

THE  
VOLUNTEER  
PARTNERS OF  
HSHS ST.  
JOSEPH'S

# Stethoscope

VOLUME XXXVI, ISSUE I

WINTER 2020



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## *The Trees of Honor and Remembrance*

The 32nd Annual Love Light's Ceremony was held on Thursday, Dec. 5. A Celebration and Prayer Service was held in the Chapel, followed by the Tree Lighting Ceremony in the Healing Garden. Wonderful music for the Ceremony was provided by the Threshold Singers. The trees were lit by Council Member of Volunteer Partners, Betty Oddo, in memory of her husband Rosario (Russ) Oddo. It was another successful year for the Love Lights bringing in nearly \$10,000. All proceeds will go to help fund the current project of Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, the mobile mammography unit. We wish to thank the community for their continued support of Love Lights.

*Kay Engebretson  
Love Lights Chair*

## *Happy New Year from Our Partners President*

It seems like only yesterday we woke up on January 1, 2000 knowing that we survived Y2K! Where did the last 20 years go? The year 2020 is special not only because we enter a new decade, but Partners will celebrate **50 years** of providing support for St. Joseph's Hospital. Sister Frances's example of servant leadership continues to be the foundation of St. Joseph's Hospital and your Partners' organization. Of course we will have a 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party. Watch for more information on our Golden Birthday celebration!

Your Board of Directors continues to work on projects that align with HSHS Western Division's goals. Net proceeds from Wonderland on the River and the Charity Ball will go toward the 3D Mobile Mammography Unit. Our pledge of \$20,000 to the mammography unit will help provide much needed services to patients in rural areas. Other Partners' projects will also continue to fund the six \$1,000 scholarships that are awarded each year to students entering the medical field. We have many projects such as Wonderland on the River, the Steak Fry, and the Charity Ball with the primary goal of raising funds. However, we also have many projects with the primary goal of community outreach such as FitKids, Babysitting Clinics, and our Community Garden. Thank you for supporting all of these projects. You are making a difference to St. Joseph's Hospital and the local communities we serve!

In the last Stethoscope, I mentioned the Partners WHA State Convention. The theme was "Volunteers, Our Precious Gems". The HSHS St. Joseph's Partners who represented you attended various workshops and met with other Partner groups. One of the highlights was a CEO panel. The panel discussed challenges that affect all hospitals regardless of size and geographic location. Some of the common challenges facing all hospitals are: mental and behavioral health; recruiting employees; and potential Medicaid expansion. As the health care industry changes, the CEOs also pointed out that hospitals need to adjust and collaborate with each other.

The convention is an enormous undertaking. The West Central District of which we are members, will host the Partners WHA State Convention in 2022. Our very own Betty Oddo has stepped up to be the co-chair along with John Tully who is the current Chair of the West Central District. Betty and John will need our support before and during the convention, so we will be reaching out to you with volunteer opportunities.

Thank you to each of you for making 2019 a successful year for HSHS St. Joseph's Partners. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at [maryrosewilli@gmail.com](mailto:maryrosewilli@gmail.com).

On behalf of HSHS Partners, I wish you and yours a Happy New Year!

*Mary Rose Willi  
Partners President  
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital*

## *Budget Update*

The Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital approved the annual 2019-2020 budget at their September 4th Board of Directors meeting. The budget includes a \$20,000 pledge to support the hospital's mobile mammography project and \$2,500 towards Lifeline. The budget also provides for six \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded to area students who are majoring in a health care field. Some of the major fundraising activities included in the budget are the annual Steak Fry, Wonderland on the River, the Charity Ball, and Love Lights. If you have questions about the budget, please contact Marge Geissler, Treasurer.

## Letter from HSHS WWD President and CEO



Dear Volunteer Partners,

Thank you for warmly welcoming me into your HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital family! I met many of you either during the meet and greet on my first day here in September, or at the blessing our hospital had for me in October. Both of those opportunities really meant a lot to me and reinforced the reason why our family chose to make HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital and Chippewa Falls our home. It's already starting to feel like home here and I know our community will be an amazing place for me and my wife Kellie to raise our son Elijah and daughter Josie.

I'm excited to help continue to move HSHS St. Joseph's into the future. The passion and skill of our colleagues and volunteers here and at our sister hospital HSHS Sacred Heart is what sets us apart from other hospitals in our region. We're more than just a hospital system. We're a community staple and a safe place people can turn to for refuge when they need it most. That may seem like a big responsibility – and undoubtedly it is. Yet it's the mission and tradition that our Hospital Sisters created for us when they first provided care to our community 134 years ago. It's a mission that's our responsibility to carry forward well into the future.

