

# SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Newsletter

January/February 2023



## Winter Gathering for Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Members

**Monday, February 27**

**1 – 3 pm**

Ripon Community Hospital Green Lake Room  
845 Parkside Street, Ripon

Come and enjoy music by our own member, Mary Parks, on the mountain dulcimer. Mary will share information about the instrument and play some traditional American music including a chance to sing along. Baked treats and coffee will be provided. No cost to attend this winter gathering but we do need to know how many will attend to plan for treats.

RSVP to Barb Behlen, no later than **Friday, February 22, 2023**, by calling 920-450-6525 or by email at [barbbe@charter.net](mailto:barbbe@charter.net).

*Diane Shady, Programs Chair*

[kanddshady@gmail.com](mailto:kanddshady@gmail.com)

920-539-2150

**We can only be said to be alive  
in those moments when our  
hearts are conscious of our  
treasures.**

~Thornton Wilder

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have made it from 2022 into 2023! Hope all is well with you. Guess we are in the midst of the winter months. So far, I don't think the weather has been too bad. Time will tell.

We are considering Lights of Love a success! We raised \$3,800 this year, \$300 more than the \$3,500 that was budgeted. Great job! Thank you for all donations from everyone.

Our February Luncheon will be a coffee and dessert event held at Ripon Community Hospital - Green Lake Room on Monday, February 27 from 1-3 pm. Mary Park will provide a musical program. Please see more information in the newsletter.

Please save the date for the Wisconsin Hospital Association's Advocacy Day to be held on April 19, 2023, from 9 am - 2 pm. at the Monona Terrace in Madison. We will be doing this in person after a few years of virtual meetings. Registration will be coming out soon.

We are making plans to hold our Spring Flower sale in front of the hospital on May 8 and 9, 2023. More information is available in this newsletter.

We do have two Brat Fry fund-raisers scheduled for Saturday, May 27 and Friday, June 23, 2023, at Webster's. Please put these dates on your calendars and remember we are always looking for people to help.

We still have two Board positions open - Public Policy Education and Community Health Education. Please contact any Board member if you have interest in these topics. Also, remember we are always open to new auxiliary and volunteer people. If you know of anyone that might have an interest in volunteering or fundraising for the hospital, please let us know.

Hoping to see or hear from everyone soon. Take care and remember spring is just around the corner!

*Julie Stellmacher, President*

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## WHAT'S NEW AT SSM HEALTH RIPON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

*By DeAnn Thurmer, President, SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital and SSM Health Waupun Memorial Hospital*

We have a lot going on at SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital these days - all exciting developments to help us continue our efforts to grow and offer as many services as possible at a local level. I'm proud to share with you but a few of these key advancements.

### **New Orthopedic Surgeon**

Benjamin Wiseley, MD, an SSM Health Fond du Lac Regional Clinic orthopedic surgeon, is now serving patients at the SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital. He practices orthopedic care with Emily Strahota, PA-C, a certified physician assistant. Both providers are part of a larger 11-person SSM Health Orthopedics team serving the Fond du Lac, Ripon, and Waupun communities.

Dr. Wiseley specializes in child and adult orthopedic needs, from first diagnosis to final rehabilitation. He is skilled in the latest surgical techniques for the repair, replacement or reconstruction of the hand, knee, shoulder, foot, hip, wrist, ankle, and elbow.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Dr. Wiseley completed his orthopedic residency at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics.

Dr. Wiseley is a Mayville native and graduated from Saint Norbert College with high honors. He also serves patients at the SSM Health Plaza A, 421 Camelot Drive in Fond du Lac.

Appointments are available by calling 920-745-3500.

### **Day Stabilization Services Opening**

Ripon Community Hospital's new Day Stabilization Services will officially open on Monday, January 30. The unit will offer assistance, services, and support for up to 23 hours to individuals experiencing mental health crises. This new service is supported by a \$158,000 Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Grant from the Department of Administration (DOA), on behalf of the State of Wisconsin.

### **New Security Team**

SSM Health believes the safety of our staff, providers, volunteers, patients and visitors is critical to our Mission. Following a system-wide risk assessment and safety review, SSM Health Greater Fond du Lac is adding new safety and security measures at SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital, as well as within other locations and tools for employee utilization.

