

SPECIAL 2023 | VOL. 17 NO. 1.5

THE

BEAT

A Special Review of Two Decades of the WAH Foundation

20



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A Message from the Foundation Director



Kim Armstrong.
Foundation Director

The Windom Area Health (WAH) Foundation is celebrating 20 years of giving back!

In April 2002, the WAH Board of Directors established the Foundation to provide support for medical and educational

programs at WAH, apart from normal operating expenses. It was granted 501(c)3 status by the IRS so donations to the Foundation can qualify as a deduction on the donor's tax return.

Through the years, Foundation gifts have supported innovative programs, staff and community education, and life-saving medical care and equipment for the patients and families of WAH. We are proud to support the good work

of WAH and hope you enjoy looking back at our past 20 years of accomplishments in this special edition of The Beat.

Please contact me at 507-831-0615 or Kim.Armstrong@windomareahealth.org if you are interested in learning more about the WAH Foundation or would like to make a donation. We can accept gifts of many types including: cash, memorials, honorariums, annuities, life insurance, gifts of property, and gifts that return income to the donor. If you are doing estate planning with your financial advisor and are looking for local organizations to donate to, please consider the WAH Foundation.

Our goal is for the families in our area to continue to benefit from a state-of-the-art medical facility that is able to keep up with rapidly changing medical treatment programs and equipment.

Meet the Foundation Board



Steve Johnson
Chairperson
Farmer



Greg Scheitel
Vice-Chairperson
Regional Mental
Health Consultant for
SWWC



Kay Gross
Secretary
Soil & Water
Conservation District
Administrator



Terry Tegels
Director
Retired Receptionist
for Tegels' Chiropractic



Tom Christensen
Director
Retired Financial Advisor
for Edward Jones



Chad Merrihew
Director
President & CEO
of Leading Edge
Credit Union



Ann Bartelt
Director
Social Worker for
DVHHS

"I was a part of the original group that established the Foundation and continued on as a Board Member for 19 years. I really enjoyed the functions we put on around town to fundraise, but the thing I'm most proud of from my time was establishing the Scholarship program. It gives kids in our community a little help for college and I think it's a great idea.

I tell everyone that we're fortunate to have the hospital in Windom and the Foundation helps support it as well as our surrounding communities."



Alice Huebert
Former Board Member
Foundation Donor

Reinvesting in WAH

Equipment/Training Funded All or In-Part by the Foundation:

- Dexascanner
- Generator
- Heel scanner
- IO drill
- Cardiac monitor system
- Cataract chair
- Bilirubin lights
- Rehab traction table
- Digital mammo
- Infant warmer
- Blanket warmer
- White boards
- Renovated Chapel
- On-call rooms
- Coffee kiosk
- Fireplace
- Jaundice meter
- Mammo capes
- Orthopedic surgery equipment
- **Be Well Path & outdoor exercise equipment**
- Chemo chair
- Rehab remodeling
- Wound Center remodeling
- **Newborn Hearing Screening**
- Pigg-O-Stat
- **Tranquility Garden**
- **Panda Baby Warmer**
- Chemo hood
- 3D mammo lease payments



"Funding for Birth Place training and equipment, such as the **Panda Warmer** and the **Newborn Hearing Screening Machine**, has helped staff and doctors provide the best care to our moms and newborns close to home."

Ashley Jensen,
OB/Nursery Coordinator

"Being able to bring in the **EMS simulation truck** and invite our local

EMS squads to practice different scenarios is a great asset in preparing our staff and EMS to handle situations that are not seen on a regular basis. They help us be better prepared for when real-life situations happen."



Kelsey Andrews,
Director of Nursing

"By adding updated **BLS equipment** and AED training devices, we can hold larger classes for community businesses/organizations and provide higher quality training."

The Foundation was also essential in building the **Be Well Path**



and other enhancements like the **Tranquility Garden** and **new equipment** for the Pediatric Rehabilitation Program, which will be installed this spring or summer."

