



HSHS  
Sacred Heart  
Hospital

The Volunteer Partners newsletter is published three times a year to communicate information of interest and usefulness to volunteers and friends. We welcome all suggestions and comments. You may contact me at 715-225-3978 or email me at [Jaci.Fuller@hshs.org](mailto:Jaci.Fuller@hshs.org) Jaci Fuller, Information Desk, Newsletter Coordinator and Friendship/Welcome Committee.

#### VOLUNTEER PARTNERS MISSION STATEMENT

In partnership with HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, the Volunteer Partners will provide compassionate, supportive services for patients, their families and hospital staff; promote community awareness of the Hospital's mission; and raise funds for Hospital needs.

HSHS SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

# VOLUNTEER *Partners*

SPRING/SUMMER 2022



**APRIL 17 - 23, 2022  
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**

## **HATS OFF TO VOLUNTEERS!**

**Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held on April 27. Thank you to all who attended!**





### *Dear Volunteer Partners,*

The month of April is recognized as National Donate Life Month which honors the generous gifts made possible by living and deceased organ, tissue and eye donors. According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, more than 2,000 men, women and children in Wisconsin are on the national waiting list for organ transplants. On April 4, a flag was raised outside of our Hospital's front entrance for the month, in honor of donors and their families. Our work is rooted in a commitment to promote and defend human dignity, as outlined in the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Service.

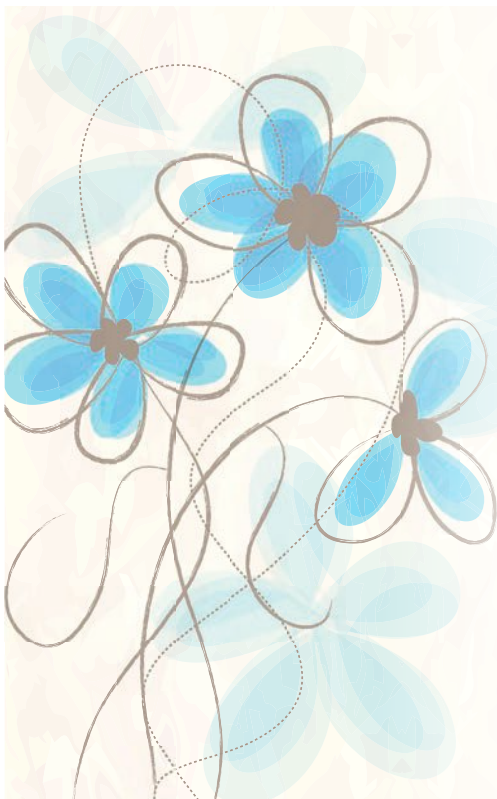
In honor of National Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 17 - 23) I want to say thank you. You are caring, dedicated and committed. Thank you for helping our colleagues provide the best possible support and comfort to our patients, their families and visitors. Each and every one of you helps our patients, visitors and colleagues have much brighter days.

Your focus and attention to living out the values and mission of our Hospital Sisters is obvious, and I'm grateful for your passion for the quality of health care we provide. Thank you for embodying Christ's healing love as you work to keep HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital the hospital of choice for residents of the Chippewa Valley.

Best

Andy Barth,  
President and CEO  
HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital

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**All life is an experiment.  
The more experiments you make, the better.**

**-Ralph Waldo Emerson**

### *A note from your President*



#### **Happy 2022!**

The Volunteer Partners Council will soon be electing new officers. This year we are facing a dilemma. Our Charter states that nominees must be Hospital volunteers with at least one year of service. Our pool of volunteers has shrunk due to the pandemic and people choosing to opt out of their volunteer roles. Because of this I ask that you please say yes if you are approached by Brandy or our Nominating Committee Chair Steve Werner. Being on the Council is rewarding, you meet new people, help with dates and plan events. Brandy can always be relied on to guide us and answer questions. I would love to see you on the Council.

