PATHFINDERS

Spring 2016

A publication of Gundersen Medical Foundation

Where Generosity Changes Lives
How will you be remembered?

Make 2016 the year you plan your legacy

Design your legacy by completing or reviewing your will today. To make the process easier, we offer a step-by-step wills guide. Download a free copy at gundersengift.org or call (608) 775-9887 to request a guide be mailed to you.

Consider making Gundersen Medical Foundation part of your legacy. When you do, you help ensure that the personal and patient-centered healthcare we enjoy today continues into the future.

If you've named Gundersen Medical Foundation in your will, please let us know. By informing us of your intentions, we can make certain your gift is allocated the way you intend and you will receive deserved recognition as a member of our Legacy Society (anonymously if you prefer).

To learn more, contact Mandy Nogle at (608) 775-9887, alnogle@gundersenhealth.org or visit gundersengift.org.
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If you do not want to receive future fundraising requests supporting Gundersen Medical Foundation, please call the Foundation between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday (either the local number 608-775-6600, or toll-free number 800-362-9567, ext. 56600) and if you receive a voicemail message, please identify yourself and state that you do not want to receive fundraising requests. As an alternative, you can e-mail us with the same request at gmf@gundersenhealth.org. We will honor your request not to receive any fundraising communications from us after the date we receive your decision.

Pathfinders is published by Gundersen Medical Foundation for friends and supporters of the Foundation. We welcome comments or suggestions from our readers for future stories.

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To learn more about the Foundation’s medical education, research and community health outreach programs, or to inquire about making a charitable gift, please visit us at gundersenhealth.org or call the Foundation office at (608) 775-6600.

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GIVING TODAY, GROWING TOMORROW: THE EFFECT OF PHILANTHROPY

A single act in the present can have a significant impact on the future. This connection is especially powerful when it comes to philanthropy.

At Gundersen Medical Foundation, we know the charitable gifts we receive today have an incremental effect. Investments in medical education allow us to support initiatives that will lead to highly-trained healthcare professionals. Similarly, investing in medical research will increase opportunities for discoveries that will lead to better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease.

In this issue of Pathfinders, we recognize the many opportunities we have today to better shape tomorrow—and we recognize that the value of each gift cannot truly be measured.

On the cover: Gundersen Medical Foundation supports medical education by providing hands-on training opportunities for the next generation of healthcare professionals. In this photo, (L–R) Jared Linebarger, MD, instructs resident Jacob Schaeffer, MD, in surgical techniques.

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"THERE IS A NEED FOR WELL-TRAINED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS..."

~ Jerry Wulf, president, Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation Board of Directors

Together with local firefighter reservists, students enrolled in Gundersen Medical Foundation’s Wisconsin Area Rural Medicine (WARM) Program participate in a state-wide training drill, learning techniques to respond to emergency situations in rural environments. Support for training equipment was provided by the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation.
When organizations that are focused on community and dedicated to philanthropy come together, the outcome can be significant. That’s exactly the result of the decades-long relationship between the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation and Gundersen Medical Foundation. This partnership—built on a shared belief in the value of medical education—represents an example of the long-term impact of philanthropy.

**A FOUNDATION BUILT ON INNOVATION**

In 1903, Hans Andersen, a Danish immigrant, founded Andersen Lumber Company in Hudson, Wis. The company revolutionized the window construction business and relocated to South Stillwater, Minn. (now Bayport), eventually changing its name to Andersen Company. As it grew, the company was recognized as an industry leader in window and door manufacturing, and as a company that cared about its employees and their community.

Under the leadership of the founder’s son, Fred C. Andersen (1914–1960), the company was among the first in the industry to offer profit sharing, healthcare benefits, and paid vacation to its employees. In 1960, Fred and his wife, Katherine, formed the Andersen Foundation as a way to give back and invest in the geographical areas in which the company’s employees lived and worked. The Foundation later changed its name to the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation to reflect its status as a private foundation.

Today, the organization has a national focus, but locally, it supports initiatives in Minnesota and Wisconsin, primarily those that relate to higher education and health services.

**A RELATIONSHIP BUILT ON SHARED VALUES**

In 1983, two volunteers—one serving on the Board of Directors for Andersen Company and one serving on the Board of Directors for Gundersen Medical Foundation—discovered the organizations they represented shared common values and the desire to shape the future through philanthropy.

That year, Gundersen Medical Foundation submitted its first grant proposal. The proposal to fund a medical education study room was approved, and over the next several decades, the relationship grew. Since 1983, the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation has provided support of several initiatives related to medical education.