I want to thank you, our Partners, for a moving Love Lights event earlier in December. That event is a meaningful time for many in our community who have lost loved ones. You may have heard me say this before, but the most important lesson or skill I have learned is to empower the team. It's my job to empower you – our volunteers – to do *your* best work during your time here with us. You have chosen to become a volunteer because you are generous and want to share your talents with others when they need it most. Whether you have been volunteering with us for 20 years or 20 days, I am truly excited to get to know each of you. If we haven't met yet, I sure hope that we get to do that very soon.

Have a blessed Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in our halls! Remember, we couldn't do what we do without you.

*John Wagner*  
President and CEO

### Health Education: Flu Vaccines

The flu vaccine can prevent the flu or at least lessens the severity of the illness. The flu is contagious and the flu season is usually between October—May, however this season it started as early as September. The flu can hit those with heart disease, cancer or diabetes the hardest. The flu can cause fever, chills, sore throat, muscle aches, cough, tiredness and can cause vomiting and diarrhea.

This year there are two types of flu shots, regular and senior with the senior shot for ages 60 and over. The senior shot is a little stronger and more helpful to combat the illness for those over 60.

Please check with your Health Care Provider first, but we all need to take care of ourselves and get the shot. The shot not only helps us, but protects those around us. Especially little ones that we may come into contact with.

To learn more about the flu ask your healthcare provider, check with the Health Department or call the Center of Disease Control at 1-800-232-4636. You may also visit the CDC online at [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu).

*Pat Bertrand*  
Community Health Educator



## Wonderland on the River

Festivity, creativity, sophistication, and elegance, plus fun - The 10<sup>th</sup> annual **Wonderland on the River**, sponsored by the Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, was held on November 2, 2019 at the Lake Wissota Golf and Event Center. The delights of the day included company and laughter with friends, beautifully created tablescapes, delicious luncheon, preview of newest fashions, entertainment from the Chipewaga Falls High School Wire Choir, inspirational speaker, and outstanding door and raffle prizes. This all added up to plain and simple enjoyment for the sold-out crowd.

The funds raised from this event will be directed toward the 3D Mobile Mammography Unit that is being purchased by HSHS St. Joseph's and HSHS Sacred Heart Hospitals. Statistics show that approximately 93,000 women in a 60 mile radius of the two hospitals will not get regular mammograms because of time and travel challenges. The attendees at **Wonderland on the River** had a great time, but also helped provide much needed mammography services to women (and men) in our surrounding area. Over \$5,500 was raised! Those who attended this event are making a difference in our communities! On behalf of the Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, a big "thank you" goes out to all who participated.

*Jan Giedd  
WOTR Chair*







## Public Policy: Save the Date Advocacy Day March 18, 2020

There is a lot happening on the Advocacy Front.

It is very likely the House will pass two articles of impeachment making Donald Trump the 4<sup>th</sup> president to face impeachment. Because the Senate has a Republican majority, it is unlikely Trump will be convicted in the Senate trial. Trump is the first president to face impeachment while running for re-election. Pundents are divided on whether the proceedings will help or hinder his campaign.

Speaking of campaigns, the primary season begins in January starting with the Iowa caucuses. The Democratic field is still crowded. Several candidates have dropped out, but a couple have entered the race. Campaign ads are already showing up. Be prepared to be bombarded with political ads as Wisconsin is considered a battle ground state. Have some skepticism as you digest political advertisements, be sure to fact check and not believe everything you hear.

The Federal Communication Commission has begun the formal review making process to implement a 3 digit number for a suicide and mental health hot-line. 988 will connect callers with the already existing network of crisis centers. They expect an 18 month timeline for complete implementation.

There has been some movement on the surprise billing issue. A “deal” may be included in the end of year spending bill that must be passed by December 20<sup>th</sup>. WHA has expressed concern that the deal includes an undefined fee schedule that would be applied to “surprises” \$750 or less. The fee would be based on the “local median in-network rate”. Both WHA and The Rural Wisconsin Health Care Cooperative are afraid this would be particularly harmful to rural providers.

In Wisconsin news, Senator Bernier and Representative Felzkowski have introduced a bill to legalize medical marijuana. The bill creates a framework for a medical marijuana program. They are looking for co-sponsors and hoping for a public hearing in January. It is unlikely as Senate majority leader Scott Fitzgerald does not support medical marijuana.

