well, and Sallie Butcher from the Eagles Club produced a great crop from her two plots again, just as she has for the last few years. We had a very productive team added to the group this year – men from the Veterans Assistance Program tended two plots and produced great volumes for their kitchen in Klein hall.
- As I mentioned in the June Stethoscope, at the end of the season last year, our friends from RainMaster kindly donated a 4-spigot water hydrant that is available for use in cleaning ourselves and our produce prior to donation. We have a cleaning station next to the hydrant with a rabbit-wire bottom on which we can place veggies such as carrots, potatoes, onions, and other in-ground produce to get them cleaner and more presentable than when first pulled from the earth. A couple of donated hoses and a sprayer nozzle make fast work of the cleaning process.



Continued on next page...

Community Garden Continued

- The garden is completely irrigated with an in-ground RainMaster system that was installed at the beginning of our 2013 season. Once turned on in the spring, the system waters each plot for 20 minutes every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 4:00 am. The hydrant that RainMaster donated last fall is fed from the irrigation main and is available 24/7 once the system is turned on in May.

As always, the Community Gardeners have a lot to be thankful for – the support of the hospital and our sponsors, the Partners; generous donors, a dedicated gardening team, the assistance of Brandy and her volunteers as well as hospital Food Services staff for coordinating and caring for the produce as it comes to the hospital lobby, and of course.....the Good Lord for all the sunshine and humidity that makes are garden grow!

God is great....every day, in every way! We are truly blessed.



the “the Green Beanie”...

Roger Elliott

Volunteer Coordinator, HSHS St. Joseph’s Community Garden

Public Policy

COVID-19 Relief Package at the Federal Level

Senate and House have not reached any agreements on a new relief package. The House passed a 3 trillion package in June. The Senate Republicans are reported to have reached an agreement on a Senate package. The total is around 500 billion. House and Senate are pretty far apart. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has stated they will not adjourn until a package is passed. Treasury secretary Steve Mnuchin has stated they should at least come together to pass the proposals both sides have already approved, additional unemployment benefits, aid to local governments are two examples. The Problem Solvers Caucus, a bipartisan group of representatives has also presented a compromise plan.

Primary election was August 11th. Races are set for November. Lots of news stories about mail in ballots, outside interference in the election, safety of in-person voting. Two takeaways: In-person voting is probably safe if CDC guidelines are followed. If you are going to do mail in absentee voting – do it early. The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is October 29th, but please give yourself and the local Clerk more time to process. The Post Office has said to plan on one week each way. That is one week to get your ballot after it is requested and one week for your ballot to get to the municipal clerk after you complete and mail it. You can also deliver your mail-in ballot to the local clerk or bring in on election day. On September 21 a Federal Judge ruled to extend the absentee ballot deadline until November 9th—the Friday after the election. Eau Claire has drive through early voting. I am not aware of this in any other local community. Check with your local clerk to find out hours for early in-person voting. To request an absentee ballot or to register to vote you may contact your local Clerk or visit MyVote.WI.gov.

The Democrat and Republican conventions were both “virtual”. Joe Biden is the Democratic nominee. He choose Kamala Harris as his running mate. President Trump and Vice president Pence were nominated by the Republicans for a second term. Wisconsin is considered a battleground state. Expect lots of political advertising. As in every election, don't believe everything you hear or see. Fact check to verify.



The US census is wrapping up. There have been difficulties due to the corona virus. If you have not turned in your census form, please do so. It is vital to be counted.

Julie Clark
Public Policy Educator

Gift Shop

As we continue to navigate through this pandemic, the gift shop has been a nice place for colleagues to get away and receive some retail therapy. Although sales are not where they were a year ago, the support received from the colleagues has been great so far. For September, we had "Dollar Days" which included select merchandise priced at \$1, \$5, and \$10. This has been a huge hit and a great way to clear out old merchandise since we were unable to have our Inventory Reduction Sale in June. The shopping season is just around the corner and as much as we would love to have community members come in to the hospital at this time, we have to continue with limiting the number of people that enter the hospital and only allowing those with appointments and one visitor with them to come in.

There may be an opportunity to "shop" virtually, and then coordinating pickup with the volunteers so that you can still support the Gift Shop. Keep your eyes and ears open for that opportunity! If you would be interested, please reach out to me and I will put you on the email list for more information Brandalee.sikora@hshs.org.

Our Holiday Open House Sale is scheduled for November 2-6 with 30% off all Holiday Merchandise.



Volunteer Services

It's been 6 months since we were faced with the many challenges that COVID presented to us. In one breath I can't believe it's been that long because it went so fast but in another breath, I can't believe that we have been facing this new "norm" for this long and now, we are faced with realities that our community is reaching it's peak and cases are becoming more personal and common. It is important that we as community members continue to help stop the spread with wearing our masks, washing our hands and limiting social gatherings. I know it has been hard for you, not being able to go to your weekly luncheons with friends, have your card parties, enjoy the things you were socially doing prior to COVID but have faith and continue to pray that this will surpass eventually and we will all be together again....AND being able to see each other's smiles! I wish you all the best as we enter the Fall and early Winter months. These will be challenging times for us all but know that a phone call to me, a friend or family member will always help make your day and change your mood. It won't replace human physical interaction but can be a healthy and safe compromise. Blessings to you all during the Holiday Season! Hope to see you all again REAL soon!

Brandy Sikora
Manager of Volunteer Services

Linen Sale

Plans have changed, but don't forget about us! Save the dates for a virtual linen sale

November 6th-12th.

Items can be purchased online and shipped to your home or free shipping to the hospital. This is a great way to support Volunteer Partners without leaving the comfort of your pajamas!



