



SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Newsletter

February/March 2025

You are invited to join us!

SPRING FLING

A Gathering for Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Members & Guests

Monday, April 15, 2025
1:30 - 3 pm

Ripon Community Hospital Green Lake Room
845 Parkside Street, Ripon



RIPON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Since 1899

Pat Grahn from the Ripon Historical Society will share with us information about the Ripon Historical Society and some history of the Ripon Community Hospital. Do you remember when it was called Ripon Municipal Hospital, Ripon Memorial Hospital or Ripon Medical Center?

Baked treats, coffee, and water will be provided. There is no cost for this event and no RSVP is needed, Come and enjoy the afternoon with fellow auxiliary members. Bring a friend!

Diane Shady, Chairperson, Programs

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

February 14
April 9
April 10
April 14
April 15
May 5 & 6
May 9
May 31
June 6
June 23

Staff Recognition
Advocacy Day
Lakes District Meeting
RCH Auxiliary Spring Fling
Easter Bunny Bake Sale
Flower Basket Sale
Brat Fry
Brat Fry
Brat Fry
RCH Auxiliary Luncheon

All Departments, RCH
Monona Terrace, Madison
Ascension Mercy, Oshkosh
Green Lake Room, RCH
Lobby/Gift Shop, RCH
Front Door, RCH
HyVee, Ripon
Crossroads Market, GL
Crossroads Market, GL
RCH Green Lake Room

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have made it through the holidays, and we are off to another New Year. Winter is upon us. It will be Spring before you know it.

The Sewing Committee has been very busy sewing blankets, shawls, twiddle muffs, and baby blankets. The blankets are being donated to the SSM Health Samaritan Clinic in Fond du Lac. Those blankets are in great need during this time of the year. Thank you so much for all your hard work.

We had a very successful Christmas Bake Sale! Thank you for your donation of baked goods. We made \$818.50 with donations of \$30. Great job!

Lights of Love was also a huge success this year with \$3,290 being raised. Remember this money goes toward our three scholarships that are awarded this Spring. Thank you to Bobbie Pollesch and Sue Leonard for leading this great fundraiser!

Our Annual 2025 Advocacy Day is scheduled at Monona Terrace in Madison on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. This is where we get to hear some very good speakers and an opportunity to voice our concerns regarding our health care and hospitals in the State of Wisconsin. Tony Evers, our Governor, and representatives from our districts will be there to let you know what is happening around the state regarding health care. If you are interested in attending, please get in touch with me or any of the Auxiliary Board members to get signed up for the event.

The Lakes District Meeting is scheduled in Oshkosh on April 10, 2025. We should receive more information regarding this activity very soon. Please let me know if you are interested in attending this event.

A Spring Social event is set on Monday, April 14 at 1:30 pm at Ripon Community Hospital. Sweet treats and entertainment will be provided. Remember guests/visitors are always welcome. This event takes the place of our Spring luncheon normally held at this time.

An Easter Bake Sale is scheduled at Ripon Community Hospital on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 9 am in the front lobby of the hospital. If you wish to donate baked goods, please drop them off at the Volunteer Services room by 10 am on Monday, April 14, 2025.

The Hanging Basket sale will be here before we know it. It will be held on Monday, May 5 and Tuesday, May 6, in front of the hospital at 9 am. More information will be coming soon.

As you can see, we have a very busy Spring ahead of us with many events occurring. If you are able, we would love to see you participate in some of the activities.

There seems to be a lot of colds and flu out there right now. Please stay as safe and healthy as you can during these next few months. Take care.

Julie Stellmacher, President

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, Clinical Administrator, 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. We're proud to share with you but a few of these key advancements.

Post-Birth Alert Bracelet Program

In a first for Wisconsin hospitals, all six of SSM Health Wisconsin's birthing hospitals launched a new post-birth alert bracelet program on January 1 to help identify and address potential health issues for new mothers and their babies. Every postpartum patient in our hospitals will receive an orange band and is encouraged to wear it for at least six weeks after giving birth.

After giving birth women may face life-threatening complications like high blood pressure, blood clots, depression or substance abuse disorders. The orange, post-birth alert serves as a visual identifier to medical teams that the patient recently gave birth and could be experiencing a post-pregnancy medical complication.

Mission Action Teams

The Ripon Community Hospital and Waupun Memorial Hospital Mission Action Teams are looking at the annual calendar of events with adding subcommittees to discuss employee engagement activities, as well as diversity and inclusion initiatives in 2025. The teams continue to be led by Jenifer Bunker and Emily Klapper with the assistance of Jason Stelzer and Jonathan Tipton. The system initiative is the Year of Hope. Last year was the Year of Kindness.

