

GUNDERSEN PARTNERS

ENHANCING CARE THROUGH SERVICE AND GIVING

January 4, 2022

Hello Valued Partners Members,

I hope you all had a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.

My name is Lisa Biondo, and I have the honor of succeeding Linda Gillette as your new Gundersen Partners Board President for 2022 and 2023. Linda has done an incredible job leading Partners these past few years, especially navigating the uncharted waters of COVID. She is a true asset to the Board, and we look forward to her continued guidance in the Past President role in 2022.

A new year brings new changes, new goals, and new roles. We would like to deeply thank the following retiring Partners Board and Committee Members for their valued contributions and welcome our new members:

Retiring Partners Board Members: Mary Jo Klos (past president) and Peggy Miller (co-treasurer)

Retiring Donation Allocation Committee (DAC) Members: Bonnie Hicks and Paul Arena

INCOMING Partners Board Members: Sarah Havens, Chris Lau, Jill Blackburn

INCOMING Donation Allocation Committee (DAC) Members: Linda Gillette and Jane Rada

We would also like to welcome Max Heckman to the board as our Community Health Educator (CHE). Max is a member of the Care Coordination team at Gundersen.

In addition, I wish to thank our current board, DAC and Team members for their continued support and service to Gundersen Partners:

Current Partners Board Members & Team: Linda Gillette (past president), Linda Arentz (co-treasurer), Jane Rada (secretary), Sue Bugge (director), Marilyn McElligott (historian), Liz Rogers (Public Policy Educator), Eileen Wiltinger (Gift Shop Supervisor), Jeni Kendhammer (Director, Patient Experience), Rachel Miller (Manager, Volunteer Services) and our AMAZING Sheila Erickson (Volunteer Services Senior Office Assistant)

Current Donation Allocation Committee (DAC) Members: Linda Arentz, Peggy Miller, Sally Miner

The successes mentioned below are because of those listed above and because of you. Thank you!

In 2022 it is our goal to continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our programs and resources to make sure they are put to their best uses and we will update you through these membership letters throughout the year.

As we reflect on 2021, it is because of the generosity of our members, the success of the Gundersen Gift Shop and our fundraisers, despite COVID, that Partners was able to help our community in some very wonderful ways.

Here is just some of the ways Partners helped spread joy and goodness to our patients and community in 2021:

- A gift of toys for Afghan children who were living without.
- A contribution to HorseSense for Special Riders so those with special needs can enjoy the connection of riding a horse.

- Partners provided warm clothing and food to the local Warming Center for our community members experiencing homelessness.
- Sponsorships for two Freedom Honor Flights to send our valued Veterans to Washington D.C. to visit their memorial.
- A three-year pledge covering the cost of an AngelEye Camera system for the Gundersen Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) so families can stay connected with their precious little ones from home when they can't be here. This unique camera system allows parents 24/7 access to a live stream video of their child, thereby decreasing parental anxiety so they can stay informed about daily care plans and milestones in their child's progress.
- Partners donated 200 backpacks and made an additional financial donation to the La Crosse Area Retired Educators Association (LAREA) for WeCare Packages that contain necessities for our area school children in need.
- A donation to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a local organization which provides beds and bedding to local children sleeping without.

All these donations are above and beyond Partners contributions to New Horizons Shelter and Outreach Center, annual Employee Dependent Scholarships, Endowed Scholarships at Viterbo, UWL and WTC, Parenting Place Diaper Bank, Coulee Region Humane Society Ambassadors of Love program, Kids and Mentors Outdoors (KAMO), North American Squirrel Association (n.a.s.a.), Legacy Campus Renewal pledge*, Hunger Task Force, Local Food Drives, Gundersen Social Services, Pediatrics and Hospice, and the Hamilton School Giving Tree – so much help given!

*We would also like to highlight this update about the Gundersen Partners Legacy Campus Renewal pledge:

In 2010 Gundersen Partners members approved a \$125,000/20-year pledge to the Legacy Campus Renewal project for the new hospital. Partners committed to fund a minimum of \$5,000/year for the first five years utilizing \$25,000 that was available and being held by Gundersen Medical Foundation.

The balance of the pledge (\$100,000) was to be paid over a 15-year period between 2015 and 2030. Partners budgeted \$7,000 annually for pledge payments directly to the Gundersen Medical Foundation. The Partners board had the option to increase the amount and frequency of payments at any time.

Gundersen Partners fully satisfied our commitment to the Foundation nine years early with a final payment of \$18,000 in December 2021.

We look forward to another successful year of enhancing patient and family care, healthcare education and community well-being through our service and giving . . . and we genuinely thank you for your role in achieving this. Stay well.

Sincerely,

Lisa Biondo
Gundersen Partners President (2022)