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News from Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital Foundation

SUMMER 2021
Dear Foundation Friends,

With summer upon us there seems to be a renewed sense of hope and excitement as we safely take part in outdoor activities and adventures that make Wisconsin so wonderful this time of year. It’s certainly a change from a year ago when our activities were limited, unaware the toughest challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic stood before us.

During the last 15 months we have been reminded of the importance our health plays in our ability to live the lifestyles we desire. We have also been reminded of the importance of the relationships we have with others and how those relationships shape our sense of purpose and fulfillment.

Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital and Foundation bring us together in a variety of different ways allowing us to bond with each other over shared experiences. For some of us, it’s the care we personally received, for others it is the care received by a loved one, but the one thing that ties all of our experiences together are the values we share with each other and the hope we have for the future.

All of you display signs of hope as you continue to support the hospital through the efforts of the foundation. Whether it was gifts, this past year to our Stronger Together COVID-19 Response Fund, gifts to the hospital’s greatest needs or our first-ever Day of Giving in May which raised over $86,000 for the Scholarship Program; every single gift we received came from the heart and was tied to a story or experience about the impact Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital has on the patients and families we serve.

This year's scholarship awardees also give me hope as they work toward building careers in health care. They reassure me the future of health care is in good hands. Read more about the Scholarship Program on pages 7 & 8.

As you're sitting outside enjoying the weather or resting after a bike ride, walk or run, take some time to read and enjoy this newsletter. I wish you and your family a wonderful summer. Stay safe: exercise, hydrate, wear sunscreen and don’t forget to wash your hands.

Your partner in health,

Jessica Mulligan
Executive Director
Sharon Ellis joined the board of Community Memorial Foundation in 1990 when it was barely a year old and there was a broad horizon of ways to support our hospital on the hill.

Three decades later she leaves her volunteer spot knowing she impacted just about every facet of the hospital.

Ellis, a longtime Menomonee Falls resident and business and interpersonal communications consultant, was actively involved with the Menomonee Falls Chamber of Commerce and other community efforts when former board member and hospital supporter Dick Becker invited her to join the foundation board.

“A ‘Yes’ to a great leader like Dick Becker for such an amazing organization was an immediate response.”

She delved into every area of the foundation and served on many standing committees, including executive, scholarship, allocations, major gifts and Golf Classic. She served as board chair from 2015 to 2020.

Sharon and her husband Jerry are Evergreen Society Members because supporting the hospital with a final, legacy contribution “is the logical and the right thing to do” after supporting the foundation for decades.

“We are so very blessed to have Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital in our backyard, and our goal – as a board - has been to do what we can to ensure our hospital has the resources and equipment needed for our patients. I have been truly honored and blessed to be a small part of fulfilling that goal,” says Sharon.

DEVELOPING NEW AMBASSADORS

A community builder at heart, Sharon has recruited countless foundation supporters and fans over the years, including board members.

“I was honored in 2018 when Sharon asked me if I’d like an opportunity to join the board,” said Janine Pulvermacher, who worked with Sharon years earlier and stayed connected when their professional lives took them in different directions. “I was looking for an opportunity to give back to the community and the foundation board was a perfect fit.”

While her board service comes to an end Sharon promises to stay engaged with foundation events. “I’ve enjoyed everything about the foundation board and am confident the seeds that were planted so many years ago will continue to grow and be nurtured by the current leadership and board members. Our foundation has very bright days ahead!”

Sharon joined by foundation board member Jim Hazzard and his wife Cathy.

Jerry & Sharon Ellis
More than $100,000 has been raised for the Stronger Together COVID-19 Response Fund which supported the well-being of staff as they treated patients during the last year.

This spring Fiserv granted $10,000 to the effort.

“At Fiserv, we are committed to making a meaningful and positive impact in the communities where our people work and live, and we recognize the significant potential of health and wellness initiatives to make a difference in people’s lives. Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital plays an integral role in the community many of our people call home,” said Eric Nelson, senior vice president of Fiserv, Inc. and volunteer chairman of the Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital Board of Directors.

