



The Stethoscope

52nd

Birthday Celebration Luncheon In person!

Wednesday April 13, 2022

11:30am

McDonald Hall

Cost: \$8.00

Limited seating available
so RSVP as soon as
possible to:

Brandy at 715-717-7439

or

Brandalee.sikora@hshs.org

Agenda:

Welcome and Prayer

Update from John L. Wagner,
President and CEO

Introduction of Jane Gobler,
Western WI Division Foundation Director

Business Meeting



Partners of
HSHS
St. Joseph's
Hospital





MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dear Volunteer Partners,

The sun is shining and signs of Spring are slowly making their way to us. I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits.

In recent news, both HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital and HSHS Sacred Heart hospitals recently earned the Certified Perioperative Nurse (CNOR®) Strong designation from the Competency and Credentialing Institute. This international designation is a mark of distinction and demonstrates a commitment to upholding the highest standards in patient safety. CNOR® designation is given to facilities in which more than 50% of eligible nurses have obtained CNOR® credentials. The process for a nurse to become credentialed in the specialized field of perioperative care requires a minimum of two years of perioperative nursing experience and includes a rigorous exam that assesses the nurse's knowledge and skills. Perioperative care refers to the collaborative care provided to a patient from the time of surgical admission to when the patient goes home. I am proud to share that 64% of our hospitals' operating room nurses have obtained the CNOR® credential, which demonstrates our colleagues' dedication to patient safety and efforts to advance their skill and education in their specialty field.

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.

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.

Best,

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



LETTER FROM OUR PARTNERS PRESIDENT



Greetings,

By the time you receive this message, I am hoping we will be well on our way into spring; a time for new life, new growth, and new plans. Spring comes with some frosty, muddy setbacks, but come it will. I am hoping that, after a long hard period for Volunteer partners, we also will move into a time of new life, new growth, and new plans.

The year behind us was difficult, to say the least, but we still managed to accomplish some of our goals. Our committees were creative, flexible, and tenacious. The Steak Fry went to pickup and delivery only. The Charity Ball Auction went virtual, and the garden produced a record bounty. Love Lights still shined brightly on the trees. So many people worked to keep us going and I am grateful for them all.

Hope is so important in our world today. I am hoping that 2022 will bring continued improvement in our management of COVID-19 and lessening a need for restrictions. As we continue to follow the safety guidelines set for us by HSHS, I am looking forward to a time when we will be able to bring back what was temporarily set aside and establish a new, improved normal.

Peace to you all,

Ellen Kiefer
Partners President



PUBLIC POLICY:

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has approved the re-districting maps submitted by Governor Evers. In a split decision, the Court stated the maps most closely aligned with their earlier ruling of “least change” to existing maps. Note: these are not the maps drawn by the People’s Map

Commission first proposed by the governor. Those maps significantly changed districts lines and did not meet the least change criteria. Analysis of data from elections since 2016, suggests Republicans would hold a 53-44 advantage in the Assembly and 20-13 in the Senate with the new maps. There is still a lawsuit filed by Democrats in the federal courts, but historically, the federal court has deferred to the state court on redistricting. However, there may be more to come related to Wisconsin redistricting.

HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital remains in the 3rd Congressional District, but you have to look close at the maps. The hospital is near a convoluted boundary between the 3rd and 7th districts. This means there

will be a new representative in congress as Ron Kind is not running for re-election. The 3rd is expected to gain national attention because it is a competitive district.

State Senator Kathy Benier has also decided not to run for re-election. There are several candidates running for both open seats. The primary election is Aug. 9 and the general election is Nov. 8.

WHA Advocacy Day was held virtually on March 23. Main areas of focus were, increasing reimbursement and coverage, workforce issues, behavioral health, licensure and regulatory reform, telehealth and workers compensation.

At the end of the State of the Union Address, President Biden listed four items he believes are areas for bipartisan cooperation. These four areas (beating the opioid epidemic, mental health care especially for children, support for veterans exposed to chemicals from burn pits and ending cancer “as we know it”) are all health care issues.

Julie Clark
PPE Chair



PARTNERS OF HSHS ST. JOSEPH’S HOSPITAL



SAVE THE DATE!

August 4, 2022

KC Hall

Please reach out if you are interested in helping with prep work or day of serving by emailing jacl304@aol.com

Julie Clark and Sue Wymimko
Co-Chairs



CHARITY BALL

Captain's Entry: March 1, 2022

It has been a long winter of sea trials and dry dock repairs in hopes of setting sail this Spring. The dedicated Charity Ball Crew and I have weathered many challenges and changes to ready the White Star's Queen of the North Seas to sail. We are waiting for final confirmation to start the preparations for this long-awaited maiden voyage.