“We are proud to support Gundersen—a leader that makes an impact on the entire medical community,” says Jerry Wulf, president of the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation Board of Directors since 2003.

“There is a need for well-trained healthcare professionals, especially in rural areas, where people have to travel many miles to get care. We believe that everyone should have access to excellent healthcare,” he explains.

Over the past few decades, the organization has supported Gundersen Medical Foundation with several grants totaling more than $2.5 million, including a $1 million gift to the Campus Renewal Campaign in support of the new Hospital. This philanthropic support has made a significant impact on the training opportunities and skill development of future healthcare professionals.

In 2015, for example, a $150,000 grant helped fund the purchase of curriculum, resources, supplies and simulation equipment used to train residents and students from Gundersen’s General Surgery, Family Medicine, and the Wisconsin Area Rural Medicine (WARM) Program.

By demonstrating a commitment to community and a long-term vision of philanthropy, the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, along with Gundersen Medical Foundation, have established a meaningful relationship. This partnership will positively impact generations of medical residents and students—and, consequently, the patients and communities they will go on to serve—well into the future. ✯
Supporting the health and well-being of our community has been at the heart of Gundersen Medical Foundation’s mission for more than 70 years. During that time, contributions made by individuals, businesses, and organizations have ensured that Gundersen Health System remains at the forefront of patient care—in large part due to the Foundation’s continued investment in medical education and research.

While a general gift to the Foundation will be directed to the area of greatest need, donors may also designate gifts to a specific area of medical education or research. Here are just a few opportunities that donations may support:

**SUPPORTING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

Gifts for medical education programs at the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels have allowed Gundersen to become a national leader in training future generations of healthcare professionals. Gundersen has distinguished itself by creating a culture that supports learning, teaching and professionalism. We teach the importance of quality, patient-centered care and compassion.

**Endowments:** This $11 million campaign seeks to permanently fund the director of the Department of Medical Education and three principle directorships. Gifts to any of these funds will help ensure Gundersen can continue to provide top-notch training for generations to come:
- The Edwin L. Overholt, MD, Chair of Medical Education Fund
- The James Webster, MD, and Lucian Griffith, MD, Director of Transitional Year Residency Fund
- The Edward Winga, MD, Director of Internal Medicine Residency Fund
- The William Kisken, MD, and Thomas Cogbill, MD, Director of General Surgery Residency Fund

**Residencies and Fellowships:** In addition to endowments, several residencies and fellowships also rely on philanthropic support. As one of the nation’s premier regional academic health centers, Gundersen offers fully accredited residencies and fellowship programs in many areas of specialty, including Family Medicine, General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Optometry, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Pharmacy, Podiatric Medicine & Surgery, Sports Medicine/Physical Therapy, Transitional Year, Hematology-Medical Oncology, and Minimally Invasive Bariatric Surgery and Advanced Laparoscopy.

**Other Educational Programs/Endowments/Funds:**
- The Eric F. Brekke, MD, General Surgery Residency Global Health Fund supports general surgery residents in their pursuit of volunteering with national and international surgical teams.
- The Dan Vinge Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Endowment supports the opportunity for ministers to reflect on and develop their pastoral care theology and ministry.
- The Legacy of Nursing Scholarship program provides six scholarships that support Gundersen nurses who want to further their education.

**Why I Support Medical Education:**

“If it wasn’t for education, especially in medicine and science, we would not have the lifesaving practices that have enhanced our knowledge of healthcare. This knowledge has helped people live longer lives. I support medical education because I only had an 8th grade education. I wish I could have gone on through high school. My teacher once told me, ‘It’s not how much you learn, it’s how you use what you learn that’s important.’”

~ Kenneth (Kenny) Kammel, Coon Valley, Wis.
• The Cleary-Kumm Simulation and Training Lab is part of the Integrated Center for Education. The facility includes a mock operating room and a simulation lab to support surgical skills training.

SUPPORTING MEDICAL RESEARCH

Charitable giving in support of research helps ensure that those seeking care at Gundersen Health System have access to the most up-to-date advancements in medicine. Research leads to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease—the kind of advancements that can greatly enhance or even save lives.

General Research: Ongoing research is conducted in areas such as surgery, neurosciences and obstetrics/gynecology. General research also leads to a better understanding of conditions like heart disease, encephalitis and more.

Bench/Laboratory Research: Research initiatives in the areas of immunology, infectious disease/microbiology and oncology continue to grow. Professionals in these areas are conducting research that is driving treatment options for tick-borne illnesses, the herpes virus and cancer. There are two primary funds that support our growing breast cancer research initiatives: the Breast Cancer Research Fund and the Norman L. Gillette Jr. Breast Cancer Research Fellowship.