“We are pleased to support the Stronger Together Fund to protect frontline workers and promote the well-being of our community in response to the pandemic.”

Through the Stronger Together Fund, staff members received complimentary meals from the cafeteria, keeping them nourished as they in turn cared for patients. More than 37,000 complimentary meals were served between March 2020 and May 2021.

In addition, staff members were offered free lodging if they felt safer staying away from family after treating COVID-19 patients. Staff facing child care challenges were also assisted.

Since spring 2020, the foundation board has granted the hospital $65,000 to purchase five MoonBeam 3 UVC Disinfection Technology units, critical in the effort to keep patients and health care workers safe during the pandemic.

The foundation also showed gratitude to all staff members last fall with free drawings of gift cards in November and gift baskets in December. Baskets were donated by foundation board members and supporters.
Each donation to Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital Foundation makes a difference in the lives of patients who benefit from new equipment and programs funded through contributions. Donors directly enhance patient care and comfort through foundation support.

On average the foundation grants back to the hospital more than $700,000 each year for new equipment and programs through a process that includes requests made by department and service line leaders. All requests are carefully evaluated by the hospital and foundation and must be approved by the volunteer board of directors.

The COVID-19 pandemic put a hold on all in-person events in 2020 and the beginning of 2021 which resulted in fewer funds raised through events. However, the foundation fulfilled all grant commitments to the hospital during the last year.

Recent equipment funded by the foundation includes:

Neoprobe Gamma Detection Systems for Surgery Services: wireless technology with a hand-held probe used for breast biopsy and parathyroidectomy procedures in accurately locating tumors. (1)

Carto CONFIDENSE Mapping Module for Heart & Vascular Center: used in cardiac ablations to correct heart rhythm problems which decreases procedure time and hospital stays and lowers radiation exposure. (2)

MolecuLight Diagnostic Wound Imaging Device for Outpatient Care Center: allows clinicians to quickly, safely and easily visualize bacteria and measure wound size with the guidance of fluorescence imaging. This efficient process allows for more targeted treatment protocols by locating bacteria. (3)

GE Healthcare Panda Warmers for Birth Center: used in all births to immediately warm babies as neonatal teams assess and evaluate them and provide care. Each warmer is equipped with special features, such as oxygen and suction, which are used during neonatal resuscitation. (4)

Halo SleepSacks for Birth Center: given to each baby when discharged, this wearable blanket replaces loose blankets in a crib that can cover a baby’s face and interfere with breathing. Distributing the sacks to families encourages safe sleep and supports the Birth Center’s safe sleep certification. (5)

SUPPORT THE HOSPITAL WITH A GIFT TO ENHANCE PATIENT CARE AND COMFORT.

VISIT FROEDTERT.COM/MENOMONEEFALLSFUNDATION, EMAIL MENOMONEEFALLSFUNDATION@FROEDTERT.COM OR CALL 262-257-3200.
Each day health care professionals enter Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital ready to treat patients and save lives in every way humanly possible. Their sole focus is caring for our community and the well-being of residents. These actions taken by health care professionals make a difference in the lives of countless patients.

Often patients who depend on the hospital to provide high-quality compassionate care donate in honor of staff members as a way to thank them for delivering excellence. During the last year more than 60 individuals and departments were recognized by supporters who donated gifts to the foundation in their name.

