

# Friends of VMH

Vernon Memorial Healthcare, Viroqua

June 2023

## Update from Your President

Thanks to everyone for your dedication to Friends of VMH these past nine months. I'm sure you are all looking forward to a little break from our regular monthly meetings. We will not meet as a group in June, July or August but we still have a few events taking place.

A new fundraising event was introduced in May. We sold memorial flags to honor our veterans. VMH is named

and was founded in honor of veterans. Flags could be purchased in the Gift Shop. A \$1.00 donation was requested to display a paper flag on the hallway wall connecting the hospital and MOB. A \$5.00 donation was accepted for small cloth flags placed around the hospital grounds. Thanks Janelle for coming up with this wonderful idea. \$227.00 was raised.

Thank you DJ and committee for another successful geranium sale. Despite the rain and cool temperatures, we sold 339 geraniums, an assortment of 50 other plants and vines and 19 hanging baskets. Our profit was \$940.25, down \$268.00 from last year.

Several of our members attended the Spring Western District Meeting in LaCrosse on April 25th. Donna Nelson was installed as the District Chair for another year. Mandy Richardson, Gunderson Health System Philanthropy

Director was the guest speaker. Her topic was "Gratitude as Medicine."



Friends attending the district meeting were: (Front row l to r) Phyllis Malin, Bonnie Rath, Julie Steiner and Diane Brown. (Back row l to r) District Chair Donna Nelson, Trudy Wallin, State President Sharon Scott, and Janelle Cisneros.



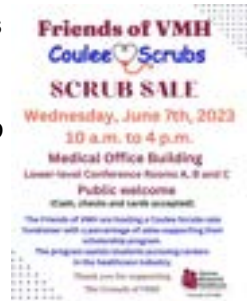
Pictured l to r: Linda Wagner, DJ Brown, Diane Brown & Jean Klousia

Friends are hosting a Coulee Scrubs Sale in the lower level of the Medical Office Building on June 7th. Flyers were distributed internally as well as to area nursing homes, assisted living facilities, dental offices and veterinary clinics to make their staffs aware of this event. Friends receive a percentage of the profits which we budget for our healthcare scholarship program.

Are you ready to step up and help lead our organization? We are in need of a President-Elect and Secretary beginning October 2023. Kathryn Anderson will step into the President role and Linda Wagner has agreed to serve a second term as Treasurer.

We have approved several funding requests from VMH clinics and departments over the last couple of months. Details appear on the following page.

Don't forget our Annual Brat Sale which will be held outside the hospital main entrance from 11:00 to 1:30 on Wednesday, August 23rd. We could still use a few more members to help with set up. We also need donations of bottled water and bags of ice. If you are unable to provide baked goods this may be a great way for you to participate! Diane and DJ Brown are co-chairs. Feel free to contact them to volunteer or to answer any questions you may have. Diane may be reached at 608-632-9380 or diwa1966@gmail.com. DJ may be reached at 608-632-1313 or djenhance.attitude@gmail.com.



Julie

# Friends Funds Released for Hospital and Clinic Services

Thanks to our fundraising efforts, Friends of VMH approved over \$19,000.00 in funding requests from hospital and clinic departments between October 2022 and May 2023. In addition, permission was given to the Executive Committee to review and expend an additional \$23,900.00 for requests that may come in before the Friends next full membership meeting in September.

We are able to provide these gifts from profits made in our Gift Shop and funds raised at our Geranium and Mum sales, Lovelights, Brat sale, 50/50 Raffles, etc. Great work everyone!

Here are details on how our funds were spent:

-\$1600.00 for a new audiometer for Kickapoo Valley Medical Clinic

-\$250.00 for a new nebulizer and new color blindness test book for Bland Clinic

-\$600.00 for new colorblindness test books for KVMC, Hirsch and LaFarge medical clinics



Kathryn Anderson, Tricia Ward, Janelle Cisneros and OB Supervisor Michelle Nelson display diaper bags purchased by Friends of VMH

-\$600.00 for diaper bags and essentials for families of VMH newborns with socioeconomic disparity. Friends member Trudy Wallin did the shopping for these items.

-\$15,000.00 for a laboratory fridge used by the hospital lab to store samples and specimens at a specific temperature to ensure they do not become spoiled.

-\$1,100.00 to Food and Nutrition Services for a piece of equipment utilized in the kitchen to streamline labelmaking and food dating.



Testing a patient for color blindness.



Amber Hatfield, MA is using the audiometer at KVMC.

***PPE Report by Trudy Wallin***

## Join HEAT (Health Education and Advocacy Team)

This year we are urging our members to join HEAT, which is the Hospitals Education & Advocacy Team. WHA's HEAT is the statewide network designed to facilitate your grassroots involvement in health care public policy. HEAT provides you with the information and assistance you need to share your insight on how legislative issues impact hospitals and the communities they serve.

Currently, the Wisconsin state legislature is working on the state budget. HEAT has asked us to weigh in on issues that are important to Wisconsin hospitals to make sure that hospitals are included in that budget process. As a member of HEAT, you receive an email link that you can click on.

This will enable you to choose to send a letter to your legislators. It also offers you an opportunity to add your own details to the letter which you can choose to do or not. This is a very easy process and takes very little time.

To join HEAT, please search Wisconsin Hospital Association HEAT. You will have an option to click on HEAT sign up. This will bring you to a simple form for your information to be entered and a "sign up" button to click at the bottom of the page. If you have questions, call Trudy at 608-637-2930. Please consider joining HEAT and lending your support for our local VMH as well as other hospitals throughout Wisconsin.





Friends provided lots of sweet treats to VMH and Gundersen staff this year. Pictured is: Phyllis Malin, Karen Allness, Barb Solverson, Jean Klousia and Alice Sloane delivering bars and cookies on Staff Appreciation Day March 3rd.



Representing VMH at Advocacy Day April 19th were: Janelle Cisneros, Angie Dahl, David Hartberg, Kathryn Anderson and Julie Steiner.



Volunteers were recognized with an appreciation luncheon and program on May 18th.

## WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!!!

The 2023 Partners convention is dedicated to providing solutions to some of the problems our organizations are encountering. It may be recruiting new members, keeping current members, fundraising, or community

involvement. The convention will provide an opportunity for members to share whatever is working for them. **SAVE THE DATE:** October 3-5, 2023 at the Holiday Inn, Stevens Point.

### *Help Needed for 50/50 Raffle*

Clerks are needed for our next 50/50 Raffle Ticket Sale on Wednesday, August 23rd, the same day as our Brat Sale. Can you help with a one or two hour shift? We need help at the following times:

- 9:00-10:00 am
- 10:00-11:00 am
- 11:00 am-12:00 pm
- 1:00-2:00 pm
- 2:00-3:00 pm
- 3:00-4:00 pm

Call or email Julie Steiner if you are available...608-606-0892 or [jsteiner@vmh.org](mailto:jsteiner@vmh.org).

*TODAY'S DREAM...  
TOMORROW'S REALITY*