We will begin meeting in person again in a few weeks. I think all of us are ready to resume this personal connection. COVID has certainly changed our lives and the way we do things.

In February I attended a virtual Fundraising event. It was very well run with “breakout rooms” on various topics. Some fundraisers have been tried by us in the past, some take more manpower and woman power than we currently have. It was interesting to learn what other hospital volunteers are doing to raise money and to support their staff.

In March some of us attended the virtual Wisconsin Hospital Association Advocacy Day. The annual WHA Advocacy Day is designed to educate and motivate health-care employees, trustees and volunteers on important health-care related issues and to encourage grassroots advocacy opportunities. The speakers were excellent and the issues timely. I was unable to “meet” with my representatives this time. I hope others were able to make use of this opportunity.

Stay happy and healthy and have a wonderful summer.

Kathy Herfel,  
President HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital Volunteer Partners

*“Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future.”*

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**It’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.**

**-Abraham Lincoln**





### *Volunteer Services Manager Notes...*

#### **Dear Volunteers,**

Spring....is it here yet?! By the time you read this....I really hope it has arrived by now!

National Volunteer Week was April 17-23 and we celebrated our volunteers at the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon held on Wednesday April 27 at 29 Pines/Sleep Inn and Suites Conference Center. Almost 60 volunteers were attendance from both St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart Hospital. The theme, "We Need S'More Volunteers Like

You", encouraged many volunteers to dress in their camping gear. Laughter and a constant buzz was heard as the volunteers enjoyed each other's company. Andy Barth, President and CEO of HSHS Sacred Heart and John Wagner, President and CEO of HSHS St. Joseph's, joined us with a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers and a picnic theme meal was served. Volunteer Feud brought out the competitors and over 60 volunteers were honored!! We are truly blessed to have you all part of HSHS and our ministries. Thank you for your dedication, compassion and time throughout the year. Together, you have selflessly given 9,402 hours!

#### ***Below are the Sacred Heart volunteers that were honored:***

##### **5 YEARS**

Carol Dittmar  
Ann Lamoureux  
Bill McCullough  
Roxie Miescke  
Mark Richter  
Chloe Rumpel (Pet Therapy)  
Rhonda Schnacky  
Bella Schnacky (Pet Therapy)

##### **10 YEARS**

Sandy Hart  
Kathy Herfel  
Pat Lesniewski  
Marianne McElroy  
Russ McElroy  
Diane Parr  
Judy Peak  
Paul Vanderheiden

##### **15 YEARS**

Kathy Dawald  
Jaci Fuller  
Jack Ruppelt  
Sharon Schug

##### **20 YEARS**

Pat Janowitz  
Pat Rumpel

##### **25 YEARS**

Bob Green

##### **35 YEARS**

Ceil Marshall

\*Volunteer years of service are from  
April 1, 2019 - March 30, 2022

Volunesia (noun) : that moment when you forget you're volunteering to help change lives, because its changing yours.....Author Unknown

Brandy Sikora  
Manager of Volunteer Services

### *Gift Shop News*



#### **GIFT SHOP NEWS**

One of my favorite parts about being in the Gift Shop is asking customers, "What are you looking forward to?" It's a great positive-conversation starter and so much better than talking about the weather! People are starting to travel again so exciting vacation plans are in the works. Sometimes it's simply looking forward to warm weather and all the fun activities that come with summer in Wisconsin. Other times, it's hoping to leave the hospital sooner than later after an unexpected illness. Each story is one of hope; hope for better times ahead.

The Gift Shop is part of the hope for all these activities in the future. We have gifts to celebrate life's milestones or to simply say, 'thanks for helping me out.' Sometimes coming down to the shop to laugh at the amusing mugs or to look at four different walls is enough to give you a new outlook on the day. No matter what the reason, we have funny greeting cards, sassy mugs and great new tee-shirts that will have you smiling. Many times, the whole reason to come to the Gift Shop is for candy of some sort but as you walk around for that brief moment, you'll be a little less stressed and a bit happier. We all need some of that!

