



**WHA Foundation, Inc.**

**2025** *Year in Review*

## *A Letter from the Executive Director*

As we reflect on another impactful year, I want to take a moment to extend my deepest gratitude for your support, generosity, and belief in our mission.

This year has been one of both challenges and remarkable progress. Together, we have continued to strengthen our core programs, expand our reach, and remain steadfast in our commitment to Health Care Quality and Safety Initiatives, Health Care Workforce Development, and Collaborative Community Health Initiatives. Your continued support—through your time, expertise, and financial contributions—has allowed us to make a measurable difference in the lives of those we serve.



One example of this is our continued partnership with Wisconsin HOSA. This relationship deepens into 2026 with the Board of Directors approving additional funding to existing chapters of HOSA, as well as with my appointment to the Wisconsin HOSA State Board of Directors.

Becoming a *Friend of Foundation* is a great way to support not only the work the WHA Foundation is doing, but also to support Wisconsin's health care workforce and communities across the state. To learn more about how you can become a *Friend of the Foundation*, please reach out to me directly.

*Leigh Ann S. Larson*

Executive Director of the WHA Foundation

[llarson@wha.org](mailto:llarson@wha.org)

### 2025 Board of Trustees

Thank you to the 2025 WHA Foundation Board of Trustees for their dedication, commitment, collegiality and time.

- **Bruce Roesler (Chair)**, Chief Executive Officer, The Richland Hospital, Inc., Richland Center
- **Gail Pasard, SHRM-SCP** (Secretary/Treasurer), Regional Vice President, Human Resources, SSM Health – Wisconsin & Post-Acute Madison
- **Michael Bergmann**, President and CEO, Ascension Fox Valley Hospitals - Calumet, St. Elizabeths and Mercy Hospitals
- **Theresa Braudt, MSH, RN**, Administrator, Gundersen Boscobel Area Hospital and Clinics, Boscobel
- **Derek Daly**, CEO, Tomah Health, Tomah
- **Aindrea Lindsay, MSH, RN, CCO**, Tamarack Health Hayward Medical Center, Hayward
- **Kyle O'Brien**, President and CEO, Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA)

# Quality. Workforce. Community. The WHA Foundation's Funding Priorities.



Visit [our website](#) to learn more about the Foundation and how you can become a *Friend of the Foundation*.

## The Focus of the WHA Foundation

Formed in 1968, the WHA Foundation, Inc. serves to support educational, research and charitable programs of the Wisconsin Hospital Association and its members.

Today, the Foundation focuses its grant-making priorities on initiatives that have a statewide impact on health care in Wisconsin.



## WHA Foundation Funding Programs

### 1. Health Care Quality and Safety Initiatives

The Foundation has supported a variety of quality and safety initiatives for more than 20 years, starting with the funding to develop, launch and upgrade [CheckPoint](#), the first public website to provide consumers with clinical quality measures and error prevention practices for all hospitals in Wisconsin. Since 2016, the Foundation has provided funding for clinical simulation training to more than 60 hospital teams, focusing training in areas of sepsis/septic shock, opioid crisis, high-risk OB scenarios and stroke.

### 2. Health Care Workforce Development

Addressing the workforce needs of Wisconsin health care providers has been a focus of the Foundation over the past decade. The Foundation supports the annual Foundation Scholarship Program, providing two annual scholarships to each of the 16 technical colleges in Wisconsin. The unique twist is the scholarship covers expenses incurred in the student's final semester to assist and encourage students to make that one final push toward graduation and a career in health care. Since its inception in 2003, more than 400 scholarships have been awarded, worth more than \$500,000. In 2025, the Foundation also supported Wisconsin HOSA through high school senior scholarships and new chapter start-ups.

### 3. Collaborative Community Health Initiatives

The WHA Foundation supports community health initiatives created in partnership with WHA members through its annual Global Vision Community Partnership Award. This award was established in 1993 to provide recognition and financial support to innovative and collaborative initiatives that meet a community's health needs. A total of 57 Global Vision Awards have been presented since its inception, awarding a \$2,500 unrestricted grant for each winning initiative.

