

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **Scholarship Recipients Announced**
- **Community Garden**
- **Walking Club**
- **Celebrating 50th Anniversary**



Scholarships

We had a great response this year, 28 total, and there were so many OUTSTANDING applicants that it was a very hard decision this year. But we narrowed them down and have chosen 6 worthy individuals that will be going on to the healthcare field or expanding their knowledge to care for the patients in the communities.

Each year we share this excitement with the recipients by having a luncheon in July. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions we are not able to have large gatherings but we are planning to have a small get together with the Executive Council and the recipients to be able to present them their check. Pictures and a recap of the gathering will be in the October Stethoscope.

Below are the Recipients of the 2020 Scholarships:

Alissa Benson

She is currently attending the UW-LaCrosse and is anticipating graduation in May 2021. She is working towards her Bachelors in Science Degree in Therapeutic Recreation, minor in Spanish and Pre-Occupational Therapy and her ultimate goal is to become an Occupational Therapist. At 16 her first job was a respite caregiver for a 4 year old girl with cerebral palsy and after bringing her to OT appointments she became intrigued by the work that the therapists did and never looked back at what she wanted to do.

Maria Friedel

Maria graduated from Chi-Hi in 2020 and is planning to attend Winona State University this upcoming Fall. Her goal is to be a BSN registered nurse and eventually a Nurse Practitioner. Last summer she began a CNA class and is currently working as a CNA in a local nursing facility. She also enjoys life-guarding at the local pool.

Alexis Zenner

As a 2020 graduate from Chi-Hi, Alexis is looking forward to the next chapter in her life attending UW-Eau Claire and pursuing her BSN and becoming a Nurse Practitioner. After hearing many stories from her Aunt who was a Transplant Unit Nurse and now a Dialysis Nurse she became hooked and realized that she wanted to care for patients and make their lives better.

Continued on next page

Scholarships, Continued

Jillian Filtz

Jillian, originally from Rosholt, WI, is currently living in Chippewa Falls and attending UW-Eau Claire to receive her BSN and would like to continue schooling to receive her Masters Degree in Nursing. In 2015, her brother was in a traumatic car accident and was bedridden for three months. She took initiative and cared for her brother and that is when she realized her calling.

Toni McManus

As a colleague of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in the Radiology Department for nearly 8 years now, Toni is pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Healthcare Management so that she learn and expand her current role as a Facilitator for the Department. She was the lead for the 3D Mammography project at St. Joseph's Hospital and received part of the Service of Excellence Award last year.

Keyton Solberg

Keyton is a 2020 Grad from Chi -Hi and is looking forward to pursuing his BSN and becoming a Registered Nurse Anesthetist. He will be attending Viterbo University in the Fall. As a member of the High School's Harmonics Show Choir, Madrigal's, football, swimming and track, he kept busy but found time to get his CNA license and work at a local facility.

Jan Docksey
Scholarship Chair

Dear Volunteer Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital,
My name is Gillian and I am entering my third year at UWEC, my second semester of nursing school. I am very involved in multiple organizations on campus, such as Eau Claire Student Nurses Association, College Cancer Collaborative, and American Red Cross. I hope to continue to stay involved in the community following graduation. I am writing to you to thank you for your generous contribution toward my college education. This scholarship means so much to me. I am inspired by your gracious donations that you are giving to students in need. It means more than you could imagine. Thank you again and take care.
Sincerely,
Gillian Filtz

Thank you so much for your generous award from the Volunteer Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. Your support is helping me to reach my goal of graduating in Spring of 2021 with a bachelor's degree in Therapeutic Recreation (TR), a minor in Spanish, and prerequisites for Occupational Therapy (OT).

I grew up in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and I have two older sisters that have been stressed about paying off their student loans. This really motivated me to seek out scholarships. When I first came to the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse, I knew I wanted to attend Graduate School for Occupational Therapy after getting my bachelor's degree. However, I started as a Psychology major. I chose to change my major to Therapeutic Recreation because my supervisor at my on-campus job as an intramurals official told me about her major of TR and I was very intrigued. It wasn't until a few months later when I was at the rec center on campus, seeing TR students working one on one with elderly clients, that it hit me—that's what I want to be doing during my time as an undergrad, not psychology. So, I reached out to my former supervisor, and she connected me with her academic advisor and the rest is history! I'm so glad I changed my major and forever grateful to that supervisor for introducing me to the major. TR aligns perfectly with my interests and it's a great foundation for going into Occupational Therapy.

