

THE *Miracle* CONNECTION



Dr. J. Michael and Vicki Hartigan

PASSION BEYOND PROFESSION

Dr. J. Michael and Vicki Hartigan have served for years as passionate advocates for children with a variety of healthcare needs, which is why they were honored as the King and Queen of the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® 7th Annual Emerald Ball.

Each year, the Emerald Ball celebrates the children and families whose lives have been positively impacted by CMN Hospitals, a service of the Gundersen Medical Foundation.

As a pediatrician and Gundersen Health System's first neonatologist, Dr. Hartigan was a leader in the establishment of Gundersen's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). He was also an early supporter of bringing CMN Hospitals to Gundersen. At the same time, his wife, Vicki, was

a respiratory therapist in the ICU. For these healthcare professionals, caring for sick children was more than a job—it was a passion.

Once Gundersen was established as a CMN Hospital in 1986, the Hartigans donated their time and provided financial support to help the organization grow. "Vicki and I worked on the telethon phone banks for many years. Vicki was a devoted participant in many softball tournament fundraisers, too," Dr. Hartigan says. "Later, I served on the committee deciding how to spend the money raised to best help kids in our area."

The Hartigans are truly an example of how generosity—in its many forms—changes lives. ♦



The staff of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals would like to thank our friends and community partners for their generous support of this year's Emerald Ball!

Presenting Sponsors:

- Charter Spectrum
- La Crosse Radio Group

Waltz Level:

- DigiCopy

Foxtrot Level:

- Winona Heating and Ventilating

Tango Level:

- Coulee Bank
- J.F. Brennan Co., Inc.

Samba Level:

- Outback Entertainment
- Flowers by Guenthers

Child Art Sponsor:

- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western Wisconsin and Southeastern Minnesota

Proceeds from this event benefit CMN Hospitals, a service of Gundersen Medical Foundation. All of the funds raised will stay local to help children, no matter what their illness or injury or where they receive their care. This year's event was held on Friday, March 27, 2015.



Clinical Research Coordinator Sandy Wee, CCRP, is dedicated to helping fight cancer by finding new and improved treatments.

TOP-NOTCH RESEARCH FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

It's difficult to think of any news that would be harder to cope with than a child's diagnosis of cancer—but knowing that child has access to the newest advancements in cancer treatments right here in our region is reassuring.

That's why charitable gifts made to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®, a service of Gundersen Medical Foundation, make such an impact. Local donations help fund cutting-edge pediatric research, such as the trials being conducted by Sandy Wee, CCRP, clinical research coordinator in the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Department.

Because Gundersen Health System is part of the University of Wisconsin Carbone Cancer Center, there is full access to the Children's Oncology Group, the only cooperative clinical trials organization for children, adolescents and young adults in the United States.

Sandy believes the ability to share in research taking place on a national level is important. "The funding we receive for our program allows patients in our area to have access to clinical trials that offer the same high-quality cancer care that's available at other major institutions around the country," she says. "Therefore, local patients can remain in our region to get state-of-the-art care."

Clinical trials help researchers understand more about how cancers grow and spread. They can also help researchers understand how cancer cells develop resistance to current treatment methods. The trials that are in progress today study various

treatments for pediatric cancers of the central nervous system, blood, bone marrow and lymphatic systems. Treatment trials may include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation or some combination.

"I enjoy the daily challenges of my job, as well as the opportunities to work with new advances in cancer treatment," shares Wee. "But there is nothing like seeing a critically ill patient arrive at our facility for treatment and be in remission after only a few weeks of therapy or, even better, when former patients return healthy many years after their treatments have ended."

Thanks to the generous donations made to CMN Hospitals, Gundersen is able to provide the very best care to sick children from our area who need it the most. ♦



The Pedi-Mate system helps Tri-State's first responders transport children safely.

PARTNERS IN PEDIATRIC SAFETY

In 2014, Tri-State Ambulance, Inc., and Tri-State Regional, Inc., received a grant from Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® that will go a long way to helping first responders provide the best care to our region's tiniest patients.