Clinical Research: Gundersen is currently conducting clinical trials in pediatric allergy/asthma, neurology, endocrinology, cardiology, vascular surgery, pulmonary, urology and rheumatology, which means that patients in our area have access to cutting-edge options for medication, treatment and medical devices.

Nursing Research: Philanthropy supports research that increases nursing expertise and promotes evidence-based research resulting in improved nursing satisfaction and quality patient care.

Summer Fellowship Endowments: The Foundation supports 12 endowed summer fellowships designed to encourage healthcare students to engage in research. Some fellowships support a particular specialty (such as nursing, cardiology or surgery); others are open to areas of scientific inquiry driven by staff special interest.

Why I Support Medical Research:

“In the last 11 months, members of my family have had their hearts broken with the deaths of my wife and a son-in-law, each of whom died from terminal cancer. These deaths, and those of a number of other friends and relatives who have succumbed to cancer in the last few years, convinced me that the only way to defeat this dreaded disease was through cancer research. I had the opportunity to tour Gundersen’s cancer research lab and visit with Dr. Paraic A. Kenny to hear of their progress in finding a cure. This visit and further investigation inspired me to focus my charitable giving on supporting cancer research at Gundersen Medical Foundation.”

~ Eric Bartleson, PhD, Winona, Minn.

LEAVING A LEGACY

Supporting the mission of Gundersen Medical Foundation can create a lasting legacy. The Foundation’s Planned Giving Team can provide more information about gift options that may offer tax and income benefits. Visit us online at gundersengift.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact us to find out more about:
• current research and education initiatives
• funds that match your areas of interest
• options for estate planning and other ways to give

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When it comes to choosing a career in the United States today, young girls generally have the same freedom of choice as young boys. But that wasn’t always the case. In every male-dominated profession, there were women who broke open the doors of opportunity, fought against the confines of gender stereotypes, and created a path for future generations.

In the fields of medicine and surgery in Wisconsin, Susan F. Behrens, MD, FACS, is one of those trailblazers. Susan and her husband, David Look, enjoyed reunions last summer at both UW-Madison Medical School and Gundersen Health System where Susan graduated from the Foundation’s General Surgery Residency Program. Recently, Susan and her husband, David Look, contacted Gundersen Medical Foundation to establish an endowment to help train general surgical residents; thus, the Susan Behrens, MD, FACS, Surgical Skills Directorship was established. This endowment will not only recognize the high-quality training Behrens received herself but will also make a positive impact on many generations of surgeons.

**Following a dream**

In junior high in the 1960s, Susan Behrens completed a science project that got her thinking about a career in medicine. At the time, though, medicine was considered a man’s profession. In college, she did explore other subjects, but an aptitude for science and a growing desire to help others caused her to return again and again to the idea of being a physician. With the support of her parents, Susan began her journey determined to succeed—but aware that she might face some challenges.

“I grew up knowing that my grandmothers could not vote when they turned 21 because the Constitution had not yet been amended to allow women to vote. My mother told me that Grandma always voted because she knew what it was like to not be able to. It makes me appreciate the fact that I did not have to fight to be able to vote. In the same way, the freedom of choice in the various fields of medicine and surgery is something that my generation could not take for granted as women can today. The women studying medicine in the 1960s and 1970s (and before) had to do the best job they could in their chosen specialty in order to open the door for those women who would follow us,” remembers Susan.

**Making a career, making history**

In 1975, Susan completed medical school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At that time, women were not admitted into the University’s General Surgery Residency Program; however, Susan had enjoyed the rotations she’d done at Gundersen Health System (then Lutheran Hospital and Gundersen Clinic), as a medical student, so the surgery residency program at Gundersen was her first choice. Susan became the first woman to be accepted into the General Surgery Residency Program in La Crosse and spent the next four years there honing her skills.

“My training at Gundersen had a huge impact on my life and career in so many ways,” says Susan. “First, I had excellent instruction from all the physicians I worked with, and I knew when I selected Gundersen that I would have the opportunity for hands-on training (which was not always the case with other programs at the time). Also, the surgeons taught me the importance of communicating well with both patients and other medical personnel. By example, they showed me how to talk with patients and their families, explaining their care in a personal way and in language they could understand.”

Upon graduation from the program at Gundersen, Susan became the first woman in Wisconsin to complete a general surgery residency.
After finishing her residency in 1979, Susan went on to complete a colorectal surgical fellowship at Ferguson Clinic in Grand Rapids, Mich. She was only the fourth woman nationally to become board certified in both general surgery and colorectal surgery. When it came time to begin her practice, she moved back to southern Wisconsin where she had grown up.

