

Newsline

A publication of Volunteer Services Friends of UnityPoint Health-Meriter



UnityPoint Health
Meriter

Winter Issue 46



UnityPoint Health
Meriter

Volunteer Services 2017 BY THE NUMBERS

January—December 2017

647 Volunteers contributed their time at UPH-Meriter
53,540 hours donated by our *amazing volunteers*
82.6 hours served on average by each volunteer annually
Volunteers helped UPH-Meriter save **\$1,160,182**
186 new volunteers joined the Meriter Volunteer Program
27% of our volunteers are male
5 volunteers have become UPH-Meriter employees this year
390 volunteers attended the Mandatory TB/Flu Clinic at Meriter In October



26 local 501(c)3 organizations funded by Friends 4 Friends = **\$11,640**

Hospital programs funded by Friends Contributions = **\$133,500**

514 FOM Scholarships awarded to High School seniors since 1987= **\$584,000**

18 Friends of UPH-Meriter fund raising events = **\$6998** in commissions

300 lights & **16** strands sold for our 2017 Love Lights trees

276 units of blood
collected at **6**
Blood Drives at the
hospital



Highlighting Our NICU Cuddlers:

76 Cuddlers in the program serving **3,993** hours

335 hours in cuddling time each month

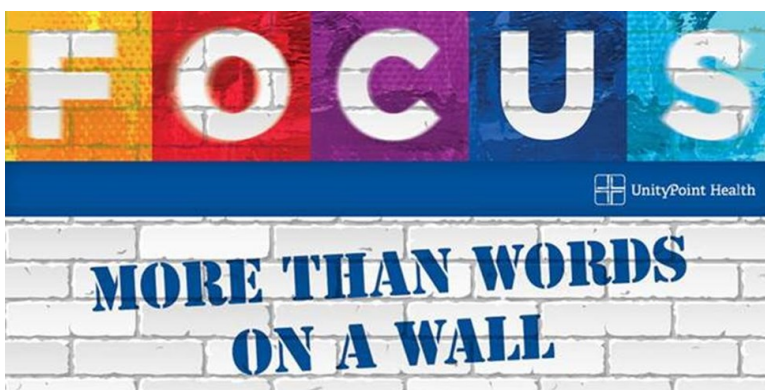
3-4 year wait to become a cuddler



570 cuddlers since **1988** have served **51,971**



**Volunteers make GREAT connections with patients
and families of UnityPoint Health-Meriter
each and every day.**



Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy, the 19th Surgeon General of the U.S., [wrote in a recent article](#):

“During my years caring for patients, the most common pathology I saw was not heart disease or diabetes; it was loneliness.”

Think about that for a moment. Working in healthcare, it’s easy to stay focused on the clinical struggles of the people we serve. But the one thing we can consistently, directly impact is how we make others feel.

We want our people to know how much they matter.

That’s why in our [FOCUS Facebook group](#), we’ve invited you to share stories with the hashtag #LittleThingsBigDifference. Because we know the little things matter—whether it involves submitting a quick Honoring You for a team member or setting the tone on the front lines through a foundational behavior like AIDET.

Building better connections allows us to move our organization from good to great. If you’re not sure where to start, Murthy offers five tips:

1. Evaluate the quality of interactions on your team.
2. Root relationships in love, compassion and generosity.
3. Demonstrate vulnerability as a strength, not a weakness.
4. Give and receive help freely.
5. Create opportunities to get to know those around you.

These elements go hand-in-hand: when we foster unity, we function as one team. And when we come together, we can find the ideal way to help our patients, families and communities go from getting well to living well.

Everyone matters to this world. Let’s show each other just how much.

Kevin Vermeer, UnityPoint Health President and CEO

2017 Friends of UPH-Meriter Contributions Recap

“We Care Because You Care” meal coupons = \$2,500

Surgical Waiting Room Coffee/Treat Coupons—\$7,765

Clothing/Cab Rides/Gas Cards through Care Coordination = \$9,000

Complimentary Newspapers for inpatients = \$2,100

Ante-partum Patient Bed Rest Cart supplies = \$500

Littlest Angels = \$6,000

Kangaroo Chairs for Mother/Baby Expansion = \$75,000

New Furniture for Greenbush Garden Bistro = \$40,000

iPads for Nursing Units = \$2,400





Community Health Education Report

Sherry Jelic, CHE Chair (October 4, 2017)

Latest statistics estimate the opioid overdose death rate is almost 140 people per day nationwide!!