Lindsey Englar,
Wellness Center Supervisor

Vickie Schendel Memorial Fund

- CPR manikins
- **EMS simulation class**
- Speaker at Farm & Home Show
- Lactation counselor training
- Wellness campaign development
- BIG Program DVDs
- Patient safety materials
- Prenatal PowerPoint education
- SANE training
- **BLS equipment**

Ask for Anything Grants

In 2021, the WAH Foundation started an 'Ask for Anything' grant program for hospital departments. Departments complete a short application for items up to \$5,000 that will improve the patient experience or make the department staff better caregivers. Department managers vote on the grant winners each year.

Grant Winners:

- ABI Machine | *Wound & Hyperbaric Healing Center*
- Phlebotomy Procedure Recliner | *Laboratory*
- Adult Vein Finder | *Nursing*
- Watch Me Grow Equipment | *Rehabilitation*
- Modernized Serveware | *Nutrition Services*
- Helping Small Hands Do Big Things Equipment | *Rehabilitation*
- Digital Signage | *Hospital Lobbies*



Naomi Bach, WHHC Clinical Program Director

"We are so excited to purchase an automated ABI machine! This enables us to test a patient's blood flow for Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD). We are able to determine faster if they will need more testing, a referral to the vascular team, or if we can proceed with wound care."



Jill Liepold, Laboratory Manager

"I was really excited when I heard that our project was chosen! They heard my excitement down the hall!"

The Phlebotomy Recliner will replace a cushioned table that we use for procedures in the lab and will be safer and more comfortable for our patients."



Terri Elder, Rehabilitation Director

"Anyone who has worked with children or even had children of their own knows they get bored easily. Children learn through play, but need to be challenged within that 'play' to

make the gains needed for overall developmental improvement. This grant helped us add more than 50 different items to our 'tool box' of treatment options and makes it easier for us to keep the child engaged. This allows them to have more fun and improves overall outcomes."

Donors & Memorials

The WAH Foundation would like to recognize our generous donors. Memorials and donors with a cumulative total over \$1,000 are recognized on the digital signage at Windom Area Health.

If you would like to make a donation to the Foundation in memory of a loved one, on the memo line of the check, please write the name of the individual you are donating in honor of with 'memorial' and mail it to Kim Armstrong, Foundation Director. Include a note if you would like the memorial to go to a specific fund.

WAH Foundation Funds include:

- Education Fund
- Women's Health Fund
- Vickie Schendel Memorial Fund
- Employee Crisis Fund
- General Fund

A thank you letter is sent to the donor and an acknowledgement of the donation is sent to a family member. The letter also serves as a receipt for tax purposes.

If you are interested in donating, call Kim Armstrong at 507-831-0615 or e-mail Kim.Armstrong@windomarehealth.org.

Legacy Honorariums

David C. Campbell Estate
Myrtle Stroud Estate
Bruce W. Nelson Estate
Robert & Helen Remick Charitable Trust
Robert Byers Estate

Founder (Over \$25,000)

Bill & Harriett Olson
David & Kathryn Campbell Trust
M. Gene Clark
Myrtle Stroud Estate
Robert & Helen Remick Trust
Robert P. Byers Estate
The Toro Company
Windom Area Hospital Auxiliary

Trustee (\$10,000-\$24,999)

Bruce W. Nelson Estate
Carol Sandve/Sandve Heritage Foundation
Wilbert G. Rohlfen

Leader (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Bank Midwest
Bradley & Lynette Anderson
Edward Grunewald
Gary & Gerri Burmeister
GDF Enterprise
Howard Sether
HyLife Foods, Windom
Jim & Coralee Krueger
Jody Saffert
John & Jenny Hedquist
Julie A. Gudmestad
Lewis Family Drug
Lion's Club of Windom
Mary Klosterbuer
Shirley Klosterbuer
Winifred Hoppert



Jim Krueger
1st Foundation Donor
Former Board Member

First Supporters

"I knew even before I was asked to be on the board that the Foundation was a worthy institution. It's important to the community, for Windom, to have good schools and hospitals, among other organizations. When I was asked, I thought, 'Yeah, I got time for that!'"

