

HEARTBEAT



March 2021

Volunteers of Howard Young Medical Center
Woodruff, Wisconsin

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 1

Scholarships 2020

Katie Grundy, Scholarship Chairman

Although most volunteers have not been able to contribute to Howard Young Medical Center in our usual capacities this year, our past good deeds continue to benefit our community. The VHYMC Scholarship Program, supported mostly by our Gift Shop and The Great Trivia Quest, was able to award ten scholarships to very deserving students pursuing degrees in medically related fields.

Lakeland Union High School students, Lydia Peterson and Emma Rose, each received a \$1500 HYMC Auxiliary Scholarship upon graduation this past June. Lydia is the daughter of Kirby and Gail Peterson and is attending Carroll University. Emma, daughter of Brian and Laura Rose, is attending St. Norbert.

The VHYMC awarded two \$1000 Scholarships to non-traditional students attending Nicolet College. These students are adults who are either beginning their advanced schooling or returning after a prolonged absence.

One of the Nicolet recipients, Sarah Alberg, resides in Tomahawk with her husband and five children and is enrolled in the nursing program at Nicolet. She writes, "Thank you for supporting the ongoing education of a future nurse. I am excited to embark in a field that requires a lifelong love of learning."

Destinie Rogers, our second scholarship recipient, is also in the nursing program at Nicolet and lives in Rhinelander. She writes, "Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for the Volunteers of Howard Young Medical Center Scholarship. Receiving this scholarship will help relieve the financial stress of the upcoming semester. Thank you for your donation to make this scholarship possible."

The Dr. Henry Ashe Continuing Education Scholarship was awarded to six students who graduated from LUHS District, have completed at least one semester of college and are continuing their education in a medically related field. Students can receive this \$2000 scholarship up to four times as they continue their education.

- Abigail Fricke is a junior at The University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, majoring in Clinical Social Work.
- Kayla Johnson is a sophomore at The University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, studying to be an x-ray technician.
- Carley Hintz, a junior at Marquette University, is studying to be a radiation oncologist.
- Tarynn Kuchler, a senior at Bellin College, is in the nursing program and looks forward to working in labor and delivery after graduation in May 2021.
- Tyler Scharbarth is in the Doctoral Program at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. He will complete his studies in Spring of 2022 and hopes to return to the Minocqua area with his wife where he plans on continuing to make a positive impact in healthcare.
- Vansh Jain is attending the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison. This is his first year of medical school and he plans on receiving a Doctor of Medicine degree in May 2024.

The students who received these scholarships are extremely grateful for the support given to them and have sent cards and letters to express their appreciation to VHYMC.

Our scholarship program continues to shine – thanks to all of our members!



Community Health Education Joan Hauer, Community Health Educator

It looks like the themes for Partners' WHA Community Health Education remain the same this year; COVID and Opioid Abuse. The Partners' website has excellent, current, fact-based information, if you are not getting enough in daily news reports. There is some optimism projected in some of the models; issues related to herd immunity with falling numbers, encouraging rates of vaccination, offset by worries about new variants and their behavior.

We are all looking forward to fewer restrictions and more opportunities to get together once again.

On the drug and alcohol front, deaths had been declining statewide. There is a lag in statistical reporting, so one can only surmise what effect the pandemic has had on the trend. In the last published statistical data for Wisconsin, 2019, the overall rate of death from drug abuse was 13.9 (number of deaths per 100,000). Our area's rates match the state's with Oneida county at 13.9, down 7.4% from prior reports. Vilas county's rate was 18.5, down 1.8%. Lincoln county's rate of death per 100,000 is 7, down 3.5%. Data is not available for other bordering counties, probably due to lack of population concentration.

Measures to educate in the schools, provide treatment options, such as the Vilas county jail program, and alert and educate prescribers have all contributed to some improvement. We live in a corridor from the port and twin cities that makes for more availability to illegal drugs, some combinations of which are deadly.

WHA Legislative Day is set for April 14th. There is easy sign up and access through Zoom. Take a minute to look over the agenda and plan to take in something that would not otherwise be so easily available to you. The pandemic has stressed health care systems and workers at every level. So, what can we do to help out?

Return of Volunteers

We are anxiously awaiting the return of our volunteers. Although a date has not yet been set, plans have been established for when it is deemed safe for your return.

The health and safety of our volunteers, associates and patients remain our top priority during these uncertain times.