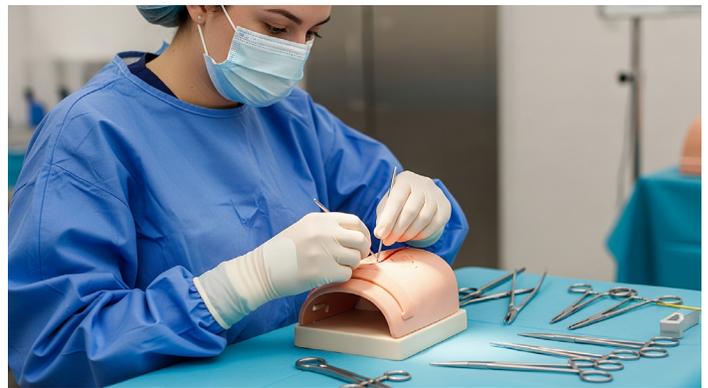
# Health Care Quality and Safety Initiatives

## Clinical Simulation Lab Scholarships

The WHA Foundation provided scholarship funding to support WHA hospital members' participation in clinical simulations labs. In 2025, the participating lab was Gundersen Health System Integrated Center for Education in La Crosse.

Applications were reviewed against a set of criteria, including the hospital teams' objectives for incorporating clinical simulation training into their multidisciplinary team. Applicants indicated their interest in either stroke, high-risk OB delivery or sepsis/septic shock labs. These focus areas are decided upon by a collaboration between the WHA Foundation and WHA Quality department.

Seven scholarships were awarded in 2025.



# Health Care Workforce Development

## Technical School Scholarships

The 16 technical schools in the state of Wisconsin were offered 32 scholarships for the 2024/2025 school year. Each scholarship has a monetary value of up to \$2,000. These scholarships, two offered to each school, are intended for the final semester of school for students graduating in health-related fields. These fields include:

- Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA)
- Anesthesia Technology
- Biotechnical Lab Technician
- Cancer Information Management
- Cardiovascular Technology
- Clinical Lab Technician
- Clinical Research Coordinator
- Dental Hygienist
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Dietetic Technician
- Echocardiography
- EMT/Paramedic
- Gerontology
- Health Care Business Services
- Health Information Technology
- Health Care Services Management
- Medical Lab Technician
- Midwife
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Pharmacy Services Management
- Physical Therapy Assistant
- Radiography
- Respiratory Therapist
- Surgical Technology
- Wellness and Health Promotion

24 scholarships were awarded for the 2024/2025 school year. This totaled over \$44,000 dollars disbursed to new health care workforce members in the state of Wisconsin.

April Stokes was one of the recipients of a scholarship in 2025.

*“Endless thanks to the WHA Foundation for supporting my family and I through a strenuous time. With such generosity, I was able to complete my studies, pass the licensing board exam, and obtain a job as a Physical Therapist Assistant right here in Wisconsin, all while raising my daughter as a single mother. It is my passion to help others realize their innate healing abilities through guided movement, and provide powerful manual therapeutic techniques so they may live free of debilitating chronic pain.”*

April Stokes  
Western Technical College 2025 Graduate  
WHA Foundation Scholarship Recipient



## Grant Funding

Through a competitive grant application process, the WHA Foundation provided funds to help support initiatives that promoted health education for WHA hospital members, as well as future health care professionals in the state

1. *Mobilizing Older Adults Via a Systems-Based Intervention (MOVIN) program – MercyHealth Janesville*

**Grant awarded to: WHA Quality Department**

The Mobilizing Older adults Via a systems-based Intervention (MOVIN™) program has proven to be a successful initiative to assist hospitals with reducing falls with patients. WHA provided resources, training, project management, and coaching to MercyHealth Janesville for them to adopt this program.

2. *AMPHonors.com*

**Grant awarded to: CV Academics Foundation (501c3 supporting the AMP Honors project)**

AMPHonors.com is a free social networking website and app for students interested in healthcare careers. AMP was founded by two Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) physicians with a vision to connect students to healthcare career resources and opportunities.

3. *Preparation project for CMS' patient safety structural measure (PSSM)*

**Grant awarded to: WHA Quality Department**

This project works with ECRI designated as an Evidence-based Practice Center and Patient Safety Organization (PSO), a leader in national patient safety. The project will assist all hospitals in working towards the attestation for 2026 for CMS' patient safety structural measure (PSSM).



A BIG THANK YOU to the WHA information Center for being a 2025 *Friend of the Foundation*. Through their generous support, the WHA Information Center continues its commitment to further the education of Health Information Technology students and the Foundation's overall mission.

