UNITYPOINT HEALTH - MERITER

Stop the Bleed Training

Stop the Bleed is a national effort to empower and train individuals to assist in the event of an emergency. A person who is bleeding can die from blood loss within five minutes, so acting quickly can save lives.

Between February and April, UnityPoint Health - Meriter trained over 300 staff (many non-clinical) in effective wound compression and tourniquet use. Meriter Foundation funded tourniquet kits for training and extra kits for the hospital, clinics, and departments.

Members of the Old National Bank leadership team (pictured above) recently took time out of their day to fill 25 backpacks for UnityPoint Health – Meriter’s Helping Educate and Link the Homeless (HEALTH) program.

The team stuffed the packs with personal care and comfort items including soap, shampoo, toothpaste, new socks, hats, band-aids and snack foods.

As one of the lead partners of the HEALTH program this year, Old National Bank’s gift to Meriter Foundation provided the funding for this effort, from backpacks to personal care items. HEALTH program social workers distribute the durable backpacks to individuals living on the streets.

Thank you for your dedication and partnership to make our community a better place for everyone.
Every day, children like Grace struggle with thoughts and feelings they don’t understand. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, one out of five kids has a severe psychiatric disorder that affects their daily lives. Their pain can be seen in the growing number of youth suicides, overwhelming sadness or fear, difficulty concentrating, and out-of-control, risk-taking behaviors.

Grace’s Story*

At the age of six, Grace was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and social anxiety disorder. During first grade, her fidgeting, talking out of turn, and classroom interruptions resulted in 17 trips to the principal’s office. School became a negative experience. At home, Grace would hide, scream, and cry that she didn’t want to go to school. One morning she became so upset, shaking and vomiting, that her mother took her to the emergency room. Through professionals there, Grace and her family found Meriter’s Child and Adolescent Psychiatry hospital.

Over the past 10 years, the number of children needing inpatient psychiatric care has grown by 77% at CAP. The demand is unprecedented. During the school year, up to 26 kids a day are on our wait list due to lack of space.

This fall, UnityPoint Health - Meriter will break ground on an ambitious expansion of its Child & Adolescent Psychiatry hospital to transform the delivery of mental health treatment for children ages 6 - 18.

The expansion project includes a new Children’s Wing and Outpatient Center. The wing will add 10 patient rooms, and activity and therapy spaces for children under 11. The existing facility will be updated including 20 rooms for teen-age and tween (ages 9-12) patients, new therapy spaces, a classroom, and recreational areas. The Outpatient Center will provide critical day treatment services not readily available in our community. These additions and upgrades will help us reach more kids.

804 admissions in 2017; expecting 1,473 inpatients by 2020
0 outpatient visits in 2017; expecting 3,054 visits by 2020

You Can Make a Difference

Kids are struggling. We all know someone who needs help.

We believe no child should have to wait for a safe place to heal. That’s why Meriter Foundation is embarking on an expansion campaign entitled, “See Me” for CAP. Over the next 18 months, the Foundation’s goal is to raise $3 million to expand inpatient and outpatient services. CAP has been pioneering innovative therapies since 2004 and caring for more and more kids every year. Children and teens learn coping skills and techniques to better regulate emotions, avoid self-destructive behaviors and improve interpersonal relationships that help them return to their lives with a brighter outlook for the future.

With the help of our community, there is hope. Learn how you can make a difference for kids who are struggling by visiting: unitypoint.org/seeme.

*Names and certain events have been changed to protect patient privacy.
Comfort, Courage, and Hope

Three Special Sculptures

Along with a multitude of chisels, mallots and files comes precision and patience for sculptor Mick Evans. Every tap against the stone and the countless hours of work help bring Mick’s vision to life as well as his wish to share beauty and compassion with others.

Mick is putting the finishing touches on his third sculpture for UnityPoint Health – Meriter. “Hope,” a soaring swallow, will welcome patients and guests when they arrive at the hospital’s main horseshoe entrance. Installation is planned for this fall, and the sculpture with its base will stand 7 feet tall.