**WE SALUTE STAFF MEMBERS WHO LEAVE A LASTING IMPACT ON PATIENTS.**

Cancer Center Staff  
Cancer Center  
Infusion Room Staff  
Cancer Center Lab Techs  
Cancer Center Nurse Jen  
Cancer Center Nurse Kim  
Cancer Center Receptionists  
Emergency Department Staff  
Froedtert Health Staff  
Heart & Vascular Center Staff  
Medical Imaging Staff  
Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy  
Radiation Technologists  
Rehabilitation Staff  
Dr. Abdel Alqwasmi  
Maggie Braun  
Dr. Ryan Burch  
Julie Burkel  
Joe Butterfield  
Jessi Butzke  
Betsy Beck  
Dr. Joseph Bovi  
Dr. Kevin Cohoon’s Staff  
Dr. Jennifer Connelly  
Dr. Chandler Cortina  
Maria Diener  
Susan Dummer  
Dr. Nelson Freund  
Reanna Frigge  
Dr. Thomas Gvora  
Julie Hembel  
Dr. Drew Hietpas  
Dr. Kiran Kashyap  
Kelly Keith  
Mark Kewan  
Janelle Lisko  
Teri Lux  
Dr. Doug Marx  
Dr. Joshua Meskin  
Dr. Tim Morton  
Dawn Patterson  
Dr. Carolyn Quella, PA-C  
Dr. Anuradha Raman  
Dr. Jane Reid  
Dr. Mark Semrad  
Dr. Dennis Shepherd  
Sandy Shoman  
Travis Stanossek  
Dr. Sarah Thordsen  
Dr. Christopher Wolfa

**Honor a health care hero for the care you or a loved one received.**
VISIT FROEDTERT.COM/MENOMONEEFALLSFUNDSFOUNDATION OR CALL 262-257-3200.
DONORS GENEROUSLY RESPOND TO GIVING DAY

The foundation’s first-ever Giving Day on May 6 was a resounding success as corporate sponsors and individuals showed their support for this one-day virtual event and helped raise $86,000 for the Scholarship Program.

Videos about the Scholarship Program and the 2021 scholarship recipients were released on May 6, sharing testimonials and stories about the impact scholarships have on our students, hospital and community.

“We are humbled by this outpouring of support and inspired by the difference that these dollars will make in the lives of students pursuing careers in health care,” said Jessica Mulligan, executive director of the foundation. “By investing in the next generation of health care professionals, donors show their connection to our hospital and care for our community.”

Thank you to presenting sponsor Ryan Companies US, Inc. and all sponsors and supporters who stand with the foundation and future health care professionals.

$86,000 RAISED

GOLD SUPPORTERS

BMO

NEU'S

von Briesen

SILVER SUPPORTERS

BAIRD

E L L S W O R T H

BRONZE SUPPORTERS

Boldt
Sue & Ron Dix
Allen & Janet Ericson
Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, P.C.
Jim & Cathy Hazzard
Horizon Home Care & Hospice
KPMG LLP

Lemberg
Teri Lux
Eric & Angie Nelson
Kathy & Dennis Pollard
Dr. Gregory & Mariann Van Winkle
Jerry & Debbie Wick

The Binzak Family in Memory of Paul & Audrey Binzak
Rochell & Mark Davis
Dr. Keith & Susan Templin
Investing in the next generation of health care professionals and showing a commitment to patients and the community, Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital Foundation awarded $89,700 to 39 students pursuing health care related degrees.

“This past year very publicly shined a light on the commitment it takes when your career is centered around caring for others,” said Jessica Mulligan, the foundation’s executive director. “As we have faced the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen firsthand the sacrifices that health care professionals make every day as they strive to deliver exceptional care to every single person they encounter. Being a health care professional isn’t just a job, it is a way of life that people are called to fulfill.”

The foundation awarded scholarships to current staff members pursuing advanced degrees and high school graduates majoring in health science related careers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES!