## Wisconsin HOSA - New Chapter Start-ups

In collaboration with 22 local hospitals, the WHA Foundation provided grant funding to establish HOSA-Future Health Professionals chapters in schools during the 2025/26 school year.

HOSA is a student organization that provides members with the opportunity to explore health care career options and experiences, and the routes they can take to embark on their professional pathway. By fostering early interest in health care professions, the WHA Foundation, in partnership with WHA member hospitals, is investing in Wisconsin's future health care workforce to ensure Wisconsin has the skilled, compassionate caregivers needed to meet the growing demand for health care. Combined, the WHA Foundation and participating hospitals contributed over \$26,000 to launch new HOSA chapters in schools across Wisconsin for the 2025/2026 school year.

Thank you to the Wisconsin hospitals that participated in this initiative:

Amery Hospital and Clinics	Aurora Health Care St. Lukes	HSHS St. Mary's
Ascension WI Hospital Greenfield	Aurora Burlington	Mayo Clinic Health System – NWWI
Ascension SE St. Joseph	Bellin Health	Mayo Clinic Health System – SWWI
Ascension NE Mercy	Beloit Memorial Hospital	Mile Bluff Medical Center
Ascension SE Franklin	Froedtert Mequon	Prairie Ridge Hospital
Ascension Columbia St. Mary's	Froedtert Community Hospital Oak Oak Creek	River Falls Area Hospital
Ascension All Saints	Froedtert Milwaukee	Spoooner Health
Aurora Medical Center Mt. Pleasant	Gundersen Boscobel	SSM St. Mary's Madison
Aurora Medical Center Oshkosh	Gundersen St. Joseph	Unity Point Meriter Hospital
Aurora West Allis Medical Center	Gundersen Tri County Hospital	
Aurora Sinai		

21 Wisconsin schools/school districts applied and received funding. One of the schools to receive funding was Luxemburg-Casco High School.

*"The WHA Foundation has been a tremendous source of support for our HOSA chapter at Luxemburg-Casco High School, helping our students grow as future healthcare professionals. Our chapter is new this year, and we have been learning so much! Through their generous contributions, students will have access to hands-on learning experiences, educational resources, and opportunities that might not have otherwise been possible. This support has strengthened our chapter's ability to prepare students for competitions, leadership development, and real-world exposure to healthcare careers. We have five students competing this year, and this money has helped us with fees and expenses.*

*Beyond financial assistance, the WHA Foundation's commitment to student success has helped build confidence, professionalism, and motivation within our HOSA members. Their investment has allowed students to focus on developing critical skills, teamwork, and a passion for service in the healthcare field. Because of the WHA Foundation's partnership, our HOSA chapter continues to thrive and inspire students to pursue meaningful careers in health science."*

- Luxemburg-Casco High School HOSA Advisor



Luxemburg-Casco High School HOSA students

# Collaborative Community Health Initiatives

## Global Vision Community Partnership Award

The WHA Foundation awarded two Global Vision Community Partnership Awards in 2025. The purpose of the award is to recognize and reward community partnership projects that work with a WHA member hospital(s) to meet an identified community health need in an innovative or creative manner.

### Beyond Blessed Pantry SSM Health Baraboo

Founded in January 2016, Beyond Blessed Pantry is a nonprofit organization committed to alleviating food insecurity in Baraboo, Lake Delton, Wisconsin Dells, and other surrounding communities. The need for food assistance was identified through direct observation in local hospitals and outreach efforts, which revealed that many individuals and families lacked consistent access to nutritious food. As the Pantry has grown, so has the demand. What began as a small initiative has evolved into a vital community resource, now serving over 800 families weekly across five counties. The overarching goal is to ensure that anyone in need has access to food, regardless of residency or income level. The pantry does not impose residency restrictions and allows participants to receive food at every pantry event. This open access model ensures that no one is turned away due to geographic boundaries or organizational limitations. Because the pantry does not receive government funding, it operates with greater flexibility and fewer restrictions. All food and supplies are obtained through donations and purchases made with donated funds, allowing the organization to remain responsive to the evolving needs of the community. This is entirely a volunteer driven endeavor, with more than 60 volunteers contributing approximately 280 hours of service each week. Volunteers are trained to uphold the organization's values of dignity, respect, and compassion, and they play a central role in the pantry's operations and success.



