



HEARTBEAT

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUXILIARY - PARTNERS OF MERMH

Ministry Eagle River Memorial Hospital

June 2018

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2



Left to right - Diana Sell, Marti Rudawski, Marie Maciag, and Teri Kressin.

Scholarships

By Diana Sell

Our Auxiliary awarded \$8,000 in scholarships this year. The Auxiliary volunteers at Ascension Eagle River Hospital awarded eight \$1,000 scholarships this year to two hospital associates and six high school students pursuing a career in a health-related field. The two hospital employees were Zachary Goiffon and Jordan Knopf. The high school students were Marilyn (Maggie) Servent and Grace Stefonik from Three Lakes High School, Marti Rudawski from Phelps High School, and David Halverson, Samuel Smith, and Rebecca (Becca) Beyersdorf from Northland Pines High School.

The volunteers on the Scholarship Committee were very impressed at the academic, athletic, artistic, and community service related achievements of the applicants. These students have shown leadership, integrity, and responsibility. They are all well-rounded individuals who show pride in their schools and communities. These individuals will be invited to the annual Recognition Luncheon on June 13 at the Whitetail Inn in St. Germain. We applaud all of their accomplishments.



Left to right - Marie Maciag, Sam Smith, Teri Kressin, Dave Halverson, Diana Sell, and Becca Beyersdorf



Left to right - Diana Sell, Maggie Servent, Grace Stefonik, Marie Maciag, and Teri Kressin.

Ministry Volunteers

By Susan Leet, Staff Chaplain

On April 3 the Eucharistic Ministry Volunteers at Eagle River Hospital came together for a celebration and a "Thank You" gathering with our local priest, Fr Patrick, and Deacon Rick. These wonderful lay ministers give their time and love of the Lord each time they visit MERMH to distribute Holy Communion and pray with our patients.

Thank you volunteers!



Deacon Rick Miech, Louise Springer, Carol Pekarek, Barb Grzywacz, Marsha Kline, Fr. Patrick McConnell. Pam Franzen was not able to attend.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AUXILIARY PARTNERS OF ASCENSION EAGLE RIVER HOSPITAL

As I write this at the end of the Memorial Day Weekend, it is bittersweet. This is my last President's message as my term ends June 30 and I am not continuing as President.

Our Auxiliary has been very busy with the awarding of eight scholarships, two for continuing education of hospital employees and six scholarships given to three students from Northland Pines, one from Phelps, and two from Three Lakes. Our Scholarship committee consists of Diana Sell, Marie Maciag and myself. It's very fulfilling interviewing, choosing, and presenting these scholarships to such deserving young women and men. Their parents are so grateful and appreciate these scholarships. We will continue this committee even though we will not be officers.

At the Spring District meeting held on April 26th in Rhinelander we had ten people attend. For some this was the first time they had ever attended a Spring District meeting. Installation of officers, both district and state was held. The luncheon was excellent. It was a very informative meeting and now we get ready for the state convention which is hosted by our North Central District. Eagle River will be conducting the 50/50 raffle so everyone get your wallets out! It will be a great time.

On May 30, we are having a blessing and dedication of the new ambulance that the Auxiliary helped purchase for the Eagle River Emergency Medical Services along with two patient cots for the ambulances. We're hoping many volunteers turn out for this dedication.

This year at the Recognition Luncheon our Auxiliary will be presenting a "Volunteer Hero Award" instead of a Health Care Hero award. We had nine nominations and it was very difficult to choose just one.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers of our Auxiliary. Each and every one does an amazing job. Thanks to Pam Berdal and Kathy Viergutz who have given us so much help and support. Finally to my chairs, Pam Cira, Marlys Lee, Joan Holdmann, Elizabeth Purtell, and Blanche Babcock. And a special thank you to my fellow officers, Diana Sell, and Marie Maciag! Never could have done it without you. I'll never forget any and all of you. We will still see each other in the future.

Respectfully Yours,

Teri Kressin, President

Auxiliary Partners of Ascension Eagle River Hospital

Ascension to Hold Free Diabetes Screening and Prevention Events in June

From Tom Weaver, Ascension Public Relations Manager

Ascension Hospitals and Clinics in the Northwood's are joining together during the first week of June to host free diabetes prevention and screening events in Tomahawk, Woodruff, Eagle River and Rhinelander. The events are part of an effort to help identify the 1 in 3 American adults who have pre-diabetes of which, 90-percent do not know their health might be at risk not addressed.

"The good news is there are things you can do to avoid complications and even prevent type 2 diabetes," said Hope Williams, RDN, CDE, CLS, Coordinator of Community Health Improvement for Ascension Wisconsin. "Having diabetes puts you at a higher risk for developing other health problems. However, if you understand the risks, you can take steps now to lower your chance of diabetes related complications."

Each event will feature an opportunity to meet clinical experts and receive free health screenings including Blood Glucose, Blood Pressure and Body Mass Index. Information and interactive exhibits on self-care behaviors like healthy eating and problem solving for issues like low blood sugar will also be available.

There is no charge to attend and light refreshments will be served along with the opportunity for participants to win door prizes.

