

# SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Newsletter

November/December 2024



## Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Luncheon

Monday, November 25, 2024  
Maplecrest Assisted Living Facility  
150 Douglas Street, Ripon  
12 pm

Come and enjoy a wonderful lunch prepared by Maplecrest's kitchen chefs. Our entertainment will be provided by the Scott Street Puppet Ministry. Enjoy some laughs as we start to celebrate the holiday season.

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 15, 2024, 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*

### Holiday Bake Sale December 10



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have been truly blessed with a beautiful Fall, but it is gradually ending. When I step outside in the morning, I see how pretty the tree colors are right now! So, let's enjoy!

Again, we had an incredibly good Mum sale! We cleared about \$2075. Thank you to everyone who helped with the sale. Great job!!

The Gift Shop is doing very well! Make sure you stop in and see what new items might be displayed. Thank you so much to all our gift shop workers. You are doing a wonderful job! Thank you also to all our brat fry workers. That season is over, but we will be back next spring flipping those brats and burgers!

We are still selling candy bars in local businesses and sewing blankets for the Samaritan House and other hospital affiliated areas. Contact Jeanne Payton if you would like to help out sewing blankets and many other items.

We have our Annual Luncheon at Maple Crest Manor, Douglas Street, Ripon, coming up Monday, November 25. I hope you can attend. It is always a nice event and good to see some of the residents. More information is available in this newsletter.

We do have a Christmas Bake Sale coming up on Tuesday, December 10 at Ripon Community Hospital. You may drop off your baked goods in the Volunteer Room on Monday, December 9. We will start packing the baked items for display at 10:30 a.m.

Our largest fundraiser, "Lights of Love", is coming up on December 12. There will be no formal program but letters regarding the fundraiser will be going out November 1. There should be more information available in the newsletter.

Unfortunately, no one was able to attend our WHA Partners State Convention this year in Stevens Point. I am trying to stay in touch with the officers, so that we know what is happening at the state level.

The Auxiliary Board would like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays! I hope you will all be able to stay healthy and happy until we connect again.

*Julie Stellmacher, President*

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## GIFT SHOP

It's beginning to look like Christmas! We have many new things for Christmas this year and I hope you get the chance to come in and browse the gift shop. It's amazing how fast the seasons change. I pray everyone has a wonderful Christmas and can celebrate the true meaning of the season.

It has been my pleasure to manage the gift shop, and I look forward to seeing you throughout the seasons.

*Jeanne Payton, Chairperson, Gift Shop*



## 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 a few of these key advancements.

### BEE Award

Jesse Schulz, PT, DPT, an SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital physical therapist, has been named the newest recipient of the BEE (Be Exceptional Everyday) Award.

Schulz was recognized by a patient who shared her recent experience with him noting how well he explains things, includes her in the treatment plan, and makes her feel comfortable attending therapy. He also continues to promote Therapy Services and has been instrumental in starting the Men's Pelvic Health program at Ripon Community Hospital.

The BEE Award is specifically designed to recognize non-nursing staff members who demonstrate great teamwork and communication skills, collaboration, professionalism, exemplary service, and a commitment to excellence.



### Clinic Services Relocation

SSM Health is continually evaluating how to best meet the changing health care needs of the patients and communities we are privileged to serve.

There are some new developments around our facility at 790 Eastgate Drive, which has served us well over the past 14 years. The facility's adjacency to SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital since late 2014 has proven beneficial in many ways, offering patients and families convenient access to services -like laboratory, imaging, and more.

As we look to expand our Cancer Care services in Fond du Lac, SSM Health plans to consolidate services to Fond du Lac and Waupun, which will open space on Ripon Community Hospital's second floor to relocate our SSM Health at Work team following renovations.

Monthly urology services and our podiatry team - Molly Meier, DPM, and Dawn Cotter, CFCN - will also be joining other clinicians from the Fond du Lac Regional Clinic at the hospital. Both moves are scheduled by the end of the year.

These moves from the Eastgate Drive facility will benefit our patients and SSM Health at Work clients, providing access to even more health care resources in one place. Our care teams also will enjoy greater collaboration and more effective use of our existing equipment and facilities and 24/7 security coverage, continuing to improve our abilities to provide exceptional health care services for the community.

### General Surgery

Horace Lo, MD, an SSM Health Fond du Lac Regional Clinic general surgeon, has been actively engaged at SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital since transitioning his services from Waupun. Dr. Lo is preparing for the introduction of EndoFLIP technology in Ripon, which provides a minimally invasive way to measure the area inside a gastrointestinal organ and the pressure within the organ. EndoFLIPs are typically used by providers to assess the health of the esophagus - the tube that food goes down to reach your stomach. EndoFLIPs use a sensory balloon to obtain measurements of the esophagus, which help doctors diagnose gastrointestinal issues.