Captain's Entry: March 4, 2022

This will be my last entry. I have captained this ship for three years now with an amazing Crew and First Mate. Their dedication and fortitude to see this endeavor through is admirable, but sometimes we must come to terms with our situation. I regret to log; our voyage has been cancelled for the May 6 scheduled date. The White Star's Queen of the North Seas will not sail and due to this final setback will be retired as the 49th HSHS St. Joseph's Charity Ball. The Charity Ball will, however, go on with the 50th Celebration of the HSHS St. Joseph's Charity Ball in May 2023. HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital

has and will continue to monitor COVID cases within the community. Despite seeing COVID-19 cases continue to decline in our community and experiencing stabilization with the omicron variant, we have decided that having a large community event in May still brings uncertainty for the safety of our voyagers and crew. I am saddened by the course of the last few years but look forward to moving on to celebrating with you all, the 50th Annual Charity Ball to take place May 20, 2023.

Amber Leibrandt

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



THE COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

Looking Forward to our 10th Season....from the Community Garden!

As I write this on Feb. 24, it's about 10 degrees outside and we just finished with a 3-4" snowfall. It sure doesn't look or feel like spring yet, but it's nice enough to give us a break from the 20-below weather we've endured. We are so blessed to have had relatively mild winters in this part of the state for several years, but that doesn't mean we can't still get a heaping load of snow between now and May. Our growing season is plenty long even when we start around June 1 and most crops don't have to worry about a killer frost at that time. For now, I simply look

forward to the action of my feathered friends around the heated bird bath that I've provided for them. It's most rewarding to see 3-4 pairs of doves using it around dusk each day. Before putting it in place, I couldn't imagine a bird taking a bath in winter weather. However, they seem to love it and I love watching them enjoy it.

It may only be February as I write this, and it may be April as you read, it's still not too early to be "thinking green." Many of our long-tenured donation growers will be back with us this year and the committee will be looking for new gardeners to join us.

Our large plot growing program and raised bed growing seemed to do well last year. We produced a record 3,675 lbs. of produce for the pantries and kitchens in Chippewa County so I think it's safe to say that those initiatives will be active in 2022 as well.

The large plot system combined several separate plots into larger tilled spaces so that the vine-crops had more dedicated space to wander. The raised bed idea was a result of trying to make it easier for my wife and me -- older, less agile gardeners -- to work our plot without having to stoop over or work on our hands and knees. Many of us point out that we can always get down low to garden - the trick is to be able to get back up. The raised beds were far easier to keep weed free and made it more difficult for rodents to damage crops. We love them and will continue to garden in that manner from now on.

This brings me to my annual sales pitch - I'm asking each of you to help in promoting our Community Garden program and help recruit additional gardening participants. Our Community Garden Committee members (me, Rick Beckler, Cathy Lombard and Don Albrecht) continually look for ways to get the word out about the need for additional gardeners. Even though much of our face-to-face promotional effort has been significantly curtailed with potential gardening audiences at churches and gatherings of civic groups, we still need to get the word out that gardening to provide food for the tables of those less fortunate can be a source of great joy. As we get better at recruiting, and new and enthusiastic growers get on board, there can be significantly greater volumes of fresh vegetables produced.

I've learned over the years that word of mouth is one of our best means of recruiting new growers. So...please help spread the word and encourage willing and able individuals, groups and clubs to join us this year by reserving one or more of our

Continued on next page

24 garden plots. It's very inexpensive, requires less effort than you might think, and the rewards are phenomenal. Your friends and neighbors can make a significant contribution to local food pantries in their war against hunger. They'll also have the personal satisfaction that comes from giving back to their community. With the pandemic continuing to wreak havoc on many families' ability to provide food for their tables, there is a greater need for our community garden to make a difference.

Here's a great selling point for our program -- it can be done with hardly any risk! It's outdoors and there are typically only one or two individuals in the garden at a time working in relative isolation. Gardening provides a welcome break from being stuck at home for days and weeks at a time. While many of the other very worthwhile programs of the Partners of St. Joseph's have been curtailed or cancelled over the past year, the garden program has continued to prosper. Tending a Community Garden plot or two is not much different than working in your own back yard as far as the pandemic is concerned.