Membership Report

Active - 112

Eucharistic Non-Supporter - 1

Life - 7

Life Active - 4

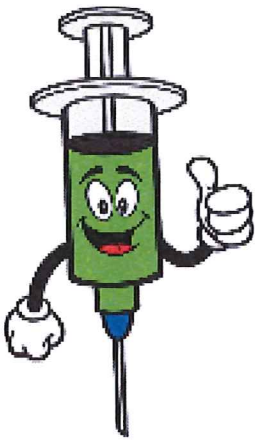
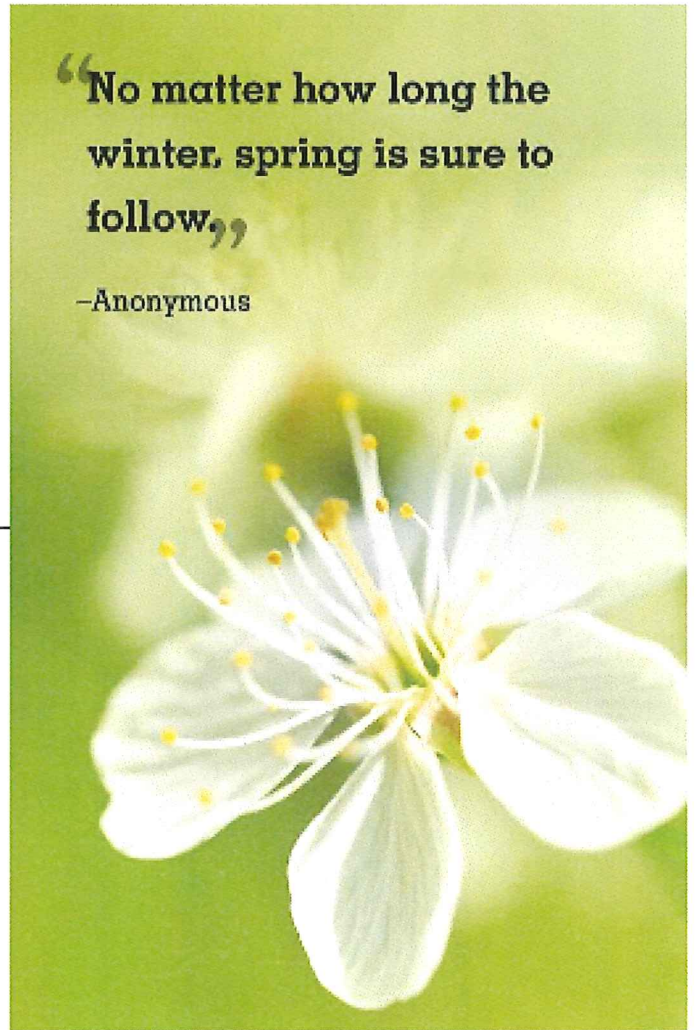
Patron - 27

Became Active - 8

Became Life - 1

**“No matter how long the
winter, spring is sure to
follow,”**

—Anonymous



COVID Vaccination

COVID vaccinations were offered to all of our HYMC Volunteers with many taking advantage of this opportunity.

Sunshine Needed?



Please contact Sharon Casey if you know one of our members who might need a little

"Sunshine".

Sharon can be reached by email at:
scaseynorth@frontier.net

If for some reason Sharon can't be reached,
please contact Tracy at 715-356-8517



Vice President

HELP

Public Policy Education

To find out more about these positions and to volunteer, please email Tracy at:
tracy.hand@ascension.org

*Heartbeat is published by the
Volunteers of Howard Young Medical Center
Woodruff, Wisconsin
Katie Grundy, Editor*



Aspirus Health to Acquire Ascension Properties

In early January we shared news of Aspirus Health signing an agreement to acquire Ascension care sites in north/central Wisconsin. In a combined news release to the public, it was shared that Aspirus Health and Ascension have signed an agreement to transfer from Ascension to Aspirus ownership of seven hospitals, 21 physician clinics, and air and ground medical transport services located in north and central Wisconsin. The transition will include Ascension Wisconsin Spirit Medical Transport, 21 physician clinics, and the following Wisconsin hospitals:

- Eagle River Hospital in Eagle River
- Good Samaritan Hospital in Merrill
- Howard Young Medical Center in Woodruff
- Our Lady of Victory Hospital in Stanley
- Sacred Heart Hospital in Tomahawk
- St. Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander
- St. Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point



The timing of the transition remains dependent on regulatory approvals. As more information becomes available, we look forward to sharing that information with you.

Laurie Oungst CAO, HYMC

Blood Drives

Howard Young Medical Center hosts a blood drive every quarter. Mark your calendar and plan on donating if you can. Your 'gift of life' is needed more than ever this year.

Tuesday, April 20th, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
(Hosted by The Spirit Group)

Monday, June 28th, 10 am – 2 pm

Monday, October 25th, 10 am – 2 pm

Monday, December 27th, 10 am – 2 pm

Donors can call **800-280-4102** to register for a blood drive.

You can also sign up online by visiting communityblood.org



Message to the Volunteers of Howard Young Medical Center

It was March 11, 2020 that the World Health Organization (WHO), declared COVID-19 a pandemic. One year later, you can be very proud of the team at HYMC and all they have done over this past year to care for the COVID and non-COVID hospitalized patients that we have been blessed to serve. Admittedly, at times overwhelmed but always bringing their best, working together as a team and being there for those that needed them.

Today, COVID-19 hospitalizations are fewer and we are happy that the spread and severity within our communities has diminished. We do however remain cautious as the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) continues to rate our service area in the high to very-high COVID-19 activity level within the state. We also remain uncertain about the impact the variants will have in the weeks and months ahead.

We are grateful to be able to be a resource for our community in administering the COVID-19 vaccination. We have been able to serve many grateful individuals and we look forward to continuing to be part of the health care community resources needed to achieve the goal for herd immunity.

So, as our winter days grow longer and the number of days to spring grow shorter, I wish good things in your day. Please know that we look forward to your return when we can safely be together. You are an important part of our Howard Young Medical Center team.

Laurie Oungst CAO, HYMC

Wisconsin Hospital Association

Virtual Advocacy Day

Mark your calendar now for **WHA's Advocacy Day 2021**, scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 8:30 AM-11:30 AM. This year, WHA has contracted with the professional virtual event platform, **LeaderPass**, to deliver this event in a virtual format to advocates across the state.

While the day will be a little different in the virtual format, attendees can still expect to hear from a great line-up of speakers, including opening keynote Frank Sesno. Sesno is an internationally-recognized journalist with more than thirty years of experience reporting from around the world. Well known as a television anchor, White House correspondent and talk show host with CNN, he is also a nationally-renowned moderator who has engaged some of the world's leading personalities.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet, virtually, with their legislators and/or their staff, and are encouraged to do so. Specific times, in 30-minute intervals, are set aside on April 14, 15, and 16 for these meetings. WHA will take care of the scheduling and will inform advocates of their meeting date and time, along with virtual instructions to join the meeting.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still underfoot, it has never been more important for you and your teams to participate in Advocacy Day and let your voice be heard!