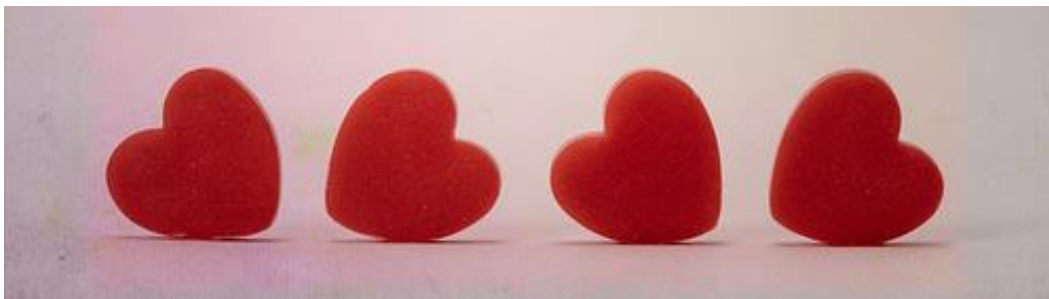
Since January 23, 2023, a new Security team at Ripon Community Hospital has started. Our team of security officers help ensure the hospital is a safe and healing environment by protecting what matters most - patients, their families and the team members who care for them.

### **BEE Awards**

The SSM Health Greater Fond du Lac Ministries have awarded their first quarterly BEE (Be Exceptional Everyday) Awards. The BEE Award is specifically designed to recognize staff members who demonstrate great teamwork and communication skills, collaboration, professionalism, exemplary service, and a commitment to excellence. Carie Hood, Therapy Services, Ripon Community Hospital, received a BEE Award. Her nomination states: "Carie is certainly the glue that holds our department together here at RCH. She has been performing at a high level for several years as the single patient access point at our front desk while performing our department's insurance authorizations and helping manage our supplies and linens. This is in addition to fielding phone calls and scheduling all our patients. She shoulders the load of patient complaints, compliments and attitudes with grace and fortitude that is unparalleled. Without her kind, patient, and consistent service as the face of our department, our department would not be the wonderful work environment we clinicians enjoy."

### **Christmas Spirit**

SSM Health Greater Fond du Lac was proud to sponsor the annual 2022 Ripon Chamber of Commerce's Dickens of a Christmas event. The team at the SSM Health Fond du Lac Regional Clinic Family Medicine department in Ripon participated in the Living Windows, along with their family members. The team decorated two windows at the Sweet and Salty Ice Cream Parlor using the theme "Mickey and Minnie's Christmas."



## VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

### Hello RCH Auxiliary Members:

I'd like to start off by extending a huge thank you on behalf of the Volunteer Services department. Over the past month, a few Auxiliary members volunteered to help distribute 50 flyers across the Ripon area highlighting our volunteer opportunities available at Ripon Community Hospital. We will continue to ensure every applicant we receive is provided with an auxiliary brochure in hopes they join as a volunteer and auxiliary.

Ripon Community Hospital is still in need of gift shop and Mobile Meals volunteers so please reach out to me or any other Volunteer Services employee if you know someone who might be interested. As a friendly reminder, we are always happy to mail out paper applications to anyone that may not have access to a computer or to those that don't wish to complete things electronically. With a simple call to volunteer services, we can have the application sent out and on its way.

Lastly, I wanted to share that I have a short leave of absence planned in the upcoming weeks. We are soon expecting the birth of our son which will take me off-site for approximately a month. Please know that our other volunteer coordinator, Cindy, and administrative assistant, Jessica, will be available to help during my leave. Cindy plans to travel to Ripon at least once per week while I am away so, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of them if you need anything. I have included their contact information below.

Cindy Smith, Volunteer Coordinator, 920-926-4955 or [cindy.smith1@ssmhealth.com](mailto:cindy.smith1@ssmhealth.com)

Jessica Challoner, Administrative Assistant, 920-926-4895 or [jessica.challoner@ssmhealth.com](mailto:jessica.challoner@ssmhealth.com)

Thank you, auxiliary members, for everything you do. Each member truly makes the community a better place. Please take care and stay safe!

*Jason Blonigen, Volunteer Coordinator*  
*Ripon Community Hospital, St. Agnes Hospital*  
[Jason.Blonigen@SSMHealth.com](mailto:Jason.Blonigen@SSMHealth.com)  
920-745-3670

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## TREASURER'S UPDATE

### Financial Report, December 31, 2022

In the second quarter of this fiscal year, we raised \$4,502 after expenses; \$3,800 from Lights of Love and \$702 from the Candy Bar Sale. This makes net fund-raising for the six months \$7,532, almost half of the budgeted amount of \$15,585 for the year. So, our fund-raising efforts met our expectations for the first half of the year.

Although gift shop sales are below what they had been in prior years, sales are meeting our expectations given the reduced traffic in the hospital and the staffing shortage causing the gift shop to be closed for some shifts. We budgeted sales to be \$26,335 for the year and after six months, sales are \$14,370.

We funded the purchase of a cardiac ultrasound probe for the hospital for \$7,705. We donated supplies to the Samaritan House at a cost of \$237 and we replenished supplies for the patient comfort cart for \$28.

We had \$43,041 in cash at the end of December. We have enough to cover the three \$1,000 scholarships that we will award in the spring, as well as the funds to meet any unplanned needs of Ripon Community Hospital.

