

# The Stethoscope

**Annual  
General Membership Meeting**  
Join us virtually  
**Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021**  
**10 a.m.**

## **AGENDA:**

Welcome and Prayer

Update from John L. Wagner,  
President and CEO

Growth, program development and  
Telehealth in the area by  
Nick Berger, Client Services Executive  
Business Meeting

\*login to Zoom and click on  
JOIN A MEETING

Zoom Meeting ID Number: 995 5448 0578  
Passcode: 213659



Partners of  
HSHS  
St. Joseph's  
Hospital

## MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION



Dear Volunteer Partners,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and in good health. Thank you for your dedication to our ministry and love for the safety of the community.

As you've experienced, the COVID-19 pandemic can change week to week, day to day and even hour by hour. Your willingness to pivot at the last minute to accommodate increased safety measures made the Steak Fry a great success. Thank you for creating such a nice evening for our community members while supporting scholarships.

We were hopeful that Charity Ball would be a night that we could celebrate all that we've overcome over the past year but unfortunately, a rise in COVID-19 cases didn't allow this to take place. Our commitment to the safety of patients, colleagues and community members remains our top priority. In lieu of the event, colleagues and volunteers sprang into action to coordinate an online Charity Ball auction. Supporters had the opportunity to bid on items like a trip to Key West, fine jewelry, spa packages and more from the comfort of their own homes. Thanks to the creativity and quick-thinking of the team, funds were raised to support the Volunteer Partners' current efforts in mental and behavioral health initiatives of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. While our White Star's Queen of the North Seas ship was taken off course, I'm thankful our Charity Ball committee was able to reschedule the event for Friday, May 6, 2022. I know how hard the committee had been working to make this year's event spectacular and I have full confidence that next year's event will be a night to remember.

Last year, Love Lights received incredible feedback because of your hard work and compassion for community members. Christmas is a special time to remember and celebrate the people we love. The beautiful trees throughout the Healing Garden will shine brightly during the holiday season and spark memories of the ones we love.

As we head into the fall and holiday seasons, I am truly grateful for your continued support of our patients, colleagues and Chippewa Valley community. You continue to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality Franciscan health care ministry. Thank you!

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



## LETTER FROM OUR PARTNERS PRESIDENT



Dear Volunteer Partners:

This is my first letter as president. As such, you might be a tad bit curious about me. I am relatively new to this organization but not to this community. My husband, David and I raised three children in Chippewa Falls. We have always loved this community and I have always been active in it, from Newcomers, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, McDonnell School Board, Junior Achievement, to name a few. I worked for 15 years at the Family Support Center.

In July, I was installed as President of the Volunteer Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital by John Wagner, President and CEO, HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. I want you to know that I take this responsibility very seriously and feel very humble to have been asked to serve in this capacity.

This is a time of unprecedented change and I am so blessed to be working with such a strong, competent group of individuals. I want to thank Mary Rose Willi for being such a great role model and for her patience in enduring my constant barrage of questions. And, of course, the support of Brandy Sikora, Manager Volunteer Services, is essential to our continued success. Everyone has been so kind.

With all of the changes happening, flexibility is a must. I am happy to report that under the leadership of Betty Oddo and Julie Clark and their dauntless team, our annual Steak Fry was a resounding success. Of course, things had to be adjusted and there was no indoor dining, but we were all treated to the same great food that we have come to expect. We were so thrilled to be able to put on this event and come together again and make money for scholarships!

Further evidence of our creativity is the Charity Ball Auction that took place online. Amber Leibrandt will have more info in this issue, but please keep in mind our severely restricted ability to fund raise during the pandemic. Thank you.

Virtual meetings have become commonplace and Partners is no different. Everyone was optimistically looking forward to District and State Meetings in person. That, unfortunately, is not to be. Because of a recent spike in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, hospital guidelines have tightened up. Volunteers are not allowed to attend large gatherings as representatives of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. This is, of course, out of concern for our health and to model behavior that is encouraged by the health community.

The District Meeting will be held virtually on Nov. 4. There will be a business meeting and a speaker but watch for more information via email from Brandy.

