

# SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Newsletter

November/December 2023



## Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Luncheon

**Monday, November 27, 2023, 12 pm**

Ripon Community Hospital Green Lake Room  
845 Parkside Street, Ripon

Come and enjoy a wonderful hot lunch prepared by Christiano's.  
We will be entertained by the Lac Verde Chamber Trio.

Pam Schmitz, scheduler for Ripon Community Hospital Imaging Services and Cardiopulmonary will share insight into the 2024 medical mission trip for New Life Community Center orphanage in Kenya she will participate in. A freewill offer will be accepted.

The cost of the luncheon is \$10 and can be paid at the door.

RSVP to Diane Shady, program chairperson,  
no later than Friday, November 17 by calling 920-539-2150 or by email at [kanddshady@gmail.com](mailto:kanddshady@gmail.com).

Please indicate if you have any special dietary needs  
when making your reservation.  
Reservations made and not honored will be charged the  
cost of the lunch.

If you have any suggestions about future programs you would like to see  
at our luncheon meetings, please contact me.

*Diane Shady, Chairperson, Programs*  
[kanddshady@gmail.com](mailto:kanddshady@gmail.com)  
920-539-2150

"We cannot stop the winter or the summer from coming. We cannot stop the spring or the fall or make them other than they are. They are gifts from the universe (God) that we cannot refuse. But we can choose what we contribute to life when each arrives."

~Gary Zukav

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we approach the colder weather, I hope you are enjoying the beautiful colors we are seeing in many places! This seems to be one of our more colorful years!

We have had a busy Fall starting with the Mum Sale on September 12 and 13, which was a big success! Thank you to everyone that helped with this project.

We hosted a luncheon on September 25, 2023, with Ryan Pizinger, MD, SSM Health Orthopedic surgeon, as our speaker on shoulder pain. There were 19 people attending.

On November 27 at noon in the Ripon Community Hospital Green Lake Room, we will be holding another luncheon. Pam Schmitz, from Ripon Community Hospital, will be speaking on Dr. Nelson's Mission Trip to Africa, where she will be going with several other people to bring medical services and supplies to people in that area. They are looking for funding to help with that trip. Hopefully, we can all join and help them out with this project. We will also be entertained by a Trio of Instrumentalists. Looking forward to seeing you there.

On October 3 and 4, Bobbie Pollesch, Jackie Halverson, and I attended the WHA State Convention in Stevens Point. A professor from Viterbo University in La Crosse was our opening speaker. He spoke on how volunteerism is love personified. It was very motivating! There were approximately 170 people attending the convention. There were displays, workshops, raffles, Purse Bingo, and delicious meals to enjoy. On October 17, Jason Blonigen, Jackie Halverson, and I attended the Lakes District Meeting at Altona Supper Club, New Holstein hosted by Ascension Calumet Hospital Auxiliary. There were 20 people in attendance. The speaker, Sarah Bassing-Sutton, Community Prevention Coordinator at N.E.W. Mental Health Connection, spoke on mental health. A very timely topic.



At this point, we have 28 members in our Auxiliary. We continue to work on growing that number. Volunteer and Auxiliary membership numbers are down at all hospitals in Wisconsin.

A table retractor for interior hip surgeries was recently purchased by the Auxiliary for the hospital. The cost was approximately \$4,000. We continue to look for more items to be purchased for the hospital.

Upcoming events include a Holiday Bake Sale and our Annual Lights of Love. Lights of Love will be held on December 7 as that is when the tree lights will officially be turned on. Lights purchased in memory of or in honor of will again be listed in the Ripon Commonwealth Press.

I would like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays! I'm looking forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming events. Stay healthy!

*Julie Stellmacher, President*



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

### **What's New at SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital**

*An update from DeAnn Thurmer, President, SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital and SSM Health Waupun Memorial Hospital, and Nicole Gill, Vice President Patient Care Services & CNO, 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.

### **Day Stabilization Services Updates**

Since starting its Day Stabilization Services in early 2023, SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital has remained nimble and flexible as mental health needs within its service area continue to change.

Outpatient Day Stabilization Services is available to help individuals experiencing any of these common non-emergent concerns: depression, mood disturbances, anxiety, stress, grief reactions, psychosis, distortion, or disconnection from reality, and more.

As part of this ongoing evaluation, the hospital has moved to a walk-in model where individuals can come to the hospital emergency department or work through a professional referral source to access these services during day-time hours, seven days a week. Care will also be offered on a one-on-one basis, moving from previous group-based opportunities.