<b>SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary</b>			
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>			
<b>Quarter and Six Months Ended December 31, 2022</b>			
	Quarter	Year to Date	Annual
	Actual	Actual	Budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
Fund-Raising	\$ 5,131.86	\$ 11,996.97	\$ 24,860.00
Donations	-	144.10	100.00
Membership Dues	40.00	320.00	450.00
Gift Shop Sales	9,621.16	14,370.11	26,335.00
Total Income	\$ 14,793.02	\$ 26,831.18	\$ 51,745.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Fund-Raising Expenses	\$ 630.00	\$ 4,464.72	\$ 9,275.00
Sewing Supplies	-	-	-
Luncheons - Net	10.00	28.00	320.00
State Conventions/District Meetings	(0.50)	244.50	1,250.00
Organization Expenses	-	56.40	225.00
Gift Shop Expenses	5,709.01	7,990.13	16,462.00
Total Expenses	\$ 6,348.51	\$ 12,783.75	\$ 27,532.00
Net Income Before Distributions	\$ 8,444.51	\$ 14,047.43	\$ 24,213.00
<b>DISTRIBUTIONS</b>			
Scholarships	-	-	3,000.00
Donations for RCH	264.20	7,969.20	14,708.00
Total Distributions	\$ 264.20	\$ 7,969.20	\$ 17,708.00
NET INCOME AFTER DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ 8,180.31	\$ 6,078.23	\$ 6,505.00
CASH BALANCES		\$ 43,040.77	

Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer



## MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership for 2022-2023 is only 32. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us! We are looking for auxiliary members and volunteers for the gift shop, front desk, sewing and mobile meals. It will be a good opportunity to invite a guest to the February 27, Winter Gathering for Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary members from 1-3 pm in the Green Lake Room at RCH.

*Jackie Halverson, Chairperson, Membership*

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## PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION



The annual WHA Advocacy Day is designed to educate and motivate health care employees, trustees and volunteers on important health care-related issues and to encourage grassroots advocacy opportunities.

Each year, featured national speakers give timely insight to state and federal health care issues, and participating in state legislative visits allows attendees to advocate on behalf of their hospitals.

WHA encourages and invites hospital CEOs, CFOs, managers, nurse executives, quality managers, hospital volunteers, hospital trustees, WHA HEAT grassroots members, Partners of WHA members, WHA corporate members, and any other hospital staff interested in helping to shape the future of health care in Wisconsin communities to attend.

For the first time since 2019, Advocacy Day is back to in-person, and with many health care priorities likely to be considered by the state legislature, your participation in the very important legislative visits is crucial. Registration will be available soon!

<https://www.wha.org/EducationandEvents/WHAEducationalEvents/AdvocacyDay>

*Vacant, Chairperson, Public Policy Education*

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

~Jane Goodall



## COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

### Older Adults are at High Risk for Severe Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection

RSV is a common virus that affects the lungs and breathing passages. When an older adult gets an RSV infection, they typically have mild cold-like symptoms including runny nose, sore throat, cough, and headache. But RSV can sometimes lead to serious conditions such as:

- Pneumonia (infection of the lungs)
- More severe symptoms for people with asthma
- More severe symptoms for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (a chronic disease of the lungs that makes it hard to breathe)
- Congestive heart failure (when the heart can't pump blood and oxygen to the body's tissues) Older adults who get very sick from RSV may need to be hospitalized. Some may even die. Older adults are at greater risk than young adults for serious complications from RSV because our immune systems weaken when we are older.



How to protect yourself and loved ones - RSV circulation starts in the fall and peaks in the winter. If you are at high risk for severe RSV infection, or if you interact with an older adult, you should take extra care to stay healthy:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Keep your hands off your face and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with sick people, such as kissing, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who have cold-like symptoms.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash afterward.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that people frequently touch, such as doorknobs. When people infected with RSV touch surfaces and objects, they can leave behind germs. Also, when they cough or sneeze, droplets containing germs can land on surfaces and objects. Stay home from work, school, and public areas when you are sick. This will help protect others from catching your illness.

<https://www.cdc.gov/rsv>

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## GIFT SHOP

And just like that, another Christmas has passed! Is it just me or is the time really flying by? We are looking forward to spring though. Soon spring and Easter items should be on display in the gift store. We are always looking for new items to have on display in the gift shop and have recently added a few new things.

I want to thank everyone who supports us, it's always so much fun when there are people milling around, even just to visit or look at what's new. I look forward to what this new year brings. Let's hope for an awesome 2023!