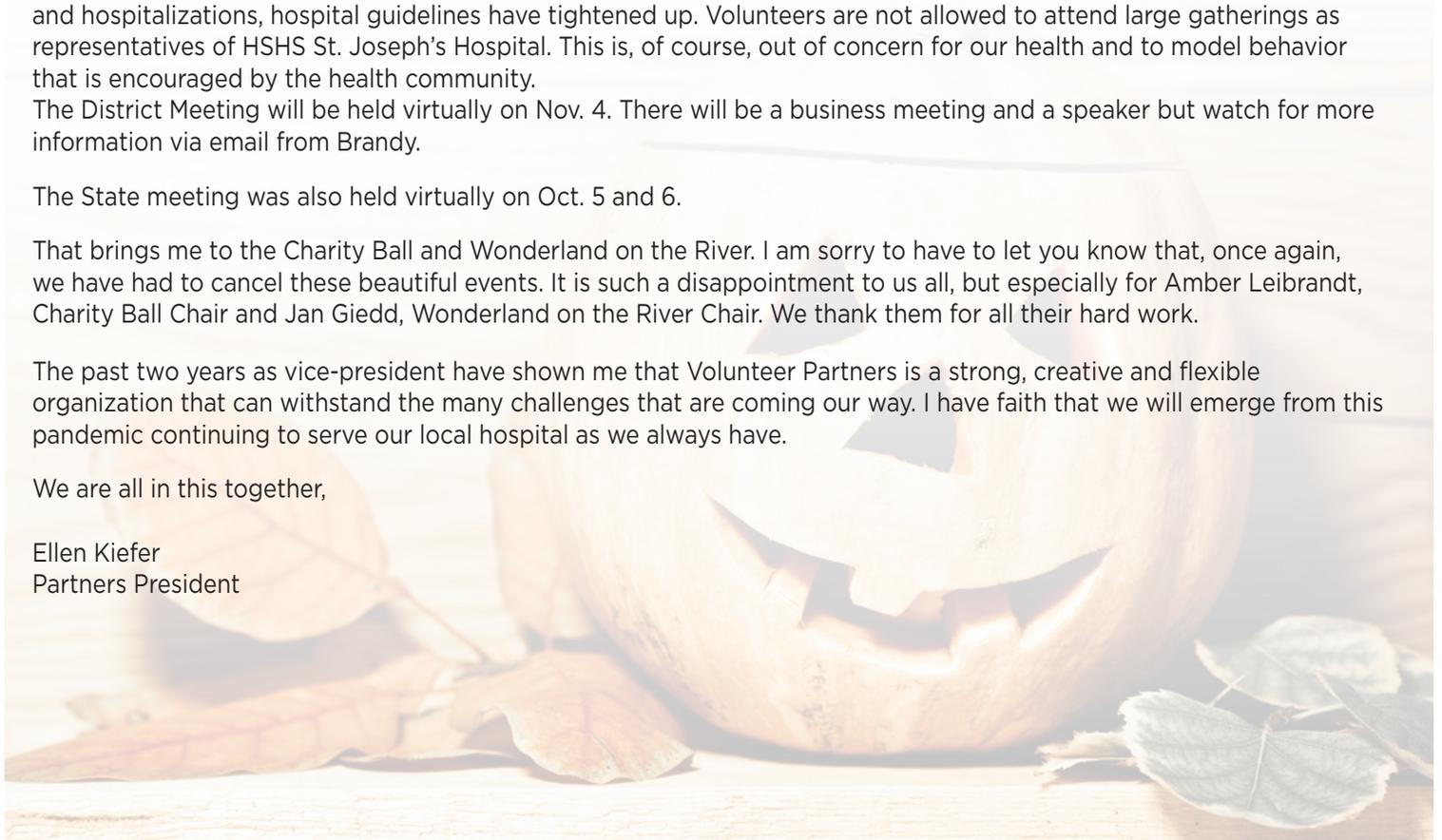
The State meeting was also held virtually on Oct. 5 and 6.

That brings me to the Charity Ball and Wonderland on the River. I am sorry to have to let you know that, once again, we have had to cancel these beautiful events. It is such a disappointment to us all, but especially for Amber Leibrandt, Charity Ball Chair and Jan Giedd, Wonderland on the River Chair. We thank them for all their hard work.