Humza Ahmed  
Sirtaj Arora  
Zoe Bartynski  
Ellie Baumann  
Lauren Baumhardt  
Mariah Behr  
Avi Bhavsar  
Kylie Dake  
Gavin Falvey  
Zach Faterioun  
Cheri Foerster  
Paige Gahagan  
Amanda Gilman  
Cameron Greiten  
Madison Grzesiak  
Abigail Hughes  
Jessica Hurley  
Ellison Juern  
Ella Karil  
Gabriella Keidl  
Kenhah Konrad  
Sydney Lex  
Ellie McMeeken  
Olubunmi Orumolowyi  
Megan Nielsen  
Avani Patel  
Taylor Petersen  
Rohitha Punathil  
Megan Riesenberg  
Erin Rivard  
Catherine Roehl  
Amy Simon  
Rhea Singh  
Ashley Tarcin  
Rebecca Tetzlaff  
Tiffany Voss  
Emma Weber  
Julia Wilhelm  
Anna Wiza

WATCH VIDEOS ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AT  
WWW.FROEDTERT.COM/MENOMONEEFALLSFUNDATION/SCHOLARSHIP
NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS LEAVE A LEGACY

Each year the foundation awards scholarships created by donors and families who have special connections to Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital.

ROBERT & LYDIA CHARLEBOIS SCHOLARSHIP
Established by Bobbie Sanders, retired director of surgery services, the scholarship honors Bobbie’s grandparents who inspired her life. Awarded annually to a current employee pursuing a career in health care.

2021 RECIPIENT: CHERI FOERSTER

GLADYS JOECKS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Longtime residents of Lannon, the Joecks were grateful the hospital provided wonderful care to their families. When Gladys Joecks died, the family donated to the hospital in her honor, providing seed money for the hospital scholarship fund.

2021 RECIPIENT: SIRTAIJ ARORA

KOMAS FAMILY NURSING SCHOLARSHIP
Froedtert Health supporter Ron Komas’ wife Kathy died from cancer in 2002. He often talks about nurses as true caregivers because of their connections with patients. Awarded annually to current hospital staff members pursuing a bachelor’s degree in nursing.

2021 RECIPIENTS: ELLIE BAUMANN, ELLA KARLL, CATHERINE ROEHL

JACKIE IRWIN SCHOLARSHIP
Jackie was the night supervisor of patient care from 1964 to 1992. Awarded annually to a student pursuing a bachelor’s degree in nursing who shows connection to purpose, leadership and generosity.

2021 RECIPIENT: AMANDA GILMAN

PAMELA PARKER SCHOLARSHIP
Pamela Parker, RN, the second employee hired prior to the hospital opening, was the visionary who assisted in expanding the hospital brick by brick. From the physical structure to the programs and services, Mrs. Parker’s leadership built a community hospital that is known for delivering exceptional care to patients. Established after her second retirement, the scholarship recognizes a nursing student with generosity of spirit and participation in community projects.

2021 RECIPIENT: REBECCA TETZLAFF

POEHL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
Longtime supporters of Community Memorial Hospital when it first opened in 1964, the Poehl Family created this scholarship for a staff member pursuing a degree in health care.

2021 RECIPIENT: JESSICA HURLEY

MARGUERITE PREUSS SCHOLARSHIP
Established by Marguerite’s son, Kevin Preuss, MD, this scholarship encourages and provides support to a staff member wishing to advance health care career opportunities.

2021 RECIPIENT: OLUBUNMI ORUNMOLUYI
In April 2019, I was diagnosed with advanced stage squamous cell carcinoma. It appeared in my lymph nodes rather than any specific organ and was of indeterminate origin.

Doug and I sat in shock as Dr. Abdel Alqwasmi went through my prognosis. It wasn’t good.

He and his nurse were so patient and helped us process the information and options, but I didn’t hear much after he said “cancer.” Later that evening I felt overwhelmed. It became real when I said it out loud as we told our family members.

Support, prayers and love received from family and friends sustained us these past two years but especially at the beginning when we were overcome by so many emotions.

I was on chemotherapy and immunotherapy treatments for months. The Cancer Center staff became extended family and they were so caring and thoughtful. The nurses are so encouraging and many of them choose to serve in oncology due to their own experiences with cancer.

Froedtert offered so much beyond physical treatment: counseling, art therapy, dance therapy and support groups. All of these provided essential encouragement as I met others who were going through the same challenges.

