

Partners of WHA
Best of the Best Award



Partners of WHA is pleased to present its 2005 Best of the Best Award to Garith Steiner, chief executive officer of Vernon Memorial Healthcare in Viroqua. This award recognizes an on-site hospital executive who demonstrates a cooperative, supportive, enthusiastic, and well-defined relationship with his volunteer organization.

Not only does Garith support Friends of VMH, he is an active member. He regularly attends the volunteer organization's meetings and assists in the planning of fundraisers and other activities. Always in attendance at Friends' events, he encourages hospital staff and the community to support the auxiliary and its efforts.

Garith takes special care to keep the auxiliary informed of changes in the health care environment and to identify new opportunities where the organization can become involved. He understands and appreciates the role of Friends of VMH and the positive impact the organization has on both the hospital and the community.

In nominating Garith for this award, his auxiliary stated, " We feel his involvement and his ability to plan for the future have been a great asset not only to our organization, but to the hospital and the community. So many good things have happened at our hospital during his tenure as CEO. His foresight is serving us well as we move into the future."



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Wisconsin Hospital
Association



2005 awards

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*WHA Foundation
Global Vision Community
Partnership Award
Partners of WHA
Best of the Best Award
Partners of WHA
Wisconsin Award for
Volunteer Excellence*

WHA Foundation

Global Vision Community Partnership Award

Award Winner: *Dean/St. Marys Neighborhood Asthma Clinic*
Nominator: *St. Marys Hospital Medical Center, Madison*

Since 1998, the Dean/St. Marys Neighborhood Asthma Clinic has helped break down the barriers facing medically underserved patients in its community by providing quality screening, diagnosis, education, treatment, and medication assistance. The clinic's primary goals are to improve identification of asthma and quality of life for asthma patients, decrease the number of hospitalizations due to asthma, and teach patients and their caregivers asthma self-management. St. Marys Hospital Medical Center, Dean Health System, Dean Health Plan, and the Dean Foundation collaborate to offer the clinic, which is staffed by volunteer physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and students. The clinic works with public health nurses, the Madison Metropolitan School District, Head Start and others to connect patients in need with the clinic services. While the clinic is only open for two hours each week, it had 444 patient visits in 2004. More than two-thirds of the clinic's patients report that the primary reason for a lapse in taking their asthma medication was cost. The clinic collaborators work with pharmaceutical manufacturers to secure donated medications needed to treat its patients, and pharmaceuticals valued at \$12,000 per month are given for free to those in need.

Award Winner: *House of Mercy Homeless Center*
Nominator: *Mercy Health System, Janesville*

The House of Mercy Homeless Center is dedicated not only to assisting its clients with their immediate needs of food, clothing and transitional shelter, but also to helping them find lasting housing solutions. Residents receive the services of a housing resource counselor and social worker, and support services have grown to include parenting classes, stress management training, free childcare, rent assistance and budgeting education. Opened in 1996, the House of Mercy operates thanks to more than 80 volunteers donating more than 8,000 hours annually. Twenty of the 28 founding volunteers are still with the Center, and many former residents are volunteers, providing unique insight and hope to current residents. Community collaborators providing support, programming and unique services include Rock County Human Services, Salvation Army, YWCA, First Call for Help, Community Action, Inc., ECHO, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and Mercy Health System. In addition, many churches and other local organizations help by holding drives for food, clothing and personal care items. Since its inception, the House of Mercy has sheltered almost 1,200 households for more than 71,000 shelter nights. That represents 2,511 individuals, including 1,384 children. In 2004, less than 10% of residents served required a second stay, and even fewer returned for a third.

Partners of WHA WAVE Award (Wisconsin Award for Volunteer Excellence)

Category: *Community Service Programs*

Winning Program: *"House of Mercy Homeless Center," Mercy Health System, Janesville*

The House of Mercy is a 25-bed homeless center that provides homeless families throughout southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois with short-term emergency shelter and access to housing, job placement and child care resources. Mercy Health System Association of Volunteers are a vital part of the success of the House of Mercy. Approximately 80 volunteers donate more than 8,000 hours of volunteer time each year. From fundraising to manning phones to overnight shifts, the volunteers assist with a variety of activities to keep the center running efficiently and effectively, on an operating budget of only about \$150,000 and keeping its paid staff to 2.5 total people. The spirit of volunteerism seen at the center brings many former residents back to volunteer and shows residents that the community does care.

Category: *In-service Hospital Volunteer Programs*

Winning Program: *"NICU Quilt Project," West Allis Memorial Hospital Auxiliary*

The auxiliary members answered the call from the nursing staff in the new neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) in the new Aurora Women's Pavilion on the West Allis Memorial Hospital campus. The auxiliary used funds raised from various events to purchase material, and a number of talented auxiliaries cut fabric for kits and/or sewed the NICU quilts. The quilts are used to cover the isolettes of babies needing a quiet, darkened environment, and provide a homey touch to the nursery and a bit of cheer for the parents. Also, when the babies leave the NICU for home, each takes his/her quilt home, as a reminder of the TLC he/she received at West Allis Memorial Hospital. To date, more than 460 quilts, at a cost of more than \$3,000, have been distributed.

Category: *Fundraising Programs*

Winning Program: *"Lights of Love Business Campaign," Auxiliary of Riverside Medical Center, Waupaca*

The Auxiliary of Riverside Medical Center conducted its Lights of Love Business Campaign over a two-year period, with a goal of raising \$12,000, for the purchase of a new fetal heart monitor for their hospital. They appointed a Business Committee comprised of local business leaders, selected an honorary chair to lead the campaign, and secured the highly-visible site of the Waupaca Area Library for the holiday tree with businesses donating bulbs. More than 350 fundraising letters were sent, each with a personal note added by a Business Committee member, stressing the importance of volunteer service benefiting both the hospital and its patients. The business campaign resulted in more than \$14,000 raised from 101 business donations, and fostered a new network of volunteers for Riverside Medical Center. This fundraising program was in addition to its traditional Lights of Love program, which raises an average of \$2,000 per year.

Category: *Community Outreach and/or Collaboration Programs*

Winning Program: *"Memory Box Program," Partners of Divine Savior Healthcare, Portage*

The Memory Box Program is a collaborative effort between the Partners of Divine Savior Healthcare and the technology education teachers at Portage Junior High School. Memory boxes are created for the Enduring Loss Together support group, which helps families grieve and heal following the loss of a baby during pregnancy, birth or shortly after birth. The boxes are designed to hold remembrances, which will encourage the grieving families to move forward in a positive direction. The boxes are crafted by the woodworking teachers, decorated by Partners and other community members, and distributed through the Enduring Loss Together group.

