



*What is Wisconsin's most prevalent deciduous tree?*

The Volunteers of Howard Young Medical Center held their inaugural trivia fundraiser, *The Great Trivia Quest*, on October 21st at the Thirsty Whale in Minocqua. The event was a great success and loads of fun with over 150 people attending and over \$8,000 raised for scholarships.

It started with a chili feed and raffles with the main event being the trivia contest emceed by Doug Etten. Eighteen teams played trivia with a wide range of questions that catered to ages from eighteen to eight-five. Prizes were handed out to the top three teams. Throughout the night there were several raffles going; a 50/50 raffle, cash raffle and paddle raffles with several prizes from community businesses.

Tickets for the main raffles were sold in the HYMC Gift Shop and throughout the community.

Prizes included:

1. Packer Suite Tickets donated by Gary Reynolds, won by David Christensen
2. Dining Package donated by various local restaurants, won by JoAnne Taddy
3. Motorcycle Rocker donated by McNaughton Correctional Center, won by Max McPherson
4. Hand Made Sweater created and donated by volunteer Maggie Rabjohns, won by Sandy Anderson
5. Jewelry & Gift Certificate donated by Bassett Jewelers, won by Laura Arvold

All proceeds from the raffles and trivia contest will benefit the Scholarship Program of the Volunteers of Howard Young Medical Center. Scholarships are awarded to graduating students of Lakeland Union High School, local college students (Dr. Henry Ashe Scholarship), and non-traditional students enrolled in the health care field at Nicolet College.



First place trivia winners  
"The Periodic Table Dancers"

We are looking forward to next year's Great Trivia Quest on October 20, 2018 and hope you will join in!

## Mitten Wreath



The Volunteer organization will be adopting a family for the holidays. The family that has been chosen lost their husband/father/grandfather last week, has no life insurance and will have to move from their home. If you would like to pick a mitten from the wreath in the volunteer center and make a monetary donation, please stop by and do so. If you would like to donate without coming into the hospital to pick a mitten, you can send your donations

to:

Kathy Viergutz, Community Service Coordinator  
Howard Young Medical Center  
240 Maple St.  
Woodruff WI 54568



## Volunteer Luncheon, September 12



Eric Mikoleit, Project SEARCH

Auxiliary members enjoyed another wonderful luncheon at Norwood Pines in September. Our guest speaker, Eric Mikoleit, Project SEARCH Instructor, explained the newly instituted Project SEARCH program being carried out at Howard Young Hospital. Project SEARCH is an internship program for young adults with disabilities designed to help them gain work experience and achieve employment in their communities. Mr. Mikoleit explained how the students work with him and two skill-instructors during their time at the hospital.

Kathy Viergutz is the hospital liaison and helped set up the new program.

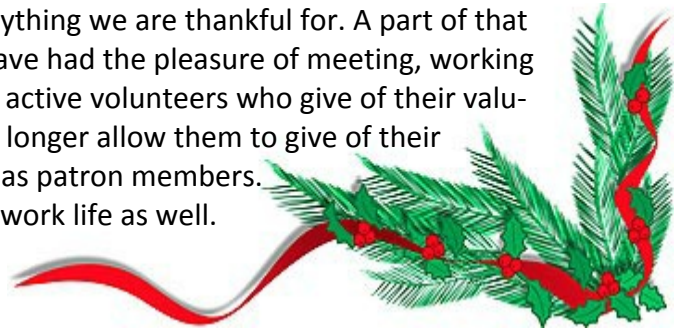
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## MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

The holiday season is upon us and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy holiday. My holiday wish is that everyone will be able to enjoy the holidays in their traditional celebrations no matter what those may be; spending time with family and friends building memories and celebrating those who are no longer physically with us but are forever a part of our memories.

It is also a time to reflect on the past year and everything we are thankful for. A part of that reflection for me is thinking about all of the volunteers I have had the pleasure of meeting, working beside and sharing experiences with. I am thankful for the active volunteers who give of their valuable time and for those whose health or circumstances no longer allow them to give of their time but continue to support our organizations financially as patron members. I am blessed in my personal life and equally blessed in my work life as well.

Sincerely, Kathy Viergutz



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## Community Health and Education – Submitted by Joan Hauer, CHE Chair

At the state Partners of WHA convention October 2017 in Green Bay, the state CHE (community health education) chair, Sherry Jelic, reported the focus for 2018 would continue on the opioid use and addiction epidemic. The positives include a decline in the number of opioid prescriptions and the number of pills per prescription, as monitored by a statewide program in Wisconsin.

