Friends of VMH

Vernon Memorial Healthcare, Viroqua
April 2018

News from Your President

Happy Spring! I'm hopeful, as I'm sure all of you are, that before long the outdoor temperatures will make it feel more like spring!

Thanks to Diane Brown, Linda Wagner and Phyllis Malin for agreeing to man our booth at the VMH Wellness Fair on Saturday, April 7th. Thank you Donna Nelson for preparing a poster board about our "Drugs End Dreams" state project and Friends application form.

Mark your calendars for April 18th and 19th. The Nutman Company wlll be here with a delicious assortment of nuts, chocolates, snack mixes and candies. The Friends receive a 15% commission for hosting the sale. Sale times are 10 am to 3:30 pm on the 18th and 8 am to 2 pm on the 19th in front of the Gift Shop.

May is just around the corner and DJ Brown has been working with Hardy Vines to place our Friends order for our Geranium Sale on May 11th. Pre-order forms will be available soon. Here is a sampling of this year's colors…

Calliope Large Dark Red

Calliope Medium Lavendar Rose

Calliope Large Pink

Calliope Medium Pink Flame

Americana Salmon

Americana White

Thanks to DJ for chairing and Diane Brown for co-chairing the sale. Committee members are: Sigrid Lind, Karen Allness, Gloria Fetty and Julie Steiner.

The date of our Taco and Taco Salad Luncheon has been moved back a week to June 28th. DJ Brown has agreed to chair and Phyllis Malin co-chair this event. We still need more members to help prepare carryouts the day of the event, and more persons to deliver orders to employees of Viroqua businesses. Cookies and bars are also needed. This event continues to gain support from our local business community. Please sign up to help. Sign up sheets will be at our April and May Friends meetings.

And don't forget our August 23rd Brat and Mum sale. We need additional volunteers to help at this event as well!

At our March meeting Shelley Dobbe and Nancy Welch presented our Treasurer, Trudy Wallin (all pictured above) with a $20,000.00 check for our treasury. The monies were proceeds from Gift Shop sales. Thank you Shelley and Nancy for doing such a great job managing our shop!

March 21st we traveled to WHA Advocacy Day in Madison to learn and advocate. Among those attending (pictured above) were Bonnie Rath, VMH Corporate Board; Dan Nelson, Donna Nelson, Trudy Wallin and Julie Steiner, Friends of VMH; Bonnie Anderson, VMH Cardiac Rehab Manager. Mara Liasson, the national political correspondent for National Public radio was the keynote speaker. We visited the capitol in the afternoon and met with State Senator Jennifer Shilling and State Representative, Lee Nerison. See Public Policy Report for more info.

News from Your President (continued)

Our condolences to members Janet Starr, Donna Bassett and Shelley Dobbe who both lost their spouses/father recently. Both Dr. Starr and Jerry Bassett joined their wives and daughter as avid supporters of The Friends of VMH. Donna has sold her home in Viola and is moving to Sparta to be near her daughters.

The Friends has approved a grant request of $1,047.50 to share in the cost of an Orthofex Nail Grinder for naiil trimming for residents of our Community Based Residential Facilities.

A request of $645.66 was approved to help fund the VMH Community Wellness Fair on April 7th.

Thanks to all who helped with the Spud Bowl in January and Staff Appreciation Luncheon in February. Alice Sloane and Barb Solverson co-chaired the Spud Bowl. Alice and Trudy Wallin co-chaired the Appreciation luncheon.

Our Spring Craft Show and Bake Sale was held March 22nd. Thank you Sarah Howard for facilitating the vendors. $395.00 was raised in vendor fees. The bake sale brought in $259.15. The Gift Shop also had a great day with steady sales all day.

The Spring Western District meeting is May 1st in Richland Center. The meeting starts at 9:30 am with coffee and donuts beforehand. This is a great way to network and learn what other Partners groups are doing to support their local hospitals. Please consider attending. We will carpool together and are typically home by 3:00 pm. Please contact Donna Nelson or me by April 13th to register.

Welcome to new member Susan Haser. My apologies to Linda Fahr for leaving her name off the list of new members in our last newsletter!

Julie Steiner

Development Report

Donna Nelson,
VMH Development Mgr.

We welcome 2 new board members to the VMH Foundation board: Paul Larsen and Rebecca Larson. Both residents of the area and very involved with local business, Paul working with Citizens Bank and Rebecca involved with the Vosseteig/ Larson Funeral Home.

We thank Phyllis Eklov and Martha Olson for over 12 years of service combined to the Foundation. We also appreciated their contributions to the leadership of the Foundation as chairpersons. We wish them well and thank them for their service to us.

Upcoming Foundation Events:

September
2nd Annual Donor Recognition
September 7th
17th Annual Foundation Golf Outing
November 1st
18th Annual Foundation'Hospice Gala

Our VMH Staff has been on a journey the past 2 years -a journey *to becoming the greatest medical facility in the region.* We were recently recognized by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services for obtaining a 5 star excellence rating. This is the highest rating, of 4000 hospitals only 337 received this ranking. The other healthcare system in the region to receive this ranking was Gundersen in LaCrosse.

In our journey to becoming Great we would like to share with you these

Development Report continued

simple additions that can be implemented by all of us. We hope these tools will also help you help us be great.