L to R: Leigh Ann S. Larson, Vice President of Education and Marketing for the Wisconsin Hospital Association and Executive Director of the WHA Foundation; DeAnn Thurmer, Hospital President; Rachel Meier, Community Health Specialist; Shannon Howley, Director of Beyond Blessed; Bill Becker, Beyond Blessed Board President; Julia Randles, Foundation Director; Mary Laham, VP Clinical Administrator

### Ascension Mobile Sexual Assault Treatment Center and Anti-Human Trafficking Program (SATC) Ascension Wisconsin



L to R: Amy Berentes CNO/COO Ascension Franklin, SANE executive lead; Suzanne Kirk RN, FNE; Leah Eckhart, RN, FNE; Rachel Cortez RN, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P, Ascension Mobile Sexual Assault Treatment Center supervisor; Leigh Ann S. Larson, Vice President of Education and Marketing, Executive Director, WHA Foundation; Danielle Opahle, SANE/DV advocate; Shana S. Crittenden, president, Ascension St. Joseph; Lisa Bosman, RN, nursing director, Ascension St. Joseph

SATC was created as a direct response to critical community health gaps identified in southeastern Wisconsin. Through needs assessments, hospital emergency department data, and feedback from law enforcement and advocacy partners, it became clear that survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and related abuse lacked consistent access to timely, trauma-informed forensic medical care. Many were forced to travel long distances or go without essential services. These unmet needs disproportionately affected vulnerable populations including immigrants, victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. In response, Ascension created a mobile, 24/7 care model that ensures survivors receive immediate and culturally sensitive medical and social support services in a safe

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hospital setting. Forensic Nurse Examiners (FNEs) meet the patient where they are, rather than transferring care to another site. Due to our overwhelming success, community response, and demonstrated need in the Fox Valley region, the Ascension Mobile SATC program is now expanding its proven model into the Fox Cities. This expansion brings 24/7 forensic medical care and trauma-informed survivor support to Ascension hospitals in Appleton (Outagamie County), Chilton (Calumet County), and Oshkosh (Winnebago County), establishing SATC services in every primary Ascension emergency department across the state of Wisconsin.

Award winners each received a plaque of recognition and a \$2,500 grant to continue to fulfill the mission and activities of these valuable programs.

WHA Foundation Inc. thanks all nominations submitted for the Global Vision Community Partnership Award.

## Looking Toward 2026

### Eric Borgerding Health Care Advocacy Scholarship

#### *Honoring Legacy of Leadership and Impact*

In recognition of WHA President & CEO Eric Borgerding's retirement and 27 years of service to Wisconsin's hospitals, the WHA Foundation is proud to announce the creation of the Eric Borgerding Health Care Advocacy Scholarship. This scholarship honors Eric's unwavering commitment to advancing public policies that have enabled Wisconsin hospitals to lead the nation in quality, access and innovation. Through this initiative, we aim to inspire the next generation of health care advocates and ensure a strong future for hospital policy leadership in Wisconsin.

Each year, two students will be selected for a 15-week long internship gaining hands-on experience in health policy, regulatory affairs and advocacy. At the conclusion of their internship, participants will present their learnings and may be awarded up to \$5,000 each. This experience is designed to prepare future health policy leaders who share Eric's passion for supporting hospitals and improving health care for all Wisconsinites.

WHA Foundation gratefully acknowledges the individuals and organizations whose generous contributions are bringing the Eric Borgerding Health Care Advocacy Scholarship to life. These gifts celebrate Eric's remarkable legacy and invest in the future of health care policy leadership in Wisconsin. You can see a list of contributors [here](#)

### 2026 WHA Foundation Board of Trustees

The WHA Foundation will continue to support **Health Care Quality and Safety Initiatives**, **Health Care Workforce Development**, and **Collaborative Community Health Initiatives**. It is our hope that these programming opportunities will provide support in the most meaningful ways possible to WHA member hospitals and the communities they serve. The WHA Foundation Board of Trustees will also be exploring other funding opportunities to further accomplish its overall mission and goals. This includes providing resources to support current state chapters of HOSA.

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We are proud to share with you the Board of Trustees for 2026.



