

# VOLUNTEER VOICE

SUMMER, 2023

## TIDBITS FROM YOUR CO-PRESIDENTS



Remember always:  
**“We make a living  
 by what we get.  
 We make a life by  
 what we give!”**  
 ~Winston  
 Churchill~

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Summer is in full swing and so are Fort HealthCare Partners! All services are functioning and wearing masks is optional! An executive decision was made not to bring back the Ambassador/Greeter service in the main lobby due to already having a receptionist and a Patient Escort in that area.

We are also not staffing volunteers in the Emergency Room until we can get our partnership with the UW-WW pre-med program back on track. Your “WOO HOO” Co-Presidents are extending another plea asking for your help in recruiting Volunteers for all service areas. It has been proven “word of mouth” is the best form of recruitment!

The new parking area construction is well underway. Sorry our Love Light Trees had to go, but they will be replaced with new and healthier trees.

Please remember to always park in the designated Volunteer Parking

Lot. **Volunteers should not be parking in any patient or visitor parking areas.**

We are still reaching out to our membership (YOU), for nominations to be the Partners President-Elect. **PLEASE** consider stepping forward! Your Co-President’s Promise: ***You will get more back than you give!***

In May, we held a Flower Sale fundraiser right before Mother’s Day. It was a successful Hanging Basket Sale!

The flower sale, monthly cookie sales, and Partners Gift Shop continue to do well bringing in revenue for our organization.

Our Scholarship Committee awarded eight scholarships totaling \$10,000!

We appreciate the many helping hands making these successes! Enjoy your summer!

**Partners  
 Co-Presidents,  
 Kathy Kakuschke and  
 Jane Winiarski**

**ON-SITE SALES ARE BACK!**

Scheduled sales to date include:

**COOKIE SALES:**  
 8:30a.m.—11:30

- ◆ \*August 15
- \*This is a change

- ◆ Sept. 12

- ◆ Oct. 10

- ◆ Nov. 14

- ◆ Dec. 12

**NUTMAN SALES**

- ◆ Sept. 28 & 29

- ◆ Nov. 20 & 21



## PARTNERS OF WHA HEALTH FOCUS 2023-2024

The Community Health Education focus for 2023 is Mental Health. One of the CHE goals is to increase knowledge and understanding of the increase in mental health disorders among children, ages 6 to 17, to include triggers, and/or contributing factors, effective interventions and preventative strategies. Governor Evers declared 2023 as “the year of mental health.” The Covid-19 epidemic has increased mental health issues in both adults and children. Mental health can affect physical health—eating, sleeping, and activity. Without a healthy men-

tal health state, it’s hard to live a healthy life. 1 in 5 U.S adults and 1 in 6 youth ages 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year. The biggest hurdle to providing the needed mental health intervention for children and youth is the shortage of trained providers to treat them. There is a critical need for early screening and prevention programs to reduce the need for mental health emergencies. As health care volunteers, along with our health care providers we need to explain to patients and visitors how to access help readily.

**The suicide crisis hotline is 988.** We can all help prevent suicide. The hotline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, as well as prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.

**Jane Fischer RN, Partners Health Education Chair**

**Source: Partners of WHA**



## PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

There are many issues currently facing our health care industry in Wisconsin.

Financial difficulties include recruiting and maintaining health care staff, rising inflation, the end of Covid-19 funding, and the possibility of cuts to Medicaid reimbursements. Two out of every three patients are covered under Medicare or Medicaid, and Wisconsin Hospitals are underfunded.

We are seeing more health care mergers, and not because they want to, but they need to. Driving these mergers is the belief that if they are bigger, they will have more bargaining powers, especially with insur-

ance companies. The consumer however may see increased insurance premiums.

92% of Wisconsin hospitals and health systems are non-profit. They have done an exceptional job of navigating the ongoing extreme challenges in order to continue supporting their communities, but the strain on resources and workforce shortages poses unprecedented challenges that may threaten access to care and the health of Wisconsinites.

The WHA Advocacy Day held on April 19, brought in nearly 1000 participants. “Having strong hospitals across our state that provide quality health care

is essential to the vitality of our communities,” said WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding. “Wisconsin hospitals provide a life-saving safety net, but much needs to be done to ensure our hospitals and health systems can continue to provide these much-needed services to people in every corner of the state.”

As Partners in health care, we can help by putting our collective voices together in advocacy for our Wisconsin hospitals and health systems. You can call WHA at 608-274-1820 or e-mail [khofer@wha.org](mailto:khofer@wha.org) to find out how you can help.

**Arlene Newhouse, Public Policy Edu. Chair**

**Source: WHA Valued Voice**

## CHANGES AT FORT HEALTHCARE

The end of the Public Health Emergency (May 11, 2023) has initiated some changes at Fort HealthCare:

- ◆ In-person classes will be back in the near future.
- ◆ Covid vaccinations are no longer required for employees and volunteers.
- ◆ The Steel-Away Café is now open to the public.
- ◆ The walking program will remain CLOSED at this time due to the current parking limitations.

Policies will continue to be reviewed, condensed, combined,

or discontinued by the Respiratory Task Force.

Volunteers feeling ill need to contact Kari regarding their symptoms and schedule. Positive Covid test results will still require a 7-day stay at home before returning to volunteer.

The north side of the Ambulatory Services parking lot is now open, however work has begun on the south side of this lot. When this parking lot is completed, we will have 40 new parking stalls!

Work on Fourth Street to bring even more parking spots has

begun with the street being closed off and the moving of four houses that belonged to Fort HealthCare. We are on track to have this parking project completed by Thanksgiving. Please continue to park in the designated Volunteer Parking Lot. This allows our patients to find parking near the entrances. If you need a Volunteer Parking hangtag, contact Volunteer Services at 920-568-5276. Thank you for your cooperation during this time, it will all be worth it in the end!



