

Friends of VMH

Vernon Memorial Healthcare, Viroqua

June 2022

Update from Your President

A big THANK YOU for your attendance and participation in our Friends of VMH meetings and events the first half of this year.

I believe we are all grateful for the opportunity to gather in person again and provide the services and most of the fundraising events we are accustomed to holding.

Here is a brief recap of our activities from January thru May.

- In March we provided trays of homemade goodies, individually wrapped, (over 650 items) to our hospital and clinic staff in appreciation of their service. It was very well received.

allowed us to invite the public back into our Gift Shop and hours were extended from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Mon.-Fri.

- We hosted the Nutman in April and received a check for our treasury in the amount of \$312.00
- In May we were invited to enjoy a free chicken dinner with VMH staff in celebration of Natl. Hosp. Week. We provided the cookies and bars as an added treat.

- Trudy Wallin and Julie Steiner attended a Gift Shop and Fundraising Symposium in Madison in May hosted by the Partners of WHA.

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Phyllis Malin, Dolores Swanson, Jean Klousia, DJ Brown, Karen Allness & Barb Solverson are pictured arranging cookie trays for staff.

- This spring we received welcome news. Changes to hospital visitor restrictions

Congratulations Janelle

Janelle Cisneros has been named the Volunteer Coordinator at VMH. She will still be performing her current role in Compliance at 16 hours a week, and then will be with Volunteer Services 24 hours a week. Janelle is very excited to begin this new role, which includes being the staff liaison for The Friends. She is already quite familiar with the Friends, being our current Secretary. She will start her new role June 20th.



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- We participated in delivering thank you gifts to main campus staff during hospital week.



Linda Wagner; new volunteer, Ellen Kolb; Julie Steiner; Bonnie Rath and Barb Solverson assisted with the gift delivery.

- We were represented at the Western District Spring Meeting in Fennimore in May and received updates on a variety of topics from the Partners state officers.



Diane Brown; Donna Nelson, District Chair; Julie Steiner and Trudy Wallin represented The Friends at the spring meeting.

- We held our Geranium Sale May 13th. Thanks DJ for organizing a very successful sale and Nicole for all of your behind-the-scenes work: collecting boxes, arranging poster printing and collecting pre-sale orders. If my math is correct we netted \$1,208.00. We sold 358 geraniums, 36 hanging baskets and 42 other assorted flowers & vines. It's always a pleasure working with Hardy Vines, our supplier.



The Geranium Sale crew included: Julie Steiner, DJ Brown, Gloria Fetty, Barb Solverson, Jean Klousia, Vicki Banta, Alice Sloane and Linda Wagner.

Volunteers: Helping Hands, Touching Hearts

Are you interested in networking with other volunteers from around the state? Do you enjoy learning about health care topics from professionals who are knowledgeable in their respective fields?

Make plans to attend the 2022 Partners State Convention October 11-13 at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Registration materials for this event will be available soon. If you would like registration info when it's available please contact Julie Steiner at 608-606-0892 or steinerfam@mwt.net



Public Policy Report



WHA's Hospitals Education & Advocacy Team (HEAT) is the statewide network designed to facilitate grassroots involvement in health care public policy. The HEAT program provides the information, strategy, and assistance you need in order to share your insight on how legislative issues impact hospitals and the communities they serve.

Stay informed of the issues and join thousands of others in making the voice of Wisconsin hospitals heard loud and clear. Sign-up for HEAT to receive:

- Action alerts, called HEAT Alerts, on important, timely public policy facing the Governor, State Legislature, or Congress that could impact Wisconsin hospitals and health care in the state.
- An invitation to WHA's annual Advocacy Day where you will join more than 1,100 hospital administrators, employees, trustees, volunteers, physicians, patients, and others passionate about protecting Wisconsin's high-quality, high-value health care system as they lobby in the state Capitol.
- Periodic public policy updates keeping you informed of the status and progress of legislative priorities.
- Election resources so you know where your candidates stand on health care issues.

Check out the WHA website at wha.org to find out how you can sign up for HEAT. You may also contact our Friends of VMH Public Policy Chair, Trudy Wallin and she will assist you. Call 637-2930 or email rtwallin@mwt.net.

