

# THE *Miracle* CONNECTION



## MEET OUR 2014–2015 HEROES

Thanks to your gifts, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® is able to help thousands of children each year, like our Heroes.

Teaming up with sponsors in the community, our Heroes are leading the way to raise awareness—and money—for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Their miracle stories can be found by visiting [gundersenhealth.org/cmnhospitals](http://gundersenhealth.org/cmnhospitals). ♦



**Caitlyn Gruenwald**

Age 4, Altoona, Wis.

Miracle Sponsors: *Wipfli LLP, Chippewa Valley Chapter of Credit Unions*



**Zoey Lollar**

Age 3, La Crosse, Wis.

Miracle Sponsors: *PM Sleep Center, Degen Berglund*



**Tanner Winjum**

Age 8, Caledonia, Minn.

Miracle Sponsors: *Caledonia Haulers, Sno Pac Foods*



**Sebastian Bishop**

Age 14, Onalaska, Wis.

Miracle Sponsors: *Altra Federal Credit Union, Sigma Alpha Epsilon*



**Alysta King**

Age 11, Rushford, Minn.

Miracle Sponsors: *Family Dog Center & The Dawg Haus, Miss America Organization*



*Charitable gifts to CMN Hospitals make Gundersen's NICU among the nation's leaders in healthy outcomes for babies born early, like Hope Dobson of Soldiers Grove.*



## HEALTHIER, HAPPIER OUTCOMES—BECAUSE OF YOU

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, Gundersen's Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) provides medical care for infants who are born premature or severely ill. These tiny patients are served by a skilled team of multidisciplinary pediatric specialists, including neonatologists, cardiologists, neurologists, surgeons, ophthalmologists and many others.

Teamwork and sophisticated technology allows Gundersen's NICU to be among leaders in the nation in healthy outcomes for babies born early. Hope Dobson of Soldiers Grove, Wis. is a shining example. Born just over halfway through her mother's pregnancy, Hope entered the world on Jan. 27, 2014, weighing a mere 1 lb. 6 oz. and measuring 12.2 inches.

Nationally, less than half of babies who are born this early and small will survive. "We thought we were going to lose her a few times," admits Hope's mother Cheyenne. But under the care of Gundersen's NICU team, Hope defied the odds.

They were helped by Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®, which provides funding for much of the life-saving equipment in the NICU. Ventilators, specialized incubators and air transport isolettes are all made possible thanks to CMN Hospitals' supporters. Each generous gift helps provide the best technology available.

"Many people at Gundersen and throughout our community share in Hope's success and deserve a big thank you," says Kate Richmond, MD, NICU. "We take wonderful care of these babies. Private rooms in our Legacy Building are helping us take care of these babies even better."

Previously, in the old ward-style NICU, it wasn't possible for parents to be by their baby's side at all times. The new private rooms allow parents to be next to their newborns 24/7 and play a significant role in monitoring vital signs, recognizing color changes and taking part in feedings.

For Hope, receiving specialized care did not end when she went home from the NICU. She is now seen regularly in Gundersen's NICU Follow-Up Clinic. David Gerhard, MD, director of the Clinic and Hope's pediatrician, explains "We see children at regular intervals during their first four years of life to screen for developmental or growth-related issues associated with their prematurity. Our team has all of the needed pediatric experts to diagnose and treat problems early if they do arise."

As a Children's Miracle Network Hospital, Gundersen is committed to delivering the specialty care that helps babies like Hope meet their full potential. Generous donors make those miracles happen. ♦



*Preventing countless tears, the new scanner captures the exact shape of an infant's head in one minute or less.*

## AN EXCITING NEW TOOL—THANKS TO YOU

As a Children's Miracle Network Hospital, Gundersen Health System is dedicated to providing the very best in pediatric care. Thanks to your generous support, our pediatric services got a big boost this year from a small tool that benefits young patients in our Orthotics department.

The Omega Scanner 3D is a handheld device that quickly and accurately captures digital 3D images of body parts—without using plaster. It eliminates a process that used to be traumatic for both parents and babies being fitted for cranial molding helmets, which required the application of wet plaster to an infant's head and holding them still for 30 minutes while it set.

Cranial helmets are typically used to treat a flattening of the head known as positional plagiocephaly, which results from positioning in the womb, during delivery or sleeping posture. Helmets are also used for other conditions, including infant torticollis, which is caused by awkward

womb position or neck muscles affected during birth. Each helmet is custom designed with an open top and an adjustable band to gently correct the shape of a baby's growing skull.

Since the arrival of the new scanner, purchased by Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, the exact shape of an infant's head can be quickly captured in one minute or less, saving countless tears. In just five minutes, the laser images are ready to be sent to the helmet fabricator, whereas plaster molds had to be dried overnight and then shipped.

Another advantage of the new scanner is the ability to track progress more effectively. Instead of relying on periodic photographs, the scanner allows images to be captured regularly and compared throughout treatment.

Lightweight, portable and versatile, the new scanner is a welcome tool for providing greater comfort and convenience to patients. ♦

Olivia Vogler, CMN Hospitals Wisconsin State Champion, crosses home plate during FCU's Loggers Night benefit.

## PARTNER FOCUS: FIREFIGHTERS CREDIT UNION

"It's a privilege and an honor for us to participate and give to such a worthwhile organization," says Bruce Zmolek, president of Firefighters Credit Union (FCU) and passionate supporter of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals®.

In 2014, FCU raised over \$15,000 with their annual "Loggers Night" event to benefit CMN Hospitals—nearly five times more than in 2013. We asked Bruce for his insight into that remarkable achievement.

- **Raise the bar.** "After getting to know these families and meet these kids, we asked ourselves how we could do more," says Bruce. "Once we saw all the good this organization does, we took it to another level. You can do whatever you want to do; it just depends on how hard you want to work at it."
- **Embrace the right cause.** "You get more enthusiasm when you know your efforts count," Bruce notes. "With CMN Hospitals, I know that every dollar is put to good use and not a cent is wasted. You can't really be sure of that with every charity."



- **It's more than you think.** "These families are served up something that those of us who have never had a sick child can't really comprehend," says Bruce. "Your whole life is in disarray—in addition to the worry for your child, there can be financial troubles or time off from work. CMN Hospitals makes a stressful time less miserable."
- **Giving is contagious.** "Anything you can do for these families, they appreciate," explains Bruce. "In turn, once their situation is better or resolved, they pay it forward to help others. So when you give to CMN Hospitals, it's almost a catalyst that motivates more people to give in the future."

We are grateful to Firefighters Credit Union and all our CMN Hospitals partners throughout the region. Because of you, miracles happen. ♦



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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](http://gundersenhealth.org/cmnhospitals).**