For more than two decades, Susan F. Behrens, MD, FACS, had a successful practice as part of the Beloit Health System in Beloit, Wis.—and by taking on leadership roles in various state and national organizations, she continued breaking down barriers and paving the way for other women in medicine. (See “A career marked by firsts” sidebar on page 8.)

Susan recently retired early due to a back condition that prevented her from continuing to perform surgery; however, she is an active volunteer for organizations such as First Congregational Church, Badgerland Council of Girl Scouts, the Beloit Janesville Symphony and Eastern Star. Susan is also a member of the P.E.O. sisterhood, a Philanthropic Education Organization that focuses on women’s education. She strives to impact future generations of women in many fields through philanthropy.

**Impacting future surgeons**

In 2013, Susan and her husband, David Look, decided to review their wills and make some decisions about their estate. Together, the two decided to focus their charitable giving on education.

First, the couple contacted David’s alma mater, the University of Oregon, where he had earned both an undergraduate degree in marine biology and an MBA. Then they contacted Gundersen Medical Foundation and, later, the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Susan’s behalf.

Through a bequest in their will, Susan and David worked with Gundersen Medical Foundation to establish the Susan Behrens, MD, FACS, Surgical Skills Directorship. This endowment will provide salary support for a Skills Lab Director who will be in charge of developing a skills lab curriculum, incorporating evaluation strategies, and overseeing the development of residents throughout their training.

Ben Jarman, MD, program director of the General Surgery Residency Program, who wrote the proposal for this position, emphasizes the difference Susan and David’s gift will make. “This endowment will have a positive impact on the future recruitment of medical students to the General Surgery Residency Program at Gundersen and be an integral part of their development,” he explains.

Establishing this fund has been meaningful for Susan, who has wanted to recognize the impact Gundersen had on her development as a physician. “I wanted to show my appreciation for the high-quality training I received during my residency,” shares Susan. “It is such a privilege to be able to support this important position. The person we sponsor with this endowment will have great influence on the surgery residents who Gundersen educates for many years to come. It is wonderful to be able to have a small part in the making of future surgeons!”

**Recognizing progress**

In addition to recognizing the impact Gundersen had on her career, Susan and David also chose to support the
A CAREER MARKED BY ‘FIRSTS’

As part of her distinguished career, Susan Behrens, MD, FACS, continuously made history by breaking through gender barriers and attaining leadership positions (within the medical profession) that had previously been held only by males.

Though she was interested in such positions because she realized that volunteering her time and energy would be of service to her profession, Susan was also aware that taking on a leadership role could be risky. “As the first woman [in any professional role], I had to consistently prove myself,” remembers Susan. “I knew if I didn’t do well, I could ruin opportunities for others, so I tried to make sure that didn’t happen.”

1979

Became the first woman in Wisconsin to complete a surgical residency.

1980

Became the first woman practicing surgery in Wisconsin.

1982

Appointed to the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board.

1983

Traveled with “People to People” to China as part of a surgical delegation. The delegation met with surgical societies in six cities, met with and exchanged ideas and knowledge with Chinese physicians, and learned about both traditional Chinese practices and modern “Westernized” practices.

1984

Became the first woman to serve as the Chair of the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board.

1984

Became the first woman physician to serve on a committee in the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, giving her the opportunity to impact medical licensure on the national level.

1986

Appointed to one of the committees that writes portions of the exam that must be passed by all United States medical school graduates before they can practice medicine. She was appointed to several more test committees after that.

1989

Elected (the first woman) National President of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States. In that capacity, she was called upon to speak at national and international conferences on medical licensure.

University of Wisconsin Foundation by becoming members of the Middleton Society.

With support from a matching fund in 2014, the couple decided to sponsor a professorship so that they could witness during their lifetime the impact their gift would make.

After speaking with several surgery professors about their work, Susan and David chose to sponsor Dr. Carla Pugh who, along with her medical degree, has a PhD in education. “It means a lot to be able to support a woman surgeon who is using her talents, ingenuity and leadership to bring surgical training into the 21st century,” shares Susan. “I guess we feel like doting family members who can enjoy knowing that we have a small part in sponsoring her important work.”

For Susan, sponsoring a woman surgeon is a part of what makes this gift so meaningful: “Now women are not only welcomed into the UW surgical residency training program, but they are also respected professors there. What a wonderful change—and I got to see it in my lifetime!”