The Worker's Compensation Advisory Panel has approved the worker's compensation package. Good news is it does not include a fee schedule. There is one troubling provision that requires providers to send insurance company representatives duplicate billing statements on paper at no cost. If they fail to do so within 30 days, the insurer would no longer be responsible for payment of the services on the statement. Keep in mind the information necessary for payment of the bill has already been sent electronically to the insurance company. The bill is only in draft form at this time and there will be hearings on the final bill next year. Stay tuned for more developments.

And some good news!! The Telehealth bill has been signed into law, the sunset clause has been removed from the approval of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and Aaron Rodgers has agreed to a four year contract with Prevea Health to promote health and wellness in Wisconsin.

Save the date for Advocacy Day March 18<sup>th</sup>

*Julie Clark  
Public Policy Educator*



## *New Years Baby-It's a Boy!*

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital welcomed their first baby born in 2020 on Thursday January 2nd at about 10:15pm. A gift was put together to give to the new baby on behalf of the Partners. Included in the gift was a plush blanket that said sweet dreams, a night light, memory book and outfit. Also, included was a traditional silver spoon engraved with "Born with love at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital".

Many blessings to the new arrival and his family!

## *Membership*

Partners is designed for community minded individuals who are committed to assisting St. Joseph's Hospital by bringing volunteer services to patients, visitors and families. Partners have several fun events throughout the year and we need your help. Cost to join Partners is \$10 a year or \$100 for a lifetime membership.

We are always looking for new members, so please invite your friends, family, or neighbors to join the Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. If you are interested in learning more or joining, please contact Brandy Sikora.

## *New Member*

### *Nancy Blomlie*

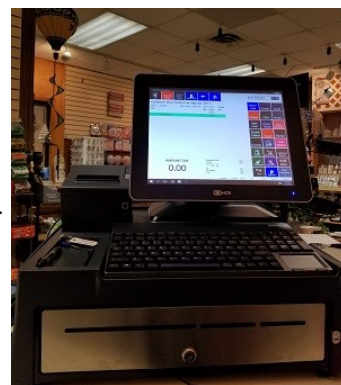
Nancy was born in the neighboring City of Eau Claire. She has a Masters Degree in Education, which lead to many job experiences such as teaching, administration, and she was an insurance agent. When her family gets together is fun and loud with 3 daughters, 12 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Nancy's hobbies include aerobics, playing bridge, reading, playing piano, doing crosswords puzzles, and biking. Please join us in welcoming Nancy to Partners.

*Jan Horan*  
*Membership Chair*

## *Gift Shop, Gift Shop Holiday Open House and Volunteer Services*

What a great week long open house sale we had this year! Thank you to all that came and supported the gift shop during their biggest sale of the year. In year's past, the sale was held one day and typically on a Friday but this year we decided to do a week long event to be able to accommodate the colleagues more. We took in \$2553 this year as compared to \$1497 last year.

New on October 20th, we received our new Counterpoint POS System! Thank you to the Partners who helped support the purchase! We are now able to track our inventory better, create department charges, all colleagues are now able to use payroll deduction (not just St. Joseph's), and many other cool things. It is really exciting and we are looking forward to seeing great changes because of it! The volunteers in the gift shop have been working hard at learning the new system and I think they have done a fabulous job at it! It hasn't been easy and every day there seems to be something new to learn but they have kept at it and I really appreciate their support and patience.



## *Stethoscope*

Published for the members of the Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital.

President	Mary Rose Willi
President Elect	Ellen Kiefer
Recording Secretary	Amber Leibrandt
Treasurer	Marge Geissler
Volunteer Coordinator	Brandy Sikora
Editor	Marlene Luther

**Charity Ball 2020:  
White Star's Queen of the North Seas**



**Ship's Log:**

**28th, August 2019**

**Captain's Entry:**

*The crew of the White Star's Queen of the North Sea has been commissioned and preparations are underway for her maiden voyage on May 16, 2020 embarking at Lake Wissota Golf and Events.*

**25-27th, October 2019**

**Captain's Entry:**

*My amazing crew, First Officer Neal and Chief Officer Brandy traveled to the Dells in late October to kick off the planning and designing phase.*