The past two years as vice-president have shown me that Volunteer Partners is a strong, creative and flexible organization that can withstand the many challenges that are coming our way. I have faith that we will emerge from this pandemic continuing to serve our local hospital as we always have.

We are all in this together,

Ellen Kiefer  
Partners President





## STEAK FRY

### WE HAVE THE “BEST” VOLUNTEERS!!!!

Our Steak Fry 2021 was a success. For those involved, you know we were thrown a bit of a curve ball two days before the event. Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases locally, we could not offer a dine-in option. Thank you to Brandy Sikora and John Wagner for championing this event to proceed this year. Although we had to do a bit of scrambling, we were able to hold a successful Steak Fry. We changed tactics and had Delivery, Pick Up and Curbside Service. This was so successful we actually ran out of food!

We really were not sure what to expect as far as profit as our expenses were considerably higher to accommodate the safe practices. After everything was tallied, we can now contribute monies to support between 2-3 scholarships from HSHS Partners. My list of people to thank is extensive and because of the fear of omitting someone, I am not going to name names. Our volunteers are to be commended because without you and your hard work this would never have happened.



PARTNERS OF HSHS ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL



I am going to give a shout out to several businesses that supported us:

- Bush's Beans
- Kwik Trip Corporate
- Kwik Trip Grand Ave
- Kwik Trip Woodward Ave
- Walmart Chippewa Falls
- Klingers
- Jacobson's Meat Market
- McDonnel School Ambassadors
- Northern Tap Eau Claire

As this is my last year of chairing this event, I want to share my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has helped over the past few years. It is time to pass this on to Julie Clark who will bring a fresh approach to the event. She will be a very capable leader and with any luck I may even get to enjoy one of the meals in the future.

Betty Oddo  
Steak Fry Chair

## CHARITY BALL:

### Captain's Entry: Aug. 16, 2021

I regret to log, once again, our voyage has been postponed. Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases within our community, HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital has made the difficult decision to cancel the 49th Annual Charity Ball that was scheduled to take place on Sept. 10. We were sincerely looking forward to celebrating the sense of community and joy inspired by the Franciscan spirit of our Hospital Sisters -- together. While we are saddened that we cannot host the much-anticipated event, the health and safety of our patients and community members remains our top priority. For 48 years, the Charity Ball has been a way for us to give back to and connect with the community who has supported us. It is an opportunity to say thank you for helping. Despite the pandemic taking our White Star's Queen of the North Seas ship off course, we are so thankful to our colleagues, staff, volunteers, and supporters.

### Captain's Entry: Sept. 1, 2021

A NEW Launch Date has been issued! The 49th Annual HSHS Charity Ball has been scheduled for Friday, May 6, 2022! We welcome you again to the Port of Fest Valley Events in Cadott to enjoy a night of adventure on the High Seas. Look for more information in the coming months as we prepare to set sail again.