Just as she remembers the women of her grandmothers’ generation who had to fight for the right to vote, Susan hopes the generations of surgeons who are impacted by her philanthropic endeavors will remember those who had to fight to open doors in education: “Today, when I talk with medical students, residents, and practicing surgeons, it is difficult for some to realize or comprehend that surgery was not always a career open to women. We all need to treasure this change in our culture.”
In 2015, Gundersen Medical Foundation welcomed Ann C. Falkenberg Olson, PhD, RN; Paraic A. Kenny, PhD; and Sunny Guin, PhD, to its dedicated team of 64 full-time research scientists and several doctors who contribute to research on a part-time basis. Recently, a combination of support from the Norman L. Gillette Jr. Cancer Research Fellowship Endowment and funds from Steppin’ Out in Pink allowed the Foundation to support a new position: the Norman L. Gillette Jr. Cancer Fellow.

The Foundation is pleased to welcome Kristopher Lofgren, PhD, to the team of lab-based breast cancer researchers. “Dr. Lofgren will bring many years of mammary gland biology and breast cancer research experience to this four-year fellowship position,” says Vicki McHugh, the Foundation’s director of research operations. “His prior work has implicated the GRB7 gene in breast cancer aggressiveness, and his research here will help identify novel approaches for treating these tumors.”

**Meet the Norman L. Gillette Jr. Cancer Fellow:**

**Q: Why did you accept this position at Gundersen Medical Foundation?**

The eagerness to support cutting-edge cancer research was the primary reason. There are excellent resources and infrastructure available at Gundersen for basic and clinical research, which should make it easy to develop collaborative translational research that could have a more immediate impact on patient care.

**Q: What excites you most about your position?**

I’m looking forward to pursuing my personal research goals while contributing to the overall goal of the Oncology Research Laboratory program. I am thrilled to be able to work with the Foundation’s BioBank—and it feels especially wonderful to be in a setting with such a strong and genuine interest in supporting cancer research.

**Q: What about this community makes it a place in which you’d like to live and work?**

My wife, Rebecca, and I have lived in Boston and New York City for the past five years, and we wanted to move closer to family (in southeastern Minnesota and central Iowa) and return to a region with abundant natural resources. We were tired of concrete! Plus, I had been away long enough that I honestly started to miss the “real” Midwestern winters that I grew up with.

**Q: What motivates you professionally?**

I strive to be the best scientist that I can be to make sure patients can benefit from my research, now.
A LEGACY OF GIVING

In my role at Gundersen Medical Foundation, I have been fortunate to witness the power of philanthropy. Each and every day I am inspired by the people I meet and the stories they share about why they have chosen to partner with the Foundation to make a greater impact.

Recently, I was especially moved by the story of Angeline Repinski of Winona, Minn. According to her family, Angie was known as a “fixer.” Whether she was tearing apart her father’s car at age 15 to identify a noise, serving the Sisters of St. Francis in Rochester, Minn. as “Sr. Zita,” or caring for her aging family members, Angie spent a good part of her life tending to those around her. She seemed to recognize the impact we as humans could have on each other, and she made putting others first a priority.

In 2007, Angie was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer and sought treatment at Gundersen Health System. During her treatment, Angie developed a special relationship with the doctors and nurses at Gundersen who helped her battle the disease for the next seven years. She also became involved in Steppin’ Out in Pink and was deeply affected by interacting with other breast cancer survivors.

When Angie passed away in 2015, her sister, Mary Paszkiewicz-Thoen, shared with me that Angie’s most important wish was to make a gift through her estate to Gundersen Medical Foundation in support of breast cancer research. Having dealt with breast cancer for so many years, Angie was adamant about helping others—even beyond her own lifetime.

Angie’s story is inspiring in so many ways. Her gift was impactful because it was given with purpose and passion—and because it came from the heart. For Angie, knowing that she could help future generations of women battling breast cancer, and possibly help those sufferers beat the disease, was empowering. In the end, Angie’s gift made a difference in her own life and on the lives of others. That is the true power of philanthropy.

Q: What quote best sums up your life’s philosophy?
Louis Pasteur’s famous “Dans les champs de l’observation le hasard ne favorise que les esprits préparés.” Or, less eloquently, “Chance favors the prepared mind.”

Professionally, I take it to mean “learn as much as you can because you never know what you’ll need to draw upon in the future.” Personally, it helps remind me that decision making isn’t nearly as difficult if you have a goal in mind and are ready to take a chance on opportunities that you haven’t necessarily thought of.

Q: How do you enjoy time spent outside of work?
I love playing hockey, cycling of any kind (mountain, road, cyclocross), hiking and canoeing. I’m recovering from a significant surgery, so I’ll temporarily focus more on photography, home brewing beer and fishing.