We have specials each and every month and everyone's favorite sale is coming in June...the \$1, \$5 and \$10 sale!!! Stop in to check out the monthly discounts and with Mother's Day and Father's Day coming soon, we know you'll need gifts for the folks that raised you and love you. And remember, you get a discount in your birthday month so make sure you take advantage of that as well. Hope to see you shopping soon.

Jennifer Stuber  
Gift Shop Coordinator



### *Council Updates*

#### **A TIME TO REMEMBER**

The Volunteer Partners wish to extend our sincere and heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of the following volunteers, who will be honored in the TAG (Tuition Assistance Grant) Program: Virginia Hartmann, Elizabeth Schafer and Kathryn Fandel.

(In memoriam the Volunteer Partners have made a donation to the HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG). This program provides financial aid to Hospital colleagues who seek to advance their knowledge and skills through continued education.)

During this time of sorrow,  
May you feel God's strength  
Through the loving concern  
Of those around you.

### PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION

#### Advocacy Day

In an address to nearly 1,000 virtual attendees at the WHA's annual Advocacy Day event on March 23, Gov. Tony Evers announced that he had just signed two important pieces of bipartisan legislation for Wisconsin hospitals and the patients they serve.

One of the bills that he signed, Assembly Bill 960, protects Wisconsin health care workers and their families from threats and acts of violence. Led by Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) and Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg), alongside Representative Gae Magnafici (R-Dresser) and Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine), the legislation passed both chambers of the Legislature on a voice vote earlier in March.

"Health care workers are better protected under this new law," said WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding. "WHA's members across the state express appreciation to Speaker Vos and Senate Majority Leader LeMahieu for authoring this important law and making passage of Assembly Bill 960 a priority at the end of session." Borgerding added, "WHA is also grateful to Governor Evers for signing Assembly Bill 960 into law, showing health care workers that they are vital to our state and important to protect."

The second bill signed by Gov. Evers, Assembly Bill 679, permanently enables hospitals to deliver in-patient level care in a patient's home. The legislation was a continuation of current authority provided to hospitals that would expire without legislative action. The bill was led by Senator Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield) and Representative Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton).

The bill signings and accompanying remarks by the governor were part of a half-day program organized and hosted by WHA to draw attention to issues affecting health care providers as they strive to deliver high-quality, affordable care to communities throughout Wisconsin.

The event featured a keynote discussion between former U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb and WHA's Borgerding focused on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and strategies that can be employed now to strengthen the State's and the nation's public health preparedness. WHA's Advocacy Day also included a bipartisan legislative panel discussion hosted by WHA Senior Vice President of Government Relations Kyle O'Brien which included Sen. Joan Ballweg (R-Markeson), Sen. LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee), Rep. Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) and Rep. Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee).

The lawmakers discussed the enactment of the last biennial budget, which made Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding permanent, as well as workforce and insurance-related challenges. Rep. Kurtz credited his GOP colleagues on the Joint Finance Committee for writing a budget that put Wisconsin in the best position for health care and credited WHA and its members for voicing their support for the budget given its inclusion of the permanent increase for DSH payments. Rep. Goyke said Gov. Evers deserves credit for coming up with a budget that set a benchmark that included key priorities for both parties, giving Republicans a target for developing their own budget.

The discussion then shifted to the health care workforce shortage and whether one of the challenges was people sitting on the sidelines unwilling to work. Sen. Johnson said she doesn't think the problem is people sitting on the sidelines so much as it is a demographics issue. "We have to remember, for every three people who retire, we only have one person to take their place," said Johnson.

Sen. Ballweg said she thinks Wisconsin needs to streamline regulations and provide more flexibility, noting that she heard from a constituent recently complaining about state licensure barriers. "I had a local gentleman talk to me last weekend who had a daughter that could not get her RN license done online, and so she got a license in Arizona instead," said Ballweg. She said she supports efforts to streamline licensure and increase the use of telehealth.

