

Currents

WOLF RIVER AREA HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER FALL 2012



Healthcare Foundation

Supporting New London Family Medical Center

You're Invited to "Denim and Diamonds"



Western-themed annual dinner will support the new outpatient treatment center



Pictured L-R: Lisa Kuss, Nancy Ignacio, Carrie Katerzynske, Pam Gretzinger, Kelly Beyer, Joanne Doornink. Missing: LaVonne Klein.

When you think "hospital," you usually think emergency or overnight stay. But New London Family Medical Center (NLFMC) sees 2,000 visits annually from outpatients — people who come in for scheduled antibiotic infusions, blood transfusions, enzyme therapy, wound care and other specialized treatment.

Today NLFMC caregivers treat those patients in any available hospital room. This poses challenges for patients and staff alike. Patients, many of whom come in regularly, must head to a different room for every appointment; nurses must hustle from room to room, and sometimes floor to floor, to care for multiple patients.

Your attendance at this year's annual dinner can help change all that. The Western-themed gala aims to raise \$80,000 toward a state-of-the-art outpatient treatment center.

"This dedicated outpatient area is about bringing patients and nurses together in a comfortable, familiar setting that promotes improved health and focused nursing care," says Sharon Kapitany, NLFMC's outpatient business manager.

Outpatient visits increased more than 330 percent from 2009 to 2011 and are expected to grow even more significantly in the next five years.

"The time for this project is now," says Foundation board member and annual dinner chairperson Nancy Ignacio. "The community can meet a very meaningful need by bringing the outpatient treatment center to fruition."

Wound care in particular is a growing outpatient need at NLFMC. In the last two years, the hospital saw this specialty grow 900 percent.

"Wound care is more than just putting a Band-Aid on something," Kapitany says. "It could arise from a chronic medical condition like diabetes, or it could be necessary for someone who's had surgery and isn't healing as fast as they should."

"The community's gifts to the Foundation have already funded specialty wound care training for our nurses," Ignacio says. "This outpatient center will give them the space and the tools they need to put that training to use for the sake of our community."

Giddy Up and Give!

9th Annual Dinner Gala

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012

5 p.m. reception,
6 p.m. dinner

Crystal Falls

Tickets: (920) 531-2066

Dine with friends and some of your favorite country stars as you support New London Family Medical Center's outpatient treatment center.

Live auction items will include Packers club seats, a duck hunting trip and a bit of southern hospitality B & B style in South Carolina. In addition, you may purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win one very special piece of jewelry.



Getting Better Together



Getting Better Together

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Your Hospital and Clinic Staff Cares About YOU!



Medical campus employees give \$8,500 to improve patient care

It's not every day you get to make a wish, let alone have it granted. Thanks to the Foundation's 1,000 Friends Employee Share Campaign, eight New London medical campus employees recently saw their dreams for better patient care become reality, with area residents standing to benefit.

Those eight "wishes" were among 38 care-enhancing ideas submitted to the Foundation by employees in February. Each wish had to advance or enrich the patient experience.

Then the 14-member BFF (Best Friends of the Foundation) Steering Team got to work. The BFFs identified the wishes most beneficial to patients, then motivated their fellow employees to make those wishes come true through gifts to the Foundation.

More than 50 New London Family Medical Center (NLFMC) and ThedaCare Physicians-New London employees responded, donating \$8,526. Inspired by their shared vision, the Foundation board matched their gifts. The total of \$17,000 was used to fund the following wishes:

Pediatric vein illuminator

Helps find the veins of young patients.

Patient headphones

Offers patients solitude in double rooms.

Wound care patient chair

Enhances comfort during chronic wound treatment.

Vein transilluminator

Helps find stubborn veins to decrease pokes for patients.

Patient food delivery carts

Keeps food warm during transport.

Family Birth Center recliners

Improves comfort for new parents.

NuStep machine

Eases physical therapy for transitional care patients.

Two waiting room TVs

Entertains patients during visits.

NLFMC lab manager Alex Hunt co-chaired the BFF team with clinic practice associate Heather Roland. "This program gave employees the avenue to help our patients," Hunt says. "With my own gift I couldn't, say, get a wound care chair, but with the help of others I could. We were able to do it together."