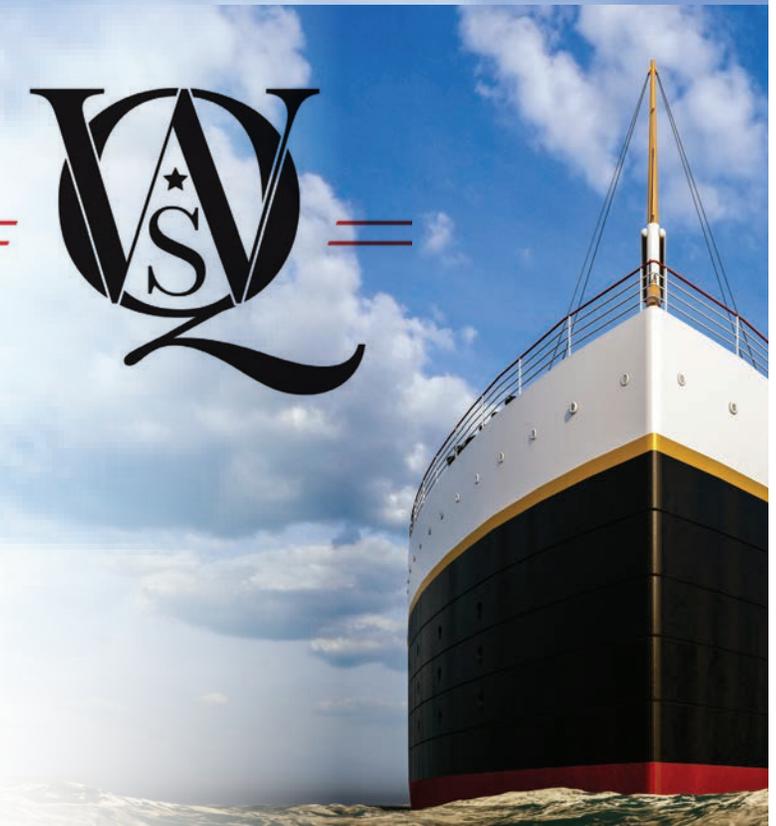
### Captain's Entry: Sept. 3, 2021

In lieu of the in-person event, we will be hosting a Charity Ball auction online. Beginning at 8 a.m. on Sept. 3, you can bid on a variety of items from the comfort of your home! Bidding ends at midnight on Sept. 12 and proceeds benefit the Volunteer Partners' current efforts, which support the mental and behavioral health initiatives of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. For more information, visit: [www.32auctions.com/Charityball2021](http://www.32auctions.com/Charityball2021). Thank you for your patience as we continue to navigate these uncharted waters. Your steadfast support of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital means so much to our hospital, patients and community.

With my amazing crew, First Officer Neil and Chief Officer Brandy, we wish to see you all, in person, at the 49th Charity Ball in May 2022 to honor community, commitment and the journey towards a promising future.

Amber Leibrandt

2021-2022 St. Joseph's Hospital Charity Ball Chair (Captain)



## PUBLIC POLICY

Congress returns from their summer recess this week. The biggest item on the agenda is the bipartisan infrastructure bill. The Senate has already approved the bill and House leadership has committed to a vote by Sept. 27. It is expected to pass in the House, but that is not certain. The \$1.1 trillion bipartisan bill may be paired with a \$3.2 trillion bill that is championed by House Democrats. President Biden has said he will sign the bipartisan bill. The Democratic measure faces challenges in the Senate. So far, two Democratic senators are hinting they will not vote for the bill as currently written. To pass the bill in the Senate, using the reconciliation process, all 50 Democratic senators must vote for it.

The process of redistricting has started in the state. By law, it needs to be completed by Nov. 23. But, don't expect it to be set by that date. The districts are drawn up by the Republican controlled legislature and the plan will most likely be vetoed by Governor Evers. From there, lawsuits will likely occur and the courts will get involved. Last time, the maps went all of the way to the US Supreme Court, who ruled that federal courts did not have jurisdiction over state maps. Therefore, redistricting issues will be determined by state courts.

Ron Kind, third district congressman, has announced he will be retiring and will not seek another term. Expect a heated battle for the open seat in 2022.

And speaking of elections, so far 10 Democrats are in the race for the Senate seat currently held by Ron Johnson. As of this writing, Johnson has not said if he will run for re-election.

Just a reminder to dig below the headline, especially on social media posts. A couple websites that rate the accuracy of claims include [www.policifact.com](http://www.policifact.com) and [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org).

Lastly, it is okay to take a break from all of the news every once in a while.

Julie Clark  
PPE Chair



## THE COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

Another great season of donating to the food pantries and free kitchens in the Chippewa Valley is nearing an end. Our long-term gardening friends and some new ones have been producing volumes of produce to offset the hunger crises locally. For the second year in a row, all of our plots were reserved. Three of them were planted and harvested by persons needing produce for their own tables.

