



# HEARTLINE

RMC AUXILIARY NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 2021

**WE WELCOME YOU BACK!**

**RIPON MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY LUNCHEON  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021**

**12 PM at the  
GREEN LAKE AMERICAN LEGION HALL  
518 WATER STREET, GREEN LAKE**

Noreen Johnson, Director of the Ripon Senior Center, will present on the plans for the new center to be built in Ripon and the activities that are offered.

The cost of the box lunch, catered by Webster's Marketplace, is \$10 and can be paid at the door.

Coffee and water will be provided.

**RSVP** to Diane Shady, Program Chairperson  
no later than Monday, September 13 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*



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe we are approaching Labor Day. Schools will soon be opening and Fall activities will again begin. As you all are aware, there are still concerns of COVID-19 lurking around. We want everyone to still be aware and continue to be safe.

At this point, we are planning a September Luncheon for all Auxiliary members at the American Legion Hall in Green Lake on Monday, September 20 at noon. A box lunch will be served, along with a program. More information is in this newsletter.

There will be a Mum Sale at Ripon Medical Center by the front entrance on September 13 & 14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mums will be on sale for \$12 each.

The State Partners Wisconsin Hospital Association Convention will be held at the Marriot West Madison on October 5-7, 2021. Information on this event is available on the Partners WHA website or by contacting any of the people on the Auxiliary Board. Need to register by September 10 to avoid a late fee.

At this point, we are unsure about the usual Fall Luncheon held at Maple Crest due to the uncertainty of COVID-19. We will keep you informed as that time approaches.

Preparations for a Lights of Love event to be held December 9, 2021, are being worked on. Again, there is uncertainty as to a program at the hospital (due to COVID), but we are planning on a raffle and the sale of lights. We will be raising money for Scholarships and hospital needs.

We do have one vacancy on our Board of Directors. We are looking for someone who would be willing to fill the Public Policy Education position. If you have an interest in this topic, please contact Georgia Stellmacher or me and we can explain what would be expected of you. We hope you will seriously consider being a part of this Board.

We hope this letter finds you all well and we look forward to seeing you at the September Luncheon. Stay safe.

*Julie Stellmacher, President*

## MEMBERSHIP

Just a reminder that your 2021-2022 MEMBER DUES ARE DUE!  
Please make your check for \$10 payable to RMC Auxiliary and send it to:

Donna Schulz  
N7297 County Rd FF  
Ripon, WI 54971

Dues will also be accepted at the September Luncheon.

*Donna Schulz, Chairperson, Membership*

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**Financial Report**  
**Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021**

Here are the financial results for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and ended June 30, 2021, compared to the two previous years. We did not prepare a budget for this fiscal year because of the many uncertainties around COVID-19. The gift shop was closed from mid-March 2020 until mi-March 2021 and many of our fundraisers were cancelled. Still, we were able to raise \$9,665 after expenses from the off- site fundraisers of Lights of Love, Flower Basket Sale, Candy Bar Sales and Grocery Store Roundup. The Gift Shop netted \$3,702 for the three- and one- half months it was open in fiscal year 2021.

We awarded three \$1,000 scholarships this Spring. We did not donate anything to RMC this fiscal year but did provide an appreciation treat to the hospital and clinic staff that was very well received. Cash remaining at the end of the fiscal year was \$18,217, enabling us to make a significant donation to RMC in fiscal year 2022.

We had 50 paid members in fiscal year 2021. Unfortunately, we lost two members this year, Grace Albright and our last lifetime member, Joan Nault. We have a lot to be proud of and grateful for.