SSM Health at Work New Location

SSM Health at Work, previously located at Eastgate Drive, is now serving individuals in its new space on the second floor of Ripon Community Hospital across from Administration. Podiatry and Urology have also moved into the second-floor clinic area. These moves complete all relocations from the previous Eastgate Drive clinic.

New Financial Year

New financial year has begun with closing of December and 2024 budget year. Both ministries have had growth from 2023 and appropriate supply and expense utilization. Opportunities for 2025 remain Inpatient volumes and continued growth in our Surgical and outpatient services.

Wellness Center Reminder

The Ripon Wellness Center offers an Active Seniors Stretch, Strength and Balance class on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 - 8:45 am. The Thursday class is primarily a chair class (in the chair 80% of class). Both days feature various movements to increase mobility and strength. Modifications are available to accommodate all participants. Equipment features light to medium weights provided by the wellness center. To learn more, call 920-745-3620.

Foundation for Ripon Community Hospital

In its nearly 90 years history, SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital programs and services have been supported by The Foundation for Ripon Community Hospital. During that time, the foundation has striven to enhance the health of the people of the greater Ripon area by lending its financial support to the hospital.

Since Ripon Medical Center, as it was known then, became a part of Agnesian HealthCare and now SSM Health, both The Foundation for Ripon Community Hospital and the Agnesian HealthCare Foundation have utilized the same team and resources for all their ongoing fund-raising needs.

Over the past year, staff - in conjunction with both foundation boards of directors - have been planning to transition The Foundation for Ripon Community Hospital to become a part of the Agnesian HealthCare Foundation. The transition became effective on January 1, 2025, following approval by both boards of directors.

To ensure that the needs of the Ripon community are represented, two positions are being added to the Agnesian HealthCare Foundation Board of Directors with Ripon specific representatives. Gary Born and Elizabeth Roy will be filling those positions and will remain in place as future board member transitions occur.

Service to others is the price we pay to rent space here on earth. ~Mohan Alir

PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION



Join WHA and nearly 1,000 health care advocates for a day of learning and advocacy at Advocacy Day 2025 on Wednesday, April 9. This will be an in-person only event.

While there is no registration fee to participate in Advocacy Day, pre-registration is required. Online registration will be open until noon on April 8. Register at: <https://www.wha.org/EducationEvent?EventID=609>. No onsite registration.

We are thrilled to announce that Green Bay Packers Head Coach Matt LaFleur will be the keynote speaker for WHA Advocacy Day on April 9! This is your chance to hear from a legendary leader who knows how to inspire and drive success. You won't want to miss it.

To prepare advocates for Advocacy Day, WHA staff will hold a **Pre-Advocacy Day Webinar** on **Wednesday, April 2**. This webinar will provide an overview of how legislative visits work, logistics of visiting the State Capitol, why these visits are important, and the topics WHA will ask you to discuss during your legislative appointments. This webinar will be recorded and emailed to all registered attendees. Attend this live webinar to ask your questions. To register for the webinar, go to: <https://www.wha.org/takeaction?vvsrc=/Events/8071/Register>.

Jackie Halverson, Chairperson, Public Policy Education

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Financial Report - December 31, 2024

In the second quarter of this fiscal year, we raised \$5,195 after expenses; \$3,290 from Lights of Love, \$397 from Store Roundups, \$848 from the Christmas Bake Sale, and \$900 from the Candy Bar Sale. This makes net fundraising for the six months \$7,925, more than half of the budgeted amount of \$12,961 for the year. So, our fundraising met our expectations for the first half of the year.

Gift Shop sales continue to be strong and were 16% higher than last year at this time. This year, we budgeted sales to be \$35,105 for the year and after six months, sales were \$22,884.

This quarter, we purchased \$210 of materials to make blankets for patients at the hospital and the Samaritan Clinic. Along with the 12 mattress air pumps purchased last quarter for \$3,186, total donations for the hospital were \$3,689 for the first half of the year.

Because the hospital has not identified any further needs currently, and because of our successful fundraising and gift shop sales, we find ourselves with a surplus of funds. So, we have used \$25,000 to purchase certificates of deposit. To date, these have earned interest of \$615. We can make a substantial donation to the hospital when the need arises.

We had \$61,266 in cash at the end of December. We have enough to cover the three \$1,500 scholarships that we will award in the Spring, as well as the funds to meet any unplanned needs of Ripon Community Hospital. We continue to work with the hospital to identify those needs.

**Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Treasurer's Report -
Quarter and Six Months Ended December 31, 2024**

	Quarter Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
INCOME			
Fundraising	\$ 5,435	\$ 11,976	\$ 22,963
Donations	\$ 6	\$ 19	\$ 10
Membership Dues	\$ 40	\$ 350	\$ 300
Gift Shop Sales	\$ 15,020	\$ 22,884	\$ 35,105
Interest Income	\$ 615	\$ 615	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 21,116	\$ 35,846	\$ 58,378
EXPENSES			
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 240	\$ 4,051	\$ 10,002
Luncheons - Net	\$ 208	\$ 308	\$ 845
State Conventions/District Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,200
Organization Expenses	\$ -	\$ 84	\$ 159
Gift Shop Expenses	\$ 7,161	\$ 15,297	\$ 22,316
Total Expenses	\$ 7,609	\$ 19,740	\$ 34,522
Net Income Before Distributions	\$ 13,507	\$ 16,106	\$ 23,856
DISTRIBUTIONS			
Scholarships	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,500
Donations for RMC	\$ 210	\$ 3,689	\$ 41,350
Total Distributions	\$ 210	\$ 3,689	\$ 45,850
NET INCOME AFTER DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ 13,297	\$ 12,417	\$ (21,994)
CASH BALANCES		\$ 61,266	

FUNDRAISING REPORT 2024

Post COVID-19 fundraising continues to grow. Some events have been discontinued and will not return. But the Christmas bake sale was brought back and another bake sale at Easter was added. In addition to the brat fry sales at Websters, we had one at Crossroads in Green Lake this year as well. Net income from the Flower Basket Sales and Mum Sales have increased. Store Roundups and Lights of Love donations remain steady. The cost of candy bars increased this year and sales have been slow, so we have cut back on our efforts there.

Our successful fundraising has enabled the Auxiliary to provide Ripon Community Hospital with equipment and supplies, as well as three scholarships to students pursuing a career in health care.



RCH Auxiliary, Inc. Fundraising

Event	Calendar	Calendar	Calendar	Calendar	Calendar
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Lights of Love Income	5,935.00	3,890.00	3,800.00	3,275.00	3,290.00
Lights of Love Expenses	(25.00)	-	-	-	-
Net Lights of Love Proceeds	5,910.00	3,890.00	3,800.00	3,275.00	3,290.00
Raffle Income	-	2,550.00	-	-	-
Raffle Expense	-	(249.09)	(25.00)	-	-
Net Raffle Proceeds	-	2,300.91	(25.00)	-	-
Bake Sale - Christmas - Income	-	-	-	583.00	848.50
Bake Sale Expense	-	-	-	-	-
Net Bake Sale Proceeds	-	-	-	583.00	848.50
Treats for Sweets	390.00	-	-	-	-
Treats for Sweets Expense	-	-	-	-	-
Net Treats for Sweets Proceeds	390.00	-	-	-	-
Easter Bake Sale	-	-	-	-	392.00
Bake Sale Expenses	-	-	-	-	(15.60)
Net Bake Sale Proceeds	-	-	-	-	376.40
Brat Frys	-	-	1,237.50	1,580.50	2,586.58
Brat Frys Expenses	-	-	(486.58)	(599.45)	(1,037.49)
Net Brat Frys Proceeds	-	-	750.92	981.05	1,549.09
Book Fair	68.79	-	-	-	-
Nutman	120.35	349.23	82.88	-	-
Store Roundup	1,551.14	7,291.94	762.11	1,278.77	1,374.79
Candy Bar Sales	2,204.00	4,581.00	3,131.86	6,613.28	4,921.00
Candy Bar Expense	(864.00)	(2,730.00)	(1,560.00)	(3,300.00)	(2,460.00)
Net Candy Bar Sales	1,340.00	1,851.00	1,571.86	3,313.28	2,461.00
Flower Basket Sale	4,275.00	6,798.00	4,900.00	6,865.00	7,560.71
Flower Basket Expense	(2,905.50)	(5,110.00)	(3,325.00)	(4,883.50)	(4,745.00)
Net Flower Basket Proceeds	1,369.50	1,688.00	1,575.00	1,981.50	2,815.71
Mum Sale	-	3,367.00	4,687.00	4,853.25	4,428.00
Mum Sale Expense	-	(1,385.00)	(2,571.00)	(2,849.50)	(2,353.50)
Net Mum Sale Proceeds	-	1,982.00	2,116.00	2,003.75	2,074.50
Totals	10,749.78	19,353.08	10,633.77	13,416.35	14,789.99

Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer

VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

Hello RCH Auxiliary members:

Volunteer Services recently welcomed our newest team member, Tara Rhodes, on January 13. Tara will serve as the volunteer coordinator for Waupun Memorial Hospital and will share duties with me in Fond du Lac. I will continue to serve as the volunteer coordinator for Ripon Community Hospital and I am grateful Tara has decided to join our team. Tara recently served as St. Agnes Hospital's Vice President of Business Operations and brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to her new position. Please help us welcome Tara to our team if you have an opportunity to meet her.

