

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.

August 19, 2020

Re: Gundersen Partners Update - August 2020

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Office Assistant

Hello to all our wonderful Gundersen Partners members,

I wanted to send you an update about the Gundersen Partners organization as we head into fall. My hope is that all of you are doing well and will continue to do so. It is hard to believe that wearing a mask whenever you go out has now become routine. I still struggle, as I am sure that you do, to see businesses and local charities shut down or barely surviving. But we cannot let everything get us down. For that reason, Partners has continued moving forward and following our mission. The Gundersen Partners Board wants to do whatever we can to make lives better, especially now.

Gundersen Partners has continued to donate to needs in the Gundersen Health System and in the community. In May, Partners donated \$500 to the Hunger Task Force Drive and \$500 to Viterbo Sole Providers that holds free foot care clinics staffed with volunteer nursing students. In June we donated \$6,500 to fund, along with the Gundersen Medical Foundation, a decontamination shower for the Onalaska campus that did not have one previously. Partners also awarded \$2,950 to our Teen Merit Award Program in June. Gundersen Partners in July gave our annual \$7,000 to the Gundersen Medical Foundation as part of our pledge to the Legacy Capital Campaign. During August we awarded \$12,000 of scholarships to our high school / college students that are children of Gundersen employees going into the healthcare field. Finally, in August we donated \$500 of food and personal care items to the Hamilton Elementary School food pantry.

We are planning on moving forward with events yet this year if we can do so based on Gundersen Health System guidelines. Steppin' Out in Pink is holding a virtual event that asks people to walk 4.5 miles individually from September 1 to 12 and record mileage online. For the third year in a row Gundersen Partners has a team called Partners in Pink. Please join our team or donate to support Partners in Pink. If possible, we are planning our Simply Sweet Candy Sale in La Crosse on October 27 and Onalaska on October 28. Partners hopes to have our second Discovery Toy Sale on November 4 and 5 in La Crosse. The \$7 Sale is scheduled November 16-18 in La Crosse. Finally, Partners is planning our annual membership meeting celebrating our 70th Anniversary on December 7 followed

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that day by our Love Lights celebration. We will continue to keep you informed as we know the status of each special event.

We thought you would like to know more about the fabulous teen volunteers that received merit awards in 2020. All merit award recipients graduated from La Crosse area high schools in 2020 and are attending college in the fall. These awards are made possible by the purchase of carnations at the annual Valentine's Day Carnation Sale sponsored by the Volunteer Services Department and Gundersen Partners. These young people were recognized for their exemplary service to GHS patients and families as volunteers:

Ella Bachim
Katharine Bruns
Maci Call
Abbey Carter
Josie Hanson
Macey Heath

Meghan Kettner
Avery Miles
Emma Peterson-Johnson
Aiden Robinson
Mai Doua Xiong

The teens do not apply for this award – rather, selection is based on multiple factors including dedication to volunteerism, customer service focus, leadership qualities and more. These caring young people have a true desire to help others and their community and were very grateful to be selected.

Gundersen Partners also wants to share information about our high school and college scholarship recipients, who were recognized for academic, character and community excellence. These scholarships are awarded annually prior to the fall semester. This year's scholarship recipients are:

Kayla Bahr, daughter of Kelley Bahr, MD. Kayla will attend St. Norbert College studying biology on a pre-med track.

Brian Conway, son of Patrick Conway, MD. Brian is majoring in both MD and MS in the clinical and translational science dual degree program at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Kaitlin Dinan, daughter of Colleen Dinan, RN. Kaitlin is pursuing a master's degree in occupational therapy at Allen College.

Madeline Heffernan, daughter of Mark Heffernan, RN and Sara Heffernan, CRNA. Madeline is enrolled at UW-Eau Claire in the nursing program.

Caelen Lansing, daughter of Kimberly Lansing, MD. Caelen will attend the University of Iowa studying human physiology and pre-med.

Olivia Meyers, daughter of Dana Meyers, Team 2 Administrative Director. Olivia is pursuing a nursing degree from Edgewood College.

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Maria Miller, daughter of Brenda Miller, Senior Office Assistant in Trauma Services. Maria will attend Viterbo University studying nursing.

Emma Peterson-Johnson, daughter of Deidra Johnson, Ophthalmic Assistant. Emma is in the pre-nursing program at UW-Madison.

Karina Puent, daughter of Wendy Puent, RN. Karina is enrolled at Midwestern University-Downers Grove pursuing a PsyD in clinical psychology.

Allison Redsten, daughter of Cynthia Redsten, Senior Office Assistant in Optometry. Allison is enrolled at UW-La Crosse in the physician assistant program.

Jessica Schmidt, daughter of Paul Schmidt, Behavioral Health Therapist. Jessica is pursuing a master's degree in kinesiology.

Alexis See, daughter of Kristi See, home health billing. Alexis will study human physiology and pre-med at the University of Iowa.

Partners asks that you let us know if there is anything that we can do to help you and keep you informed.

Please take care and be safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Gillette" followed by a stylized flourish.

Linda Gillette, President
Gundersen Partners