**Ripon Medical Center Auxiliary, Inc. - Treasurer's Report - June 2021**

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>
<b>June 2021</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Fundraising	\$ 18,077.60	\$ 22,121.74	\$ 16,576.70
Donations	920.65	232.15	61.77
Membership Dues	700.00	630.00	500.00
Gift Shop Sales	34,923.56	27,142.72	8,796.84
Total Income	\$ 54,621.81	\$ 50,126.61	\$ 25,935.31
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 5,093.08	\$ 7,395.28	\$ 6,911.70
Luncheons	(12.00)	(96.00)	-
State Conventions/District Meetings	980.61	536.98	-
Organization Expenses	208.81	169.16	102.45
Gift Shop Expenses	24,074.57	22,242.74	5,094.43
Total Expenses	\$ 30,345.07	\$ 30,248.16	\$ 12,108.58
Net Income Before Distributions	\$ 24,276.74	\$ 19,878.45	\$ 13,826.73
<b>DISTRIBUTIONS</b>			
Scholarships	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00

Donations for RMC	19,037.16	30,079.58	211.92
Total Distributions	\$ 22,037.16	\$ 33,079.58	\$ 3,211.92
NET INCOME AFTER DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ 2,239.58	\$ (13,201.13)	\$ 10,614.81
CASH BALANCES	\$ 25,292.54	\$ 11,594.84	\$ 18,217.09

**Ripon Medical Center Auxiliary, Inc - Budget FY 2022**

<b>INCOME</b>	
Fundraising	\$ 25,080
Membership Dues	500
Gift Shop Sales	31,175
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 56,755</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 9,605
Luncheons - net	(18)
State Conventions/District Meetings	1,250
Organizational Expenses	247
Gift Shop Expenses	21,525
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 32,609</b>
<b>NET INCOME BEFORE DISTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 24,146</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTIONS</b>	
Transfers to RMC	\$ 15,000
Hospitality Cart Supplies	100
Emergency Dept Children's Cart	100
Scholarships	3,000
<b>TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 18,200</b>

With the re-opening of the Gift Shop in March and the expectations that vendor sales will return in FY 2022, the Board adopted a budget using very conservative assumptions. We did not donate to RMC in FY 2021, so we are starting the year with excess funds. Add to that a profitable Gift Shop and successful fundraising in FY 2022, we should easily have \$15,000 available to donate to RMC this fiscal year. We will also continue to award three \$1,000 scholarships to high school graduates pursuing a career in healthcare.

The Board has approved funding the purchase of two community transport chairs used to transfer patients safely and comfortably to a nursing home. The cost is approximately \$6,300 leaving additional funds available for another need that may come up.

*Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer*



## WHAT'S NEW AT RIPON MEDICAL CENTER

*By DeAnn Thurmer, President, Ripon Medical Center and Waupun Memorial Hospital*

We have a lot going on at Ripon Medical Center 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.

### **Thank You**

We thank you for your compassion and dedication as we continue to confront the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our team makes us very proud. We shoulder our responsibility for protecting and caring for our patients, our communities and each other with such grace and dignity.

There is recent community discussion about the requirement of COVID-19 vaccination, and while we understand and respect these questions, we want you to remember that SSM Health made this decision in the best interest of the health of our community and our team members and with approval by our Fond du Lac Regional Clinic medical board.

While we may have been the first health care organization in Wisconsin to require vaccinations, we are now joined by hundreds of health care and other industries in mandating the COVID-19 vaccine in Wisconsin and across the country.

As health care professionals, we answer to a higher calling, to do no harm and to provide care for those who come to us at their most vulnerable times. Please know how grateful we are for all that you do for our patients and each other. These are indeed extraordinary times, but we are confident in our ability to weather them together because we have such an extraordinary team. Thank you.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility**

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for everyone aged 12 years and older for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States. Vaccine options include:

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (in persons aged  $\geq 12$  years): 2 doses
- Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (in persons aged  $\geq 18$  years): 2 doses
- Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine (in persons aged  $\geq 18$  years): 1 dose

In addition, moderately to severely immunocompromised patients may be eligible to receive a third dose of COVID-19 vaccination at least four weeks after the initial two-dose series is completed. Eligible patients in this group have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last two years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection

Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Walk-In Clinics**

Since early July, patients admitted to Ripon Medical Center and other SSM Health hospitals in Wisconsin are being offered a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine during their stay. If a second dose of vaccine is required, patients receive instructions on how to coordinate a follow-up vaccine appointment.