Ripon Community Hospital is desperately in need of additional Mobile Meal volunteer drivers. This is a wonderful service our volunteers provide the Ripon community. Last year alone, the Ripon Mobile Meal volunteers delivered a total of 5,645 meals! We also continue to search for more volunteers and substitutes for the RCH Gift Shop. Please let me know if anyone would like more information or if anyone might be interested in volunteering.

Lastly, our department is working on our new goals for 2025 with one of our biggest focuses being volunteer recruitment. If anyone is part of a group, church, club, etc. that might be willing to share our information, needs, or perhaps have us speak to them please let me know.

Thank you all for everything you do and for making our communities a better place!

Wishing you all the best,

Jason Blonigen, Volunteer Coordinator

Jason.Blonigen@ssmhealth.com | 920-745-3670

GIFT SHOP

And just like that, another new year! I look forward to what this next year holds in store for us. In the gift shop, we are already thinking of spring and Easter. We have a new volunteer Kathy Haferman, who will be working on Monday mornings.

Stop in and enjoy the shopping experience.

Jeanne Payton, Chairperson, Gift Shop



COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

How to Make Next Year the Best Year

Our focus for CHE in 2025 will be looking into self-care and coping strategies, connection and community, youth mental health issues, resilience and recovery, and advocating for accessible and inclusive mental health services. As we share information with you, please pass it along to your family and friends, but most importantly share it with your district members and local organizations. Please share feedback on additional information you would like addressed. The ending of one year and the beginning of a new year is always a great time for reflection and goal setting. I struggle with this and tend to set too many goals without success. I recently listened to a podcast by Mel Robbins regarding doing an audit of the past year to assist in setting goals for the new year. She is a New York Times best-selling author, motivational speaker, and TV personality. She is known for her practical advice on overcoming obstacles and achieving success in her personal and professional life. I hope the sharing of her ideas will help you step into 2025 with clarity about what you want and with a plan to make it happen. How can you make this year the best year of your life? Here is the link to the podcast if you would like to listen for yourself. [How to Make Next Year the Best Year: Ask Yourself These 7 Questions | The Mel Robbins Podcast](#)

The Yearly Audit: 7 Questions to Assist in Setting Goals for the New Year

1. Describe your highlights from the past year of life. Robbins states this is harder than you think. She suggests looking at the photos on your phone for 2024 or looking back at your calendar and seeing those things you did to help you. A review of this can show you what matters to you; trips, people, celebrations, walks, nature, etc. This is a good reminder of what brings you joy. What do you have the most pictures of? What took most of your time last year? Were you working too much?
2. What were some of the hardest parts of the year? What were your low points, what did you learn about yourself? Maybe it was the loss of a spouse, parent, or friend. Maybe you had some health issues occur that you are struggling with.
3. What did you learn about yourself this year? What made you happy and brought you joy this past year? What made you sad? Maybe you learned you are more emotional and tend to overreact and overcomplicate issues. Are you a fixer, do you try to overcomplicate things? Do you struggle with friction and tension? Are you the person who struggles with deadlines and getting things done on time? I want to be more involved but am shy volunteering myself; I prefer to be asked. I am getting slower at walking. I may need to work on that or look for things I can do that involve fewer physical demands. I love being a volunteer in our gift shop, helping bake cookies, organizing things, etc.
4. What are you going to stop doing in the next year? Stop complaining, overreacting, trying to control others, gossiping, solving other's problems, talking too much. One of the things Robbins shares that made me pause was grocery shopping while hungry. I have done that, and it never ends well! Better if I have a plan and a list. But the concept could be applied to many issues you want to stop.
5. What are you going to start doing in 2025? Bring compassion to the things you didn't accomplish last year. Try being more disciplined in the core things that matter to you. Stop adding things to your list, maybe look at removing things. Stop letting others hijack your time and energy. What will help you bring more joy to your life?
6. What are you going to continue doing in 2025? The only person you can control is yourself, your feelings, your thoughts, your emotions, how you spend your time, how you react. What worked for you last year that you want to continue and commit to?
7. What can you do today to take the first step in 2025? Now that you have a set of directions for the new year what can you do today to make that happen today? Take one step forward, find a date and plan for what you want to do. You have a deeply personal set of directions by answering these questions and hopefully identifying those that bring you joy. Find ways to set yourself up for success, set yourself up to win, and make life more fun. Robbins suggests that you answer these questions and write the answers down for clarity and reflection. Share your audit with family and friends as this helps you show up and support one another in having the best year of your life. Try it and see what happens. I will be waiting to hear if this helps you at all.