During this unprecedented time of COVID-19, I am most grateful for your scholarship.

I cannot begin to thank you enough, or to tell you how much this award means to me and my future. I hope to one day be able to help others like you have helped me.

With gratitude,

Alissa Benson

Alissa Benson

Dear Volunteer Partners of HSHS
St. Joseph's Hospital Scholarship,

Thank you so much for choosing me as the recipient of the Blindoo scholarship! I am truly grateful for this opportunity. I look forward to meeting you on July 8th at the Partner's Annual luncheon.

Sincerely,
Alexis Zenner

Dear HSHS Scholarship Committee,
Thank you very much for the generous scholarship award! It will be greatly appreciated as I attend Viterbo University to attain a Bachelors of Science in Nursing!

Thankfully,

Keyton Solberg

Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Partners of HSHS

At the invitation of Mary Rose Willi to write an article for the newsletter, these are my recollections as fresh in my mind as when things transpired 50 years ago.

It was the year of 1969, my children and my children were just young; Shari was 10, David 8 and Susan was 3. My mother had just gotten out of St. Joseph's Hospital and said to me, "Sister Frances will be calling you to be an officer." I knew then that mother and Sister Frances had been discussing the formulation of an Auxiliary. My mother was active in Auxiliaries in Tucson, AZ and was familiar with how vital they could be to and for a Hospital. I said, "Ok". Shortly thereafter I received a call from Sister Frances asking if I would serve as Vice President of the Auxiliary Board she was setting up to form the Auxiliary. Of course I said "Yes!".

Our charter board members were; myself, Ann Goodall, Rose Feeney, Verene Crane, Dorothy Klatt, and Gertrude Jasper. All appointed by Sister Frances. Our Board meetings always took place on the first level of the old St. Joseph's, take a left down the hallway to a Board Meeting Room. We spent months drafting, refining our by-laws and rightly so as this is the foundation of the organizational structure. I still have the original by-laws draft and have watched how they have been fine tuned over the years to reflect the changing times as well. Your strength and direction are based on the guidelines of by-laws.

The first membership meeting on January 21, 1970, brought together 33 women and 2 men. It was just a few weeks before Auxilians were distributing mail, maintaining a gift cart, serving at the information desk and carrying out the programs and services that brought friends, good will, and financial support to the hospital. I note here that all in hospital services were offered as areas we could serve by Sister Frances. A project that still continues today was an idea of Sister Frances- the Babysitting Clinic.

I note here that the Fall of 1971, the Auxiliary presented a \$25,000 pledge to the new hospital campaign-designated for the Special Care Unit to be built in the new hospital. An article in the Herald Telegram notes, "the largest single pledge received in the campaign at this date".

This is just glimpse into our past from the beginning-a remarkable organization that has endured and flourished over the past fifty years. We had a group that worked well together to achieve all that we set out to do. I know that Sister Frances Elizabeth Schmitz was always appreciative of all that was done. I always received letters of appreciation for all the things over the course of the years, and still have them today. Because of Sister Frances, we are the Auxiliary that we are today.



First Hospital Auxiliary Board of Directors
Left to Right (Front): Gertrude Jasper, Patricia Gutknecht, Ann Goodall, Verene Cray.
Standing: Sister Frances Elizabeth Schmitz, Dorothy Klatt, Rose Feeney.

May the events that are happening in the country today pass soon and we can all meet together and celebrate the achievements of this wonderful organization that has over and over again been a great supporter of and for HSHS.

*Patricia A. Gutknecht
Charter Board Member & Auxiliary
appointed by Sister Frances
Elizabeth Schmitz - 1969*

Words from Our Partners President

Dear Volunteer Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital,

First of all, I hope this finds each of you and your families healthy. It appears that all of our efforts have paid off and that the Corona virus is under control in the Chippewa Valley. Kudos to those of you who made masks or volunteered in any way!