Q: What matters to you the most in life?
Simply enjoying the time I’ve got on this planet while surrounded by a happy and healthy family.

Q: Do you have a guilty pleasure?
“The Walking Dead” on AMC. I love a zombie show that’s not really about the zombies.

Gundersen Medical Foundation | gundersenhealth.org/glmf
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For decades, Tom Brock, who joined Altra Federal Credit Union as its executive vice president of administration in 2003, has illustrated a dedication to the greater La Crosse community through involvement in organizations like the United Way, La Crosse Community Theater and Rotary. In 2012, his passion for community-centered organizations led Tom to join Gundersen Medical Foundation’s Board of Directors.

Tom and his wife, Jan, moved to La Crosse in 1974 when Tom took a position at Trane Company where he worked for 29 years. As they raised two daughters, the couple relied on Gundersen Health System to meet the family’s medical needs. Since 1980, Tom has undergone several surgeries to successfully address an ongoing neck issue and always found the care he received to be both “first-rate” and “personal.”

“I am a fan of Gundersen because the organization does more than focus on doing things right—it also focuses on doing the right things,” shares Tom, emphasizing the dedication to state-of-the-art facilities, patient privacy, personalized care, and environmentally-friendly practices.

Tom is proud to serve on the Foundation’s Board of Directors because he believes the organization uses a global perspective to make a local impact. “Along with supporting Gundersen Health System, the Foundation supports research, medical education and outreach initiatives,” says Tom. “Our community is positively impacted on so many levels.”

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Commemorative and Memorial Gifts

EXPRESSIONS OF CARING

Gundersen Medical Foundation thanks our many friends for their generous gifts.

October 1, 2015, through February 29, 2016
Our memorial and honorarium listing includes gifts made to Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals®. Gifts made after February 29, 2016, will appear in the next issue of Pathfinders.

A gift that lasts—a lasting tribute
A gift to Gundersen Medical Foundation, in the name of the person or persons you wish to honor, provides both the donor and the recognized—or bereaved family—the satisfaction of having made a lasting contribution to others.

Your gift will touch their hearts
In response to your gift, we send a note of acknowledgment to the honored individual or, in the case of a memorial, to the family. You will be notified that your gift has been received and dedicated according to your wishes. The names of those recognized by tribute are published in this publication, Pathfinders. Specific amounts are confidential and are not published.

GUNDERSENHEALTH.ORG/FOUNDATION
Commemorative Gifts

Charitable gifts to Gundersen Medical Foundation are a thoughtful way to celebrate a specific individual on special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries, or holidays.

Our donors also find this method of giving is a meaningful way to express appreciation to Gundersen care providers or entire departments for exceptional care received.

In Honor of…

Bradley P. Abicht, DPM
Mr. & Mrs. Jerold H. Leis

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This year, Gundersen Health System proudly celebrates 30 years as a CMN Hospital—and thanks to ongoing community support, we have even greater aspirations for the future.

Drs. Tom and Jean Thompson, owners of Thompson Animal Medical Center, have been passionate about CMN Hospitals since the beginning. After losing their two children (in 1984 and 1986 respectively), getting involved with CMN Hospitals helped the couple heal. They’ve stayed so involved because they can see the impact. In addition to supporting CMN Hospitals and serving on its Steering Committee for the past 30 years, Tom has served on Gundersen Medical Foundation’s Board of Directors since 2010.

“Regardless of the disability or diagnosis, regardless of where mom and dad may take their child for care, CMN Hospitals is ready to help—and this makes me feel great,” explains Tom. “I also believe that this is the reason that there has been such extraordinary support from the community. By caring for the individual and their families, we enhance the health and well-being of our communities while enriching every life we touch.”

Since 1987, CMN Hospitals has granted $14,619,622 to Gundersen Health System and the Tri-State Community. Each year, thousands of children and hundreds of families receive assistance—and, as community support has grown, so has the capacity to help.

“Thirty years ago, the annual cap on allocations was $250 per family; today, it’s $3,000 per family,” shares David Amborn, the Foundation’s senior director (and former CMN Hospitals coordinator). “That kind of support really impacts lives.”

Thanks to wide-spread community support, CMN Hospitals has accomplished so much in the past 30 years—and we plan to continue changing lives for decades more to come.

Another reason to celebrate

To celebrate 30 years of Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals at Gundersen Health System, we are honoring a couple who continues to demonstrate their love of kids.