Trudy Wallin

Thankyou from a Scholarship Recipient

Vicki Banta serves as our Friends of VMH representative on the VMH Foundation Board. She and the board recently selected recipients of 2022 scholarships funded by the Friends and the Foundation. Here is a thankyou from one of the recipients.

Thank you for the opportunity to receive the Friends of VMH Scholarship. I am thankful to be chosen amongst my peers as the recipient of this generous \$1,000 scholarship! The scholarship money will go towards my education at Winona State University where I plan to pursue a Nursing Major. Because of this scholarship, I will be able to spend more time studying, and focusing on my education rather than picking up even more hours at work. I plan to dedicate my time and effort to making this institution proud of my efforts at Winona State University. I have chosen a Nursing major because of my love for helping others. I currently work as a Certified Nursing Assistant as well as Nurse Technician at my local nursing home. I love conversing with my residents, helping them with activities of daily living they can no longer do for themselves, and being the person who cares for them. Because of this passion, I would love to become a traveling nurse where I can travel the world and work helping others at the same time. After I spend some time traveling, I might have the urge to go back to school and potentially go to be a Nurse Practitioner. Thank you for this generous scholarship, you will not regret selecting me.

With endless thank yous,
Kelsie Helgersen



Brat Sale is August 24th

Our Friends of VMH Brat Sale takes place on Wednesday, August 24th. Watch for the bright burgundy canopy tent south of the hospital main entrance.

Thanks to Diane Brown for chairing this event again, Phyllis Malin for securing the brats and hot dogs and Dan and Donna Nelson for offering to grill the morning of our sale.

Jean Klousia, Susan Haser and Dawn Grimsled will be setting up. Those serving include: Linda Wagner, Dolores Swanson, Alice Sloane and Veronica Tresner.

Others who are donating:

Sauerkraut - Julie Steiner

Bottled Water - 2 each, 24 count 16 oz. bottles

1. Barb Casper
2. Sig Lind
3. Trudy Wallin x 2

2 doz. each individually wrapped bars or cookies

1. Linda Wagner
2. Phyllis Krause
3. Jean Klousia
4. Jess Addington
5. Kathryn Anderson
6. Janelle Cisneros
7. Phyllis Malin
8. DJ Brown

2 ea. large bags of ice

1. Dawn Grimsled
2. Vicki Banta

Questions? Contact
Diane Brown at
627-1543 or 632-9380
(cell) or email:
diwa1966@gmail.com



CHE Report

From Donna Nelson

We continue to struggle with the reality of COVID and the emerging new variants of the Omicron virus.

We know that keeping up to date with vaccines and masking when in large crowds continues to be the best prevention. If you are not feeling well, please stay away from gatherings, and test. If you have a positive home test it is imperative to contact your provider and obtain a PCR test from the lab. Isolate and continue to mask in your household to avoid spreading to other members. Monoclonal antibodies are available from your provider and can help shorten symptoms if you develop COVID. However, it is noted that these treatments are in short supply in some areas.

Vaccine boosters are available and encouraged. We continue to await vaccinations for those 5 and younger. Take care of yourself, eat well, exercise, and get plenty of rest,

The effects of the pandemic are still real and affecting school staff and healthcare workers. Healthcare institutions are still requiring masking, The pandemic has affected blood donations, as we are in a blood shortage. If you are able to donate, please help this issue.

There has been an outbreak of hepatitis and liver failure in young children, with 3 deaths reported. Research into the cause and effect of this issue is ongoing.

Society is dealing with a rise in mental health issues, with also a lack of resources available to assist. We have also noted increases in domestic and community abuse issues.

There continue to be issues with obtaining supplies. The effects of COVID are continuing to emerge and be understood. Long COVID effects are being studied and identified. It is noted that men have a high risk 1 year after COVID with stroke and heart attacks.

We have also heard reports of recent salmonella outbreaks in lettuce.

October 2021 there was an outbreak of Measles at Fort McCoy with the Afghanistan refugees. A vaccination program was implemented and avoided any community outbreak.

Baby formula supply issues are affecting young families.

Bird flu is being noted in local birds and chickens. Pay close attention and cook eggs and poultry to 165 degrees.

Please stay aware of community cases and indicators of current status of the virus in our community, plan and have the tools you need to protect yourself and your family.

Stay well and safe.