

Bridges

A Rich Past, A Promising Future



A Newsletter for Friends of St. Joseph's Hospital

A Message from Joan Coffman
Chief Operating Officer

Dear Friends:

Since my arrival at St. Joseph's Hospital I have had the great privilege of being introduced to the people of the Chippewa Falls community. I have found a spirit here that is warm, caring and extremely hospitable. My husband Steve and I have been welcomed with open arms, making our transition easy and comfortable.

My deep appreciation for this support extends to the Friends of St. Joseph's Hospital and its Board of Directors. Donors and volunteers serving this hospital bring tremendous experience, great passion and a spirit of generosity that eludes all logic.

A unique entity, the Friends Board goes "above and beyond" to provide hospital leadership with the kind of insights and knowledge needed to secure substantial financial support. Their commitment over the years has enabled us to reach our charitable goals: building endowment, enhancing special events, and reaching (in just six short months) our goal for The Right Response Community Appeal.

The future success of our fundraising endeavors will continue under the guidance of our volunteers. With their expert direction, The Board of Directors of the Friends of St. Joseph's Hospital and their affiliate committees will continue to seek the kind of support that allows our hospital to deliver outstanding patient care to everyone in our community.

With Warm Regards,

Joan M. Coffman
COO, St. Joseph's Hospital



A Message from Skip Gjolberg, Division Manager
Clinical Support Services

Dear Supporters:

The Emergency Services Area expansion and renovation project is progressing nicely with bi-weekly meetings occurring between the architectural firm of Berners-Schober Associates (BSA) and St. Joseph's Hospital. In the fall, meetings focused on the physical layouts of the Emergency Services Area and Radiology. Each area has been reconfigured to allow for efficiency, patient care and patient/colleague convenience. In December, detailed inventory sheets were prepared for each room and all plumbing and electrical needs determined. In January, when detailed construction plans are complete, they will be sent to the State of Wisconsin for preliminary review.

The original timeline for design completion is off by a couple weeks but the architects believe this can be recouped in the next phase of the design process. We are moving rapidly now to remain on schedule for ground-breaking in the summer 2009.

I want to personally thank the Friends of St. Joseph's Hospital for their efforts in helping us make this expansion possible. The success of The Right Response Community Appeal is never far from our minds and even though you are not present physically, your hard work and support are behind every decision we make. Thank you for your generosity and commitment.

Sincerely,

Skip Gjolberg
Division Manager, St. Joseph's Hospital



Hurray for Hearing!

This past summer the Friends of St. Joseph's Hospital received an urgent request from the Birth Center for financial support of a Hearing Screening Machine for Newborns. Their current machine had malfunctioned and was beyond repair. Without a new screening machine, the Birth Center would not be able to provide a service that offers peace of mind to new parents and eliminates an additional trip to the doctor.

Screening for Newborn hearing has become the standard of care for babies born in hospitals in the state of Wisconsin. Last fiscal year 504 babies were born at St. Joseph's Hospital. Before the screening machine malfunctioned all babies were screened for hearing abnormalities. According to Monica Morris, RN and Birth Center Service Coordinator, "Hearing loss is the most common birth defect in our state. Early detection and intervention dramatically improves language skills, cognitive abilities and social development." Studies show when hearing loss is identified prior to six months of age and intervention services are administered immediately, children who are deaf or hard of hearing have the potential to develop communication and learning skills similar to their hearing peers.



Monica Morris, RN
Birth Center Coordinator



ALGO 5
Newborn Hearing Screener

Special thanks to the Friends of St. Joseph's Hospital and our faithful donors for making this purchase possible. The new machine, costing close to \$20,000, is a mobile, non-invasive instrument that uses the latest technology to screen hearing loss. As Monica Morris says, "Each baby born will have their hearing tested prior to discharge, providing each family with a timely diagnosis and if necessary, effective referrals."

Dinner with Friends

On October 2, 2008 the Board of Directors of the Friends of St. Joseph's Hospital hosted dinner at Agnes' Table in Chippewa Falls. Dr. Deb Bieging, Friends board member, headed the mighty effort. "I was very comfortable leading this group because I knew they would work hard and enjoy the experience." Kudos also go to Jeff Darley, fellow board member, for coming up with the idea. "Jeff felt this was a great opportunity to give back to the community while representing St. Joseph's Hospital," adds Dr. Bieging. Guests present that night complimented Board members and St. Joseph's Hospital for their commitment to this community AND for preparing a delicious meal. The menu included baked chicken, coleslaw, mixed vegetables, steamed rice and chocolate cake. The meal was met with rave reviews as evidenced by the lack of leftovers!



Dr. Deb Bieging and Bonnie Johnson,
Site Coordinator

The Friends Board of Directors is looking forward to volunteering again at Agnes' Table.

IRAs and Endowments: Looking Ahead

Anyone with foresight will plan for the future – especially when it comes to retirement funds. People know that Social Security income doesn't provide enough to care for day-to-day needs. Supplemental funds will be needed to make ends meet.

Nonprofit organizations must look to the future as well. Discerning board members and executive officers realize that building an endowment is the only way to prepare adequately for the uncertainties that lie ahead. To rely on annual gifts alone is risky business.

St. Joseph's Hospital has built a strong endowment as we prepare to meet the financial challenges that lie ahead. If you are retired – or in the process of building a retirement fund – you understand the importance of this kind of planning. We invite you to join us in this process. Here are some possibilities to consider:

1. Include St. Joseph's Hospital as a primary or secondary beneficiary on your retirement funds document – depending on the needs of your spouse. That way, you and your spouse will be creating a legacy that will flow into our endowment program. The principal or corpus of your fund will continue to be preserved and will provide earnings income for future needs at St. Joseph's Hospital.
2. Include a bequest in your will to fund a St. Joseph's Hospital named endowment.

To learn more about our endowment program, including funding options, please call Director of Development, Bobbi Giles at 715.726.3392. Information about our endowment program can also be found at our web site www.stjoeschipfalls.com/the_foundation.

Friends Board of Directors

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