So, please help us spread the word, recruit some willing new gardeners, think spring and think "Green." You can contact me at any time for further information about becoming a Community Gardener.

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

715-563-2069

rwelae@charter.net



MEMBERSHIP:

After taking on the membership chair position, I have been working on updating the membership and making sure that everyone is up to date on their dues. Going forward, I will be updating contact information for all the members so that the yearbook will be up to date.

Currently we have 187 members which is down from 220 pre-pandemic. Much of this is due to the unfortunate passing of some members throughout the last couple years. We have 110 lifetime members and 2 honorary members. Please reach out to me or Brandy if you know anyone that would be interested in joining this awesome group.

Jan Giedd

Membership Chair



COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION:

Pediculosis-Body Lice

What's New with COVID and Bring the Sunshine!

At the time of writing this, COVID-19 cases have been steadily declining but there are still many people experiencing COVID-19 and even being hospitalized. We are not “out of the woods” yet. Even though some states, events and local businesses are lifting bans on wearing masks, we still need to do our part to protect ourselves and others. Please wear your masks in public places. We don't know who has been immunized or not. A mask covering is a wonderful idea if we have a cough or cold also but with warmer weather, gatherings outside are much safer.

With Spring coming we will soon be able to get out in the fresh air and sunshine. Did you know? 15 minutes a day in the direct sunshine, outside, will help our bodies produce vitamin D. Sitting indoors by the window is not the same as being outside. This is because the sun's UVB rays that our bodies work off to produce vitamin D are blocked by the manufactured glass. However, the UVA rays still penetrate the glass, and the UVA rays are much more damaging to our skin causing premature aging and cancer. Of course, too much sun can also be dangerous so prevent long lengths of exposure so you can reduce risks of cancer, premature aging of the skin, development of cataracts and other harmful effects.

FIVE BENEFITS OF SUN EXPOSURE:

- Sun's light kills bacteria
- Reduces blood pressure
- Strengthens our bones
- Improves sleep quality
- Improves brain function

WAYS TO HELP INCREASE VITAMIN D IN OUR BODIES:

- 15 minutes of direct sunlight daily
- Eat fatty fish/seafood
- Eat mushrooms
- Include egg yolks in our diets
- Vitamin supplements

What better way to start increasing our Vitamin D than to start your own vegetable or flower garden? By the way the store shelves look, we should all think about a garden! Please contact Roger Elliott, our very own Community Garden Chair to reserve a plot if you would like to test your “green thumb” and get some much needed Vitamin D while social distancing!

Happy Spring!

Pat Bertrand
CHE Chair



VOLUNTEER SERVICES

National Volunteer Week is April 17-23 and we love to celebrate our volunteers! It has been challenging over the last 2 years but I am looking forward to what new opportunities and moments will come our way! We have lots of growth to overcome

but I have faith that the Volunteer program at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital will become as active as it was pre-pandemic. We had on average 125 volunteers and currently we now have 79. The volunteers help within the hospital, hospice and with LEP. These numbers do not include our 187 Volunteer Partners who support the hospital through the events and programs supported by the Volunteer Partners Council also known as the Auxiliary. Since the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1, 2021), I have onboarded three new volunteers and looking forward to bringing more dedicated people to our volunteer team in the coming months.

Hope this Spring will bring you lots of joy and you are able to reconnect with your loved ones if you haven't been able to recently!

Brandy Sikora
Manager of Volunteer Services



WONDERLAND ON THE RIVER

Save the Date for the 2022 event!

Saturday, Nov. 5 at Lake Wissota Golf

GIFT SHOP:

The gift shop is and always will be a nice reprieve for the colleagues to de-stress and get away from the difficulties that come about with their everyday roles as a health care worker. They have seen a lot of changes throughout the last few years; long hours and emotional struggles. Stopping by the gift shop and seeing a funny sign or finding that brand new shirt or purse to brighten their day, brings joy and comfort in their everyday work lives.

Spring has sprung and new garden merchandise has hit the floor! Solar stakes, mobiles and lanterns are the hot items of the year.