The hours of operation are now Monday through Friday from 7:30 am - 7 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 8 am - 5 pm. Questions or inquiries can be directed to 920-745-3850.

Day Stabilization Services is also being complemented by new free SSM Health virtual behavioral health services to offer an additional option for individuals experiencing a variety of mental health challenges.

To also reflect these changes, Day Stabilization Services will now be referenced as the Behavioral Health Walk-in Clinic.

### **WHA CEO Panel**

DeAnn Thurmer participated in a CEO panel discussion at the recent Partners of WHA convention in Stevens Point. The panel discussion focused on pressing health care topics, including volunteer and employee retention and recruitment, COVID-19 pandemic financial concerns, medical professional licensing, hospital mergers, COVID-19 projections, and more.

### **New Meeting Room Technology**

The Green Lake Room now features all new technology to help with virtual meeting opportunities and internal presentation capabilities. The upgrades feature a new podium with a laptop. In addition, an HDMI cable and adapters are available for users to use their own laptop. Two new cameras for viewing both rooms. A new touch screen controls all functions, and two new speakers offer great audio experiences.

### **Produce Sharing**

Since its opening on Parkside Street, the team at SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital has planted and harvested apples for all to enjoy. This year was no exception as Nicole Gill, vice president of patient care/chief nursing officer, took time to pick and distribute apples to staff and volunteers serving the entire hospital that particular day! What a great way to take a moment and interact with staff and share our bounty!

## Blood Drive

SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital, 845 Parkside Street, is hosting a community blood drive from 12-3 pm on Tuesday, November 21. The drive - through ImpactLife - is open to the public. Donors will get their choice of a gift card or bonus points to shop for a new ImpactLife classic crewneck sweatshirt and more. To sign up, visit [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org) or call 800-747-5401. Participants are asked to bring a picture ID. Here's a helpful tip for donors: Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

## Ripon Senior Activity Center Presentation

Dr. Ryan Pizinger, an SSM Health Fond du Lac Regional Clinic orthopedic surgeon who provides services in Ripon and Fond du Lac, drew a record crowd for his shoulder pain presentation at the Ripon Senior Activity Center. Nearly 50 people attended this lunch presentation, including many individuals first visiting the new facility.

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## VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

### Greetings RCH Auxilians:

I hope all of you are well. I cannot believe how quickly summer and now fall are passing by. Thanksgiving and the holidays will be here before we know it.

For those who do not know one of our team members, Cindy Smith, retired from her position as volunteer coordinator on October 6. While we are sad to see Cindy leave, we are happy to see her start her next chapter and get the much-deserved opportunity to spend more time with her grand kids. For the time being our team is splitting the duties of Waupun Memorial Hospital with hopes we can get everything back to normal soon.

I am delighted to share Volunteer Services has hired Cindy's replacement, Haley, who will start training in the upcoming weeks. If you see one of us showing Haley around, please take a moment to welcome her. We look forward to having Haley join our team and are excited for what is to come.

Lastly, annual influenza vaccinations will be due on December 9 for any Auxiliary member that also volunteers on-site at Ripon Community Hospital. Please reach out to me if you would like me to help enter this information into your employee health account. Please note this information only applies to those that volunteer in the hospital, not those that only volunteer off-site, such as Mobile Meals.

I hope everyone has an amazing Fall and upcoming Holiday season. Thank all of you for everything you do and for helping our communities become a better place!

Jason Blonigen  
Volunteer Coordinator  
[Jason.Blonigen@ssmhealth.com](mailto:Jason.Blonigen@ssmhealth.com)  
920-745-3670

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## MEMBERSHIP

Welcome our new member, Sue Leonard.

With our November 27 luncheon just around the corner, let me encourage each of you to invite a friend, relative, or neighbor to join us and learn about volunteering at Ripon Community Hospital. Remember, this is not a five-day a week commitment, you can choose how often and from front desk, gift shop, mobile meal delivery, spring flower, fall mum sales, Lights of Love, and of course enjoy our quarterly luncheons with great speakers.

From the past, ... this member has been giving of her time and talents for the past 11 years. She has helped with delivering meals, working at flower sales, brat fries, bake sales, candy-bar sales, Lights of Love, and guided school tours. She has also sought out programs for our luncheons. Thank you, Iona Altnau.

*Jackie Halverson, Membership, Chair*



**Mark your calendars!**  
**The Christmas Bake Sale is back!**  
**December 5, 2023**  
**9 am until sold out.**

## **TREASURER'S UPDATE**

### **Financial Report - September 30, 2023**

The financial report on September 30, 2023, is for the first three months of our fiscal year. Our fund-raising efforts these first three months were very successful. Net proceeds from the Mum Sale were \$2,004, the Candy Bar Sale will net \$1,080 when all candy bars are sold, and we received \$350 from store roundups.