Hallway Ettiquette 10/5 Rule: Acknowledge everyone within 10 feet of you with eye contact and a smile. Greet everyone within 5 feet of you.

Go With the Flow(Traffic Flow) If you meet someone at a doorway- always let them pass first. Stay on the right side of the hallway or stairway to allow others to pass.

Say What? Be aware of your surroundings and where you are having conversations. Be careful of "shop" conversations in public areas. Help anyone who may appear lost or confused. Freely ask "can I help you find someone or something? Offer assistance before people have to ask for help. After each interaction-" Is there anything else I can do for you today?" Or to quote David Mithum-"Thanks for choosing Vernon Memorial Healthcare today!" It truly takes all of our deliberate intentions to make our patients, families, and guests feel that they are special and that we are here to help them.

Community Health Education

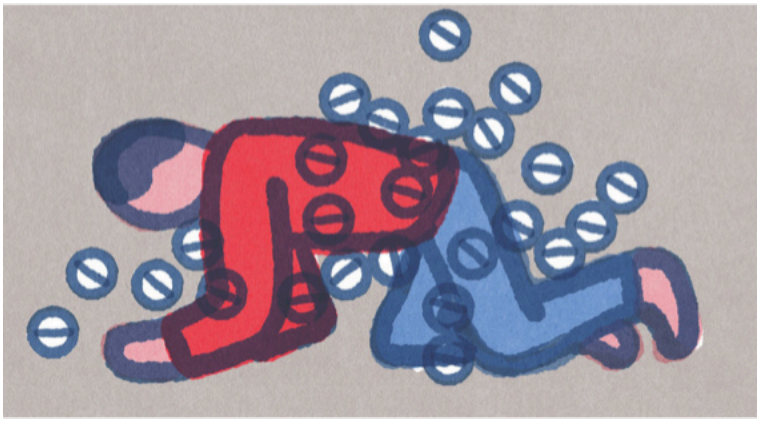
Donna Nelson, CHE Chair

The American Medical Association Task Force to Reduce Opiod Abuse supports the education and awareness of physicians, patients, policymakers, and other key stakeholders regarding the risks of prescription opiod and other medications if not taken as prescribed-as well as steps needed to ensure safe storage and disposal of expired, unwanted, or unused medications. There are 3 steps we can all assist with to help:

1. More than 70% of people misusing opiod analgesics are getting them from family and friends-sharing of opiods is illegal and may be deadly.

2. Store medicines out of reach from children and never share prescriptions with anyone.

3. Safely dispose of unwanted and unused medications -use pharmacy and law enforcement "take back" resources whenever possible. April 28, 2018 is National Drug Take Back Day. The Vernon County Sheriff 's Department has a drug take back box to take pills. Liquids and needles are not accepted. Liquids may be disposed of by taking a ziplock bag and mixing the liquid with kitty litter or coffee grounds and dispose of in the garbage. Needles are to contained in biohazard containers. The VMH lab can be contacted for needle containers and for disposal.



Public Policy Education

Trudy Wallin, PPE Chair

As 13 representatives from VMH attended Advocacy Day in Madison, they were informed about three important issues affecting the hospital industry. These talking points were discussed with Sen. Jennifer Shilling and Rep. Lee Nerison later that afternoon.

The group reminded the legislators that quality healthcare attracts businesses and talent to grow Wisconsin's workforce. VMH was recently awarded a Five Star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Wisconsin is #1 in the nation for High Quality Health Care, according to the federal agency for Healthcare Research & Quality. This level of quality certainly

Public Policy Education continued

enhances Viroqua's quality of life. The most recent state budget includes a number of initiatives aimed at growing the state's health care workforce especially for physicians and advanced practice clinicians. Some of the key workforce initiatives include $1.5 million for expansion of graduate medical education residency programs, $500,000 for rural advanced practice clinician training and $500,000 for rural allied health professional training matching grants. Wisconsin Hospital Assoc. believes that high quality health care is an important asset to Wisconsin's economy that helps attract talent to our state for other industries.

The second talking-point was WI Medicaid Reimbursement which lags within the nation and results in a $1.1 billion hidden tax. The Medicaid program is an essential health care program in Wisconsin, providing coverage for nearly 1.2 million individuals. The Medicaid program's hospitl rreimbursement rates result in below-cost reimbursement for providers, Medicaid shortfalls for Wisconsin hospitals and health systems and a "Hidden Health Care Tax" on WI businesses and families because of cost-shifting from government payers. Wisconsin created the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital program which was increased by $1.2 million this last budget year, but continues to create higher hidden tax. Much needs to be done to increase Medicaid reimbursement for Wisconsin hospitals.

The final issue discussed was Wisconsin's successful Worker's Compensation system. Wisconsin's injured workers are well-served by our work comp system, which depends on high quality health care to get employees back on the job. In Wisconsin, injured worker's return to the jobsite a full three weeks faster than the national average. Premiums dropped by $170 million last year. WHA asked legislators to oppose government fee schedules in worker's compensation. Instead, focus on many hurdles and hoops for injured workers to eliminate waste and inefficiency.

Rep. Lee Nerison

Sen. Jennifer Shilling with hospital representatives from VMH and Crossing Rivers Health

VOLUNTEER WEEK

April 15-21

Thanks for Making a Difference