Giving has been important for both Coralee and I, paying it forward and sharing it. It's important to the community. Not just to you, but the whole community. If you want to live in a vibrant community, you gotta participate!"



M. Gene Clark
Foundation Donor

19 Years of Giving

"My father used to always say, 'Pick your charitable giving and support it.' So as long as I can support it, I will. I give some to the Foundation scholarships and the rest goes wherever they need it most. It's great that we have a hospital that's up to date and that can do things for people.

I think that I've been fortunate and if I can help others, I should do that. It's worthwhile to be as helpful as you can. It's a very personal decision to give, but especially if you live in this community (like myself, part of the year) it's important. I want to be sure that there's a hospital when I need it because I'm going to need it."

**SAVE
THE DATE!**

Friday, June 16

**GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

W
WINDOM
AREA HEALTH
FOUNDATION



Employee Giving

"I started donating because I've been employed at Windom Area Health for over 40 years and the hospital has been very good to me. Donating to the Foundation was a way that I could give back for everything the hospital has given me."



Jody Saffert
Ward Clerk
Employee Donor



All-You-Can-Eat DAD'S BELGIAN WAFFLE BRUNCH

Adults: \$10
Kids 6-10: \$5
5 & under FREE!

Sunday, March 12 | 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Windom Community Center | Takeout Available

Proceeds Designated for Foundation Scholarships

Co-sponsored by Windom Area Health Foundation, Prudence Lodge #97, & Thrivent Financial

Builder (\$1,000-\$4,999)

A. Wiggins & Wanda Turner
Acute Care, Inc
Ag Builders of Southern Minnesota
Amy Gudmestad
Apex Clean Energy Holdings, LLC
Avera McKennan Hospital
Bank of the West
Bernie & Judy Woizeschke
Bruce & Erin Toninato
Connie L. Johnson
Dairyland Healthcare Solutions
David & Beatty Muller
Des Moines Valley Health
& Human Services
Donna Torkelson
Dr. John & Marcine Forrette
Dr. Michael R. Fisher
Fortune Transportation
Gale & Patty Symens
Gene Stene
Georgia Stratte-Smith
Glen & Denise Francis
Habilitative Services Inc/Bill Olson
Hartberg Medical Clinic
Hometown Sanitation
Hussong Mfg Co/Jim Hussong
Iowa Lakes Orthopedics

James & Connie Redding
James Sneer
Jason & Marleen Soleta
Jeff & Betty Fredin
Jim & Jane Polz
Julie Englin
Kim Armstrong
Kim & Terry Anderson
Kiwanis Club of Windom
Kraig Hunter family
in memory of Barb Hunter
LaCanne Family
Celebration of Life Center
Larry & Jill Liepold
Leland & Marilyn Erickson
Lois Anderson
Lori Jensen
Margaret Juhnke
Marilyn Wahl
Masonic/Prudence Lodge #97
McDonald's of Windom/Rick Clerc
Melvin & Romelle Wojahn
Mick & Barb Christians
Mike Thon
Milk Specialties Global
Miller Sellner Equipment
Preferred Residential Lifestyle/Bill Olson

Randy Johnson
Richard & Gerry Cornwell Family Trust
Richard Duroe
Robert & Rosalie Brodin
Ron & Nancy Meyer
Runnings of Windom
Schramel Law Office
Shirley Klosterbuer
South Central Electric Association
Staples Oil Company, Inc.
State Farm Insurance/Stacie Sanow
Steve & Brenda Muller
Steven & Jean Johnson
T.K. (Ken) Gudmestad
Telecom Pioneers Western Plains
Terry & Karen Fredin
Tom White
Trevor & Katie Slette
Tyann Marcy
Vaaler Insurance
Vern & Cheryl Peterson
Warren & Sandra Winkel
Wendell & Phyllis Woodcock
Wendy Wenner
Windom Livestock, LLC
Windom United Services

