

# HEARTBEAT



September 2017

Volunteers of Howard Young Medical Center  
Woodruff, Wisconsin

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 3

## Fashion Show

On Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, the Auxiliaries of Eagle River Memorial Hospital and Howard Young Medical Center, Woodruff, joined forces for their second annual fashion show, "Spotlight on Fashion". The event was held at Whitetail Inn, St. Germain. Models featured select recycled wearables from the Eagle River Memorial Hospital Thrift Shop and fashion jewelry and unique gifts from the Howard Young Medical Center Gift Shop. This was a fun event for all who attended!



Models:  
Sue Damske,  
Kathy Viergutz and  
granddaughter  
Cadence,  
Dave Christiansen,  
Connie Madden



## Volunteer Hero Award

Dee Ruesch is the inaugural award recipient of the Volunteer Hero Award. This award recognizes a person who exemplifies the mission and purpose of a volunteer. Dee is a volunteer in the HELP (Hospital Elder Life Program) where she interacts with patients. She tirelessly attends to the needs of the patients and many times the patient just needs a person to sit with them and talk with them. Dee does so willingly. She is a great example of a true volunteer.



Dee Ruesch



### Volunteer Hero Award

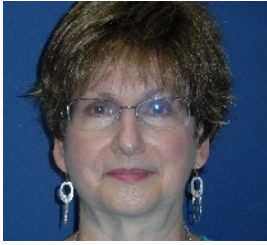
#### Nominees:

Left to Right: Webb Southwick, Maggie Rabjohns, John Joswiak, Dee Ruesch(winner), Pat Crandall, Sue Damske, Janet Beitz, Jerry Eliason.

Not pictured: Donna Welch, Barbara Huntley, Bernadette Staller

## Change in Leadership for the VHYMC Gift Shop

By Kathy Viergutz



Helen Travis

On August 8, 2017, Bernadette Staller, who joined the auxiliary and the gift shop in February 2014 and shortly thereafter took on the role as manager, turned over her position to Helen Travis. Helen joined the auxiliary and the gift shop in September 2015 and will now take on the role of Manager.

Bernadette will be greatly missed not only for her tireless effort as gift shop manager but also for sharing her many talents to help with fundraisers and other events. However, first and foremost, for her wonderful personality and the friendships she has built.

Please join me in saying goodbye and Thank You to Bernadette and a huge Thank You to Helen for agreeing to step into Bernadette's big shoes and lead the gift shop team. Helen has been a huge asset to Bernadette and the shop over the past two years and I have every confidence she will do a wonderful job in her new role.

### *1st Annual*

## The Great Trivia Quest

*October 21st, 2017*

*Thirsty Whale*

*Chili feed Raffles*



*Get your team of six  
together to play!*

*Come and eat! Win a prize!*

*Sell tickets*

*Bring Friends*

*Information 715-356-8677*

*Tickets available at the  
Howard Young  
Medical Center  
Gift Shop*

**Proceeds benefit our local students!**



## VHYMC Scholarships

By Joan Taddy, Scholarship Chairperson

Two \$1,500 scholarships were awarded to graduating LUHS students majoring in health care related fields at the school's awards presentation in May. Bobbie Huntley presented for VHYMC. Recipients were Beau Patrick Ertl, who will be attending UW Eau Clair majoring in Kinesiology and Thoraya Mohamed El Amin attending the University of Arizona and majoring in Pre-Physiology.



Left to Right: Beau Patrick Ertl, Bobbie Huntley, Thoraya Mohamed El Amin.

Two \$1000 VHYMC scholarships will be awarded in November to Nicolet College students in Health care.

Applications are being accepted now for the Dr. Henry Ashe Continuing Education Scholarship. Students must be graduates of LUHS district majoring in Healthcare and have completed one semester of college. Contact Kathy Viergutz at 715-356-8677 or email [Kathy.Viergutz@ascension.org](mailto:Kathy.Viergutz@ascension.org).

These scholarships are available because of the dedication of the volunteers supporting VHYMC fundraisers and projects. Thanks to all.

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## CHE: Opioid Abuse

Joan Hauer, Community Health and Education Chair

The President declared opioid abuse a national emergency on August 10, further describing the users as patients, not criminals. The state governor called a task force meeting on opioid abuse in Minocqua on July 18th, represented by Lieutenant Governor Kleefisch and Representative John Nygren. Nygren introduced a legislative package adopted in 2013 to establish a task force and address the problem.