Letter from HSHS WWD President and CEO

Dear Volunteer Partners,



I haven't been able to address you since the start of the pandemic. It's been quite a whirlwind these last six months. I hope this newsletter finds you safe and in good health.

Thank you for your patience, dedication to our ministry and love for the safety of the community. Although we were unable to host many of the Volunteer Partners events planned for 2020, we're blessed to help our community when it needs us most – by offering excellent, skilled care during a pandemic. We wouldn't have been able to do that without our Volunteer Partners and your generous donations to our hospital each year.

And during the pandemic, you shined! Some of you sat at your sewing machines day in and day out to make masks for our hospital and the community. Some spread joy with cards to friends and family or nursing home facilities. Others made sure not to overwhelm our health care facilities by staying home and staying healthy. Even though you weren't able to offer events to the community or come to our hospital to volunteer, you still did your part. The mission of the Sisters is in your heart.

The challenges over this past year have been significant. We had to make difficult decisions on a daily basis. Despite those challenges, there is plenty to be proud of at HSHS St. Joseph's. We received a 4-star rating from CMS, Healthgrades named us a top hospital for patient experience, our Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine earned the Center of Distinction award and L.E. Phillips-Libertas Treatment Center received the "Guardian of Excellence" award for sustained patient satisfaction at the 95th percentile. These are amazing accomplishments in any context, let alone a pandemic!

Although there is much unknown about the future, we are certain that it is filled with possibilities. HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital is focused on providing exceptional quality and experience by concentrating our resources. Robust ambulatory care that is easy and convenient, both for patients and providers, will provide stability and growth opportunities to ensure that our hospital is able to continue the mission of the Sisters long into the future.

Thank you for your dedication to our hospital. You continue to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality Franciscan health care ministry. Our hospital continues to be a warm and welcoming place because of you. Thank you!

Best,

John Wagner
President and CEO
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital

Charity Ball Raffle Tickets Still Available

We were sad to have to announce the postponement of the Charity Ball, but this means the May 2021 Charity Ball will be worth two years of fun! Even though the fun for this year has been cancelled, you can still get in on the action by purchasing a raffle ticket. Proceeds of the raffle will go toward the current Volunteer Partners project. There will be 3—\$1,000 drawings. Tickets are \$20 each. There will only be 500 sold. The drawing will take place on October 24th. Please call Brandy Sikora at 715-717-7439 to purchase a ticket.

Partners Walking Club

During this COVID-19 Pandemic one of the best things we can do for ourselves to stay healthy is to get out and enjoy the fresh air. Our beautiful Irvine Park provides THE perfect setting.

The Partners Walking Club is ready to "re-boot" after a very difficult 3 months of quarantine and social distancing! Not only is it beneficial to our physical health, but connecting socially has been proven to improve our mental health as well.

We will continue with our previous schedule of meeting on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. We will gather in front of the Duck Pond in Irvine Park.

We can enjoy each other's company, perhaps share stories and laughter, and continue to practice social distancing!

Hope to see you then!

Dianne Fish

Community Health: Flu Season

Were we ever out of the flu season this year? We have lived through a "hard" year of not being able to spend quality time with our families and friends. With less socializing and family gatherings we may feel the need to get out and be with each other, but please keep social distancing. Social distancing will help keep yourself and others safe from the flu and any other illness. If you want be near others remember to wear a mask. It may be a good idea not to throw away your homemade masks when COVID is over, as it is a good way to protect us from every illness.

If you become ill with headaches, nausea, vomiting, body aching, please check in with physician. Continue to wash or sanitize your hands frequently.

Physicians are encouraging individuals to continue with getting the flu shot even with the pandemic. Appointment for flu vaccines are available at Prevea Health in Chippewa. Call 888-277-3832 to schedule an appointment.

Pat Bertrand

Community Health Education

Membership

Volunteer Partners is designed for community minded individuals who are committed to assisting St. Joseph's Hospital by bringing volunteer services to patients, visitors and families. Partners have several fun events throughout the year and we need your help. Cost to join Partners is \$10 a year or \$100 for a lifetime membership. Annual Memberships were due in July. If you have not made your annual payment please make payments to Volunteer Partners of St. Joseph's Hospital and send to:

St. Joseph's Hospital
Attn: Volunteer Services
2661 Cty Hwy I
Chippewa Falls WI 54729

Current Membership: 228 Honorary: 8 Lifetime: 109
Yearly: 110
New Members 2019-2020: 12
Inactive Members 2019-2020: 11

If you are unsure if you owe for the 2020-2021 year, please call Brandy at 715-717-7439.

Welcome New Member Cathie Mercier!

Cathie was born in Palo Alto, California and graduated from Chi-Hi in 1973. When she is not spending time with her 4 grandchildren, Cathie enjoys walking, biking, reading, cooking and participating in water exercise. Cathie looks forward to helping Volunteer Partners in any way she can and would like to help deliver mail, help with clerical services, work for the book sale, help with the Steak Fry and possibly be a smiling face at the information desk.

Jan Horan
Membership Chair

Stethoscope

Published for the members of the Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital.

President	Mary Rose Willi
President Elect	Ellen Kiefer
Recording Secretary	Amber Leibrandt
Treasurer	Marge Geissler
Volunteer Coordinator	Brandy Sikora
Editor	Marlene Luther

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital
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Upcoming Calendar of Events

<i>Cancelled</i>	Used Book Sale	
<i>Cancelled</i>	WHA Partners Annual Convention	
<i>Cancelled</i>	Partner's Membership Luncheon	
<i>Cancelled</i>	Charity Ball	New Date 5/1/2021
November 2—6	Gift Shop Holiday Sale	Gift Shop
November 26	Happy Thanksgiving	
December 3	Love Lights Ceremony	Healing Garden
December 25	Enjoy a Blessed Merry Christmas	