Honorary Recognition

Bill & Vanessa Tjentland
Caroline Hughes
Dr. Jeffrey Taber
Emily Wojahn
Jacy Geertsema
Janice Schroeder
Jenna, Hailey & Jackson Veenker

Julie Englin
Kerkvliet Family
Leona Peterson
Lorraine Jacobson
Mark Evers
Mary Hustad

Pastor David & Sylvia Lightner
Richard Muller
Sarah Corwin
Tammy Hall
Wedding of Ann Kuehl & Peter Bartelt
Winifred Hoppert

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Memorials

Adah Myers
Aileen Grant
Al Johnson
Alan Wisdorf
Alex Karnavas
Alton E. Miller
Alvin Bussa
Anga L. Galle
Ann Hoffman
Annabel Mielke
Anne Hartman
Ardis Schilling
Arie & Rena In't Veld
Arlene Bartosh
Arnold Kansanback
Arthur & Ella Giese
Audrey Byers
Barbara Hunter
Barbara Westgor
Ben Becker Family
Bernie Armstrong
Bertha Johnson
Betty Elston
Betty Holmen
Betty Kipfer
Bob Johnson
Burnis Hase
Cal Strange
Calvin Fett
Carlton Trotter
Charles Wolf
Cheryl Brugman
Chuck Severson
Cleo Olson
Connie J. Struck
Curtis Langley
Curtis Miller
Dale Fast
David Muller
David Rodoni
Dayle Eichstadt
Debbie Marvel
Debora Romsdahl
Delores Olson
Dianne Kuecker
Don Jackson
Donald Day
Donald Johnson
Donald Larsen
Donavan (Shorty) Flatgard
Doris (Peggy) Onken
Dorothy Beihoffer
Douglas Teigen
Dr. & Mrs. H.C. Stratte
Dr. Harold & Marjorie Basinger
Dr. James Dokken
Dr. Ken Nelson

Edward Grunewald
Edna Ballard
Edward Kliewer
Edwin Brandt
Eileen Rogers
Eldon Pinkerton
Elizabeth Gudmestad
Ellen Meyer
Elmer Muntefering
Eric Boone Hacker
Eric John Niss-de Jesus
Eric Johnson
Esther Schoberg
Evelyn Rohlfen
Evelyn Wendorff
Fletcher Hanson
Florence Peterson
Foster O. Nelson
G.A. Redding
Genevieve Carlson
George Johnson
Gerald Witte
Gladys Wiens
Gloria Hanefeld
Greg Dukleth
Harold Frederickson
Heger Families
Helen Fuller
Helen Gerken
Helen Haugen
Helen Nelson
Henry Wiemann
Herb Ratzlaff
Herman Zens
Howard Davis
Howard Erickson
Iris Frederickson
James (Jim) Redding
Janice Bell Stene
Janice Schroeder
Jeff Gay
Jennifer Karren
Jerome Timm
Jerry Witte
Jess & Hazel Moon
Jim Dunse
Jim Griffin
Jim Miller
Jim Remund
Jim Schwalbach
Jim Skarphol
Jim Tucci
JoAnn Cowan
Joann Cowan
John (Jack) Kelly
John Caldwell Jr.
Jon Olson

Memorial Giving

"I chose to give in honor of Dave because it has always been important to the TWO of us. It's important to support healthcare in our community. We're so proud of this hospital. It is pretty amazing for a small, small town. Any of our experiences with the hospital, with relatives or friends, have always been a positive experience. We felt people have been well cared for.



Beatty Muller
Foundation Donor
Former Board Member

Giving has always been a part of our life. We give in response to what has been given to us. We feel we've been very blessed and we hope that in some small way we can bless others.

We—both Dave and I—are so proud of this facility. We feel that it needs support so that we have good quality care for patients and for healthcare workers to carry out their care."