The Foundation thanks all 14 committed BFFs who made the 1,000 Friends Employee Share Campaign a success:

*Mark Fellers
Nicole Flaig
Stephanie Fleese
Alex Hunt
Kim Jersey
Ann Krautkramer
Renee Loschiavo
Kim Lees
Lu Killoren
Diane Pelky
Heather Roland
Carol Schaefer
Sally Timm
Julie Ziegler*

Foundation Events By the Numbers

325 Runners and walkers who participated in the 2012 Sturgeon Shuffle to fund community outreach by the Foundation



72 Young participants in May's bike safety rodeo at New London Middle School, funded by the 2011 Sturgeon Shuffle



52 Babysitters trained to date through daylong Safe Sitter classes underwritten by the 2011 Sturgeon Shuffle



110 Attendees at May's Community Conversation who learned about developments in local healthcare



Chapel Dedication

*Made Possible
by Your Support*

Facility provides sacred space for prayer, reflection and grieving

A place for solitude and prayer can make all the difference for families facing difficult healthcare situations. Your gifts have created such a space with the opening of a new ecumenical chapel at New London Family Medical Center (NLFMC).

The Foundation dedicated the chapel on June 15, 2012. The celebration drew more than 60 community members, local clergy and medical campus staff to NLFMC.

"I'm grateful for a beautiful, soothing space where I can minister to patients and their families in times of need," says Foundation board member the Rev. Greg Watling, pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ in New London.



NLFMC's new chapel features Wolf River-inspired sculpture by artists Linda Muldoon and Gary Gossins.

The new space, located just down the hall from NLFMC's emergency department, offers those dealing with emergencies a nearby refuge. It also provides a private, comforting space for sensitive conversations between physicians, clergypersons and families, as well as a place of reflection for hospital and clinic staff.



"A patient's needs go beyond the obvious physical ones," says NLFMC president and CEO Bill Schmidt. "We're thankful that so many Foundation supporters have helped meet our patients' spiritual and emotional needs, too."

Ant Hill Mob Raises \$1,000 for Infant Car Seats

Members of the Ant Hill Mob Motorcycle Club Chapter 1 present \$1,000 for infant car seats to NLFMC's Family Birth Center staff.



Motorcycle club's annual 9-pin tourney bowls over the Family Birth Center

For the 22 members of the Ant Hill Mob Motorcycle Club Chapter 1, service is central to their mission. That's why they decided to act when they got wind of a need at New London Family Medical Center (NLFMC).

"We're all about giving back to the communities our members live and work in," says Karen Heise, a spokesperson for the Bear Creek-based club. "We heard that a few mothers leaving the hospital didn't have an infant car seat and the nurses were buying them."

Club members met that need with the proceeds from their annual 9-pin bowling tournament, held in March. With 65 participants, this year's event brought in \$1,000, which the club presented to NLFMC's Family Birth Center.

"We're so grateful knowing that all of our tiny patients will leave the hospital safe and sound in a brand-new car seat," says Sheri Bailey, a registered nurse in the Family Birth Center.

In addition, bowlers contributed new and gently used stuffed animals during the tournament, and the Ant Hill Mob donated those to NLFMC's emergency department. Heise says it's all part of the club's commitment to "helping out whenever and wherever needed."





Wolf River Area Healthcare Foundation
1405 Mill Street, P.O. Box 307
New London, WI 54961-0307

*The Wolf River Area Healthcare Foundation
supports New London Family Medical Center
through community philanthropy.*

Look inside to learn more...

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Dinner Gala
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- ▶ Ant Hill Mob Motorcycle Club
Gives Back to Community

www.WolfRiverFoundation.org



Hospital staff pose with the NuStep physical therapy machine provided through the 1,000 Friends Employee Share Campaign (see related story on page 2).



Ellen Eckhardt of Check Advance in New London led a teddy bear drive to provide snuggly friends for the youngest visitors to NLFMC's emergency department. (L to R) Jeremy Thyssen, Ellen Eckhardt, Gretchen Brie and Brian VandenLangenberg.

Save the Dates

September 18, 2012
9th Annual Dinner Gala
Crystal Falls

October 13, 2012
Safe Sitter Class
New London Family Medical Center
(Wolf River Room)

