Overview of WAVE Awards Programs

The Wisconsin Awards for Volunteer Excellence (WAVE) program was established by Partners of WHA, Inc. to recognize outstanding contributions of organized volunteer programs and is patterned after the AHA HAVE Awards program.

In addition to acknowledging the value of volunteerism to individual lives and institutions, the awards program is designed to:

- Encourage service that greatly exceeds expectations as a result of innovation, creativity and leadership;
- Promote visibility and goodwill toward the hospital or health care system;
- Increase allegiance among volunteers; and,
- Promote collaboration among organizations and community service.

2019 WAVE Committee Members

Joyce Breen, Chair
Volunteer Partners of River Falls Area Hospital, River Falls

Jeannie Tatro
Aspirus Langlade Hospital, Antigo

Sue Boerschinger
Mercy Medical Center Volunteers, Ascension Mercy Hospital, Oshkosh

Beth Burham
Volunteer Partners of Spooner Health, Spooner

Jenna Hanson
Wisconsin Hospital Association, Madison

Recognizing Outstanding Volunteer Programs

2019 WAVE Awards

Presented at the Partners of WHA Annual Convention

October 2, 2019

Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley, Appleton, WI
**Category: Community Service Programs**

**Winning Program:** “Partners Emergency Department Service Project”  
**Winning Organization:** Partners of Beaver Dam Community Hospital, Beaver Dam

With an estimated 30,000 emergency department visits per year, it was determined there needed to be a program which provided clothing to patients who were in need. It was also determined that children needed to be comforted. The Partners have provided new clothing to patients and comfort teddy bears to children since 2002. A number of fundraisers assist in providing funds to continue this work. One of the goals of the program is to promote patient satisfaction. By providing new clothing to those in need, patients leave the emergency department feeling positive and with a sense of dignity. By providing teddy bears, children leave with a greater sense of comfort.

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**Category: In-service Hospital Volunteer Programs**

**Winning Program:** “Hospital Elder Life Program”  
**Winning Organization:** Auxiliary of Howard Young Medical Center, Woodruff

Delirium is the most prevalent complication for the hospitalized older adult. The primary goal of the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) is to prevent episodes of acute confusion while in the hospital. Volunteers are essential to providing the additional support needed to help patients at risk remain oriented and alert throughout their hospitalization. Volunteers provide companionship, assistance with meals, a variety of social activities, as well as simple conversation which can aide in stimulating the mind. Since the inception of the program, delirium rates, average length of hospital stay, fall rates and readmission rates have all gone down.

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**Category: Fundraising Programs**

**Winning Program:** “Volunteer Community Brat Fry”  
**Winning Organization:** Aspirus Medford Hospital & Clinics, Aspirus Volunteers, Medford

Knowing that budgets are tightening in health care, this event was created and is held annually to raise important funding for programs and activities associated with the volunteer program. Funds raised allow the volunteer membership (a.k.a. Auxiliary) to use their creativity to develop new, fun, and innovative programming for the benefit of patients and residents who reside at the healthcare center. Working in conjunction with the local V.F.W., the fundraiser has moved to a highly visible location which has resulted in increased profits. One of the most important aspects of this program is it provides consistent revenue for a growing and expanding volunteer program.

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**Category: Community Outreach and/or Collaboration Programs**

**Winning Program:** "First Aid & Trauma Kits"  
**Winning Organization:** Partners of Marshfield Medical Center - Ladysmith, Ladysmith

With voluntary ambulance services and available EMT staff on the decline in Rusk County, the Partners of Marshfield Medical Center – Ladysmith donated First Aid and Trauma kits to police squad cars in the city of Ladysmith and the Rusk County Sheriff’s Department. Responding officers are now equipped with the essentials to provide needed life-saving medical attention until the EMTs arrive. The kits include gloves, bandages, gauze, trauma scissors, dressings and Quikclot. They are valued at $100/each and various fundraising efforts help fund the program. Law enforcement providers are now better equipped to handle medical emergencies in any area of the rural county without compromising patient care.