Karen Mathias
Katherine Olsem
Kathleen Maguire
Kathy Nielsen
Kay Campbell
Ken Anderson
Ken Henry
Ken Paulson
Ken Winker
Kim Nielsen
Lana Tibodeau
LaRue Simonson
Lavonne Storey
Lawrence L. Pitzl Sr.
Leo Bartosh
Leonard Renczykowski
Lila Harnack
Linda Ryan
Linda White
Lloyd Divis
Lloyd Downs
Lloyd Hawks
Lorene Sutherland
Loretta Hansen
Loretta Jackson
Lorraine Olson
Lowell Purrington
Loy Storey
Lucas Satter
Lynn Johnson
Margaret Haley
Margaret Woizeschke
Marilyn Nelson

Marilyn Oberle
Marion Juhnke
Marjorie McHargue
Mark Baumgard
Marvin Myers
Marvin Wiens
Mary Clerc
Mary Ellen Gilbertson
Mary Jane Peters
Mary Jane Redding
Mary Lynn Olson
Melvin Wojahn
Merlyn Gehrls
Michael Edwards
Mike McCarthy
Mildred Klosterbuer
Monica Amundson
Nancy Sweigard
Neil Silker
Orville Lutter
Oswald Olson
Patricia (Pat) Baloun
Patricia (Pat) Fisher
Patty Elizabeth Stene
Paul F. Smith
Paul Gohman
Paul M. Nasby
Peggy Evers
Peter J. Fast
Rachel Ling
Randy Wilson
Raymond J. Diemer
Rich Biever

Memorials (Cont.)

Rich Clauson
Richard (Dick) Noyes
Richard Kunkel
Richard Minion
Rick Gannott
Robert Hines
Robert Schmidt
Robert Skillingsstad
Robert Turner
Roger Benson
Roger Englin
Roger Holmen
Ronald A. Meyer
Roseann Peters

Rosella Nerhus
Roxie Grandprey
Ruth Berge
Sam & Millie Wahl
Schoborg Families
Scott Becker
Sharon Diemer
Sharon Olson
Shirley Johnson
Shirley Schwartz
Solveig Hight
Sophie Stoterau
T.K. (Ken) Gudmestad
Tamie Trapp
Tammy Hall

Thelma Borseth
Tibodeau Families
Tom Keffeler
Tom Pfannenstien
Tony Haroldson
Truman & Irene Hartberg
Truman Jacobson
Vangie Severson
Vera Mich
Virginia Jones
Vern Mick
Verna Olson
Vernon Pytleski
Vernon S. Peterson
Verona Johnson

Victor Faust
Viola Johnson
Violet Anderson
Virginia Hay
Virginia Ostenson
Walter Sands
Warren (Bud) Meyers
Warren Mullen
Warren Sontag
Wesley Winkel
Willard Schroeder
William Eichstadt
William Erpestad
Winifred Hoppert
Wynona (Robby) Welton

Women's Health Fund

The WAH Foundation supports local female patients going through any type of cancer treatment who are experiencing financial hardship. Since December 2012, we have given over \$56,000 to 13 applicants. The Foundation pays invoices directly to the business needed by applicants. We have made mortgage and rent payments, provided gas cards, Hy-Vee cards for groceries, car payments, insurance payments, deductibles for provider or hospital bills, phone and utility bills, daycare expenses, and credit card bills. The following considerations are included in the determination of support awards: location of applicant's residence and primary healthcare provider, financial need, course of treatment, and resources available in the fund. Contact the Foundation Director to request an application packet.

When the Foundation partnered with Tammy Hall, Tyann Marcy, and Lisa Kolander to start the Breast Health Fund (now called the Women's Health Fund), they felt it was important to give a portion of the profit from the Breast Health Walk to breast cancer research. Since October 2013, the WAH Foundation has given over \$8,000 to the Edith Sanford Breast Cancer Center for breast cancer research.

"A positive thing I see coming out of the Women's Health Fund is the awareness it brings to cancer. Early detection is so important and was my mom, Tammy's, main vision and goal in all of this. Education on how important it is to take our health and screening seriously and to have the resources to make early detection possible in our community are so necessary.