In addition to these issues, the panel also discussed several proposed bills this session that address insurer practices impacting care delivery and access to patient care. Rep. Kurtz highlighted how proud he was to work with WHA on Koreen's Law, legislation to restrict the practice of insurer-mandated "white bagging." He said it was important to educate his colleagues who were not aware of the difficulties this practice was causing for patients, which leads patients to spend hours on the phone to get special authorization for life-saving medications. Following the morning gathering, hospital representatives met virtually with their state senators and representatives. They thanked lawmakers for enacting public policies that help Wisconsin hospitals, providers, staff and their patients, including critical Medicaid funding, removing regulatory barriers for innovative care delivery models, and protecting health care workers from acts and threats of violence. Other key priorities highlighted included workforce challenges and hospitals' important role in serving their communities.

Steve Werner,  
West Central District PPE Chair

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## COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

### Overview of Elder Abuse and Neglect in Wisconsin

County agencies receive elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation referrals. The top five reasons for the referrals are self-neglect (50%), financial exploitation (20%), neglect (9%), emotional (5%) and physical abuse (3%). The referral incident is 90% life threatening. A caseworker is assigned to the referral and creates an individual service plan to help facilitate elder safety. The service plan for elders at risk can include community-based aides; service coordination like meals on wheels, transportation, medical services, facility service, substitute decision maker and advocacy/legal services.

In 2018 there were 8,792 elder abuse and neglect referrals received from relatives, medical professionals, law enforcement and other providers. At risk elders may be frail, physically disabled, mentally ill, medically fragile, substance abusers, and homebound. 33% of elders are between the ages of 70-79; 30% between the ages of 80-89 and primarily white females.

49% of elder adult abuse and neglect referrals do not have substitute decision makers and 35% do have substitute decision makers. The types of substitute decision makers include Power of Attorney (Health care and/or Financial) and Guardianship assignments. The decision makers may be son, daughter, spouse or other significant other.

In closing, the main cause for elder abuse and neglect is self-inflicted. Approximately 23% are caused by abusers who may be financially dependent on the elderly, mentally impaired, unemployed, and/or substance abusers who may or may not live with the elderly. All suspected elder abuse and neglect should be reported to the County Human Services Department or the County Aging and Disability Resource Center.

Mary Ann Bowman,  
Community Health Education (CHE) Co-Chair



### Coronavirus Anxiety

COVID-19 is still present in our everyday lives. Although mask mandates have lifted and people have become more social the presence of the new variant has caused us to pause and brace for the unknown. How dangerous is the new variant? Should we rush to become vaccinated or receive booster shots? How social should we be and should we wear masks? We hear so much news that it is difficult to decipher. We just want the infectious disease to end.

All of this information and all of these decisions can cause us stress and anxiety. How do we cope with a disease that will not go away?

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines anxiety as “an abnormal sense of apprehension and fear often marked by physical signs such as tension, sweating, and increased pulse rate, by doubt concerning the reality and nature of the threat, and by self-doubt about one’s capacity to cope with it.” According to Help Guide authors Melinda Smith, M. A. and Lawrence Robinson, there are steps that one can take to alleviate this anxiety.

- Stay informed, but don’t excessively check the news.
- Stick to trustworthy sources such as the CDC, World Health Organization, and your local health authorities.
- Limit how often you check for updates. Don’t become compulsive in your anxiety.
- Step away from media if you are feeling overwhelmed.
- Ask someone reliable to share important updates.
- Be careful what you share. Verify your information before you pass it on.

Focus on things you CAN control. There are so many faces of the coronavirus that we have no control over –how long it will last, how contagious it will be, how people will behave, and how our lives will be affected. Do what you can to control your own risk. Accept that your plan may not work as you wish. Focus on concrete things you can problem solve or change.