Milestones and Other News:

- Our beekeeper, Don Hauser and his helper, Richard Omara have been having a good year with the beehives. Don also tutored Rick Beckler and Janeen Albrecht in the fine art of beekeeping and both Rick and Janeen now have hives in a location in the Lake Hallie area. I'm told that a honey harvest that took place a few weeks ago yielded over 90 lbs of honey! Not only do we have our busy little bee friends pollinating our Community Garden, but in the spirit of sustainability, we now have two new beekeepers to increase pollination in other locations, as well.
- Our little 18-tree apple orchard is 5 years old now and our good friend Don Albrecht of the Albrecht Nursery on Hwy 124 prunes them each spring and works with them to increase the strength of the branches on each tree. The time will come in a few years where those strong branches will be allowed to produce a sustainable apple crop to share with our food pantries. Don's family has also placed native plants around each tree trunk to stimulate root growth.
- All of our gardeners have done a wonderful job this year. By the time you read this, we will have surpassed the 2,000 lb. mark. Although volumes this year are slightly behind that of 2020, it is most likely because we planted later this year. There is quite a bit more produce to be harvested, and we may even get to 3,000 lbs for the third season. At the time I am writing this, we have already surpassed 16,000 lbs. of produce donated over the last 9 years which means that the gardens have contributed over 8 tons of food in less than a decade!
- When my wife and I arrived at the garden on a Wednesday in early August, hospital grounds maintenance colleague Tim Bresina was at the garden entrance with

his mower. He greeted us and said, "Look what Mark Sergey just donated." I was amazed. Mark is a recently retired HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital colleague who is moving to another location in Wisconsin and had to give up his garden. When he decided to donate his garden tools and equipment, he immediately thought of the Community Garden. Among the donated items were 6-8 heavy duty tomato cages, a couple of buckets, a hand trowel and hand rake, a leaf rake, a garden rake, a dozen or so metal posts and an equal amount of long netting stakes. These tools, of course, are for use by our gardeners, making it even easier to be a volunteer grower - we don't even have to haul tools from home. What a great blessing to have such a generous donation bestowed upon us.

- There are always wonderful stories to tell about the Community Garden experience. Each year there are new gardeners joining the team and they bring with them positive experiences to share. We have a high school student this year that wanted to contribute and took advantage of our program to "cultivate" her love of gardening. Our college student returned to garden with us again this year. She finished two years at CVTC and finished her first year as a nursing student at UWEC in the spring. Her garden plot is used to supplement her campus cafeteria diet. We also had a resident of Comforts of Home take on cultivation of a plot this year. He and a few other residents planted with us and are using their harvest to supplement meals from the Comforts of Home kitchen. The residents there are thrilled to get produce fresh from the garden, reminding many of them of the years when they gardened for their own families. Once again we have a lot to be thankful for - the support of the hospital Partners, hospital colleagues,

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*Continued from page 7*

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 "Green Beanie"..  
Roger Elliott  
Volunteer Coordinator, HSHS St. Joseph's Community Garden



## COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION:

### **Pediculosis-Body Lice**

Body lice infestation occurs primarily on clothing while pubic/crab lice infest hairy parts of the body including groin, eyebrows, eye lashes, and facial hair. Both body lice and pubic/crab lice feed on human blood and can cause severe itching.

Anyone can contract this disease regardless of age, sex, race or standards of personal hygiene. It's usually found in crowded or unsanitary conditions where clothing is infrequently changed or laundered. Pubic lice are mainly found among sexually active individuals.

Body lice are spread from person to person from close contact, sharing of clothing or by bed linens. Lice from animals do not infest humans. First indication of infestation is usually itching. They can cause a bacterial infection on certain areas of the body. Symptoms appear in 2-3 weeks. Lice can spread as long as they remain alive.

How to prevent body lice:

Avoid physical contact with infected individuals and belongings. All close contacts and infected individuals should be examined. Clothing and linen should be washed in HOT water or a machine drying at the hottest setting for 20 minutes. Toys can be sealed in plastic bags in order to destroy the lice and eggs.

Treatment:

Use medicated shampoos and cream rinses for lice. Some beauty shops have a specific product to treat; you will just need to let them know first.

Pat Bertrand  
CHE Chair



## VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Where to begin? What a roller coaster of a year! Between COVID still looming over us, vaccinations, and political issues and not to mention, the tantrums of Mother Nature I have learned to live each day as it is given to me by accepting the challenges that are presented and embracing my relationships. We all, especially recently, have fallen into a self-crippling judgement of ourselves. There are many forces in our lives that leave us with a sense of self-doubt and unworthiness.