### Influenza Vaccines

SSM Health believes that preventing the flu starts with our employees, providers, and volunteers. Their safety is our top priority and everyone's responsibility. That's why all team members are required to obtain their annual influenza vaccination or submit a medical or religious waiver by December 6. For this upcoming flu season, vaccination will be very important to reduce the overall impact of respiratory illnesses on the population; therefore, lessening the resulting burden on the health care system. SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital is working with the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh nursing students to assist with vaccine clinics.

### Money for Meals

One in five children in America live with hunger. Some children miss meals and are faced with daily uncertainty about food as their parents try and balance buying groceries and paying bills.

The Ripon Area School District provides breakfast free to all of its students every day, however lunch must be purchased. While the district does offer free and reduced cost lunches to low-income families, the SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Mission Action Team wants to help continue to support the students ensuring no child goes hungry.

School lunch is critical to student health and well-being, it ensures they have the nutrition they need throughout the day to learn and grow. Research shows that receiving free or reduced cost lunches reduces food insecurity, obesity rates, and poor health. It also has a positive impact on student food selection and consumption, especially for fruits and vegetables.

Coin collection canisters will be present in Ripon Community Hospital departments from October 15 - November 15 to help raise money for this cause.

Collection canisters will be emptied every Friday and the department that donates the most change will receive a bagel bar breakfast for their team! However, one collection jar will be placed at the front desk for the community to contribute. No prize will be awarded to the community as the highest donor.

### Nursing Town Halls

SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital team members recently had the opportunity to participate in a town hall conversation with Caren Lewis, SSM Health WI Region CNO. Staff were able to share their questions, ideas, and concerns.

### Virtual Town Halls

In early November, SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital will participate in the first combined virtual town halls with St. Clare Hospital - Baraboo and Waupun Memorial Hospital team members. These town halls are designed to strengthen the connection between our administrative staff and employees through a more regular meeting cadence.

### Voice Survey

SSM Health continually strives to be a place where every team member feels valued, engaged, and can learn and grow in their career. To obtain the voice of our team members, SSM Health conducts Voice Surveys on a regular basis. The second survey for 2024 recently concluded, consisting of 42 questions - seven related to sustainable engagement, along with 10 other categories and two open-ended questions. The Voice Survey is part of SSM Health's improvement strategy to measure what matters most across the team member experience, focusing on improving engagement, retention, formation, diversity, equity and inclusion, and a culture of safety.



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**Best wishes for a joyous holiday season!**





## COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

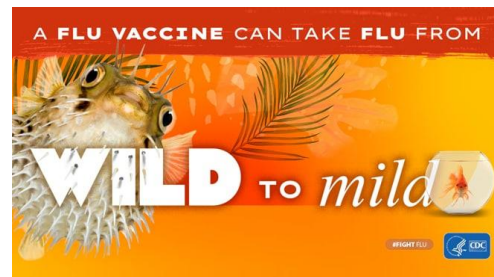
### Influenza (Flu)

Influenza (also known as “flu”) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death.

#### Symptoms

Flu symptoms usually come on suddenly. People who have flu often feel some or all these signs and symptoms:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills (not everyone with flu will have a fever)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.



#### Flu Complications

While most people who get flu will recover in a few days to less than two weeks, some people will develop complications (such as pneumonia) as a result of flu, some of which can be life-threatening and result in death.

Sinus and ear infections are examples of moderate complications from flu, while pneumonia is a serious flu complication that can result from either flu virus infection alone or from co-infection of flu virus and bacteria. Other possible serious complications triggered by flu can include inflammation of the heart (myocarditis), brain (encephalitis) or muscle tissues (myositis, rhabdomyolysis), and multi-organ failure (for example, respiratory and kidney failure). Flu virus infection of the respiratory tract can trigger an extreme inflammatory response in the body and can lead to sepsis, the body's life-threatening response to infection. Flu also can make chronic medical problems worse. For example, people with asthma may experience asthma attacks while they have flu, and people with chronic heart disease may experience a worsening of this condition triggered by flu.

#### People at Higher Risk from Flu

Anyone can get sick with flu, even healthy people, and serious concerns related to flu can happen to anyone at any age, but some people are at higher risk of developing serious flu-related complications if they get sick. This includes people 65 years and older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), pregnant people and children younger than five years, but especially those younger than two years old.

#### Emergency Warning Signs of Flu Complications

People experiencing these warning signs should obtain medical care right away. Tests are available to detect influenza.

#### In adults

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Persistent dizziness, confusion, inability to arouse
- Seizures
- Not urinating
- Severe muscle pain
- Severe weakness or unsteadiness
- Fever or cough that improve but then return or worsen
- Worsening of chronic medical conditions

Consult your medical provider for any other symptom that is severe or concerning. To learn more, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/signs-symptoms/index.html>.