- Take care of your body and spirit.
- Be kind to yourself.
- Maintain a routine as best you can.
- Take time out for activities you enjoy.
- Get out in nature.
- Find ways to exercise.
- Avoid self-medicating.
- Take up a relaxation practice.
- Help others, reach out to others in need, donate to food banks, be a calming influence, and be kind to others.

Though we may not have complete control over the coronavirus, we have control over ourselves to live our lives both physically and mentally in the best way possible.

Sharon Schug,  
CHE Co-Chair





### TAG (TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM)

Again, this year the Volunteer Partners offered to the HSHS Sacred Heart colleagues and volunteers an opportunity to apply for a tuition assistance grant. The grants are contingent upon all the guidelines being met for application and completion of the coursework.

The Volunteer Partners of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital are proud to announce the recipients of the Tuition Assistance Grants (TAG) for 2022. They are:

- 1) Toby Stelzer (Echo Facilitator, Electrodiagnostic Lab) who is pursuing a BA degree in Health Care Management**
- 2) Kayla Gardner (RN, Cardiac Cath Lab) who is pursuing her Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree**
- 3) Amy Lokken (Labor and Delivery) who is obtaining her certification as a Fetal Monitoring Instructor**

A follow-up article about the personal journeys of all of these applicants will appear in the next newsletter. The Volunteer Partners are humbled by the qualifications of all of the applicants and thank everyone who participated in this process. We also encourage those who did not receive a grant this year to submit an application next year.

Any questions regarding the TAG Program, including applications for 2023, can be directed to: Brandalee Sikora, Manager of Volunteer Services, 715-717-7439 or e-mail [brandalee.sikora@hshs.org](mailto:brandalee.sikora@hshs.org).

Carol Dittmar,  
Chair

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### PARTNERS OF WISCONSIN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION INC.

The volunteers of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital are members of the State organization, the Partners of WHA (Wisconsin Hospitals Association). In addition to the volunteer opportunities on the local level, there are additional opportunities to participate in committees and events at the district and state level. Partners of WHA, founded in 1951, emphasizes member participation in health education and advocacy, and in volunteer service to Wisconsin's healthcare facilities. The Partners of WHA organization is divided into 7 districts across the State with 52-member hospital groups and 6,000+ volunteer members.

Volunteers are encouraged to get involved on the local, district or State level. Contact the Volunteer Manager or a member of the Council for more information. Also, check the Partners of WHA website for up-to-date information.

### HSHS SACRED HEART HOSPITAL COUNCIL MEMBERS - PARTNERS OF WHA

The following are the 2021/22 Council members for the Volunteer Partners of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital:

- ~ Kathy Herfel - President
- ~ Carol Dittmar - President-Elect
- ~ Steve Werner - Treasurer and PPE (Public Policy Education) Co-Chair
- ~ Chris McHugh - Secretary
- ~ Mary Ann Bowman - CHE (Community Health Education) Co-Chair
- ~ Sharon Schug - CHE Co-Chair
- ~ Bill McCullough - PPE Co-Chair
- ~ Ceil Marshall - Council Member
- ~ Judy Peak - Handcrafters Chair
- ~ Mark Richter - Fundraising Events

Please contact any of the above or Brandy Sikora for more information regarding the Volunteer Partners and how to get involved. We need YOU!!

### *Past Events*

#### **APRIL - NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH**

April was designated as Volunteer Month, and April 17 - 23 as National Volunteer Week. National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to recognize the impact of volunteer services and the power of volunteers to tackle society's greatest challenges, to build stronger communities and as a force that transforms the world. We thank volunteers who spend their time, talent and voice to make a difference in the community.

National Volunteer Week was established in 1974, when President Nixon signed an Executive Order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Since then, every U.S. president has signed a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Week. Each year, we shine a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve, recognizing and thanking our volunteers.

At HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, volunteers continue to "light the way" by showing compassion and kindness to all who enter, and are caring and helpful to visitors, patients and staff.