*Jeanne Payton, Chairperson, Gift Shop*



## FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITES

### Upcoming Events

#### Flower Basket Sale

A flower basket sale will be held at Ripon Community Hospital on May 8 and 9 2023. This is the week before Mother's Day. There are no preorders. We will be looking for people to work both days of the sale. *Radene Abel, Chairperson*

#### Brat Fry Fund-Raisers 2023

Mark your calendars! Brat fry fund-raisers will be held at Websters Market Place on Saturday, May 27 and Friday, June 23, 2023. *Pat Albright, Chairperson*

#### Fall Mum Sale

The fall mum sale will be held at Ripon Community Hospital in September 2023. *Radene Abel, Chairperson*

#### Candy Bar Sales

Ongoing sales of Vande Walle's Candy Bars. Looking for volunteers to take a tote/box of 40 candy bars to an area business. Candy bars sell for \$1.50. Anyone interested in helping to sell candy bars can call Georgia at 920-346-5607.

#### Cash Register Roundups

Ace Hardware in Ripon and Piggly Wiggly in Markesan have put us on the schedule for their roundup programs.

*Georgia Stellmacher, Chairperson, Fund-Raising*



**Ripon Community Hospital**

## FLOWER BASKET SALE



Join the Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary

**Monday, May 8 & Tuesday, May 9**  
**9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or until sold out.**

845 Parkside Street • Outside near hospital front door

The sale will feature a choice of high-quality 10-inch hanging baskets of Begonias, Sun and Shade Combos, Fuchsias, Geraniums, Portulaca, Impatiens, Petunias or Lantanas in various colors that are specifically grown for Wisconsin's climate. There will be no preorders.

**The cost is \$25.00 each.**

Cash • Check • Employee Quick Charge • **No Credit Cards**

All proceeds will support Ripon Community Hospital programs and services.

For more information, call (920) 229-9827



## OTHER NEWS

### SSM Health Samaritan Clinic

With a vision to provide accessible healthcare for all in Fond du Lac and Dodge counties, SSM Health Greater Fond du Lac offers Samaritan Clinic services.

The clinic's mission is to provide quality healthcare to the uninsured/low-income patients within these counties and to be a force for a healthier community.

To qualify, patients must be a resident of Fond du Lac County. They must have no insurance, including Medicaid, Medicare or Badger Care, and must have income at or below 165% of the federal poverty level. They must also be between 19 and 64 years of age.

To assist with this mission the auxiliary has been providing needed hygiene items to the clinic.

### Staff Recognition

The auxiliary decided to recognize the extraordinary efforts of our hospital staff and show our appreciation during COVID-19. On Valentine's Day 2021 and again in 2022, the Auxiliary made more than 200 treat bags for distribution to all staff, including physicians, with a note of appreciation and encouragement from the auxiliary. The Board voted to continue doing this again on February 14, 2023, to keep on recognizing and thanking the staff.



### Auxiliary Scholarships

The auxiliary will again be awarding three \$1,000. scholarships to high school seniors pursuing a career in a health care field. All scholarship materials have been sent to the participating school districts, Ripon, Green Lake, Markesan, and Princeton. Students receiving the scholarships will be announced at their school's awards program in May. We will recognize the three recipients at the June luncheon.

### Leadership Training Opportunity



*You're Invited!*

**February 2, 2023 – 9:00 - 10:30 am - Webinar**

Join us for a **FREE LEADERSHIP** session as we continue the "Power of Connection" with regional volunteers in health care from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and North Dakota. Learn tools and qualities to be an effective, positive and passionate leader while building trust and working with others to reach organizational goals. Auxiliary/volunteer leaders will share what they have learned from accepting a leadership role, followed by breakout groups to share leadership tips, recruitment ideas, changes and strategies.

Register by February 1 by clicking on the link; [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

## **RCH AUXILIARY BOARD**

**Julie Stellmacher, President**

920-369-0044 | thomas.julie.stellmacher@gmail.com

**Barb Behlen, Vice President & Newsletter**

920-450-6525 | barbbe@charter.net

**Mary Park, Secretary**

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**Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer**

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**Diane Shady, Programs**

920-539-2150 | kanddshady@gmail.com

**Jackie Halverson, Membership & Sunshine**

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**Jeanne Payton, Gift Shop & Sewing**

920-229-6164 | jmpayton5@gmail.com

**Georgia Stellmacher, Fund-Raising**

920-346-5607 | stellmacher.gaj@gmail.com

**Jason Blonigen, Volunteer Services**

920-745-3670 | jason.blonigen@ssmhealth.com

**Radene Abel, Flower Basket & Mum Sale**

920-229-9827 | radenemae1@gmail.com

**Pat Albright, Brat Fry Fundraisers**

(920) 748-3072 | waynenalbright@gmail.com

**Love is such a powerful force. It's there for everyone to embrace-that kind of unconditional love for all of humankind. That is the kind of love that impels people to go into the community and try to change conditions for others, to take risks for what they believe in.**

**CORETTA SCOTT KING**