*Jackie Halverson, Chairperson, Community Health Education*

## **PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION**

### **Wisconsin Hospital Association Releases 2024 Health Care Quality Report: "Driving Excellence in Patient Care and Community Health Across Wisconsin"**

The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) released its 2024 Health Care Quality Report, titled "Data-Driven Excellence: Enhancing Health Outcomes through Quality Measures." This comprehensive report emphasizes the crucial role of data and quality metrics in revolutionizing health care delivery and outcomes throughout Wisconsin.

"Our hospitals and health systems are dedicated to leveraging data and innovative quality initiatives to drive significant improvements in patient care and community health," according to Eric Borgerding, WHA president and CEO. "This report showcases the commitment to excellence that defines Wisconsin's health care landscape and our ongoing efforts to create a healthier future for all."

The report also shows that Wisconsin hospitals consistently outperform the national average in patient experience scores, with the top 10% of hospitals showing results up to 15% higher than hospitals across the country. This impressive performance has led to frequent recognition from agencies like the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ), and U.S. News & World Report. Notably, 69% of Wisconsin hospitals rated received a 5 or 4-star rating from CMS, significantly surpassing the national average. Additionally, Wisconsin ranks 11th in the Commonwealth Fund Scorecard for Women's Health Care, further highlighting the state's commitment to quality health care.

For 20 years, Wisconsin's acute-care and critical access hospitals have voluntarily reported more than 40 measures of quality and patient safety through WHA's CheckPoint website. This platform facilitates benchmarking and comparisons across hospitals, enabling continuous statewide improvement in the quality of patient care.

You can read the full report <https://www.wha.org/MediaRoom/WHAPressReleases/2024/2024-WHA-Quality-Report-Press-Release-09-09>

*Jackie Halverson, Chairperson, Public Policy Education*

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

As of now we are at 34 members paid. It's nice to be increasing! Welcome new members - Linda Powell and Barbara LeGault. Hopefully we can meet these new members and greet some of the "older" members at the luncheon this month.

Recognizing members past and present binds us to this issue's honoree. She has been volunteering for seven years. She is always ready to lend a helping hand and currently serves on the Board as the chairperson for fundraising. She has volunteered her time at the front desk, delivering meals, data support at Hospice, candy bar sale coordination, plant/mum sales, bake sales, sewing and more. She's definitely an asset to our organization. Thank you, Georgia Stellmacher.

*Jackie Halverson, Membership, Chairperson*

We may miss a great deal of joy because we expect it to be unusual, dramatic, and spectacular. We are waiting for lights to flash and bells to ring. But the truth is that joy is here, right now, waiting for us to notice it.

~Veronica Ray

## TREASURER'S UPDATE

### Financial Report - September 30, 2024

The financial report on September 30, 2024 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 \$2,075, the Candy Bar Sale will net \$1,140 when all candy bars are sold, and we received \$110 from store roundups. We had our first brat fry at Crossroads Market in Green Lake and netted \$265.

Gift shop sales were 28% higher than last year at this time. Merchandise for the holidays was purchased in this quarter. We donated \$3,186 for the purchase of 12 mattress air pumps for patient beds for Ripon Community Hospital. Donations received for the Lights of Love fund raiser have been earmarked for this.

We had \$48,501.47 in cash at the end of September. So, we have the funds to support the needs of Ripon Community Hospital as they identify them and provide for scholarships in the spring.

### SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Treasurer's Report - Three Months Ended September 30, 2024

	Three Month Actual	Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>		
Fund Raising	\$ 6,500.25	\$ 22,963.00
Donations	54.68	100.00
Membership Dues	310.00	300.00
Gift Shop Sales	7,864.57	35,105.00
Total Income	\$ 14,729.50	\$ 58,468.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Fund-Raising Expenses	\$ 3,810.50	\$ 10,002.00
Luncheons - Net	100.50	845.00
State Conventions/District Meetings	-	1,200.00
Organization Expenses	84.25	159.00
Gift Shop Expenses	8,135.04	22,406.00
Total Expenses	\$ 12,130.29	\$ 34,612.00
Net Income Before Distributions	\$ 2,599.21	\$ 23,856.00
<b>DISTRIBUTIONS</b>		
Scholarships	-	4,500.00
Donations for RCH	3,479.41	41,350.00
Total Distributions	\$ 3,479.41	\$ 45,850.00
NET INCOME AFTER DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ (880.20)	\$ (21,994.00)
CASH BALANCES	\$ 48,501.47	

*Today is a  
day for  
happiness.  
Let your  
hearts be  
filled with  
joy,  
Your  
shoulders  
relieved of  
Their daily  
weight,  
And your  
face  
tightened  
By laughter  
and smiles.*

~Author Unknown

Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer

## VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

### Hello RCH Auxiliary members:

I hope all of you are well and enjoying the beautiful fall season. I cannot believe how quickly this year is flying by and know Thanksgiving and the holidays will be here all too soon.