Our goals should focus on several areas:

1. Education – definition, types of opioids, uses and effects, secure storage/disposal of unused medications.
From an April 2017 report, a 57 year old woman, her son and 6 others were charged with running a major opioid ring from her kitchen....dealing pills and heroin from her purse at the kitchen table for over a decade. She and a man who lived with her received 450 oxycodone tablets per month from prescriptions from two pain clinics and Milwaukee street dealers. Three oxycodone 30mg tablets sold for \$90.
Thousands of children have been affected by the abuse of opioids by their parents or caregivers – accidental overdoses, increased foster care, and grandparents becoming full time caregivers.
2. Discussion of alternative therapies – rest, non-narcotic medications, physical therapy, massage, acupuncture, and chiropractic care.
3. Treatment for those struggling with addiction.
Barriers include insurance coverage limitations, options for detox, and wait time for treatment facilities which can be up to several weeks.
4. Attitudes toward addiction.
Deaths from prescription drugs are highest among 50-54 year olds in Wisconsin, while deaths involving heroin in Wisconsin are highest among 19-25 year olds, according to the Department of Health Services.
5. Awareness of physician accountability and education – physicians now have availability of online courses addressing the prescribing of opioids and identifying abuse risk, as well as use of the PDMP (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program) and expanded use of Naloxone.

There are positives. The number of opioid prescriptions and number of pills per prescription is decreasing. In September, Wisconsin's Atty General Brad Schimel joined a coalition of 37 states urging health insurance groups to review coverage and payment policies that encourage opioid prescribing incentives. Increased education for use of Narcan is available to EMTs, law enforcement personnel and school staff. Bills were signed by Governor Walker in July that will provide funding for more treatment facilities. **And we, the Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA), are doing our part in learning about and educating ourselves and others about this epidemic.**

Awesome Volunteer Blanket Knitters!

"Please pass on to the volunteers that patients and their families really appreciate them. I remember one patient who was here for three weeks, starting out on a medical unit and then moving to 1E. She had her blanket with her each time I visited and found it and the additional contents of the bag to be very comforting to her as she worked through making some important life decisions. She used the notebook as a journal for her thoughts, and was touched by the gesture of the lip balm and lotion. Many patients have had the blanket on their bed as they were dying or being moved to hospice. I'm sure the blanket

became a treasured symbol of their loved one's final days for the families. The volunteers do a beautiful job making the blankets and bags - their care and concern for the recipients are evident in their expert craftsmanship! " *LaVonne Bayer, Staff Chaplain*



Hello Knitters!

We have a new program that would benefit from receiving the Comfort Blankets you have been knitting.

The Forensic Nurse Examiner Program housed in the Emergency Services Department is the recipient of 2017 Love Lights funding. They see sexually abused patients who come into the ER.

The Love Lights Committee awarded them \$4,000 on 11/29/17!! Barbara Bruce suggested that these patients would benefit from receiving a beautiful, soft blanket to cuddle! They were very, very appreciative of the funding and also of the idea to receive the blankets. We have a good supply of yarn available! Stop in at your convenience! We appreciate your talents in support of this new program's needs! Thank you!



A look back at some Volunteer/Friends of UPH-Meriter events!



2017 Partners of WHA Annual Convention was held October 3-5 at the Hyatt Regency, Green Bay!

Dennis Ganshert accepted Partners of WHA Honor Points along with Barbara Bruce and Brenda Johll

Employee/Volunteer Holiday Event

The Annual Employee/Volunteer Holiday Open House was held on 12/13/17 in the Hospital Café! Holiday music was provided by Carol Hohol-Johnson, volunteer.

"Thanks Carol for putting everyone in the holiday mood."



Shout Out to Volunteers!!!

- * Kudos to the volunteers who helped prepare the 2,400 HR Benefits packets for mailing on October 16th—**Austin Aronich, Annie Herb, James Larson, Brenda Johll and Mohammed Rahmen**.
- * **Brenda Johll and Carol Johnson** helped out Anne Newman from Employee Health with data entry of the 2017 TB/Flu information.
- * "Thank you **Bob (Vogelzang)** for helping the Assistance Team with a visitor needing care. You are always so friendly, helpful and always make a difference." said Brad Armstrong, Security who submitted a Front Door Service recognizing great customer service.
- * RSVP celebrated their 45th Anniversary at their annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on 10/26/17. **Betty Ingwell and Sally Gaard** were awarded the **2017 President's Lifetime Achievement Award** given for 4,000 or more hours of service!
- * **Allison Baker, Deb Spees and Karen Hein** for packaging **5,245** Fall Prevention Kits used on the nursing units!