Gift shop sales were 29% higher than last year at this time.

We donated \$6,128 for the purchase of a sit-to-stand device for Ripon Community Hospital. Donations received for the Lights of Love fund-raiser have been earmarked for this and we used other fundraising money to make up the difference.

We had \$41,143.23 in cash at the end of September. So, we have the funds to support the needs of Ripon Community Hospital as they are identified and provide scholarships in the spring.

**SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Treasurer's Report**  
**Three Months Ended September 30, 2023**

	Three Month Actual	Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>		
Fund-Raising	\$ 6,704.25	\$ 23,900.00
Donations	18.00	100.00
Membership Dues	270.00	350.00
Gift Shop Sales	6,124.49	26,596.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 13,116.74</b>	<b>\$ 50,946.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Fund-Raising Expenses	\$ 3,929.50	\$ 10,720.00
Luncheons - Net	3.00	55.00
State Conventions/District Meetings	450.00	1,500.00
Organization Expenses	56.72	218.00
Gift Shop Expenses	5,580.45	17,240.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 10,019.67</b>	<b>\$ 29,733.00</b>
<b>Net Income Before Distributions</b>	<b>\$ 3,097.07</b>	<b>\$ 21,213.00</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTIONS</b>		
Scholarships	-	4,500.00
Donations for RCH	6,128.07	25,550.00
<b>Total Distributions</b>	<b>\$ 6,128.07</b>	<b>\$ 30,050.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME AFTER DISTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$ (3,031.00)</b>	<b>\$ (8,837.00)</b>
<b>CASH BALANCES</b>	<b>\$ 41,143.23</b>	

*Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer*

## **PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION**

### **Wisconsin Hospitals Lead the Way in Health Care Cost, Access, Quality, Value and Price Transparency**

Higher quality health care gets people back to their normal activities faster, and they stay healthier. High-quality care delivers higher value for your health care dollar. Hospitals and health systems in Wisconsin provide accessible, affordable health care in their communities.

- **4th Largest Share of Five-Star Hospitals in the Country:** Wisconsin hospitals' have the fourth-most five-star rated hospitals in the country, according to the 2023 Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).
- **Second Best in the Nation for Rural Hospitals:** Wisconsin's rural hospitals rank the second best in the country by the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Program and has been in the top 10 states in the country ever since 2015.



- **Top Quartile in the Nation for Quality Care:** The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) ranks Wisconsin in the top quartile of states for quality health care.
- **8th Lowest Cost of Care in the Nation:** Forbes magazine recently released data showing Wisconsin's overall cost of care is the 8th lowest in the country.
- **7th Lowest in the Nation of Cost Deterring Patient Care:** According to United Health Foundation's America's Health Rankings, Wisconsin has the 7th lowest rate of patients who are deterred from seeking care due to cost.

More information can be found at: <https://www.wha.org/value>.

*Vacant, Chairperson, Public Policy Education*

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## COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

### 5 Things You Should Know about COVID-19 Vaccines

#### 1. Updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines save lives and prevent hospitalizations.

In the first 10 months that COVID-19 vaccines were available, they saved over 200,000 lives and prevented over 1.5 million hospitalizations in the United States. This is the purpose of these vaccines: to save lives and prevent severe disease. They can also reduce the risk of Long COVID. Getting vaccinated builds protection against COVID-19, protecting people from the potentially serious consequences of getting the disease, including hospitalization and death.

#### 2. COVID-19 vaccines are effective.

We have multiple years of experience showing the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. However, the strains of virus causing most of the disease change and immunity wanes over time. The changes from last year's vaccines are small, but they help make the vaccine better at targeting the virus strains circulating now and give your immune system a boost. Based on three years of experience with these vaccines, we can expect the vaccines to increase protection and save lives.

#### 3. When side effects from COVID-19 vaccines occur, they are usually mild or moderate.

COVID-19 vaccines have undergone - and continue to undergo - the most intense vaccine safety monitoring in U.S. history. It is important to look at the whole picture in the context of the benefit-risk balance, and the evidence strongly supports that the benefits of COVID-19 vaccines outweigh the risks.

#### 4. Talk to your health care provider before you believe everything you see or hear from hers.

A single scientific finding is not conclusive and can be used out of context, or there may be other inaccurate information circulating about COVID-19 vaccines. If you have questions or concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine, talk to your health care provider.