Always remember, "Go out into the world today and love the people you meet. Let your presence light new light in the hearts of others." - Mother Teresa

Article by: Donna Nelson, WHA Partners Community Health Education Chair
Jackie Halverson, Chairperson, Community Health Education

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you to Bobbie Pollesch for your dedication to the Lights of Love fundraiser. Thank you to Sue Leonard for stepping up to the challenge to help Bobbie with Lights of Love this year. You made a good team. The amount raised in 2024: \$3,290. In 2023: \$3,275.



Thank you to Barb Behlen for baking and encouraging all of us to bake for the Christmas bake sale. There was a good selection of items. Even the dogs had treats. Profit was \$818.50 plus \$30 in donations.

We recently collected \$360 for candy bars. We are winding down the candy bar fundraiser. Sales overall are very slow.

Looking Forward to Fundraisers for 2025.

Easter Bunny Bake Sale: Tuesday, April 15

Drop off baked items: Monday, April 14 before 10:30. We will pack before the social.

Hanging Flower Basket Sale: Monday, May 5 and Tuesday, May 6 before Mother's Day. Radene Abel is the chairperson.

Brat Fry Fundraisers: We have scheduled three brat fry fundraisers for this year. The dates are May 9 at HyVee and May 31 and June 6 at Crossroads Market.

My position is made so much easier because of all the dedicated volunteers, Auxiliary members, and chairpersons. YOU are the heart of the fundraisers. THANK YOU.

Georgia Stellmacher, Chairperson, Fundraising

Easter Bunny Bake Sale

We are hosting our first ever Easter Bunny Bake Sale on Tuesday, April 15 starting at 9 am until gone. The sale will be held in the hospital lobby near the gift shop. Look for your favorite Easter-themed recipes to make for the bake sale. We will pack the sale items on Monday, April 14 at 10:30 am. Drop off baked goods in the RCH Volunteer Room.

Barb Behlen, Chairperson



OTHER NEWS

Staff Recognition

The Auxiliary will again fill more than 200 treat bags for distribution to all staff, including physicians, with a note of appreciation and encouragement from the Auxiliary on Valentine's Day 2024.



Auxiliary Scholarships

The Auxiliary will be awarding three \$1,500 scholarships to high school seniors pursuing a career in the health care field. All scholarship materials have been sent to the participating school districts, Ripon, Green Lake, Markesan, and Princeton. Students receiving scholarships will be announced at their school's awards program. We will recognize the three recipients at the June luncheon.



Ripon Community Hospital

2025 FLOWER BASKET SALE



Join the SSM Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary

Monday, May 5 & Tuesday, May 6

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or until sold out.

845 Parkside Street • Outside near hospital front door

The sale will feature a choice of high-quality 10-inch hanging baskets of Begonias, Sun and Shade Combos, Fuchsias, Geraniums, Impatiens, Petunias or Lantanas in various colors that are specifically grown for Wisconsin's climate. There will be no preorders.

The cost is \$28.00 each.

Cash • Check • Employee Quick Charge • Credit Cards

All proceeds will support Ripon Community Hospital programs and services.

For more information, call 920-229-9827

The Present

Every sunrise is a present,
a gift from God above,
Gift wrapped with scarlet ribbons
And tied with bows of love.

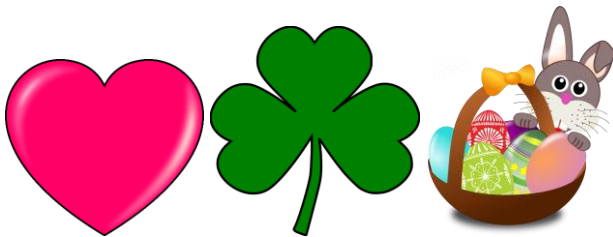
Each day's a new beginning.
a time to start a new,
While all the stars are sleeping,
and the rose is fresh with dew.

Every day's a new creation,
too lovely to ignore,
And we may find a blessing,
just outside our door.

We cannot keep the past,
like fireflies in a jar.
Nor journey to the future
by wishing on a star.

Every sunrise is a blessing,
a gift for just today.
Rejoice, my friend,
embrace it
before it fades away!

~Author Unknown



RCH AUXILIARY BOARD/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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