Welcome Back UnityPoint Health-Meriter Student Volunteers!!!

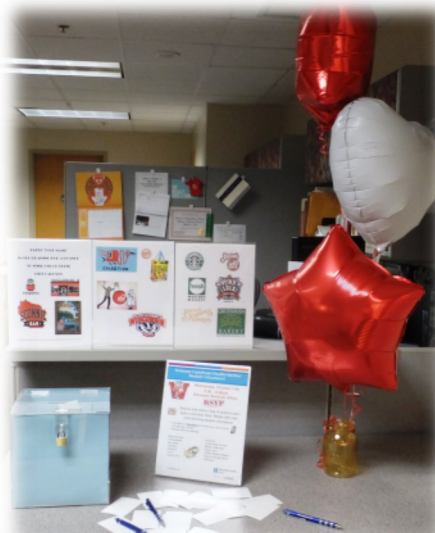


On October 11th we held our first Welcome Back Student Volunteer event! Attendees enjoyed Root Beer Floats and Badger Popcorn! We recognized 50 student volunteers that have contributed 100+ hours of service to our Meriter patients.

They entered a raffle to win one of many fantastic Gift Cards from surrounding restaurants and stores!

The winners were:

University Book Store	Carter Grist
Colectivo	Jane Andresen
Fraboni's	Elizabeth Garfinkel
Greenbush Bakery	Haley Buerger-Cole
Dotty Dumplings Dowry	Suganya Sathiamoorthi
fresh Madison Market	Kaley Larson
Ian's Pizza	Brenna Bomkamp
Jordan's Big 10 Pub	Shawna Gloc
Lucky's 1313 Brew Pub	Will Dyke
Mickles Dairy Bar	Thomas Stanislawski
Memorial Union	Andrew McClyman
Sconnie Bar	Ethan Nethery
Starbucks	Yang Song
Trader Joe's	Paul Grosrenaud



Suggestion Box Ideas:

1. "When opening the door to the linens/nurse servers in the hallway, the floor inside the door is very dusty and often has trash items on the floor. Needs cleaning!! Other floors on the units are very clean but those cabinet doors don't seem to get opened for cleaning." **The comment was shared with Alice Butler, Director. She will follow up with Housekeeping on 6T, 8T and 9T. (11/27/17)**
2. "Voceras are in use by At-Your-Service volunteers as of **December 2017**."

As always, we appreciate your comments and suggestions! Keep them coming!

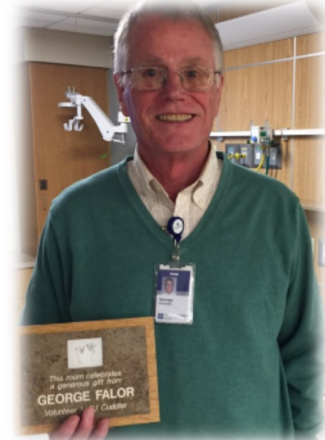
Meriter Foundation—NICU Cuddler Appreciation

An Appreciation Luncheon was held Tuesday, November 7th. Those attending learned about unique giving opportunities through Meriter Foundation, received a signed copy of "In a Heartbeat" by L. Tuohy and got a sneak peak of the new NICU floor on 3North before it opens to the public.

"Meriter Foundation is honored to be the recipient of a matching grant of \$75,000 from Friends of UPH-Meriter to help serve more mothers, babies and families in our community. UnityPoint Health—Meriter is extremely grateful for the special care and support our Cuddlers. " *Amy Recob, Senior Director of Development , Foundation*



Cuddlers in attendance L-R: Jessie Loeb, George Falor, Carolyn Carlson, Elaine Gundlach, Laura Nielsen, Phyllis Orsburne, Brenda Jhll, Jean Martinelli, Susan Friedman-Hill.



George Falor donated \$25,000 and will have a naming plaque on Room 26 located in the new NICU on 3North!

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

With a matching gift from Friends of UnityPoint Health-Meriter

Inspired by your strong affinity to Meriter Hospital patients and families, Meriter Foundation is pleased to present another opportunity for volunteers to lend your support this year. As you may know, our hospital is expanding to care for an estimated 850 new patients in 2018, for a total of approximately 5,000 births each year!

Dollar for dollar match

This year, the Foundation is especially excited to be the recipient of a matching grant from the Friends of UnityPoint-Health-Meriter to help provide new **Kangaroo chairs** for every room in the NICU. We know the benefits for kangaroo care in premature births are long-lasting. We hope you will consider helping us reach our goal of \$150,000 with a tax-deductible gift to Meriter Foundation this holiday season.