Cancer completely altered my perspective on life. Prior to my diagnosis, I worked non-stop and was used to being the caregiver. Cancer forced me to a full stop and to allow others to care for me. I took stock of what was truly important. Now I look at life and the future through a different lens.

Every day I thank God for the amazing medical team who continue to care for me with compassion and empathy at the Cancer Center at Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital.

Wheeling & Heeling Co-Chairs Anna & Doug Thompson
Cancer free. Two of my favorite words in the English language. Yet the journey to hear them was long and challenging.

My dad’s cancer journey started with Jessica Ewig, APNP, primary care nurse practitioner, and Andrew Knoernschild, MD, primary care provider at Germantown Health Center, in late 2018. By early January 2019, Carrie Peterson, MD, MS, colorectal and general surgeon at Froedtert Hospital, delivered the colorectal cancer diagnosis. My dad, affectionately referred to as “Opa” in our family, was then an 80-year-old German immigrant who didn’t fully understand the news. In hindsight, we all underestimated the reality of a family member fighting cancer. I knew we were in good hands with the Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin health network. My connection to Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital (FMFH) runs deep – it’s where my grandfather received cancer treatments, my daughter was born, my husband had open-heart surgery and I work.

The Froedtert & MCW health network prides itself on delivering quality and compassionate care close to home; this was key for my family. At the time, my parents lived in Sussex, and while Froedtert Hospital’s Wauwatosa location was convenient, it was easier for Opa to get his chemotherapy and radiation treatments at the Cancer Center at FMFH. Abdel Alqwasmi, MD, hematology and medical oncologist; Malika Siker, MD, radiation oncologist; and their care teams, ensured Opa received the best of academic medicine in his neighborhood.

Much of 2019 included preparing Opa for surgery with chemotherapy and radiation to shrink the large tumor. Chemo and radiation took their toll – Opa was tired, cold and often confused. He tolerated the treatments and the tumor shrank, increasing the odds for successful surgery. Opa enjoyed some restful summer weeks, time to build his strength for surgery.

The early morning surgery on Oct. 31, 2019, at Froedtert Hospital was complicated and long, but Dr. Peterson believed she removed all the cancer. The next several weeks were harder than we imagined. Days turned into weeks between the Surgical Intensive Care Unit and the Center for Advanced Care (CFAC). For every step forward, a new concern would set Opa two steps back.

A bright spot was Ken Schnitz-Lammers, RN, who not only cared for Opa in CFAC but spoke German with him as well. They chatted about the weather, their families, Germany and of course Opa’s favorite subject – soccer, specifically the German Bundesliga. Perhaps unknowingly, Ken brightened our days in CFAC. Around Thanksgiving, Opa was well enough to transition to a short-term rehabilitation facility. Right before Christmas, Opa came home.

This fall marks two years since Opa’s cancer surgery. He is cancer free. In 2020, my parents moved to Lannon, even closer to FMFH. Dr. Alqwasmi continues to oversee Opa’s post-cancer care. At age 83, Opa is adapting to condo living, enjoying watching nature from their deck and going for walks in their new neighborhood. I’ve learned fighting cancer is not for the faint of heart. It is a family affair. I’m thankful to be part of the health network for so many reasons. I’m privileged to have a career I love, but I’m most grateful for the compassionate care provided to Opa and my family.

OPA’S JOURNEY TO CANCER FREE

By Rita Schuetz, Public Relations Manager at Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital

Rita with her parents Konrad & Gabriele Kanwischer
GOLF CLASSIC RETURNS!

Join us for Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital Foundation’s
22nd Annual Golf Classic
presented by Weas Development
Monday, September 13th
North Hills Country Club in Menomonee Falls
All Golf Classic 2021 proceeds benefit the Heart & Vascular Center.

For more information and to register visit froedtert.com/MenomoneeFallsFoundation/special-events or email robin.malek@froedtert.com.

For the safety of all guests, compliance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines will be required throughout the event.