Ripon Medical Center and other Agnesian HealthCare facilities have also transitioned away from mass vaccination clinics to offering vaccine doses through a dedicated nurse schedule at all of its primary care clinic locations. This is similar to how flu vaccinations are administered each year and allows staff more flexibility in giving vaccines at the same time a patient receives other routine care.

Patients can receive a vaccine dose by asking about one during a previously scheduled appointment. Anyone can schedule an appointment online at [ssmhealth.com](https://www.ssmhealth.com), through their MyChart account, or by calling 920-926-8400 for scheduling at Agnesian HealthCare locations.

### **Rebrand Update**

September 29, 2021 is the day Agnesian HealthCare is making our modified names, new logo and SSM Health brand official. Since first coming together more than three years ago, SSM Health and Agnesian HealthCare will introduce a fresh, modern and unified look to go with our exceptional partnership. This is certainly something to celebrate!

This is truly an exciting time for our ministry. We're evolving into one of the largest integrated, quality health systems in the nation, with a brand promise of a consistently exceptional experience for those we serve.

I will be meeting with the Auxiliary Executive team to discuss the rebranding and effect of the name change with this group.

On September 29, we will unveil one large exterior sign, or in case of inclement weather, one interior sign at each of our three hospital campuses. With COVID-19 numbers increasing, we will be conducting these programs with speakers alone, and sharing after through video links.

### **Sewing**

Looking for sewers to help stock our shelves. Items needed are walker bags, wheelchair bags, catheter bags, mastectomy pillows, fidget quilts, and fidget sleeves.

We can always use donations of yarn (any color, full or part skeins), fabric (fat quarters, 1/2 yards, and yards).

Any questions regarding current items needed call Ann at 920-299-1183 or Jason at 920-745-3670. Thank you to all the sewers that kept our inventory stocked during the pandemic.

*Ann McDonald, Chairperson, Sewing*



## VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

Hi everyone, we hope each of you is having a great summer. A lot of changes are rolling out lately, so we just want to clarify a couple items in case there was any confusion. Agnesian HealthCare is launching a new program for volunteers and employees called Readysset. Readysset will enable our employee health department to transition to a paperless record keeping system. No action is required if you are a member of the Auxiliary and do not volunteer on-site at Ripon Medical Center. Auxiliary members that do volunteer on-site will be required to create a Readysset account by September 1 and upload proof of their COVID vaccination. If you believe you may be exempt from the COVID vaccination for religious or medical reasons, please reach out to us. We can assist with filing an exemption however each is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If any volunteer needs help creating an account, please reach out to us in volunteer services. You can contact me at: [Jason.Blonigen@SSMHealth.com](mailto:Jason.Blonigen@SSMHealth.com) or by phone 920-926-4873.

On a brighter note, the Nutman will be coming to back to RMC the following dates.

- Tuesday August 19, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday October 14, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday December 8, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Please know that under current restrictions sales will not be open to the public. Patients, volunteers, and staff with legitimate a business purpose will be allowed to participate.

We hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer and appreciate everyone's understanding and patience as we adapt.

Thank you all for everything you do for the community and Agnesian HealthCare!

*Jason Blonigen, Volunteer Coordinator for Ripon Medical Center, St. Agnes Hospital, and Waupun Memorial Hospital*

## COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

### Nutrition and Infectious Disease

Your diet plays an important role in protecting you from infectious diseases. A healthy immune system depends on eating a balanced healthy diet on a regular basis.

Certain vitamins and minerals contained in foods are key to an immune-boosting diet. These include Vitamins A, C, D, E; folate/folic acid, iron, selenium, and zinc. You can find these vitamins and minerals in both animal and vegetarian foods, fresh (is best) or frozen.

There are many foods that one can include in their diet to boost the immune system. Here is a list of the more common foods: Citrus fruits, watermelon, papaya, elderberry, kiwi, button mushrooms, spinach, broccoli, sweet potato, red bell peppers, yogurt (low fat), almonds, tea, oysters and other shellfish. Spices such as garlic, ginger, and turmeric are also beneficial.