For those who do not know one of our team members, Haley Lowney, resigned from her position as volunteer coordinator on Wednesday, October 2. While Haley will be missed, we wish her the best in her new career. For the time being, our team will be sharing the duties of the three hospitals in our region with hopes of locating a replacement soon.

Ripon Community Hospital still has openings for additional volunteers in the local mobile meals program and gift store. Please let me know if you or anyone you know might be interested in becoming a volunteer.

Lastly, annual influenza vaccinations will be due on December 6 for any Auxiliary member that also volunteers on-site at Ripon Community Hospital. Please reach out to me if you would like assistance with entering this information into your employee health account. Please note the influenza vaccination is only required for volunteers that serve inside of the hospital, not those that only volunteer off-site such as mobile meals.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Fall and upcoming Holiday season. Thank you all for everything you do and for making our communities a better place!

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

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## FUND-RAISING OPPORTUNITIES

### Upcoming Events

#### Christmas Holiday Bake Sale

We will be holding the Christmas Bake Sale on Tuesday, December 10 starting at 9 am until gone. The sale will be in the hospital lobby near the gift shop. Find your favorite recipes and plan to make some delicious treats which could include cookies, candy, breads, bars, snack mix or a creation of your own. We will pack the sale items on Monday, December 9 at 10:30 am. Drop off the items in the RCH Volunteer Room before 10:30 am. You are welcome to stay and help package the bake sale items. Cash donations are also welcome!

*Barb Behlen, Chairperson*

#### Ongoing Fund Raisers

##### Culvers Donation Jar

Customers at Culvers continue to be generous by dropping money into our donation jar on the counter.

##### Candy Bar Sales

We are continuing with our sales of Vande Walle's Candy Bars but at less sites. New volunteers are always welcome. Volunteers take candy bars to local businesses and monitor the sales. Candy bars sell for \$1.50 each. Interested in helping? Call Georgia at 920-346-5607.

##### Cash Register Sales Roundups

Ongoing dates to be determined by the participating stores of Crossroads Market in Green Lake, Piggly Wiggly in Markesan, and Ace Hardware in Ripon.







### Fall Mum Sale

The fall mum sale was a huge success. The workers had warm weather for both days, which is always appreciated. They unloaded 270 plants and sold them all by Tuesday afternoon. Profits were about \$2000. Thanks to all who worked at the sale and purchased mums. An EXTRA THANK YOU to Radene and Barb for the behind-the-scenes planning.

*Radene Abel, Chairperson, Mum Sale*

**Julie Stellmacher, Radene Abel, Connie Wachovia, Sarah & Kory Splittgaber**

The Spring hanging basket sale held in May is in the planning stages.

Mark your calendar and give the chairpersons a call to volunteer for a fun time assisting with our fund raisers.

Blessings of Thanksgiving and Christmas season to all and may the deer hunters have a safe and successful hunt.

*Georgia Stellmacher, Chairperson, Fund-Raising*



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## 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 12 mattress air pumps for patient beds to improve patient comfort while decreasing pressure wound risk for all patients. We won't be having a tree lighting event again this year, but the tree will still be lit on December 12 with white and colored lights shining in memory of or in honor of loved ones. The names of these individuals will be published on a special Lights of Love webpage at [ssmhealth.com](http://ssmhealth.com). Please support this very meaningful Project!

*Bobbie Pollesch, Chairperson, Lights of Love*



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## OTHER NEWS

### Sewing Committee

New baby blankets are needed for the Samaritan House in Fond du Lac. Many of you knit and crochet so here is an opportunity to share your talents to make blankets. Monetary donations for blankets can be left at the gift shop.

# Bake Sale

Bake your  
favorite  
cookies!

Buy some  
treats to  
take  
home!

Make your  
favorite  
treats!

Work at  
the bake  
sale!

# December 10, 2014

## **RCH AUXILIARY BOARD/COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

### **Julie Stellmacher, President**

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

### **Barb Behlen, Vice President & Newsletter**

920-450-6525 | barb@charter.net

### **Mary Park, Secretary**

920-748-6104 | 2ageless@gmail.com

### **Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer**

920-229-2746 | bobbiepollesch@hotmail.com

### **Diane Shady, Programs**

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### **Jackie Halverson, Membership & Sunshine**

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### **Jackie Halverson, Community Health Education**

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### **Jeanne Payton, Gift Shop & Sewing**

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### **Georgia Stellmacher, Fund Raising**

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### **Jackie Halverson, Public Policy Education**

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### **Jason Blonigen, Volunteer Services**

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### **Radene Abel, Flower Basket & Mum Sale**

920-229-9827 | radenemae1@gmail.com

### **Pat Albright, Brat Fry Fund-Raisers**

920-748-3072 | waynenalbright@gmail.com