Partners of WHA WAVE Award Winners - 2015

2015 WAVE Awards Program

**Category: Community Service Program**

**Winning Program:** “We Honor Veterans: A Mission to Serve Veteran-to-Veteran Volunteer Program,” Aspirus Wausau Hospital and Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services Volunteers, Wausau

The “We Honor Veterans: A Mission to Serve” program, supported by the Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services (ACCHS) Volunteers, is a veteran-to-veteran volunteer program. Working through the national We Honor Veterans program, the ACCHS Volunteers match Veteran volunteers with hospice patients who also have military experience. The program focuses on respectful inquiry, compassionate listening and grateful acknowledgement. Veteran volunteers are trained to be excellent listeners, and the pairings dissolve barriers that only the camaraderie between Veterans can accomplish. They share a common language and code of conduct, which builds trust and friendships between the Veteran volunteers and Veteran patients. The ACCHS Volunteers plan and conduct annual Veteran’s Day programming, award certificates of appreciation, cards of acknowledgement, and pinning ceremonies for its Veteran patients.

**Category: In-service Program**

**Winning Program:** “Emergency Department Volunteer Program,” Mercy Health System Association of Volunteers, Janesville

The Emergency Department Volunteer Program, supported by the Mercy Health System Association of Volunteers, provides supportive services to emergency department (ED) patients and staff. Volunteers help guide patients in and out of the ED – speeding triage and assisting with efficient discharges, while provide a comforting contact during a patient’s ED visit. They work closely with ED nurses and other staff to elevate the care provided. Some examples of their tasks include delivering paperwork and specimens; escorting patients to their ED or inpatient rooms or to their vehicles; changing linens and restocking supplies; assisting with patient meals; and provide comfort measures such as warm blankets. Overall, ED volunteers provide additional sets of hands, which can prove to make a real difference for staff and patients in a very busy department.
Category: Fundraising Program

Winning Program: “Fashions from the Heart,” HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Auxiliary, Green Bay

In 1987, members of the HSHS St. Vincent Hospital Auxiliary began their “Fashions from the Heart” event, a fashion show luncheon with about 200 attendees which raised $2,000. Over the years, the Auxiliary members have grown this annual event in size, in fundraising totals, and into one with its own formal leadership structure. In 2014, the Auxiliary hosted its 27th annual “Fashions from the Heart” event, raising over $60,000 for the St. Vincent Hospital Heart & Vascular Center. Also, it has evolved into an educational event as well as and entertainment event. The cardiothoracic surgeon who heads up the Heart Center delivers the welcome each year and gives an update on what’s new in the treatment of heart disease. The Auxilians continue to find new ways to promote and financially support the event, with additional fundraisers taking place during the show itself and a plan in place to increase corporate sponsorship. The event also utilizes volunteers in a variety of different ways, from planning, promotions, ticket sales, silent auction and corporate solicitations. In addition, Auxilians, hospital employees, local celebrities, community members, and past patients of the Heart Center act as models for the fashion show.

Category: Community Outreach and/or Collaboration Program

Winning Program: "Dementia Friendly Business Initiative,” Partners of HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital, Chippewa Falls

The Chippewa Falls area can officially declare itself a “dementia-friendly community,” thanks to the efforts of one mother, whose adult daughter was diagnosed with a form of dementia, and the members of the Partners of HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital. The Partners group embraced the idea of the “Dementia Friendly Business Initiative” wholeheartedly, along with the hospital itself and a coalition of other local organizations. Backed by strong data from the hospital’s recent Community Needs Assessment identifying the need to break the stigma of mental health issues, the Partners group utilized their manpower, their financial support and their reputation in the community to launch the “Dementia Friendly Business Initiative.” This initiative trains owners and employees of local businesses to recognize dementia and compassionately and respectfully serve their customers who show signs of dementia. Businesses who have been trained receive a “Purple Angel” window cling, identifying them as a dementia-friendly business. Partners members provide training, collaborate in planning with local expert resources, spread the word about the program, helped organize the area’s first Alzheimer’s Walk, and provided the seed money to get the initiative off the ground.