Ascension's free diabetes prevention and screening event will be held in Eagle River at the following time and location: **Ascension Eagle River Hospital, 201 East Hospital Road, Eagle River:**

Thursday, June 7, 9-11:30 a.m., Program will be held in the Cafeteria.

Ascension Eagle River Volunteers Spearhead Efforts to Purchase New Ambulance

From Tom Weaver, Ascension Public Relations Manager

When an ambulance call comes in, response speed is critical. That's how lives are saved. And in an area like Eagle River, ambulances also need to cover a lot of ground.

Ascension Eagle River Hospital has two ambulances and a high-quality, well-trained 24/7 paramedic service covering Eagle River and the surrounding townships.

They also provide paramedic intercepts to the towns of Land O' Lakes, Conover, Phelps, St. Germain and Three Lakes. The two ambulances together run about 15,000 miles per year, and in 2017 responded to roughly 900 emergency calls.

When the time came to replace the older Ambulance and to purchase two Stryker Power-LOAD System cots, the Auxiliary Partners of Ascension Eagle River Hospital stepped up through their donations to the Howard Young Foundation.

"The Auxiliary Partners exist to support Ascension Eagle River Hospital and surrounding communities," said Kathy Viergutz, Community Service Coordinator. "Helping with the purchase of the ambulance and cots is a perfect fit for their mission."

They also recognized that auto lift cots would provide an added level of safety for EMS teams and provide a safer experience for patients. "The cots make a huge difference for our EMS staff," Viergutz said. "It takes a huge toll on a person's back to manually lift and move patients."

In April 2017, the Auxiliary Partners membership voted and approved paying for the purchases with funds they had raised through their thrift store and Life Direct home alert program and donated to the Foundation's Eagle River's Greatest Need fund. Because that fund is part of the Foundation's Journey to Excellence Campaign, Ascension agreed to match the \$125,000 donation.

After the new ambulance arrived in December 2017, it was sent out for exterior detailing. The Eagle River based ambulance is the first in Wisconsin to carry the Ascension brand. In addition to the hospital logo and other standard decals, a graphic also recognizes the Auxiliary Partners of Ascension Eagle River for their donation.

The new ambulance was put into service in April 2018. But that doesn't mean the old one was put out to pasture or sold for scrap. It was donated to the Town of Russell First Responders in Lincoln County to fill their need for an ambulance to help re-energize their program.



Town of Russell First Responders, leaders from Ascension Eagle River Hospital and Auxiliary Partners pose with the old ambulance that was donated to the Town of Russell.



The new ambulance, auxiliary partners and associates

"We are grateful to Ascension for the donation of this ambulance which will help us better serve our community," said Tim Steinfest, Chief, Town of Russell Fire Department and First Responders.

"The funds raised by the Ascension Eagle River Auxiliary Partners, donated to the Howard Young Foundation, and generously matched by Ascension, allows us to continue providing high-quality paramedic-level service," said Sandy Anderson, President of Ascension Eagle River Hospital. "Together, we work to provide the best care possible throughout our area."

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."

~Oscar Wilde

THRIFT SHOP

THRIFT SHOP REPORT

Joan Holdmann, Chairperson

WOW, things are happening at the shop! We were closed for a few days in order to get some cleaning done and have some new shelves put in. The gals worked really hard. The store just sparkles. And the new white shelves look sooooo nice. What a few changes can do is amazing. Come on in and check it out. And while you're there, check out the bulletin board in the back sorting room area and see if you could find some time to come in and help us out. Tuesdays and Fridays - We need YOU!

We're waiting for the free-standing racks to come in. They will be placed in the housewares area and what we call the men's junk area.

Ladies, whenever you see or pass by Jay, our engineer from the hospital, give him a BIG high-five and THANK YOU for ALL the extra time and work he put in at the shop to help us out. He truly is a Gem, and we are so fortunate to have him. Lordy, Lordy, what would we ever do if we didn't have him. He is so easy to work with and he puts up with us ladies, changing our minds, and things. He responds to our every need just as quick as he can.

Goodwill would like our donations in smaller amounts. When planning a trip to Rhinelander, you can help out by stopping at the Thrift Shop to pick up bags of unusable items to drop off at Goodwill in Rhinelander. Fill your trunk or back seats. Any amount you can take would be greatly appreciated.

We are seeing a few tan looking faces coming in. Wonder who they are? Could it be our wonderful snow birds returning to us? Yeaaaaa! We are happy to see you all. Good to have you back. Any questions, give me a call. You know where I am. Joan

Day of Renewal

Submitted by Elizabeth Purtell

The committee for the Day of Renewal will be meeting very soon to plan for speakers and a theme. Preliminary theme is Finance: Freedom and Solutions. This has been arrived at as a result of the evaluations from last year's Day of Renewal. Attendees were given an evaluation tool, namely The Circle of Life and one of the categories was Finance.

Save the date! September 18th.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 13** Volunteer recognition luncheon, Whitetail Inn, St. Germain
- September 18** Day of Renewal, TBA
- October 2-4** WHA Partners State Convention, Stevens Point

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COME AND WORK WITH US

Thrift Store Volunteers
HELP Program Volunteers
Out-Patient Surgery Volunteers

'Heartbeat' Newsletter Editor,
Training Provided

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



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Editor Katie Grundy
Email: eagleheartbeat@gmail.com