Thank you, volunteers, for all you do!

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#### **WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT MEETING**

The West Central District of the Partners of WHA held their spring meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. Ellen Kiefer, President of the Volunteer Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, welcomed everyone to the meeting, followed by a prayer by Terri Hutson, President-Elect of the Volunteer Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Steve Werner, West Central District PPE (Public Policy Education) Chair.

A report was given by Roger Elliott on the Community Garden which is a Community Outreach Project, followed by a report by Jocelyn Dietsch on The Heart of Nature, offering hope through the healing power of nature.

Betty Oddo, Chair of the West Central District, conducted the business meeting. Jaci Fuller, West Central District Secretary/Treasurer had Secretary and Treasurer Reports followed by the CHE and PPE reports. West Central District is in charge of the 2023 Partners of WHA convention, Betty announced, which will be held October 3 - 5, 2023 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.

The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity.  
The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.

-Sir Winston Churchill



*Because of all you do  
And all that you are,  
You deserve a special  
Birthday Blessing from afar.  
As a volunteer you do so much  
For others, so celebrate on your day  
Enjoy yourself and do  
Have a Wonderful Birthday!*

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### MAY

Bella Schnacky (Furry Friend) 1  
Leo Cavanaugh (Furry Friend) 1  
Steve Werner 4  
Janet Lesniewski 13  
Marian Olson 27

### JUNE

Lexi Radies 5  
Chloe Rumpel (Furry Friend) 6  
Mark Richter 22  
Kathy Herfel 27

### JULY

Kathleen Peterson 8  
Bill McCullough 18

### AUGUST

Linda McLeod 1  
Kathy Dawald 1  
Elizabeth Bauer 16  
Jan Ray 23  
Ann Lamoureux 25

\*Above are the active volunteers

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## HISTORICAL CORNER

The Volunteer Partners of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital will celebrate 83 years of service to the Hospital, its patients and colleagues in the fall 2022. It all began in 1939 when Sister Calista, Superior, asked Mrs. Laurene McIntyre to help organize a group of ladies to volunteer at the Hospital. On November 1, 1939, a group of 15 women met in the nurses' home to discuss objectives and procedures. Mrs. McIntyre was elected the first president of the volunteers. The motto was, "Volunteers caring for the patient, family, Hospital and community through service and dedication."

An enrollment tea was held on November 17, 1939 and was attended by 185 women. A volunteer work program was set up with three groups: 1) mending and sewing, 2) making surgical dressings, and 3) Christmas decorating at the Hospital. Over the years the organization's name has changed. In 1963 the name was changed to the Auxiliary. In 1996, there was a name change to Partners of Sacred Heart Hospital and in 1998 the organization became the Volunteer Partners of Sacred Heart Hospital. The Volunteer Partners of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital belong to the Partners of WHA (Wisconsin Hospitals Association), a state organization of volunteers advocating for volunteers, hospitals and patients.

## DAILY POINT OF LIGHT AWARD

The Volunteer Partners of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital were awarded the Daily Point of Light Award on June 26, 2013. This is a national recognition for demonstrated efforts in meeting the community needs through innovative solutions. President George H. W. Bush, founder of Points of Light, said, "We can find meaning and reward by serving some higher purpose than ourselves, a shining purpose, the illumination of a thousand points of light, we all have something to give."

## THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE

*Don't say you're not important.  
It simply isn't true.  
The fact that you were born,  
Is proof, God has a plan for you.*

*The path may seem unclear right now,  
But one day you will see,  
That all that came before  
Was truly meant to be.*

*God wrote the book that is your life,  
That's all you need to know.  
Each day that you are living,  
Was written long ago.*

*God only writes best sellers,  
So be proud of who you are,  
Your character is important  
In this book you are the "Star".*

*Enjoy the novel as it reads.  
It will stand throughout the ages,  
Enjoy each chapter as you go,  
Taking time to turn the pages.*

*~Wanda Mitchell*