Locally, the HOPE consortium (heroin, opioid prevention and education) meets on a regular basis attempting to involve providers, law enforcement, county board and committee, and interested citizens in making impacts on the problem. A workshop is scheduled August 25, 25th for statewide participation at Lac du Flambeau.

**A very complex problem, many causes and contributing factors:** The consortium has worked together to provide access to treatment; five counties and three tribes are involved in the Northwoods HOPE area. Care after treatment is coordinated, so persons are not just dropped out without resources.

Opioids, which many of us have used as prescription medications after surgery and dental procedures, long term treatment for cancer or other chronic pain, include vicodin, hydrocodone, oxycodone, fentanyl patches. In former times, when one was admitted to the hospital for procedures and surgeries, medication was often given into the muscle in an injection on a timed basis for pain relief. One was often then able to take a mild or over the counter medication on return home. Currently pain medication scripts accompany the patient home from a day procedure or a brief stay; often partially used and then stashed in a medicine cupboard.

There has been an organized effort to reduce use of these medications with careful monitoring of the providers. This does not mean pain is ignored, but in some instances other types of medication and treatment may be more beneficial in the long run.

Locally, there is a high level of awareness and concerted activity to address what is a nationwide problem. Personally we can clean our own cupboards, responsibly disposing of old prescriptions we no longer need. More information will be shared in the future; please feel free to raise issues or questions for discussion.



## Change in Name of Organization & New Uniforms

The name of your organization has officially changed. Instead of being known as the Auxiliary of Howard Young Medical Center, Inc. (AHYMC) it is now the Volunteers of Howard Young Medical Center, Inc. (VHYMC).

Another change taking place is in volunteer uniforms. I emailed or we spoke to almost everyone to get a choice and size for uniforms. If I was not able to reach you, I did order extras of each style and size. The new uniforms are navy blue and will have the Ascension logo, the name of the facility and say Volunteer. I will let everyone know when they arrive and ask that you bring your old uniform in to exchange for your new one.

If anyone has any ideas of organizations that might be able to utilize the old uniforms please let me know.  
Kathy Viergutz

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**PPE Report** Submitted by Ruth Johnson, PPE Chair

### AHCA Medicaid Funding Disparity For Wisconsin: \$36.9 Billion Less

#### New report shows non-expansion states at significant funding disadvantage

A new report released this week documents significant funding disparities between Medicaid so-called "expansion" states when compared to "non-expansion" states over the next decade under the current version of the American Health Care Act (AHCA). The 19 states that opted out of the Affordable Care Act's full expansion for Medicaid, including Wisconsin, will receive \$680 billion less than expansion states. Wisconsin's portion of that total is estimated at almost \$37 billion over 10 years.

"The unique Wisconsin model has worked to significantly reduce our uninsured rate, and we can be proud to say that everyone in poverty is covered under Medicaid," said Borgerding. "Unfortunately, this report shows that Medicaid funding disparities are baked into the AHCA and will place our state at a significant disadvantage long-term. Ironically, non-expansion states are essentially being penalized for rejecting ObamaCare in a bill that is repealing ObamaCare."

WHA continues to urge Wisconsin's two U.S. Senators, Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin, to fight for Wisconsin and ensure Medicaid funding equity under any proposals acted upon by the Senate.



### Sunshine Needed?

Please contact Bev Coller if you know one of our members who might need a little "Sunshine". Bev can be reached at 715-356-0029 or email her at [junebc@frontier.com](mailto:junebc@frontier.com).

## Areas in need of Volunteer Services

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



**Volunteer Services Assistant** – Assist Kathy with projects and day to day office requirements. The number of days and hours per week are flexible based on your availability and work load at any given time. If interested give Kathy a call at (715) 356-8677.

**Radiology Reception Desk** – Thursday and Friday afternoon still available, hours are 1:00 – 4:00 pm.

**Runner** – In need of a hospital runner for Wednesdays.

**Gift Shop Cashier** – Shifts are 10:00 am – 2:00 PM other than Wednesday when the shop is open until 4:00.

**Leadership Team & Board of Directors** – Please give some thought to taking on a more active role in the leadership and operations side of the volunteer organization. It is a great opportunity to learn more about the organization, meet other members from your organization and other volunteer organizations as well. It is a way for you to be assured that the organization will continue to function and serve the hospital and community. Please contact Kathy if you would like to know more or have an interest.



## SAVE THE DATE

**October 3-5** State Convention, Green Bay

**October 25<sup>th</sup>** Fall District meeting, Marshfield

**October 21<sup>st</sup>**, Great Trivia Quest Fundraiser, Thirsty Whale

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