

# GUNDERSEN PARTNERS

ENHANCING CARE THROUGH SERVICE AND GIVING

Gundersen Partners serves as a group of caring, committed individuals dedicated to enhancing patient and family care, healthcare education and community well-being through service and fundraising.

April 30, 2021

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ OFFICERS

Linda Gillette

President

Lisa Biondo

President Elect

Linda Arentz

Co-Treasurer

Peggy Miller

Co-Treasurer

Jane Rada

Secretary

Mary Jo Klos

Past President

Sue Bugge

Director

Rachel Miller

Director

Marilyn McElligott

Historian

Samantha Kabat

Community Health

Education

Elizabeth Rogers

Public Policy

Education

## EX-OFFICIO

Michael McKee

VP, Operations

Lori Van Lin

Director of Volunteer

Services

Eileen Wiltinger

Gift Shop Supervisor

Sheila Erickson

Senior Office Assistant

Re: Gundersen Partners Update – April 2021

Good day to all of you,

I don't know about you but as days go by I feel like our lives are getting a little better. The Gundersen Partners Board held their first in-person meeting in April. We were socially distanced and wore masks but it was so great to have most of the board together in the same room. I also have the pleasure of volunteering in the gift shop Wednesday afternoons. I had not volunteered there in over a year. It felt so good helping people and connecting with others. It has been so amazing how well the gift shop has done in the last year. We are so proud of our dedicated staff that kept this haven open for all who needed it so much.

Gundersen Partners has had some real successes since the start of this year. Nearly all of our members returned in 2021 and we are so thankful for all of the extra donations that were received above and beyond the membership dues. Our Donations Allocations Committee has been able to begin holding meetings again. The committee has already designated the added funds to be split between Sleep in Heavenly Peace, "Baby Shower" for Pediatrics/OB Social Services, Hunger Task Force, and the Parenting Place/Diaper Bank. Thank you so much for your generosity that allows us to assist others in Gundersen Health System and the community.

*Save the date!* Due to the pandemic, Partners could not hold any membership gatherings or other events in 2020, but this is 2021! The patio at Huck Finn's On The Water has been reserved from 3 to 7 pm on Tuesday, June 22. YOU are invited! This is the perfect opportunity to reconnect with each other in a beautiful setting on the river. A formal invitation will be sent shortly with all the details. Of course, we are praying for good weather, but in the event it is less than perfect, we will move the festivities inside. We hope many of you will be able to join us on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

April 30, 2021

Page Two

We have been given permission again to hold fundraisers at Gundersen Health System. As a result, we held our first \$7 sale on March 15-18. It was very successful while following safety guidelines. On April 13 and 14 Gundersen Partners sponsored a PRN Footwear sale that was really well attended. We were so happy to hold these two events to allow employees and others to find some treasures and footwear while helping the companies that have these sales and have been so hard hit by COVID. We are looking forward to scheduling more of these plus a Sweet 'n Salty sale later this year. This was formerly known as the Simply Sweet Candy Sale. We updated the name to reflect the wide variety of candy and snacks offered. These sales allow Partners to donate to the needs at Gundersen and in the community.

The 33rd annual **Style on the River** luncheon and style show will be held on Wednesday, May 19, at The Cargill Room at the Waterfront. Tickets are on sale at the Gundersen Gift shop, the Mayo Clinic Health Systems Services Office and at Festival Foods at Copeland, Village and Onalaska locations. Tickets are \$25.00 each and need to be purchased before May 10. Fashions will be sponsored by Dales Clothing and Mainstream Boutique. There will be many door prizes and lots of fun for all who attend. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to a local food pantry. Social distancing and masks are required. Come join us for an enjoyable event that we are so excited to bring to you.

Several of our board members attended the Virtual Advocacy Day in conjunction with the Wisconsin Hospital Association on April 14. The keynote speaker, Frank Sesno, was amazing and the theme of his speech was "Compelling characters overcoming obstacles to achieve a worthy outcome." He stated that we all have been transformed through the pandemic. He was talking to all of us that have worked for others, donated to those in need, reached out to neighbors and family, prayed for others and done all that we could to help during the pandemic. Governor Tony Evers gave a short address and there was a legislative panel that discussed issues facing healthcare institutions and the people of Wisconsin. WHA awarded the Healthcare Advocacy Award to State Assemblyman Tony Kurtz and the Advocacy All Star Award to Damond Boatwright of SSM Wisconsin.

Finally, Gundersen Partners is currently accepting applications for scholarships for children of Gundersen Health System employees that are pursuing careers in the healthcare field. If you know of anyone that would qualify please encourage them to apply by June 21, 2021.

Take care and be well,

Linda J. Gillette, President

Gundersen Partners

[Gundersenpartners@gundersenhealth.org](mailto:Gundersenpartners@gundersenhealth.org)

608-775-3602