“Swallows represent the powerful healing medicine of happiness and are a sign of embracing life’s journey despite difficult times,” Mick explained. “Watch a swallow fly and you'll see adaptability and swiftness, along with joy,” he added.

Mick captures powerful moments in his sculptures. His first sculpture, “Comfort” reflects the quiet, tender moments between a mother and child and is on display in the Center for Perinatal Care garden area. “Courage,” a mother polar bear protecting her cub, resides in the surgical waiting area and represents resilience and strength when faced with adversity. Mick’s sculptures are a gift for everyone to enjoy. Thank you, Mick!

We can’t thank you enough, Mick, for these beautiful works of art and the positive message they share with our patients and families.

A Sold-out Event

Meriter Pro/Am Golf Classic

The 2018 Pro/Am was a complete sell-out and raised approximately $123,000 for patient care at Meriter. Despite the early morning rain, 135 players enjoyed a fun day at the beautiful University Ridge Golf Course.

UnityPoint Health – Meriter Foundation is grateful for the outstanding support of the 60 corporate sponsors who made our event such a success this year. You have made a meaningful impact on the Areas of Greatest Need at UnityPoint Health – Meriter, especially for kids in our community struggling and in mental health crisis.

Proceeds from the event will help fund the expansion effort at Meriter’s Child and Adolescent Psychiatry hospital on Raymond Road in Madison. Meriter is expanding not only its footprint, but is also adding new outpatient therapies to serve more kids.
Inspiring Future Caregivers

The Ganser Program

Each summer, UnityPoint Health - Meriter provides a unique opportunity to six undergraduate students who are pursuing careers in health care.

The internship opportunity is known as the Ganser Program, and it offers students a chance to explore a variety of health care related fields. Most students are entering their senior year in the fall, and plan to use the experience to narrow down their area of interest. The students plan to go to medical school, advanced nursing and social work careers.

Students spend 12 weeks working with one specific department while also participating in other special projects. The departments hosting a student this summer include physical medicine and rehabilitation, medical/surgical nursing, heart & vascular, pharmacy, infection prevention and population health.

By observing how departments function within the hospital, attending meetings, and shadowing staff, the Ganser students gain a better understanding of the inner workings of the hospital and patient care.

Meriter Foundation provides over $20,000 annually to support the Ganser Program. Pictured below are the 2018 Ganser students: Tenzin, Ally, Kelly, Cory, Cassandra and Emily.

The Curtis home is a landmark on Madison’s east side.

Estate Planning - Trusts

A trust is traditionally used to minimize estate taxes and can offer other benefits as part of a well-crafted estate plan. Trusts can be arranged in many ways and can specify exactly how and when the assets pass to the beneficiaries.

William Dexter Curtis was a pioneering entrepreneur, former mayor, civic leader and philanthropist who was influential in shaping the city of Madison during the early 1900s.

In 1902, Curtis built his horse collar factory in the swampy 800 block of East Washington Ave., which earned him the nickname of Cattail Bill. His business grew to international scale with factories in England and France. With business overseas, he was well-known for his 30 transatlantic voyages.

His interest in city and civic improvements influenced his role as Madison mayor from 1904 to 1906. He was the first mayor to push for city planning and park development, and during his term established new passenger and freight train stations for the city. He also worked closely with John M. Olin, who was president of the Madison Parks Association.

Curtis was also a philanthropist and through his contributions, helped shape the city of Madison. He was involved in the construction and fund raising efforts for Methodist Hospital, a predecessor of UnityPoint Health - Meriter. Curtis established a $50,000 perpetual trust to benefit the hospital in his will.

He died in 1935, and since then, an amazing $271,000 in interest income from the trust has been received by the hospital over the past 83 years.

Establishing an estate plan, which may include a trust, and reviewing it every few years is necessary to provide for your family’s future. Gifts to charitable organizations, like Meriter Foundation, may reduce tax liabilities, provide greater resources for your loved ones, and support causes that have been important to you throughout your life.

For more information about trusts or other estate planning opportunities, please contact: Amy Recob, Senior Development Director at amy.recob@unitypoint.org or (608) 417-5304.