You will find several cancellations in this edition of the Stethoscope. Our 50th Birthday Celebration that was originally scheduled for April, and then rescheduled for July has again been postponed. Jessica Erickson, our Special Programs Chair, had an awesome celebration planned. Thank you Jessica for your planning and we are determined to eventually celebrate the 50th Birthday of Partners. One part of the celebration was going to be a history of Partners given by Patricia Gutknecht. We asked Patricia, a charter board member, to submit an article describing the origins of our Partners. You will find her article in this Stethoscope. Thank you, Patricia for your past leadership. Other events that have been cancelled are Wonderland on the River and the Annual Steak Fry. Thank you to Jan Giedd and her committee who continue to plan for Wonderland 2021. Also thank you to Betty Oddo and Pat Bertrand for their continued leadership as they plan for the Steak Fry in 2021.

While there are several events cancelled, there are two Partners activities that continue. Roger Elliot and his Community Garden Committee have been busy using their green thumbs. And Dianne Fish, Chair of the Walking Club, continues to organize weekly walks. The Walking Club and the Community Garden are both great opportunities to socialize at a safe distance. Please see this Stethoscope for more information on the Community Garden and the Walking Club.

Even though many of our events have been cancelled, members of the Partners Council and the Project Committees continue to meet and plan for the future. These cancellations are disappointing for you, our members, but also for the guests who attend our events. As we return to a new normal, Brandy Sikora will guide us through a safe transition.

Normally, this time of year, the Partner's Council works with St. Joseph's administration to determine a project that we can financially support. With the cancellations of our fundraisers, the Partner's Council did not feel comfortable pledging a certain dollar amount for a specific project. Over the next fiscal year, we will work with administration on specific requests and we will vote on each request as it is presented. We will inform you of any approved pledges in the Stethoscope. Next year, we hope to return to our normal pledging process.

Some of you may know that Brandy Sikora has taken on the additional responsibility of volunteer coordinator at Sacred Heart Hospital. We look forward to working with Brandy and collaborating with Volunteer Partners of Sacred Heart when opportunities arise. I know each of you join me in supporting Brandy in her expanded role and assisting her wherever and whenever possible.

Finally on behalf of our Partner members I want to extend a huge THANK YOU to each of the colleagues of St. Joseph's Hospital for serving our communities during the pandemic!! We appreciate their dedication to providing excellent health care in a safe and secure environment.

Hopefully we can return to our regularly scheduled member lunches in October. Thank you for your continued support of the Volunteer Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. Please contact me at mary-rosewilli@gmail.com with any questions or concerns. Stay safe and healthy!

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



WHA Partners Annual Convention

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

Betty Oddo volunteered to co-chair the State Convention in 2022. Since the WHA State Convention has been cancelled, our district will now be responsible for the State Convention in 2023. The 2023 WHA State Convention will be held in Stevens Point. The great news is that Betty will remain as co-chair in 2023 and John Tully will continue as her co-chair. The State Convention is a huge undertaking so Betty and John will be reaching out to Volunteer Partners of St. Joseph's Hospital with many volunteer opportunities.

WHA West Central District Fall Meeting

The Fall District Meeting has been cancelled due to safety concerns relating to the Corona virus. The Spring 2021 District Meeting is scheduled to be held in Eau Claire hosted by the Volunteer Partners of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital.

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

Wonderland on the River

The Wonderland on the River committee wants to thank all those who make the festive Wonderland on the River Event successful year after year. A special shout out to the table designers, table sponsors, fashion show sponsors and participants, raffle donors, and ALL volunteers. Unfortunately, the 2020 Wonderland on the River event has been postponed for a year to support our community's safety. We look forward to next year's event which we promise will be just as unique and fun as ever.

Jan Giedd
WOTR Committee Chair

Friendship Day

It was decided by the Council to cancel Friendship Day for 2020. Look forward to future Stethoscopes for 2021 plans!

Used Book Sale—Still On!

Upcoming Used Book Sale will be held on October 3rd and 4th this year.
Setup will be on October 2nd starting at noon.
Books can be dropped off at Information Desk in the front lobby starting September 1st.
Please to not bring old, smelly books, no encyclopedias, no old text books or out of date computer books.
We will need volunteers for all of the dates so if you would like to help please call either the Volunteer office at 715-717-7439 or Barb Rasmus at 715-723-9273.

Barb Rasmus
Used Book Sale Chair

Membership – Annual Memberships are Due

July 1st marks the time for the annual membership dues to be paid. Annual memberships are \$10, Lifetime memberships are \$100. 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

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

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 promote and encourage greater community awareness through serving others and in doing so carrying out the hospital's mission. Please invite your friends or family who would like to join our hospital family and volunteer in the many opportunities.