For years, Ed and Sally Sullivan (and friends) have supported fundraisers for CMN Hospitals. From the Old Timers Tournaments, to Freighthouse Nights, to a LIVE Broadcast on Charter (that raised over $1.6 million), to establishing memorial gifts, the Sullivans have been passionate advocates.

In recognition of their outstanding support—and in reflection of their love of music and learning—CMN Hospitals has established the Ed and Sally Sullivan Scholarship. The fund will provide services such as music therapy, reading/educational therapy, and camp experiences to children depending on their diagnosis.

We invite you to help us celebrate this 30-year anniversary—and to continue offering hope and healing to kids in need—by making a gift to the Ed and Sally Sullivan Scholarship Fund.

To find out more, visit us at gundersenhealth.org/ed-and-sally.
Hero cards

100% of sales benefit Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals®

Includes:
• 10 blank notecards designed by 2015–2016 CMN Hospitals Heroes
• 10 Envelopes
• 10 Stickers

Empire Screen Printing generously donates time and materials to allow 100% of card sales to help fund miracles for local kids served by CMN Hospitals.

Visit gundersenhealth.org/cmnhospitals now to order your cards online!
David Amborn and his longtime partner, Karen Gilster, have been involved with Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals® since the program was still in its infancy. Now, as Gundersen celebrates 30 years as a CMN Hospital, it seems only fitting that the pair was honored as King and Queen of the recent 8th Annual Emerald Ball.

Retiring this June after 28 years at Gundersen Health System, David joined the organization just two years after Gundersen became a CMN Hospital. “After I was hired, I had just 100 days to put together my first telethon—a 21-hour broadcast from Valley View Mall. It was a daunting task, but everyone rallied around to help me…we managed to raise $97,000 that first year,” David recalls with pride.

In 1992, David transitioned to Gundersen Medical Foundation where he would spend the next 24 years serving as a leader, mentor, cheerleader and fundraiser. Though he moved away from the day-to-day operations of CMN Hospitals, David remained active as the chair of its Steering Committee, a position he still holds today.

“I’m excited to be here to celebrate 30 years and to see us hit annual fundraising of about $1 million,” David explains. “I’m also proud that we help families throughout our 24-county service area. While the national policy is that all money raised locally stays local, we added ‘regardless of where the patient gets his or her care.’ It feels good and it feels right to help all kids in our area.”

Congratulations to David and Karen, dedicated supporters who have seen firsthand the miracles CMN Hospitals can make.
Buckets of support

Since 1984, Scholze Ace Home Center in Black River Falls, Wis., has been the community’s go-to source for building supplies. At this business, employees go above and beyond for their customers and make a difference in the community through support for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals®.

“We know that CMN helps children and their families in so many ways,” says Maria Pillard, human resource & marketing manager. “We feel good knowing that we can make a difference in the lives of children and families who are struggling.”

The business conducts a variety of fundraisers each year to support CMN Hospitals. Canisters are set out for donations of spare change, and on Memorial Day, the store hosts a “Breakfast in the Garden” event. The store also participates in the bucket sale and icon campaigns that take place throughout the year.

One project from 2013 was especially meaningful. “Our team loved sponsoring CMN Hero, KayCee Sanders, who suffered from a type of cancer called osteosarcoma,” remembers Maria. The business hosted a variety of fundraisers and also teamed up with CMN Hospitals to help the Sanders family build a ramp at their home so KayCee could come and go more easily.

CMN Hospitals would like to thank the team from Scholze Ace Home Center for their ongoing support.

2015 highlights

Your gifts allow Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® to help local families and children facing medical crises to reach their fullest potential.

In 2015, we assisted 5,170 individuals and hundreds of families from the Tri-state Region:

- 127 families received patient-specific funding totaling $46,138
- 31 families were helped with respite care funding of $14,525
- 60 families were helped with $26,666 in medical supplies
- 172 families were helped with $48,485 for transportation
- 4,781 meal tickets ($23,478) were provided to families with children hospitalized at Gundersen

We also supported Gundersen Health System with funding of $670,598 for new equipment, programming, education and research.

Together, we make a difference!
A LEADER IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

In recognition of its outstanding medical education programs, Gundersen Medical Foundation was recently recognized with the inaugural DeWitt C. Baldwin Jr. award from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

Greg Thompson, MD, who traveled to Washington D.C. in February with representatives from the Foundation to accept the award, believes that it speaks to the organization’s comprehensive dedication to education. “Receiving this award is a reflection of the legacy of those who have come before us, a reflection of the culture we create each day, and motivation for us to do greater things tomorrow,” says Thompson.