## VOLUNTEER AWARDS

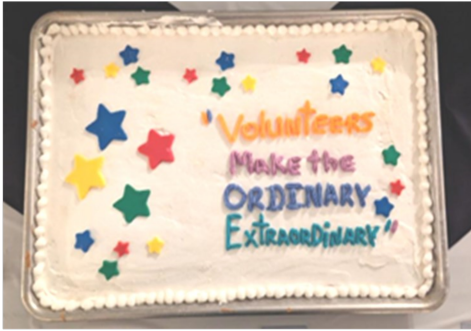
Our first in-person annual awards banquet since the pandemic began was held May 9th at Jansen's Banquet Hall, Fort Atkinson. Jansen's has new owners and we were the first community type event they hosted. The food and service were great! Members were asked to bring a "guest recruit" and we were happy to have five guests join us! Guests received a swag bag and extra tickets for door prizes.

From January 1, 2022—December 31, 2022 Eighty-Two Volunteers contributed 11,748 hours. While we are still "recovering" from the loss of members due to the pandemic, this was a great achievement!

**Milestone accumulated awards** included **500 hours** for Nancy Baines, Jim Geyer, Mary Roberts, Cheryl Stegman, Beth & Dennis Wendt. **1000 hour awards** went to Olive Gross, Keith Hoffman, Jan Karlen, Curt McCulley, Dennis Miller, Bob Dewolfe. **1500 hour awards** went to Rich Braun, and Lori Rothstein. **2000 hour awards** were earned by Tim Haak, and Shelby Reese. A **3000 hour award** was given to Ken Falk, and Jane Winiarski achieved a **4000 hour award**.

In "normal times", a Recognition Award for Volunteer Excellence (**RAVE**) is given out each spring at the Awards Banquet to a Volunteer chosen by the Partners Board of Directors. The winner this year was named "Volunteer of the Pandemic!" Tim Haak was the winner of this award. Tim has been a Volunteer for six years with accumulated hours of 2,205. Tim is commended for being a leader in the organization and keeping the Partners Board of Directors engaged during the pandemic. When the office of Partners President was left vacant with no President-Elect to take over, Tim stepped up to the plate and took on the role through the three years of the pandemic. Prior to his service on the board, Tim served in many capacities, volunteering as a Patient Escort, Mail Delivery, Hospitality Cart, and the Coffee Shop. Tim his wife Erin, and his daughter Jane reside in Fort Atkinson. Tim also works at Fort HealthCare as the EVS Manager. Congratulations Tim! **See banquet photos on page 4.**

## AWARDS BANQUET CONTINUED



Awards Banquet Cake & Theme



Attendee's Enjoy the Banquet



Tim Haak Accepts Volunteer of the "Years" Award



Magician, James Ember Entertains the Group

## 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

Fort HealthCare Partners offered several scholarships totaling \$10,000 to students pursuing careers in healthcare. To be eligible, applicants must live, be employed, or attend high school (public or private) in the service area of Fort HealthCare. This includes Cambridge, Fort Atkinson, Jefferson, Johnson Creek, Lake Mills, Palmyra/Eagle, and Whitewater. Applications were reviewed by our scholarship committee consisting of Partner Volun-

teers Lori Rothstein, Phil Niemeyer, Christie Stahmer, Jan Karlen, and Volunteer Services Manager Kari Behling. There were four categories of scholarships available through the Partners: high school seniors pursuing a career in health care; students holding a degree or certification in a healthcare field who are currently enrolled in a course of study leading to an advanced degree in healthcare; students currently enrolled in a two-year program

in a healthcare field; and students pursuing a healthcare career who regularly serve in a volunteer role.

*See Page 5 for information about the winners and photos.*

**Jan Karlen, Scholarship Chair**





## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### \$1500 High School Seniors

**Ilsa Lund**, Cambridge High School, has been accepted at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and will pursue a bachelor's degree in a pre-physician assistant course of study.

**Molly Nettesheim**, Palmyra-Eagle High School, will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Her interest is in the field of psychology.

**Gracie Niebler**, Jefferson High School, plans to begin her studies in biology, with the goal of a pre-physician assistant education. She will attend Carroll University.

### \$1500 Woody Finn Memorial Award

**Kiana Jenswold**, Jefferson, is this year's winner of the award that recognizes someone who serves regularly in a volunteer role. Currently employed at Fort HealthCare as a medical laboratory assistant, Kiana plans to attend the Kentucky College of Optometry.

### \$1500 Advancing Health Education Awards

**Eli Koehler**, Fort Atkinson, is currently employed at Fort HealthCare as an Emergency Services Technician. His goal is to complete a bachelor's degree in nursing and he is attending the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

**Lea Voelz**, Milton, is pursuing her bachelor's degree in nursing through Grand Canyon University, Arizona. She is employed at Fort HealthCare as a registered nurse on the medical/surgical/pediatric floor and the intensive care unit.

### \$500 Technical School Associate Degree Awards

**Elizabeth Garcia** is a senior at Fort Atkinson High School. She also works part time at Fort HealthCare in the Environmental Services Department. Elizabeth has been accepted at Madison Area Technical College in the associate degree nursing program.

**Brielle Johnson**, Fort Atkinson, is enrolled at Madison Area Technical College pursuing an associate degree in occupational therapy. The past four years she has worked in Fort HealthCare's food service department.

*Jan Karlen, Scholarship Chair*



### **Pictured Below From Left to Right:**

Ilsa Lund  
Molly Nettesheim  
Eli Koehler  
Lea Voelz  
Grace Niebler  
Kiana Jenswold  
Elizabeth Garcia  
Brielle Johnson, and son Bain