State Representative John Nygren reported on the 28 bills passed by the state legislature, all unanimously with one exception, dealing with various aspects of education, treatment, and monitoring drug use. His remarks were focused more on treatment aspects; programming and support.

Representative Nygren and Chair Sherry Jelic related stories of daughter and nephew respectively who struggle with recovery. Sadly, Nygren's daughter was arrested shortly after the time of convention with recurrent drug related issues; Sherry sadly reported her family member had overdosed and died.

Twenty-eight Wisconsin counties have sued prescription drug makers to recover costs of fighting the opioid epidemic. A separate lawsuit involving one third of all Wisconsin counties is suing several pharmaceutical drug-makers and physicians for fraudulent marketing of prescription painkillers that contributed to a nationwide public health crisis of opioid addiction and overdose deaths, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Nov. 7, 2017. Local counties have not joined in, but Vilas will consider the issue at the January meeting.

Funding for prevention has largely been eliminated, including in the schools, according to Erv Teichmiller (Lakeland Times, 11/21, 2017). Expecting guidance counselors to take on the responsibility is unrealistic in light of all the demands placed on them currently. Most of the money is currently being used on treatment.

As caring and involved citizens, it is time to keep informed, get out to meetings locally and know what is being considered.

## **PPE Report** Submitted by Ruth Johnson, PPE Chair

### **Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill Recognizes Wisconsin's Innovative Reforms**

The U.S. Senate prepares to vote next week on a new proposal that would repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and create significant new flexibility for states. The bill was co-authored by Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson and GOP Sens. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, South Carolina's Lindsey Graham and Dean Heller from Nevada. In a written statement to the Associated Press (AP) provided by aides, Johnson said funding formulas to correct the distribution of money under Obama's law needed to be changed "to reflect the unique circumstances of many states, including recognizing the innovative reforms of Wisconsin." The bill would combine all the federal funding for Medicaid expansion, cost-sharing reduction subsidies (CSRs), and the premium tax credits for people buying insurance on the exchange and instead give the money to states in the form of "market-based block grants." For Wisconsin, the bill recognizes that Wisconsin implemented a "partial expansion" of Medicaid by providing coverage to all with income up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). That partial expansion was not recognized by the federal government as a "full expansion," and unlike other states, Wisconsin has not received enhanced federal funding over the past three years to fund its program. The bill rectifies that inequity by allowing Wisconsin in the initial years to receive additional funds for its program. Over time, the bill attempts to equalize the amount of funding across states by providing the same per-person dollar amount. States would receive \$4,400 for each person in their state with income between 50 percent and 138 percent FPL. States could then use these dollars to provide health care coverage in a manner they choose. States could waive key provisions of the ACA such as essential health benefits. States could also choose to allow insurers to establish premiums based on age and health status, and could eliminate the medical loss ratio rebate requirements. According to two separate analyses—from Kaiser Foundation and from Avalere—Wisconsin could see increased funding of \$3 billion over seven years under the bill. If accurate, that could be a significant amount of funding to help sustain the coverage gains Wisconsin has achieved over the past several years. However, a provision included in the bill gives the Secretary of HHS significant authority to adjust the dollar amounts for any state based on risk, wage rates, demographics and other factors. Thus, whether the amounts estimated for Wisconsin would be realized remains uncertain. Further, separate from the "market-based block grant," the bill would set per capita spending caps in the traditional Medicaid program, which covers elderly, blind and disabled, children and other non-expansion adult population groups. The bill would allow the per person amounts to grow over time, mostly limited to the medical component of the Consumer Price Index. The report from Kaiser estimates Wisconsin would receive \$562 million less under the traditional Medicaid program per capita caps compared to current law. For WHA, this is an obvious concern, as demand is driven by social and economic factors that are often beyond the control of an individual, a state or a health system. In a statement, WHA President/CEO Eric Borgerding said: "Wisconsin's uninsured rate has dropped by 41 percent since 2013. With this in mind, WHA's top two priorities remain sustaining the Wisconsin Coverage Model, which very purposefully relies on a combination of Medicaid for those in poverty (below 100 percent FPL) and subsidized coverage for low-income individuals no longer eligible for Medicaid; and, ensuring Wisconsin is treated equitably when it comes to Medicaid funding—that we are no longer penalized for rejecting Obamacare Medicaid expansion. The Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson bill appropriately recognizes Wisconsin's coverage model and its partial Medicaid expansion. Two national studies conclude that the block grant funding for Wisconsin would be significantly higher under the bill compared to current projections. Achieving fair funding for Wisconsin has been a top WHA priority, and we appreciate the efforts made in this legislation to deliver much needed equity. These are dollars that can be used to address critical health care needs and stabilize Wisconsin's market. And with the flexibility included in the bill, if the right decisions are made at the state level, Wisconsin's current coverage model could be preserved and even strengthened, another WHA priority. However, WHA remains concerned about the inadequate Medicaid inflationary adjustments included in the bill for elderly, blind and disabled population groups, and children. These vulnerable populations must be protected and we question whether the funding will keep pace with the need. We are also concerned that a bill, which gives an innovative state like Wisconsin greater authority to craft its own approach to health care, allows the Secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services to unilaterally make specific adjustments to funding levels, leaving great uncertainty about the overall impacts for Wisconsin. If this bill becomes law, tremendous authority will devolve back to the states, and determining the path and direction of coverage will rest largely in Madison. If enacted, Wisconsin must take steps to protect vulnerable populations and to assure continued access to affordable care in our state. Again, Wisconsin has a good model in place; our coverage rate is one of the best in the country with just 5.3 percent uninsured. We should be working to sustain that model and that progress." (Valued Voice 09/22/2017)