Of the 650 institutions throughout the nation that provide medical education programming recognized by the ACGME, 60 were invited to submit applications, and three were chosen as winners. The selection process included a site visit by ACGME representatives who observed medical education program leaders, faculty and residents.

What stood out to observers was Gundersen’s humanistic culture—one that emphasizes and models respect, integrity, compassion and excellence towards residents, staff and patients.

Residents not only receive a well-rounded educational experience that emphasizes the organization’s mission, vision and values, but they are also impacted by exposure to specific Gundersen programs. Residents participate in Respecting Choices, a nationally recognized program that has set the standard for discussing end-of-life care with patients. They also learn about other cultures, including disparities in healthcare, through Global Partners and St. Clare Health Mission.

“This distinguished recognition reflects Gundersen’s deep running culture of integrity, respect and care,” believes Dr. Sigurd B. Gundersen III, the Foundation’s chair. “Simply put, we treat everyone—patients, families and each other—as if they were our own family.”

To see a full listing of news and events, visit us online at gundersenhealth.org/foundation/news-events
A SMALL TOOL MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

The World Health Organization has released several studies that confirm what healthcare professionals see every day: taking the prescribed amount of medication—at the right time and in the right amount—can be crucial to a patient’s recovery. Unfortunately, the process of following prescriptions is not easy for all patients.

That is why Gundersen Medical Foundation recently provided a grant to fund the purchase of 1,400 medical pill boxes to be used by several departments throughout Gundersen Health System. Pill boxes can be distributed to patients to help them, as well as their family members or caregivers, more easily organize and track medications.

“Providing pill boxes to patients who need them is truly critical in providing excellent care and preventing serious medical complications and/or readmissions,” shares Joan Brueggerman, RN. “These tools may even save lives!”

Brueggerman goes on to explain that keeping track of medications can be challenging for any patient, but those who are seriously ill, elderly or have trouble remembering can be especially vulnerable. When it comes to caring for patients, she believes, offering a small tool can make a big impact.

Providing support to help patients manage their healthcare needs is one more way that Gundersen Medical Foundation is able to achieve its mission of impacting lives.

SUPPORTING CARE WITH COMPASSION

Enhancing the lives of patients is central to Gundersen Medical Foundation’s mission. That is why providing financial support for Gundersen Health System’s “clothing kit” program makes so much sense.

During some health crises, a patient’s clothing may become damaged or ruined (depending on the nature of the injury or condition). In some cases, patients who have been treated and are ready to be discharged do not have access to replacement clothing, which is why Gundersen’s “clothing kits” (featuring a shirt, pants and socks) are so important.

Gundersen’s Service Excellence department began the “clothing kit” program in 2007 with the distribution of about 200 articles of clothing. However, need has increased. In each of the past two years, more than 1,000 articles of clothing were distributed, which is why the $3,500 grant from the Foundation will make such a difference.

“We want to show our patients that we care about their medical needs, but we also care about them on a personal level,” says Julie Schroeder, patient relations specialist. “Continuing this program allows us to tend to our patients’ physical and emotional health.”
IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER MADE PERMANENT

The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015 made tax-free distributions from IRA accounts to qualified charitable organizations permanent for eligible individuals.

If you are 70½ or older, the IRS requires you to withdraw a certain amount from your IRA each year. You pay income tax on every distribution, so the taxes can be an undesirable annual burden. However, you can now convert a burden to a benefit by reducing your taxes and increasing your impact.

The IRA charitable rollover allows you to transfer up to $100,000 from your IRA directly to a nonprofit like Gundersen Medical Foundation. You pay no taxes on the transfer, and your gift supports important work.

Make an IRA Rollover gift today! Or, if you have questions about how an IRA rollover gift can benefit you and Gundersen Medical Foundation, contact Mandy Nogle at (608) 775-9887 or alnogle@gundersenhealth.org.

We gratefully recognize the support which enables Gundersen Medical Foundation to do more, be more and accomplish more. Beginning May 2, view our 2015 Annual Report online to see a sampling of Foundation accomplishments and activities.
Our Mission
We improve the lives of patients and our larger community through medical education, research, outreach and the philanthropic support of Gundersen Health System.

125 years ago Adolf Gundersen, MD, established his medical practice which was the foundation for today’s Gundersen Health System. We are celebrating Dr. Gundersen’s legacy and invite you to be part of it, too, with a gift to the Foundation that bears his name.

Your support enables Gundersen Medical Foundation to change lives through medical education, research, outreach and the philanthropic support of Gundersen Health System. Be part of the legacy. Visit gundersenhealth.org/foundation or call (608) 775-6600.