This sense of self-doubt and unworthiness brought on by the affairs of this past year has created a mental health crisis. I chose to reflect and reconnect with myself leading to a better path but there are many people out there who are not able to bring themselves back from that unworthy feeling. The new bill that was passed recently to add more behavioral health beds to HSHS Sacred Heart and HSHS St. Joseph's hospitals is a blessing. There are many people in our communities that require support, and it was always the Sisters' mission to help those that are in need and it is our mission to continue that.

Volunteering with an organization helps those that may be feeling "lost" and unworthy. It gives them a sense of belonging and purpose. Creating new friendships with other volunteers and the staff counteracts the effects of stress, anger and anxiety increasing your mental and physical wellbeing. Please take a chance to look at the different volunteer opportunities that are out there whether it is at the hospital or another organization that would interest you. We are always looking for smiling, helpful people!

Brandy Sikora  
Manager of Volunteer Services

## WONDERLAND ON THE RIVER

Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases within our community, HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital has made the difficult decision to cancel all events going forward, including the Wonderland on the River event that was scheduled to take place on Oct. 30.

While we are saddened that we cannot host this much-anticipated event, the health and safety of our Partners, patients and community members remains our top priority.

Save the date for next year's event which is scheduled for Saturday Nov. 5, 2022!

## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE NOVEMBER 1-5

Despite not being able to invite community members in to the Gift Shop unless they are there for appointments or visiting patients, we are looking forward to having our Holiday Open House the first week of November. The colleagues look forward to the event just as much as you all do. What better way to show our appreciation than to have a fun holiday event to unwind and indulge in some retail therapy?

If you are interested in what the shop has to offer, reach out to Brandy. She will have a private Facebook group with pictures and descriptions of the items!



### Meet Terri Hutson!

Terri joined the Volunteer Partners in the early summer and has accepted the role of President-Elect and will work alongside Ellen Kiefer for the next two years to gain knowledge about the Partners group so that she can lead us as President in 2023-2025.

Terri grew up in Black River Falls and after receiving her degree in Business Administration, she worked with the State of Wisconsin-Chippewa County followed by Fries Financial.

She is married to Tim of 45 years and they have three children, eight grandsons and one granddaughter.

Terri enjoys volunteering with many different organizations, flowering, gardening, playing cards and family gatherings.

Please welcome Terri to the Volunteer Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Family!

## ... WHAT'S OLD WILL BE MADE NEW AGAIN!

-Deanna Rubenzer/Parliamentarian

Grab a cup of coffee, sit down in your favorite chair. I want to tell you a wonderful story of perservance and patience.

When the new Hospital was built, all of the stained glass windows from that chapel were removed and put into storage for repurposing. Two went to our Chapel; two went to the Emergency Room renovation at our present facility, as they depicted the good works of the Sisters here in the Chippewa Valley. The remaining four were crated and sent to Springfield, Illinois for use at the motherhouse. We worked feverishly to get all the medical equipment, furnishings and other expensive equipment - along with the patients out before or on moving day. But on that last day a very sad thing happened. The two beautiful stained glass windows in the lobby depicting the Holy Family and Jesus healing a blind man - had to be left behind. And, the door to negotiating their removal was shut.

Most recently that old hospital building changed hands and I took this opportunity to have a discussion with the new owner. The meeting was very positive and the owner too, felt the windows should be returned to the rightful owner. The windows were included in the price of the hospital when the new owners took ownership in 1975.

Then ... it was almost like a miracle. Forty-five years later, at a Volunteer Partners Council meeting, Bobbi Gilles, Foundation, and I presented the opportunity to purchase