#### 5. The updated COVID-19 vaccine recommendations are based on data and science.

The available evidence includes extensive safety and effectiveness data on the original and bivalent COVID-19 vaccines and data on the updated vaccines from the three manufacturers, including clinical trial data from Moderna and pre-clinical data from Novavax and Pfizer.

Bottom line: CDC recommends everyone six months and older get an updated COVID-19 vaccine to protect against potentially serious COVID-19 outcomes this fall and winter. This is especially important for older adults and people with weakened immune systems, who are at highest risk for severe illness.

Source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases  
<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/whats-new/5-things-you-should-know.html>

*Vacant, Chairperson, Community Health Education*

## GIFT SHOP

Greetings from the gift shop! If you are looking for one-of-a-kind gifts, we have them! Business has been good at the gift shop, and we have been able to get many new items. I hope you take the time to come in and see our Christmas display. Also, we decided to start our next promotion. Anyone who purchases jewelry will get a free drawstring bag. (Same as last year) As always, we truly appreciate your patronage.

Sincerely, the gift shop associates.

*Jeanne Payton, Chairperson, Gift Shop*



## FUND-RAISING OPPORTUNITIES

### Fall Mum Sale

We held the fall mum sale at Ripon Community Hospital on September 11 and 12. It was a successful sale and the weather cooperated! Our profit was \$2,003.75. Thank you, Radene, Barb, and others, who helped with the event.

*Radene Abel, Chairperson*

### Culvers Donation Jar

Customers at Culvers are very generous with dropping money into our donation jar on the counter. We took in \$132 in September.

### Candy Bar Sales

We continue with our ongoing sales of Vande Walle's Candy Bars. New volunteers to take a tote/box of 40 candy bars to an area business are welcome. Candy bars sell for \$1.50. Anyone interested in helping can call Georgia at 920-346-5607.

### Cash Register Roundups

The Piggly Wiggly in Markesan had RCH Auxiliary as their round donation in September. The customers were generous rounding up their sales. They collected \$531.77 for us.



### **Brat Fry Fund-Raisers 2023**

Thank you to Pat and Wayne Albright and all those who assisted for doing a super job with the brat fry sales this year. Two were completed with a combined profit of \$981.05 in sales and \$149.07 in donations. Watch for next year's schedule.

### **Christmas Bake Sale**

We are bringing back the Christmas Bake Sale on Tuesday, December 5 starting at 9 am until gone. The sale will be in the hospital lobby near the gift shop. Look for your favorite recipes to bake for the sale. We will pack the sale items on Monday, December 4 at 1 pm. Drop off baked goods in the RCH Volunteer Room. If you are unable to bake a cash donation would be appreciated.

*Barb Behlen, Chairperson*

*Georgia Stellmacher, Chairperson, Fund-Raising*



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### **2023 Lights of Love**

The annual Lights of Love fund-raiser has kicked off. By now you should have received your materials in the mail. Please respond generously and share the extra brochures with others. Additional brochures are available at the greeter's station and in the gift shop. Proceeds will be used to fund the purchase of a sit-to-stand device for hospital patients who need help standing up by themselves. We won't be having a tree lighting event again this year, but the tree will still be lit on December 7 with white and colored lights shining in memory of or in honor of loved ones. The names of these individuals will be published in the Ripon Commonwealth Press.

Please support this very meaningful event.

*Bobbie Pollesch, Chairperson, Lights of Love*



**Ringin' Bells for Salvation Army**  
**Help spread the Christmas cheer!**

The Auxiliary has been asked to ring bells for the Salvation Army fundraiser on Thursday, December 6 from noon until 6 pm. We have been assigned to the Walgreens location. Many members will be needed to cover the time slot given to us. A sign-up sheet will be available at the luncheon on November 27, or you can contact Julie Stellmacher to volunteer.



**RCH AUXILIARY BOARD**

**Julie Stellmacher, President**

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

**Barb Behlen, Vice President & Newsletter**

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**Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer**

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**Barb Miller, Sunshine**

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**Jeanne Payton, Gift Shop & Sewing**

920-229-6164 | jmpayton5@gmail.com

**Georgia Stellmacher, Fund-Raising**

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**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



**Year-Round Joy**

Christmas is full of shiny things  
That sparkle, gleam and glow;  
These holiday pleasures dazzle us,  
And yet, deep down, we know...

That Christmas has its special gifts,  
But our year-round joy depends  
On the cherished people in our lives,  
Our family and our friends.

~Joanna Fuchs