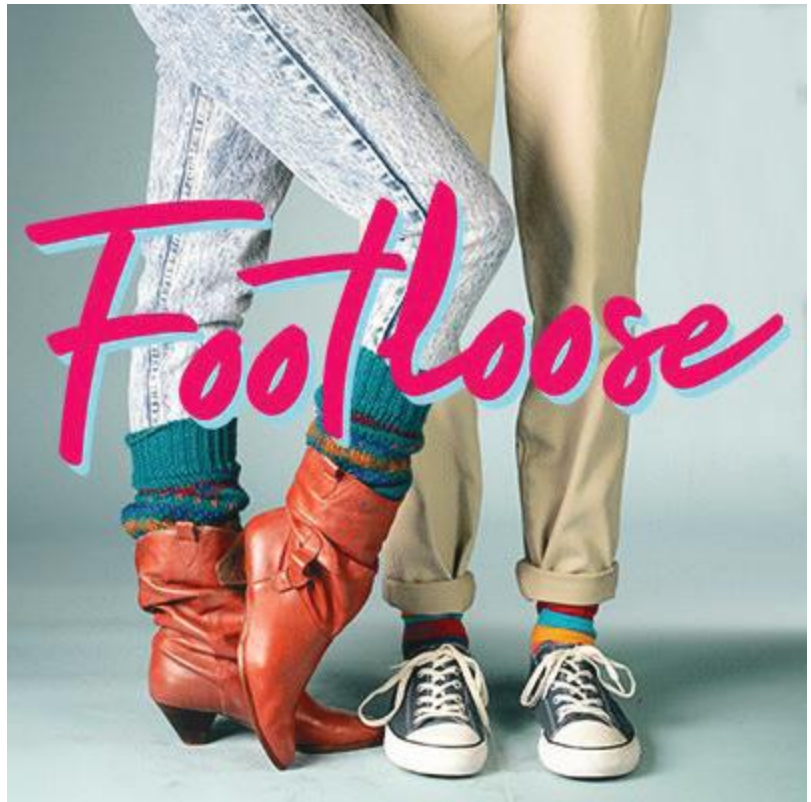
We are looking forward to bringing back our Inventory Reduction Sale for the month of June with a twist. Instead of having it in McDonald Hall, we hope to have it in the gift shop at a separate table so that we can see increased traffic and hopefully bigger sales! Everything on the clearance table will be priced at \$1, \$5, or \$10!

FRIENDSHIP DAY IS BACK! LET'S KICK OFF OUR WEDNESDAY SHOES AND CUT LOOSE!

Friendship Day will be held on Wednesday, June 22 at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre watching the play "Footloose". One stipulation to attend the play is that you must be fully vaccinated and show proof or provide a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of the performance. Masks are also strongly recommended at this time while not eating or drinking. Please consider attending and bringing a friend.

Cost: \$95 per person (Make checks out to Volunteer Partners of St. Joseph's Hospital)

Includes breakfast on the bus, lunch, play ticket, afternoon snack, bus and driver gratuity.



8 a.m. Depart HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital

10 a.m. Arrive at Chanhassen Dinner Theater-Shopping and socializing

4 p.m. Depart Chanhassen Dinner Theater

6 p.m. Arrive back at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital

Terri Hutson
President Elect and Friendship Day Chair

SPRING DISTRICT MEETING:

The West Central District Spring Meeting is being held on Tuesday, April 19 via zoom. Our group oversees hosting this event and will have a speaker. More information will come via email from Brandy once plans have been finalized. Please let Brandy know if you are interested in attending and she will send you a link to join.

LOVE LIGHTS:

The 24th Annual Love Lights event was held on Dec. 2, 2021. Despite being held virtually again this year on Facebook Live, the ceremony was well received and was cherished by all. Fr. John Schultz led us in prayer and the blessing of the trees. Joe Oberweis was the honorary guest who lit the trees in honor of his sister Rita Oberweis. Rita was a longtime member and supporter of the Volunteer Partners and worked at St. Joseph's Hospital for over 47 years. We raised over \$10,000 to go towards the Volunteer Partners current project which is to support the hospital's mental and behavioral health initiative.

Kay Engebretson
Love Lights Chair



SNACK BASKETS FOR COLLEAGUES

The Volunteer Partners wanted to show their appreciation to the colleagues of St. Joseph's Hospital, LE Phillips and Prevea partners. What better way to do this than put together snack baskets and deliver them to each of the 25 departments! A huge thank you to Lois Elliot for her talent in making the cards that were placed in each basket! The baskets were delivered in February and were very much appreciated by the colleagues and of course, brought lots of joy and smiles.





2661 Co. Hwy I
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 13	Volunteer Partners 52nd Birthday Luncheon	McDonald Hall
April 17-23	National Volunteer Appreciation Week	
April 19	Spring District Meeting	Virtual
June 1-30	Gift Shop Inventory Reduction Sale	Gift Shop
June 22	Friendship Day	Chanhasen