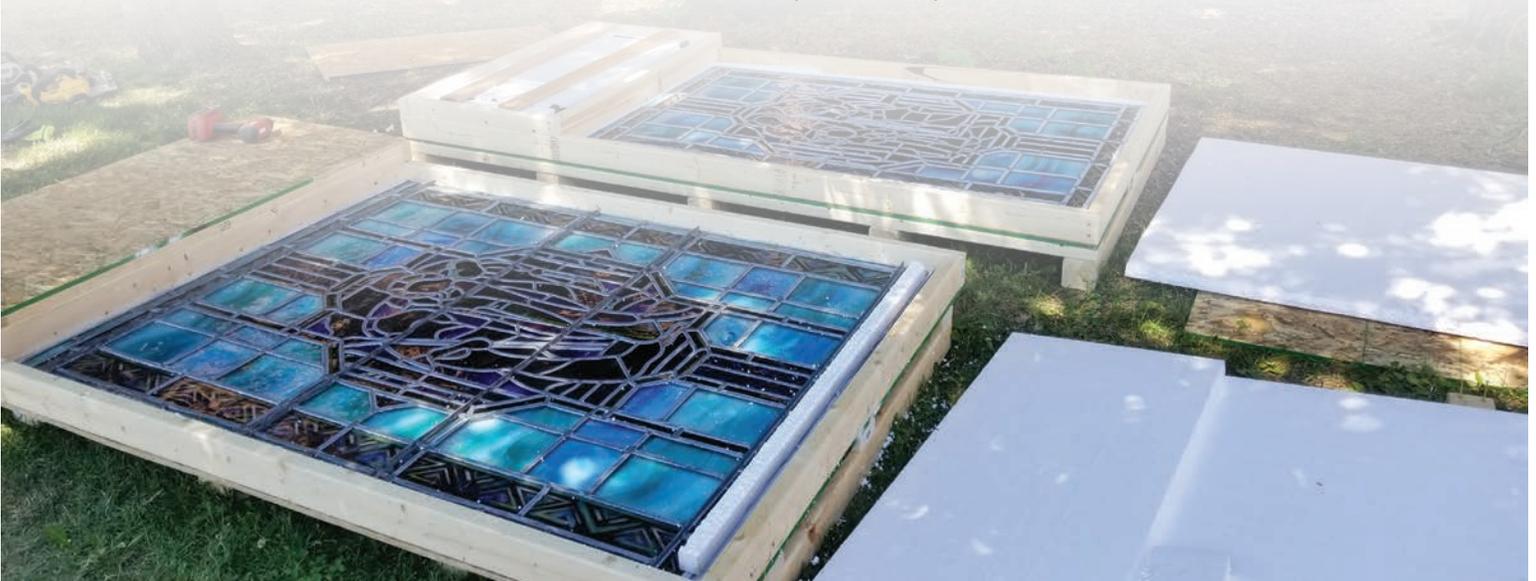
back the windows! Mary Rose Willi then proposed this to the Volunteer Partners Council and they unanimously agreed that both windows should be purchased and brought back to their rightful place. After appraisal, your Volunteer Partners authorized \$10,000 to purchase these stained glass windows. The Foundation rounded off the rest of the purchase.

Early this spring, the windows were safely placed into storage here until a decision can be made where they can be incorporated into our hospital.

Our story has a very happy ending and a wonderful message of hope and patience. It also is a story of what can happen when good people step outside of themselves and come together to do good. Mary Rose Willi and the Volunteer Partners along with the HSHS Western Division Foundation are to be commended for this reinvestment into our hospital's future.

AND THIS BEARS REPEATING ...

"In the last letter I received from Sister Frances Elizabeth Schmitz, Foundress, Volunteer Partners, she was reminiscing over how beautiful the windows in the Chapel looked ... "How beautiful and prayerful the chapel must be for those who seek solace in times of anxiety and daily challenges! The windows are beautiful and so worth preserving. But it took the staff of St. Joseph's Hospital and the Volunteer Partners to make their replacement occur. I do thank you for that and all the present projects to clarify and beautify the identity of the hospital campus. The hard work that makes your contribution to relieve the pain of this present world is a Godlike service.







<b>October 13</b>	Council and General Membership Meeting	Virtual
<b>November 1-5</b>	Gift Shop Holiday Sale	
<b>November 3</b>	Council Meeting	Virtual
<b>November 4</b>	Partners District Meeting	Virtual
<b>November 25</b>	Happy Thanksgiving!	
<b>December 1</b>	Council Meeting	Virtual
<b>December 2</b>	Lovellights	
<b>December 25</b>	Merry Christmas!!	
<b>December 31</b>	Cheers to a NEW YEAR!!	

