

Recognizing

Outstanding Volunteer Programs

Overview of WAVE Awards Programs

The Wisconsin Awards for Volunteer Excellence (WAVE) program was established by Partners of WHA, Inc. to recognize outstanding contributions of organized volunteer programs, and is patterned after the AHA HAVE Awards program.

In addition to acknowledging the value of volunteerism to individual lives and institutions, the awards program is designed:

- To encourage service that greatly exceeds expectations, as a result of innovation, creativity and leadership.
- To promote visibility and goodwill toward the hospital or health care system.
- To increase allegiance among volunteers.
- To promote collaboration among organizations and community service.



Partners of WHA

2011 WAVE Awards

Presented at the Partners of WHA
Annual Convention

October 4-6, 2011

The Plaza, Eau Claire

Category: *Community Service Programs*

Winning Program: *"Grocery Getters"*

Winning Organization: *Indianhead Community Health Care, Inc., Shell Lake*

Living in rural northern Wisconsin, where public transportation and 24-hour stores are virtually non-existent, the volunteers of Indianhead Community Health Care (IHC) found it was hard for some area residents to do the simple task of grocery shopping. Equally hard is transporting their purchases and carrying them into their homes.

To help meet this need, in 2009, IHC volunteers collaborated with local grocer Dalstrom's Lakeside Market to develop the IHC Grocery Getters of Shell Lake program, a weekly grocery delivery service for the elderly, ill and disabled residents of their community. Clients call the grocery store each Tuesday to place their order. A store employee shops and bags their groceries, and IHC volunteers deliver the groceries to the clients' homes each Wednesday. Clients set up an account with the store for payment, so IHC volunteers never need to handle any money. The program not only meets a community need but also gives this group of hospital volunteers the opportunity to be visible in their community during a time when their role in their hospital has changed.

Category: *In-service Hospital Volunteer Programs*

Winning Program: *"Hospitality Cart"*

Winning Organization: *Aurora Lakeland Medical Center Associates, Elkhorn*

In early 2010, the Aurora Lakeland Medical Center Associates (ALMCA) developed a hospitality cart service, with the purpose of enhancing the comfort and well-being of their patients at Aurora Lakeland Medical Center. The daily visit from the cart, Monday through Saturday, gives the volunteers an additional opportunity for direct patient contact and helps further enhance the patient experience. The unique twist to this hospitality cart is the unique source of volunteers. The ALMCA teamed up with students from nearby Lakeland School of Walworth County, a school for children with disabilities, to help with cart visits and, in particular, provide extra cheer for patients hospitalized during various holidays. The student volunteers make special art projects for patients and help personally deliver their holiday cheer projects to select patients.

Category: *Fundraising Programs*

Winning Program: *"The Friends of VMH Annual Chili Cook-off & Pumpkin Carving Contest"*

Winning Organization: *Friends of Vernon Memorial Hospital, Viroqua*

"The Friends of VMH Annual Chili Cook-off and Pumpkin Carving Contest" is a hospital fundraising event sponsored by the Friends of Vernon Memorial Hospital (VMH). Twenty-six VMH physicians, staff and Friends members entered the chili cook-off contest. The top three winners took home VMH aprons. Prizes were also awarded for costume contest winners and apple bobbing.

The unique twist to this fundraiser was the competitive pumpkin carving contest for the hospital's staff surgeons. Many participated in their scrubs and used surgical instruments for the carving. The winner took home bragging rights and his name etched on the coveted "Golden Scalpel Award" trophy. The winner was selected based on the highest dollar amount raised during silent auction bidding on the carved pumpkins. The two-hour event raised funds to assist with the purchase of a much-needed piece of equipment for the Cardiac Rehab Department.

Category: *Community Outreach and/or Collaboration Programs*

Winning Program: *"Children's Screening Services Volunteers"*

Winning Organization: *Mercy Medical Center, Oshkosh*

The Children's Screening Services Volunteers, a group of 28 Mercy Medical Center volunteers dedicated to the health of Oshkosh-area children, provide vision screening in Oshkosh-area preschool, day care, parochial and public schools. In the past year, they screened more than 1,300 students, their most to-date, donating 1,064 hours of time. As a result of their screenings, 66 children were referred for follow up with an eye doctor. This specific group of volunteers is supported both by Mercy Medical Center and Wisconsin Prevent Blindness, who provides their training and the vision screening equipment.