In the past, first responders had to rely on traditional car seats to transport sick or injured children. According to Tri-State's Clinical Operations Supervisor Daren Wendel, this system was not ideal—either for patients or for first responders.

"Standard car seats are not designed for use in an ambulance," says Wendel. "They are not designed to connect to a stretcher, and they do not allow for children to lie down." Depending on the child's size and injuries, the car seats could pose a variety of restrictions. Injury sites were not always easy to reach, and some procedures, such as introducing IVs, were sometimes awkward.

Aside from impacting patient access, standard car seats were not always practical, either. Bulky car seats (often in various sizes) would take up precious space inside the

ambulance, so they typically had to be stored in outside compartments. The car seats also posed a financial challenge because they had to be replaced often to meet changing state regulations.

The answer to all of these challenges was a relatively new transport system called Pedi-Mate. Pedi-Mates have a fully-adjusting, five-point harness system that straps on to an adult-sized stretcher and securely holds children between 10 and 40 pounds. The system allows children to be transported safely while they are sitting upright or lying down, whatever makes the most sense in each case. "Using a piece of equipment that is purpose-based—designed specifically for ambulance use—gives us confidence that we can continue to provide the best care possible," shares Wendel. The harness system is also convenient because it is made of an easy-to-clean, nontoxic vinyl, rolls up easily for storage, and lasts five years.

A grant from the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® allowed Tri-State to purchase this new tool sooner than they would have been able to otherwise. As of November 2014, each of Tri-State's 20 ambulances has been equipped with a Pedi-Mate system, which means that our region's pediatric patients will receive the best care. ♦

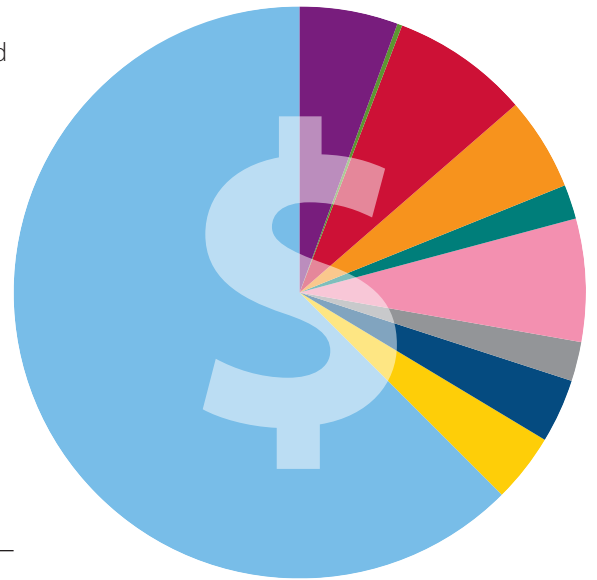
CMN HOSPITALS: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Your generous support allows Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®, a service of Gundersen Medical Foundation, to help thousands of local children and their families in so many ways. We are pleased to share this overview of the initiatives we were able to support in 2014.



IN 2014, **6,000 INDIVIDUALS** WERE HELPED BY CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK HOSPITALS®.

\$41,439	7 equipment needs were funded at Gundersen
\$1,055	general support and education grants were provided
\$56,828	215 families were helped with transportation
\$38,634	86 families were helped with respite care
\$13,600	46 families were other Health System patients
\$50,313	137 families received specific patient funding
\$15,689	53 families were helped with medical supplies
\$26,153	5,415 meal tickets were given to families
\$27,750	6 community programs benefitting children and their families were supported
\$451,796	16 Gundersen programs, including the Campus Renewal Campaign, received support
\$723,257	TOTAL BUDGET



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Together, we help children

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®, a service of Gundersen Medical Foundation, is dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children. We directly assist children and their families, and support pediatric programs and services that help kids battle diseases and injuries of every kind. In the Gundersen service area, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals has raised more than \$14.4 million since 1986. Each charitable donation—whether through special events, annual gifts, business partnerships, sponsorships or planned giving such as bequests—benefits children in this region and provides support for specialty medical care, research and preventive education.

To learn more about Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and the work we do, please visit us online at gundersenhealth.org/cmnhospitals.