Other articles of interest are: Legislation to Keep WI in Nurse Licensure Compact (Valued Voice 09/08/2017) Hospitals find Experienced Nursing ; Entry-level positions difficult to fill (Valued Voice 11/03/2017) Workers Comp Premiums Drop Again – without a Government Fee Schedule (Valued Voice 10/07/17) WI Price.Point.org expands price information for healthcare (Valued Voice 10/13/2017)

## September 2017 Volunteer Roundup

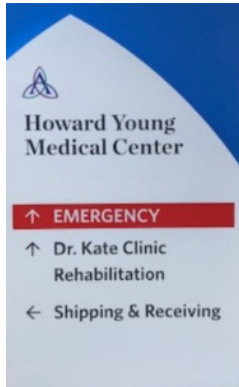


On September 6, 2017 VHYMC held a volunteer roundup at the hospital. The Strategic Planning Committee planned and worked this event to encourage new volunteers to sign up to be part of our association. Both hospital volunteers and associates were present to represent various areas of service opportunities. Although the turnout was light, there were some very interested people who attended. We are hoping that in the near future we will have a couple or more new volunteers.



### Name Change

In honor of Dr. Kate, and to keep her dream and history alive, the Ministry Medical Group clinic's name has been changed to the Dr. Kate Clinic.



### Sunshine Needed?



Please contact Bev Coller if you know one of our members who might need a little "Sunshine".

Bev can be reached at 715-356-0029 or email her at [junebc@frontier.com](mailto:junebc@frontier.com).



### SAVE THE DATE

**December 27**– Dr. Ashe Scholarship Presentation

**January 15, 2018** – End of Year Reports due. email to [Auxillary.HYMC@ascension.org](mailto:Auxillary.HYMC@ascension.org)

**March 21, 2018** – WHA Advocacy Day, Madison

**April 26, 2018** – North Central Spring District Meeting, Rhinelander

**October 2, 2018** – Partners of WHA State Convention, Stevens Point

Heartbeat is published by the  
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### Areas in need of Volunteer Services

If interested, please contact Kathy Viergutz at 715-356-8677.



**Radiology Reception Desk** – Thursday afternoon available, hours are 1:00 – 4:00 pm.

**Runner** – Wednesday and Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Gift Shop Cashier** – Shifts are 10:00 am – 2:00 PM other than Wednesday when the shop is open until 4:00.

**Greeters** – Monticello Friday 12 – 4; Entrance D Wednesday and Thursday 12 – 4.

**LifeDirect** – Office Assistant - Schedule fluctuates due to number of calls. Messages can be checked from home to prevent coming into the office if there are no calls or issues to handle.

**Leadership Team & Board of Directors** – Please give some thought to taking on a more active role in the leadership and operations side of the volunteer organization. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the organization, meet other members from your organization and other volunteer organizations as well. It is a way for you to be assured that the organization will continue to function and serve the hospital and community. Please contact Kathy if you would like to know more or have an interest.

