



INSPIRE

Official newsletter of UnityPoint Health - Meriter Foundation

Spring 2017

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The mission of Meriter Foundation is to raise, invest, grant and steward gifts to ensure the best possible health outcomes for our patients, families and communities served by UnityPoint Health - Meriter.



"How this program differs from other ones is that we are a medical professional, patient advocate, and a friend all rolled into one. With that being said, the friend part of this relationship has made a big difference in many of our patients' lives. We often get phone calls just asking us for simple advice or if they are having a bad day and need to talk. Sometimes the smallest thing you can do makes the biggest difference."

-Gail Campbell and Mindy Dessert, community paramedics with the Madison Fire Department

Community Paramedics

Community paramedicine is a relatively new and evolving model of health care. Paramedics function outside of their customary emergency response role by visiting patients in their homes, answering questions and assisting with referrals, if needed.

Patients look forward to the visits and have developed a level of trust with the medics. In the first six months, paramedics have visited patients in their homes and neighborhoods, provided a better understanding of health conditions and improved the overall health of patients.

UnityPoint Health - Meriter is currently collaborating with the City of Madison Fire Department on one such program called the Community Paramedic Project with the goal of extending care to patients who do not qualify for home health visits, but would benefit from frequent visits from a health care professional.

The 10 patients enrolled in the program had 56 emergency room visits resulting in 11 hospital stays through November 2016. That's down from 105 ER visits and 24 hospital stays in 2015.

The program has enrolled a small number of patients who receive regular visits. The check-ins allow paramedics to identify and correct obstacles in a patient's health before they rise to the level of a trip to the emergency room.

Funding for this program was provided by a Research & Education grant from UnityPoint Health - Meriter Foundation and proceeds from the 2016 ProAm Golf Classic. Meriter is proud to partner with the Madison Fire Department to improve the health of our community.

Come Share Stories of a Lifetime

An Inspiring Lecture Series for Women



Christina Baker Kline
Wednesday, April 19 | 7 p.m.



Leigh Anne Tuohy
Monday, May 22 | 7 p.m.



Reyna Grande
Monday, June 12 | 7 p.m.

Social connections and shared experiences are essential to your health and well-being. Join with family, friends and colleagues to be inspired by these powerful stories of strength, hope and resilience.

TICKETS

(608) 258-4141 | overture.org
201 State Street, Madison, WI

Series Subscriptions:
From \$45* for entire series

Individual Tickets:
From \$20*



*Additional fees apply to online and phone orders. Speakers and dates subject to change. All series subscriptions are final, no refunds.

Artist Mick Evans chips away at another masterpiece for Meriter

Whether it's a woman cradling her newborn or a polar bear protecting her cub, local sculptor Mick Evans has a way of capturing endearing moments between mother and child.

Mick's first sculpture, "Comfort" resides in the Center for Perinatal Care outdoor garden at UnityPoint Health - Meriter. The polar bears will soon be on display in the hospital Atrium Surgical Waiting area for patients, visitors and staff to enjoy.

Thank you Mick for sharing your talent with us!



Trauma Informed Care



A New Approach to Better Serve Vulnerable Patients

Trauma Informed Care is an interventional program designed to help health care providers recognize, understand and respond to individuals who have experienced multiple or prolonged traumatic stress. For children, early trauma causes an outpouring of stress hormones that disrupt the developing brain. This can lead to long-term problems forming relationships, controlling emotions, and learning challenges.

In 2016, Trauma Informed Care training was provided to several units at UnityPoint Health - Meriter including behavioral health, addiction treatment and emergency services staff thanks to funding from Meriter Foundation. Our front-line caregivers received screening and communication tools to better serve patients.

The state of Wisconsin is calling for action as well. Recently, First Lady Tonette Walker announced the "Fostering Futures" initiative with the Department of Children and Families and other organizations to better address and break the negative cycle of trauma on the lives of children and families in our state.

Thank you! \$1,207,000 Raised

In 2016

Because of your generosity, Meriter Foundation funded vital programs, equipment, educational opportunities and community initiatives to better serve our patients. Below is a sampling of the difference you helped us make in 2016.