Current Membership: 227 Honorary: 8 Lifetime: 109 Yearly: 110
New Members 2019-2020: 12
Inactive Members 2019-2020: 11

*Jan Horan
Membership Chair*



Public Policy

On May 15th the House of Representatives passed the HEROS act another coronavirus aid package for 3 trillion dollars, with 100 billion earmarked for health care related issues. The Senate is not expected to act on the bill. The Senate is working on an aid package over the Summer that will probably be less money. They prefer to wait and see how funding from the CARE act has been spent before approving a new appropriation.

Telehealth visits have gone from 12,000/day prior to the pandemic to more than 1,000,000/day since The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) expanded payments for Telehealth. CMS has done this via rule and Congress must act to make the changes permanent. CMS and other Trump administration officials see real value in continuing the funding for telehealth visits.

State of Wisconsin has started to distribute an 40 million dollars provided by the CARES act to Wisconsin hospitals for COVID-19 relief. The are allocated based on Medicaid inpatient and outpatient base payments from the previous year.

Work is beginning of the Wisconsin 2021-23 Wisconsin state budget. We are in a very challenging economic environment. A 2 billion budget shortfall is expected in the current budget, due to decreased revenues, high unemployment and a large increase in the medicaid population. WHA is engaging with elected leaders – more to come.

Tom Tiffany was elected in the special election for the 7th Congressional District Congressional seat. His opponent in the special election, Tiffany Zunker, has already announced she is running in the Fall election.

*Julie Clark
Public Policy Educator*

Community Garden

At the moment I am writing this it's the first week of June and most of the Community Garden plots have been planted. Our 8th season marks the 3rd time that we've had all 24 plots reserved and the first time that all 24 plots are actually planted! Although we lose a gardener or two each year, we've been blessed by newcomers joining us each year as well. This year we welcome a team of gardeners from the Veterans Assistance Foundation, a team of retired hospital rehab department colleagues, Cathy Lombard's son, and two new gardeners growing for their own tables.

Although COVID19 has interrupted nearly every aspect of our daily lives, even for those of us blessed to have not contracted the disease, the one thing that our gardeners can still enjoy is their work with the Community Garden program. We are out in the fresh air, avoiding close contact, taking reasonable precautions as we garden using proper hand-washing techniques and clean-up of common tools.

Thanks to our friends at Rainmaster Lawn Systems, we now have a water hydrant with four spigots available to us in the garden. It is connected to the irrigation system water supply and stands midway along one side of the garden and provides a source of fresh water for us. There's a hand soap bottle attached to the hydrant, hoses and a spray nozzle are available, and we even have a new vegetable washing platform adjacent to the hydrant area. Now we can wash the veggies that are harvested from below ground (taters, carrots, radishes, etc.) and clean up ourselves and our tools as well.

With every plot being reserved we have the potential for our most productive year ever!

Our corps of gardeners this year includes:

- 1st Year Individual, for own table (1 plot)
- 1st Year Individual, for own table (2 plots)
- 1st Year Richard O'Mara, working with Don Hauser
- 1st Year TJ Lombard, working with Cathy
- 2nd Year Veterans Assistance Foundation, team of 4 men (2 plots)
- 2nd Year Retired Rehab Colleagues (1 plot)
- 3rd Year Don Albrecht (caretaker of the Apple Orchard)
- 3rd Year Don Hauser (3 plots)
- 4th Year Sallie Butcher, the Eagles Club (2 plots)
- 5th Year Cathy Lombard, working with TJ (8 plots)
- 6th Year Rick Beckler (3 plots)
- 8th Year Roger and Lois Elliott (1 plot)

We had a great bit of news coverage about the garden for the HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Colleagues as part of the organizations "In the Loop" program. Hospital President, John Wagner interviewed me at the garden for a 2-minute segment designed to keep the colleagues informed about the mission of the Community Garden and its relationship to the hospital.

Many thanks to Don Wester, Manager of Tractor Central for his excellent work in tilling the plots for us this year. With a brand new tractor and mulcher at the dealership Don brought his personal expertise to the garden and tilled it for us.

Our beekeeper, Don Hauser has re-populated our bee community and they're busy every day, making honey.