Pictured Left to Right: Tyann Hall-Marcy and Tammy Hall at a HyVee pie sale for the Breast Health Fund.

'Something good is going to come out of this' was my mom's phrase she used often in the early stages of our work with the Breast Health Fund. Spreading the awareness, increasing education, and helping our community have the resources it needs are part of her legacy. As Tammy's daughter, it gives me great pride in knowing my children, nieces, and nephews will always know *her* through this part of her legacy. Her battle wasn't lost, but continues in so many ways."



Debbie Elness
WHF Recipient
Cancer-Free

"I heard about the Women's Health Fund through Tyann Hall-Marcy. She stopped my husband one day and told him about the fund and encouraged us to apply for it. At first I wasn't going to, thinking there were others who were worse off than me, but Kim Armstrong encouraged me to do it. Applying was very easy and the Fund ended up covering my deductible and gave me a \$500 gas card. At the time, I didn't know if the gas card would come in handy, but my goodness, it made such an impact for us, receiving that extra help.

If anyone is in doubt, each one of us going through this could use that extra help. If it can ease the burden just a little bit, it's well worth applying for."

Supporting Area Students' Healthcare Career Paths

The WAH Foundation has awarded 106 \$1,000 scholarships to 69 local high school and college students pursuing health-related careers. Typically, 5–8 scholarships are granted annually.

Numerous scholarship recipients currently work at WAH: Abby Elness, Ethan Mathis, Joel Riordan, Landon Johnson, Sarah (Steele) Smith, Abby (Luitjens) Kipfer, and Katie (Symens) Bennett. Six other recipients have worked at WAH in the past, but have since moved on. Mary Klosterbuer and her sister, Shirley, have donated money for the Mildred Klosterbuer memorial scholarship for ten years. Nancy Meyer has also given funds for the Ron Meyer memorial scholarship that runs through the WAH Foundation.



2023 Foundation Scholarship Applications Are Now Open!

To learn how to apply, scan the QR Code or go to windomareahealth.org/about-us/foundation-donations/ and click the 'Foundation Scholarships' tab.



Katie Bennett, RN
ED/Trauma/Stroke
Coordinator
Nursing Department
Scholarship Recipient

"The Foundation scholarships helped lift some of the financial stress of paying for college and allowed me to spend more time focusing on school. Offering scholarships to local students is a way to 'grow our own' by investing in our community and its future. It is so important to encourage and support those interested in the healthcare field and help them to excel."



Joel Riordan, DPT
Rehabilitation
Department
Scholarship Recipient

"I think it is very important as a rural community to invest in local students in hopes that those individuals will come back to continue to provide crucial healthcare services close to home.

This scholarship program by the Foundation has allowed me to return to my hometown of Windom and given me the opportunity to give back to the community that made me the person I am, providing skilled care to those who have helped me along the way."

Honoring Legacies through Scholarships

Mildred Klosterbuer Memorial Scholarship



Mildred Klosterbuer
Scholarship Honoree

When Mildred passed away in 2013, one of the family's preferred charities was the WAH Foundation. That memorial donation was enough to sponsor a scholarship that year. Since then, her daughters, Mary and Shirley, have split the cost of sponsoring a scholarship in their mother's name. Mildred

was a huge influence in their lives, and she strongly supported higher education for them.

Mary is a huge supporter of WAH, the community of Windom, and her former students. For Shirley, who resides in Luverne, MN, the scholarship is a way to support the Windom community that she has learned about through Mary's commitments. The scholarship is means of honoring all of these.

Ron Meyer Memorial Scholarship



Nancy Meyer
Foundation Donor

"Ron and I had donated to the Foundation for many years and after he passed away I wanted to do something different in his memory. Emily Masters informed me of the opportunity to donate a scholarship for students going into the medical field. Since Ron and I are both in education, the idea of donating a scholarship really appealed to me. It was important for me to do something for the kids in our community.

I think the hospital and Foundation should be very proud of the many years that they've done these scholarships. Just think of how many kids they've had such a positive impact on in our community!"