**Bruce Roesler (Chair)**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
The Richland Hospital,  
Inc., Richland Center



**Michael Bergmann**  
President and CEO,  
Ascension Fox Valley  
hospitals



**Theresa Braudt,**  
**MSN, RN**  
Administrator,  
Gundersen Boscobel  
Area Hospital and Clinics



**Derek Daly**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Tomah Health



**Aindria Lindsay,**  
**MSN, RN**  
Vice President of Hospital  
Operations, Tamarack Health  
Hayward Medical Center



**Gail Pasard (Treasurer/Secretary)**  
Regional Vice President, Human Resources,  
SSM Health – Wisconsin & Post-Acute



**Kyle O'Brien**  
President and CEO, Wisconsin  
Hospital Association (WHA)

## Become a *Friend of the Foundation*

### What does it mean to be a *Friend of the Foundation*?

Being a *Friend of the Foundation* means that you support the mission and efforts of the WHA Foundation. Your support ensures the continuation of the programming the WHA Foundation currently is involved with, as well as possible future impacts that can be made in Wisconsin communities.

Please see the “Friend of the Foundation Annual Giving Levels” insert for more details.



We thank the generous support of the **Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center**

(WHAIC) as they continue to be a *Friend of the Foundation* member in 2026. For the fifth year in a row, the WHAIC will have the opportunity to have sponsorship recognition at two WHA events, provide naming rights for two scholarships, as well as many other benefits.

*Pictured is WHA Information Center staff.*



# “Friend of the Foundation” Annual Giving Levels



You can make a positive impact on Wisconsin health care! Contribute at one of the giving levels below and become a “*Friend of the Foundation*.” Your support ensures the WHA Foundation can continue its current funding programs, as well as possible future initiatives that can benefit Wisconsin communities.

## \$1,000 Sponsor

- Company/individual name recognition on WHA Foundation website
- Company/individual name recognition on WHA Foundation signage at events, including at WHA’s Advocacy Day, the Wisconsin Rural Health Conference and WHA’s Physician Leadership Development Conference
- Two complimentary enrollments in a WHA-sponsored webinar

## \$2,500 Sponsor

- Company logo/individual name recognition on WHA Foundation website
- Company logo/individual name recognition on WHA Foundation signage at events, including at WHA’s Advocacy Day, WHA’s Rural Health Conference and WHA’s Physician Leadership Development Conference
- Two complimentary enrollments in a WHA-sponsored webinar
- Sponsorship recognition of one WHA event or webinar

## \$4,000 Sponsor

- Company logo/individual name recognition on WHA Foundation website
- Company logo/individual name recognition on WHA Foundation signage at events, including at WHA’s Advocacy Day, WHA’s Rural Health Conference and WHA’s Physician Leadership Development Conference
- Two complimentary enrollments in a WHA-sponsored webinar
- Sponsorship recognition of two WHA events or webinars
- WHA Foundation Technical School Scholarship naming rights for two scholarships awarded to one Wisconsin technical college during the academic year

The WHA Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

## Be a “Friend of the Foundation”

In order to continue focusing its grant-making priorities on initiatives that have a statewide impact on health care in Wisconsin, the WHA Foundation Board of Trustees continues its fundraising efforts each year. Every contribution to the WHA Foundation is appreciated and will be recognized appropriately. Thank you for considering a contribution to the WHA Foundation. See “*Friend of the Foundation Annual Giving Levels*” for more details.

### Questions:

Contact Leigh Ann S. Larson,  
Executive Director  
P: 608-274-1820; F: 608-274-8554  
[llarson@wha.org](mailto:llarson@wha.org)



[wha.org/AboutWHA/WHA-Foundation](http://wha.org/AboutWHA/WHA-Foundation)

## 2026 WHA Foundation Fundraising Campaign

### Contribution Form

My organization/I wish to support ongoing efforts of the WHA Foundation with a contribution of:

- \$4,000\*       \$2,500\*       \$1,000\*  
 \$500       Other: \$\_\_\_\_\_

\*contribution will make you “*Friends of the Foundation.*”

Organization Name

Address

City

State

Zip

First Name

Last Name

Job Title

Email

Telephone Number (with area code)

Please make check payable to:  
WHA Foundation, Inc.

**Send Contributions to:**  
WHA Foundation, Attn. Leigh Ann S. Larson  
5510 Research Park Drive, Suite 200, Fitchburg, WI 53711

Your contribution is tax deductible as specified in IRS guidelines.



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