\$321,810 EQUIPMENT & PROGRAM SUPPORT

- Swing and harness for patient and staff safety
- Peer support group for new NICU families
- Movement-based therapy for Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
- Cell phone charging stations in waiting rooms and lobby

\$382,209 EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Virtual Dementia Training
- Trauma training for Behavioral Health staff
- Basic Life Support training for 700 care providers

\$140,400 RESEARCH STUDIES

- Study to minimize chronic lung disease in fragile newborns
- Research to identify a marker for sepsis in NICU Infants
- Familial cardiomyopathy research

\$92,587 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

- Community Paramedic Pilot Program
- Childhood obesity program
- Outreach and respite care for the homeless

Board Reconnect Event

February 1, 2017

Members of various Meriter boards, past and present, gathered together on February 1 at the Edgewater Hotel to celebrate their rich history with the organization and receive updates about UnityPoint Health-Meriter. Newly elected members of the Meriter Foundation board received a warm welcome:

- Joe Alexander, President, The Alexander Company
- Sarah Dunn, Director of Client Strategies, CG Schmidt
- Jeff Levy, Vice President, Phillips Distributing Company
- John Sims, Vice President, Private Banking, US Bank

Other guests of honor included new Meriter Hospital Board members, Kathy Blumendfeld, Mark Moody, Lisa Peyton-Caire, as well as 98-year-old Dr. Eugene Nordby, the first physician to ever be appointed to the Madison General Hospital Board of Directors.

George Kamperschroer, current board chair for Meriter Health Services & Meriter Hospital, shared updates on the evolving partnerships with Group Health Cooperative, Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County, and UW Health, explaining that all of these relationships will help provide the best possible outcomes for our patients and our community.



Supporting Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

PRO/AM GOLF CLASSIC

The 26th annual golf classic is set for June 7, 2017, at University Ridge Golf Course. Proceeds from this year's event will support the Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP) program at UnityPoint Health - Meriter.

Meriter is the only hospital in south central Wisconsin providing inpatient mental healthcare for children and adolescents ages 6 to 18 years old. Each year, more than 850 patients receive care at CAP, and a wait list for admission is often a reality.

Our care providers work with children suffering from anxiety, depression, self-harming behaviors and other severe mental health challenges to help them move forward.

For more information about this fun event for a great cause, please contact Brianna Yanke, Director of Development at (608) 417-5301 or email at brianna.yanke@unitypoint.org.



We're Expecting Mother-Baby Expansion Project

Over the next nine months, UnityPoint Health - Meriter will renovate 36,000 square feet of existing hospital space for a \$15.5 million Mother-Baby Expansion Project.

A new agreement was signed with Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin (GHC-SCW) to provide mother-baby services to its members beginning January 2018. GHC-SCW patients will receive perinatal, labor and delivery, and newborn intensive care (if needed) at Meriter. The additional new patients, estimated at around 850 a year, will increase Meriter's overall Mother-Baby services by 20 percent.

The project will create more patient rooms, family spaces, ultrasound suites, a milk laboratory and additional work space for staff. Completion is expected in December 2017.

As the largest birthing hospital in the state, UnityPoint Health - Meriter is already a very busy place.

In 2016, Meriter provided:



10,000+
Ultrasounds in the Center for Perinatal Care



4,068
Births in the Birthing Center



684
Infants cared for in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU)



Philanthropy Enhances Patient & Family Care

Funding Priorities

Donor support will provide the boost in funding needed to surround our patients with advanced, state-of-the-art care in an atmosphere that is friendly and comfortable. High-tech equipment, comfortable family spaces and furnishings, and expanded educational opportunities for our staff will help us meet the needs of our growing community.

30 Omnibeds \$1.2 million

Omnibeds provide the best environment for babies that are born too soon. The beds allow babies to remain in one place for medical procedures, reduce infant stress and promote healing by combining an incubator and radiant warmer all in one.

In the past year, 684 infants were admitted to the NICU, including 65 babies who weighed less than 3.3 lbs. Currently, Meriter's NICU has only 5 omnibeds and cares for an average of 27 infants every day.

Nursing Education \$200,000

The projected growth in women and infants care requires the hiring of 42 additional registered nurses and 20 support staff by the end of 2017. Your support will offer the opportunity for nurses to receive specialized training in perinatal or neonatal care, continuing education certification, and new nurse on-boarding.



40 Kangaroo Chairs \$150,000

Research shows that when parents and infants bond, good things happen in the short run, and the effects can last throughout a child's life. The kangaroo chairs are needed to encourage skin-to-skin contact between parent and infant, which improves health and healing.

The physical benefits of kangaroo care, especially for premature infants, include helping them maintain body temperature, regulate heart and breathing rhythms, gain weight, and spend more time in deep sleep.

Outdoor Patio \$150,000

We have the opportunity to enhance an outdoor patio space for patients and their families. This unique space is located off the third floor family lounge, facing South Brooks Street with views of the historic Longfellow School. Your support can provide funding for a decorative screen wall, perimeter railing, enhanced seating area and planters.



If you are interested in hearing more about the Mother-Baby Expansion Project, please call us at (608)417-5300 or visit our website at: unitypoint.org/meriterfoundation