You may have heard the phrase "eat the rainbow". Eating a variety of colorful foods, many listed above, is important for a strong immune system and overall good health

Resources: [health.clevelandclinic.org](http://health.clevelandclinic.org), [www.healthline.com](http://www.healthline.com), [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com)

*Barb Benkoski, Chairperson, Community Health Education*



## PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION UPDATE



### Preserve Telehealth Gains

Make Telehealth Flexibilities Permanent

#### Highlights

- The COVID pandemic has been a sort of “proof of concept” that telehealth works.
- Both patients and providers have enjoyed the convenience and efficacy of telehealth that greatly expanded due to COVID.
- Congress needs to act to permanently remove the geographic and site restrictions that have been temporarily lifted during COVID.

### Wisconsin Hospitals Need Your Help to Keep Providing Telehealth Post-COVID

Prior to the flexibilities granted under the COVID public health emergencies, Medicare patients were severely limited in their ability to access telehealth because federal statutes prohibit Medicare from paying for telehealth services if a patient is located in an urban area or at home. WHA has advocated for lifting these restrictions since before COVID, and now what we have seen telehealth work, we need to remove them for good.

### Please Support Making Telehealth Flexibilities Permanent

A number of bipartisan bills have been introduced this Congress to permanently remove barriers for Medicare patients to access telehealth. Some with the most support include:

- S. 1512 – The Connect for Health Act of 2021 – Senators Schatz (D-HI) & Wicker (R-MS)
- H.R. 366 – Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act of 2021 – Reps. Mike Thompson (D-CA) & Bill Johnson (R-OH)
- H.R. 1332 – Telehealth Modernization Act – Reps. Earl “Buddy” Carter (R-GA) & Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)

Congress needs to act to ensure that health care providers and Medicare patients can continue to reap the benefits of telehealth even after the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency ends. WHA asks you to please support bipartisan telehealth legislation that permanently removes barriers to Medicare patients accessing telehealth.

#### Benefits of Telehealth:

- Saves patient’s time
- Expands access to specialty care
- More convenient scheduling
- More options for patients
- Saves patients travel

Taken from Wisconsin Hospital Association at  
<https://www.wha.org/Advocacy/StateFederalIssues>

*Vacant, Chairperson Public Policy, Education*



### Be Happy, Not Perfect

There is no such things as perfect.

Where did the word come from?

The perfect husband, the perfect job,  
the perfect house, the perfect marriage.

We are all human, living in a human world.

Most are nice, sincere, loving even kind.

But perfect causes such unhappiness.

Perfect is unreal, untouchable.

Accept good, well done and wonderful.

Do your best, be your best.

There is no such thing as perfect.

Be happy, not perfect.

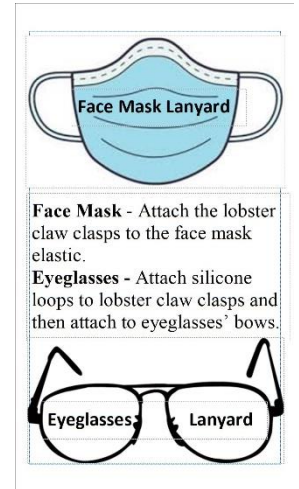
*From Christmas with the Clauses*



## GIFT SHOP

New Gift Shop Item - Facemask/Eyeglasses Lanyard

These lovely and trendy beaded lanyards are a comfortable and convenient way to keep your facemask handy or you can use it to keep your reading glasses close at hand. What if we no longer need face masks? Wear it as a bracelet or necklace!



The gift shop is looking for volunteers to work a variety of shifts each month. Contact Mary Schieffer or Jason Blonigen if you are interested in helping out.

*Gift Shop Committee*

## FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITES

### Candy Bar Sales

Candy bar sales are steady, so we are continuing to sell Vande Walle's Candy Bars. Anyone interested in selling candy bars can call Georgia at 920-346-5607. All help is appreciated!

### Mum Sale

The Mum Sale will be held on Monday, September 13 & Tuesday, September 14 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ripon Medical Center Main Entrance.

The sale will feature a choice of high-quality 9-inch mums in various colors that are specifically grown to blossom and last well into the fall season. Cost is \$12 each.