Busy on the east end of the garden in the raspberry patch early this spring was the Lombard family. Cathy, her son TJ, and granddaughter Aria, weeded, cleaned up and mulched the patch for us. Barb Koppes usually takes on this task, but health concerns this year prevented her from doing so. Many thanks to the Lombards for their effort. We are once again making great progress restoring the "patch" to its full potential.

Community Garden, Continued

Once again I have been blessed with opportunities to share the Community Garden story within the community. On Tuesday, April 21st, I was invited to bring our power point presentation to the Chippewa Falls Rotary Club via a “virtual” meeting. The Rotarians posted my Community Garden power point on line and I undertook the narration via phone. Back in February I made a personal presentation of the Community Garden story to the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition group in an effort to solicit new gardening teams from within the various Chippewa Falls area churches. Unfortunately, the COVID19 pandemic prevented church groups from meeting and gearing up for a season of gardening, but we always appreciate the opportunity to communicate the message of our program to the community.

Gardeners get to have the wildlife in the area keep us company each season – the turkeys have been strutting their stuff in the open field, the eagle from the nest on the Northern Center grounds soars overhead, the bluebirds are back in town and we’ve recently been visited by a few Monarch butterflies.

Community Garden season 8 is off to a great start!

God is great! Every day in every way.



the “Green Beanie”...

Roger Elliott

Volunteer Coordinator, HSHS St. Joseph’s Community Garden



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
Walking Club Chair



Gift Shop

Whoop Hoo!! The Gift Shop has opened again! Beginning June 1st, the shop was approved to be open with limited hours and days and with certain restrictions put in place. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Brandy opens the shop up from 10am-2pm and the colleagues have been really appreciative. They missed their “retail therapy” and candy. With 40% off, sales have been great! Hope to be able to bring back the volunteers soon and open up more hours and days. Restrictions include; wearing a mask at all times, only 2 customers at a time, sanitizing hands prior to entering, and limiting touching of merchandise.

Volunteer Services

I wish I could say Welcome Back! However, we have not been able to get any volunteers back at the hospital as of June 20th. It is looking like we are getting closer to inviting them back as there has been talk about initializing a new role for the volunteers by having them help the screeners by handing out face masks and doing some wayfinding for the patients and visitors. Crossing my fingers that it passes and I will be calling volunteers back soon! There will be some guidelines with this too. Masks will need to be worn at all times along with goggles/eye protection shield. A risk acknowledgement form and COVID training will also need to take place. Going forward, things are going to look different, not just at the hospital but community wide too. I hope you all are staying safe but enjoying your summer months!

*Brandy Sikora
Manager of Volunteer Services
HSHS St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart Hospital*

Health Education: A Note Regarding Dementia

Dementia is a condition characterized by a progressive decline of mental abilities accompanied by changes in personality and behavior. There is commonly a loss of memory and skills that are needed to carry out every day activities. It is estimated that 5% of those over 65 have dementia and 20% over the age of 80.

Early stages of dementia:

- More forgetful of recent events
- Less concerned with activities or other people
- Changes in behavior/personality
- More irritable or upset if unable to manage a task

If you are at all concerned about a loved one, make an appointment with your friend or family member to see their physician. Seek early help, some conditions may be treatable. The sooner, the better...it will be easier to prepare for the future.

*Pat Bertrand
Health Education Chair*

Steak Fry—Looking Forward to 2021

Unfortunately Partners of HSHS St Joseph's Hospital has made the difficult decision to cancel the Steak Fry for 2020. This decision was not made lightly but after taking everything into consideration it was decided this was in the best interest of everyone. Safety was a major factor as was the uncertainty of the next couple of months.

BUT.....We are already booked for 2021.....August 5th at The Knights of Columbus Hall, Chippewa Falls. Watch for the details in the upcoming Stethoscopes.

Thank you so much for all your support during this chaotic time but I have faith we will come out of this stronger. Stay safe.

*Betty Oddo
Steak Fry Chair*



Upcoming Calendar of Events

July 8	Partner's Membership Luncheon	Canceled
August 6	Steak Fry	Canceled
September 1—30	Used Book Collection	Hospital Lobby
September 20—22	Oktoberfest	Canceled
October 1—2	Used Book Sale	McDonald Hall
October 6—8	WHA Partners Annual Convention	Canceled
October 14	Partner's Membership Luncheon	TBD
October 24	Charity Ball	Lake Wissota Golf

~ Happiness is enjoying the little things in life ~