Room naming opportunities

For those interested in room naming opportunities, this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to make a significant impact in an area you care deeply about. For example, a five-year pledge of \$2,500 annually will make it possible for volunteers to name one of 11 NICU rooms in the newly renovated space on 3 North. This \$25,000 is now within reach for individuals, couples or families who wish to dedicate a special space within the hospital.



Thank you for your consideration!

Meriter Foundation is extremely grateful for the dedication of our volunteers. Because of you, patients are able to rest a little easier thanks to the care and compassion you provide. We hope you are inspired to share your support further by making a gift online, or by contacting Amy Recob directly with any questions you may have at (608) 417-5304 or amy.recob@unitypoint.org.

Happy Holidays!

Friends of UnityPoint Health-Meriter

Love Lights 2017

Stop by the main lobby hallway near the Tower elevators to view the beautiful Love Lights wreath and Love Lights banner. From the proceeds raised from the Love Lights campaign, the Friends of UnityPoint Health –

Meriter presented a check to the [UnityPoint Health – Meriter Forensic Nurse Examiner Program](#).

The proceeds will be used to purchase tool kits and provide further educational training for the Forensic Nurse Examiners allowing them to help victims of sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and domestic violence begin the healing process.



Pictured (L to R):

Kari Hall, ER Nurse Manager, Phil Ingwell, President, Friends of UnityPoint Health – Meriter Advisory Council and Sherry Casali, ER Director

Not Pictured: Kathy Veerhusen, Program Supervisor and Jacalyn Friar-LeCaptain, Nurse Coordinator



The Friends of UnityPoint Health – Meriter, is a non-profit organization that is comprised primarily of volunteers who enhance the quality, compassionate care at UPH-Meriter through volunteering, supporting community education programs, and by raising money through contributions, commissions and sales.

Volunteer Services Welcomed 54 New Volunteers September-December 2017

4T Welcome Desk

Alexandra (Alex) Harris

Animal Assisted Activities

Mary Heckard

At Your Service

Stacy Vue

Kyle Zielinski

Birthing Center

Doha Awad

Ashley Bachmann

Sarah Bohl

Hailey Enders

Jimmy Gannon

Natalie Garino

Elisabeth Grenfell

Libby Mitchell

Haley Buerger-Cole

Perinatal

Emergency Services

Abigail Bochat

Gabby Comunale

Daniella Davidoff

Margie Edman

Rachel Geroux

Nathan Gruenke

Kiara Huemer

Simarpreet (Simar) Kaur

Ryan Kempen

Amy Schmitz

Alexander Thompson

Alexandra Vizcarra Becerra

Mady Warda

Lorena Wicklund

Daniel Wildner

Heart & Vascular Short Stay

Jesse Isaacson

Brandon Reinthaler

HELP

Jack Berroug

Colin Cabelka

William Clark

Natasha Ignatowski

Elizabeth (Lilly) Iverson

Nathaniel Miller

Ceci Rosborough

Luke Schwerer

Katherine Senese

Joint Care

Jeremy Schneider

Knitters

Lakeview Lutheran Church

Angelika Manthe

Mt. Horeb ELC

Occupational Therapy

Sophia Riffkin

Perinatal

Nicole Burchardt

Physical Therapy

Dominic Skipina

Surgery Waiting Room

McKayla Miller

Team Up

Megan Dahle

Margaret Hogan

Abigail Moeller

Emilie Pellmann

Anne Poll

Jiayin Tang



Important Dates 2018



January

1/1/18—Volunteer Services Office CLOSED

1/23—1st day of 2nd semester at UW-Madison

1/22 Friends of UPH-Meriter High School Scholarship Application available on-line

February

2/5, 6, 7—Nutman at MBC & Hospital

2/9—Red Cross Blood Drive in McConnell Hall

NOTE: Time 8:30am—2:30pm

2/28—Friends Advisory Council Meeting 11:30-1:30 in Tower A Conference Room RSVP to Barbara.

Bruce@unitypoint.org

2/28—40 Winks Linen sale—MBC & Hospital

March

3/20—First Day of Spring

3/22—Scholarship application closed



UnityPoint Health
Meriter

Volunteer Services

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In Memory

In Memory of Friends of UnityPoint Health-Meriter Volunteers and their volunteer service, \$20 is donated to the Foundation's FOM Memorial Fund! This fund is used to purchase yarn that Meriter volunteers who knit use to make newborn caps for the Birthing Center. We remember the following volunteers who have passed away in October:

Alice Volden (2003-2017) Knitter and Patient Registration