No orders will be taken prior to the sale. Just come on Monday or Tuesday to purchase your mums. **No** credit cards will be accepted.

For more information, call 920-229-9827 or if you can assist with the sale contact Radene.

### **WORKERS ARE NEEDED!**

*Radene Abel, Chairperson, Mum Sale*

*Georgia Stellmacher, Chairperson, Fundraising*

**RIPON MEDICAL CENTER**  
A MEMBER OF AEGESIAN HEALTHCARE

# Mum Sale

Join the Ripon Medical Center Auxiliary  
**Monday, September 13 &  
Tuesday, September 14 • 9 am - 5 pm**  
Ripon Medical Center Main Entrance • 845 Parkside Street

The sale will feature a choice of high-quality 9-inch mums in various colors that are specifically grown to blossom and last well into the fall season.  
**\$12 each**

Cash • Check • Employee Quick Charge • **No Credit Cards**

All proceeds will support Ripon Medical Center programs and services.

For more information, call 920-229-9827.

## 2021 Lights of Love

We were hoping to have our annual tree lighting event this year, but unfortunately that is not the case. The hospital is not allowing large group gatherings and the church choir has not been practicing. We will still have lights on the tree. The tree will be lit on December 9 and the list of names will be published in the Ripon paper after that.

The raffle is back this year! Once again, we will collect gift certificates from area businesses for the raffle prizes. We will also have a cash prize generously donated by BMO Bank. Marty Schattschneider will use her creative talent to put the prizes together. The drawing will also be on December 9.

Lights of Love and raffle tickets will go on sale November 1. You will receive Lights of Love materials in the mail. The materials and raffle tickets will also be available at the front desk and in the Gift Shop. Proceeds from this year's Lights of Love and raffle will be used to fund the purchase of two community transport chairs to be used to transfer patients safely and comfortably to assisted living or a skilled care facility.

A big thank you to the planning committee for this year's fundraiser: Barb Behlen, Marty Schattschneider, Barb Benkoski, Julie Stellmacher, Pat Albright, and Jason Blonigen. I will have an army of volunteers to thank as we move along with this. I couldn't do it without you!

*Bobbie Pollesch, Chairperson, Lights of Love*



### RMC AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS

<b>Julie Stellmacher, President</b>	920-369-0044   <a href="mailto:thomas.julie.stellmacher@gmail.com">thomas.julie.stellmacher@gmail.com</a>
<b>Barb Ann Behlen, Vice President</b>	920-450-6525   <a href="mailto:barbbe@charter.net">barbbe@charter.net</a>
<b>Mary Park, Secretary</b>	920-748-6104   <a href="mailto:2ageless@gmail.com">2ageless@gmail.com</a>
<b>Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer</b>	920-229-2746   <a href="mailto:bobbiepollesch@hotmail.com">bobbiepollesch@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Barb Benkoski, Community Health</b>	920-229-6340   <a href="mailto:MrsBB@protonmail.com">MrsBB@protonmail.com</a>
<b>Vacant, Public Policy Education</b>	
<b>Diane Shady, Programs</b>	920-539-2150   <a href="mailto:kanddshady@gmail.com">kanddshady@gmail.com</a>
<b>Donna Schulz, Membership</b>	920-203-7523   <a href="mailto:jondonna@hotmail.com">jondonna@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Mary Schieffer, Gift Shop</b>	920-767-0029   <a href="mailto:rms1721@charter.net">rms1721@charter.net</a>
<b>Georgia Stellmacher, Fundraising</b>	920-346-5607   <a href="mailto:stellmacher.gaj@gmail.com">stellmacher.gaj@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ann McDonald, Sewing</b>	920-896-0362   <a href="mailto:annmcdonald919@gmail.com">annmcdonald919@gmail.com</a>
<b>Barb Ann Behlen, Newsletter</b>	920-294-6229   <a href="mailto:barbbe@charter.net">barbbe@charter.net</a>
<b>Jason Blonigen, Volunteer Services</b>	920-745-3670   <a href="mailto:jason.blonigen@ssmhealth.com">jason.blonigen@ssmhealth.com</a>