*Starting our weekend with dinner, a movie and introductions in the VRBO, we enjoyed the history and stories of other great ocean liners of our 1912 time period. We continued Saturday, by visiting the quaint downtown area and took a few old time photos. The afternoon was completed with an Escape Room experience that we barely failed (time ran out). We did complete the puzzle, developed outstanding teamwork, inspiration & ideas for the decor, and had a great time. The Captain's dinner conversation began a brainstorming that continued well into the night culminating with a very productive meeting Sunday morning. I feel like we will be well prepared to set sail in May.*

**12th, November 2019**

**Captain's Entry:**

*Today we met with the advertising team including Rooney Printing to go through layouts & invitation ideas. The overall concept and look is really starting to take shape. Be on the look out for Save the Date Cards.*

**20th, November 2019**

**Captain's Entry:**

*Though the crew has gathered before this, today was the first official meeting where each area organized and spoke about the design ideas. We happily recruited a few new members as well. Our crew is well rounded, creative and knowledgeable. I'm very confident our voyage will be a success.*

**11th, December 2019**

**Captain's Entry:**

*The crew resumed preparations again today. Christmas wishes were shared. More plans solidified as we talked about the gangplank, the grand staircase and the entertainment. A grand affair indeed.*

**13th, December 2019**

**Captain's Entry:**

*The high officers convened at Lake Wissota Golf & Events to sample a superb menu specially created & prepared by their renowned chef, Russ. The sampling's included multiple courses featuring seafood, chicken, ham, beef, and vegetarian options with the elegance and style expected for cruise ship dining.*

Boarding for this once in a lifetime journey will be on the 16th of May in the year 2020.

*Amber Leibrandt  
2020 Charity Ball Chair*



## Partners Walking Club

The Partners Walking Club remains steady. We continue to meet every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. We have between 8 to 10 walkers that show up on a regular basis. When weather permits we meet in Irvine Park at the Duck Pond, otherwise we are able to use the run/ walk track at the YMCA. Cold and inclement weather seems to have arrived early this year so most of us are gathering at the Y.

I would like to invite more of you to join us. It is a great way to socialize and take care of your body at the same time!

*Dianne Fish  
Walking Club Chair*

## Book Sale Wrap Up

Books! Books! Books! From all the sales we had I know what everyone will be doing this winter... reading! Thank you to everyone who came to support the Partners, whether you volunteered to work the event, donated books, or purchased items, I appreciate each and every one of you. Look in future editions for dates and information on the 2020 Book Sale!

*Barb Ramsus, Chair*

## Babysitting Clinic

Its time to start thinking children safety! The next round of babysitting clinics will be March 7 and 14. During the clinic students learn basic first aid and skills necessary to take care of a little one. Students are also shown fun activities to do while babysitting. Whether you have a child who wants a babysitting job or one who has smaller siblings at home we will teach skills every child should learn. Students must be 11 years of age or older. We will be in need of volunteers for the day. If you have someone to sign up or would like to volunteer, please contact Brandy Sikora at 715-717-7439.

*Marlys Daniels, Chair*

## Friendship is Fun!

Planning is underway for the 2020 Friendship Day. We are working hard to get everything into place before we can share our next adventure with all of you. If you have never participated in Friendship Day, this year is for you! Every year we strive to bring you a day where you can relax and enjoy something with your friends that you do not have to plan. Who wouldn't want to do something fun without the stress of details? Right now all I can guarantee you is it will be happening, fun will be had and memories will be made! Watch the Spring Stethoscope for more information and details of the day.



## FitKidz

Our annual FitKidz event will be held May 7th at the YMCA in Chippewa Falls. This is a fun way to engage area elementary students and show them what we do here at the hospital. There are also local fire stations, EMT services, and fitness instructors that help educate the students on important health topics. We are looking for volunteers to help out with this great event! Different duties include walking children from station to station, education, planning, bus duty, and other. If you would like to participate please contact me at 723-5983

*Vivian Dahl, Chair*

## Save the Date!

### Partners 50th Birthday Luncheon

Partners Birthday luncheon celebration will take place on April 8th, 2020. This is a great time to introduce new faces to Partners. Watch the Spring Stethoscope for further details.

*Jessica Erickson, DPT  
Program Chair*



## **Upcoming Calendar of Events**

March 7	Babysitting Clinic	McDonald Hall
March 14	Babysitting Clinic	McDonald Hall
March 18	Advocacy Day	Capital Hill
April 7	Partners of WHA West Central Spring District Meeting	Stanley, WI
April 8	50th Birthday Celebration	McDonald Hall/TBD
May 7	FitKidz	Chippewa Y.M.C.A.

~ You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. ~