

Community — Enhance Professional Image, Academic Partnership, Population Health



Community Image

The Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital Foundation is a resource of support for the surrounding communities. In collaboration with Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital, the Foundation develops and strengthens health in the community.

Hospital teams participated in **Wheeling & Heeling for Cancer** and raised more than \$50,000. In honor of loved ones who continue to battle and for those who have lost their lives to cancer, colleagues logged miles over streets, trails and treadmills in the annual fundraiser. Courtney Lauer, RN, BSN, is the captain of the Emergency Department's team "Keep ER Movin." She has filled the role of captain the past three years because she believes in the support the Foundation gives the Cancer Center, along with other needs throughout the hospital. Giving back to the community is important to Courtney who grew up in the Sussex area, near the hospital.

Population Health

The Wisconsin Center in downtown Milwaukee was the official federal community vaccination site earlier this spring. Nurses participated in the clinic alongside the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide up to 3,000 COVID-19 vaccinations per day.

Community clinics focus on vaccine equity to ensure all populations are served. Froedtert in Action worked with United Way to provide volunteers, including several from

Nursing Administration at Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital. Being a part of the vaccine clinic was a way for our nurses to make a difference in our community.

In addition, nurses actively participate in the Donate for Life committee for Froedtert Health. Through fundraising and benefits, nurses help Donate Life Wisconsin in the effort to save and improve lives through organ, tissue and eye donation.



Community health care initiatives also include volunteer work in our local communities. Nurses from both Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital and Froedtert West Bend Hospital spend their time volunteering at public health clinics. Debra McCann, MSN, MBA, HC, RN, executive director of Patient Care Services, has a strong passion for serving the community of Washington and Waukesha Counties and explores the various public health issues affecting the area and volunteers her support. Deb's volunteerism with vulnerable populations in the community is supported by Froedtert West Bend Hospital through a voucher system to provide patients access to health care services. Deb also worked with public health clinics in the community, which have a substantial impact in providing vulnerable community members access to care.

Deb has been volunteering her services at the Albrecht Free Clinic for five years. The Albrecht Free Clinic provides diagnosis and treatment for acute illnesses such as upper respiratory infection, sore throat, earache and more. The clinic is open Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Daytime clinics are available to patients with chronic health conditions, such as high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes and heart disease. The free clinic was founded by Dr. James Albrecht in 1996 and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2021. Dr. Albrecht was relentless in his dedication to help individuals with critical health needs. He was known as the "country doctor," often trading his services for a dozen eggs or help with chores around his home. He is the reason the

Albrecht Free Clinic exists, and his legacy lives on today. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the free clinic, and nearly 100 volunteers work together to ensure the health of Washington County residents.

Academic Partnership

Several BSN completion options are available to new and current registered nurses. In conjunction with the University of Wisconsin — Milwaukee, an onsite RN-to-BSN completion program is available for current nursing staff. This gives registered nurses the opportunity to complete their degree while attending classes at the hospital campus. The onsite program has been in place for more than 12 years.

Froedtert Health collaborated with Cardinal Stritch University to offer an accredited onsite Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program with concentrations in education or leadership. The first cohort began in January 2019. This program was created in response to information gathered from surveying nurses about graduate education needs and preferences. As part of the partnership, Cardinal Stritch offers employees a significant tuition discount that may be used in conjunction with Froedtert Health's tuition reimbursement. This program provides motivation for nurses to advance to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), which in turn increases our BSN rates.

At least six \$3,000 scholarships are available annually for employees who are interested in pursuing a nursing degree or are in the process of advancing their nursing degree. These scholarships can be used for all nursing degrees, including BSN, MSN and PhD/DNP degree programs. In addition, a scholarship was created several years ago for formal nursing leaders (e.g., nurse managers and directors) named the Advancement of Nursing Leadership Education Scholarship. At least three \$3,000 scholarships are available annually for leaders pursuing an advanced degree in nursing.