

Whether it's through thousands of donated hours or dollars, Hudson Hospital Foundation applauds community members who make Hudson Hospital & Clinics a place you'll find comfort and healing. If you haven't met them already, the Foundation is pleased to introduce you to:



Sandy Gerhke

As a real estate agent with 14 years experience, Sandy Gerhke knows what matters to clients who consider making Hudson their new hometown. That's why she highlights Hudson Hospital & Clinics when she gives them a tour of the city.

"I always drive by the hospital and tell them how we built it," she said. "I tell them we are very proud of it."

Gerhke is an ardent supporter of the hospital and, during the "Building a Healthier Hudson – Together" campaign to construct a new campus, she promoted fundraising at every chance.

"This was a big deal to me," she said. "We really needed this new hospital in Hudson and I said I'm going to get on board and help us get it."

She sent letters out to hundreds of fellow real estate agents in the region. She even appealed to their common sense of competition to inspire some colleagues. She merely mentioned to them that her significant gift earned her a place on the hospital's prominent wall of contributors: "We are a tight-knit community out here, and competitive. There was no way they would allow my name to be the only agent listed on the hospital's donor wall. My response, 'Well, what are you going to do now?'"

Gerhke said she and her husband, Roger, who also sells real estate, have both had successful joint-replacement surgeries at the hospital. In fact, Gerhke's recent knee replacement surgery has her dreaming of summer days on her bike.

They are grateful for the excellent care they've received. But they also support the hospital as a way to give back to a community they love.

"We really believe, really believe, in the hospital," she said. "This community has been extremely good to us and this was our way of giving back."

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Heart2Heart – Saving Lives Together

- 67 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) placed throughout Hudson and the surrounding area; 20 made possible through Foundation support
- More than 300 community members received CPR and AED training last year
- CPR and AED training proven to reduce heart attack deaths
- Strong and active coalition between Hudson Hospital & Clinics, St. Croix EMS & Rescue, Hudson School District and Hudson Hospital Foundation

Scholarships

- \$12,000 in college scholarships awarded over the years to Hudson High School seniors
- Recipients demonstrated interest in health-related education and careers
- Scholarship winners attended: Marquette University; University of Wisconsin – Madison; Rochester Community and Technical College; University of Wisconsin – La Crosse; and University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Bob and Lorraine McGrew

For the McGrews, volunteering at Hudson Hospital & Clinics is a way of life. They volunteer hundreds of hours here each year.

“I’ve always said, I get more out of the hospital than I give,” said Bob. “It’s a good feeling to be working and helping somebody, giving back to the community that’s been our home.”

Lorraine was born and raised in Hudson. She met Bob, a native of Red Wing, in 1950, after he moved here to explore a business venture with his brother. The business venture didn’t stick, but his marriage to Lorraine has stuck 58 years and counting. They have three grown children.

In the 50’s, Bob worked for the local newspaper, which was owned by Yvette Ward, an active promoter of the hospital. “I worked for her and was therefore involved in promoting the hospital at that time,” said Bob.

When the old hospital was built, Bob was photographed posting directional signs. He was photographed again years later, posting signs for the new “new” hospital.

As he entered retirement from Ashland Oil in the late 80s, he began volunteering at the hospital of his own accord. His duties have shifted through the years. These days you’ll find him at the front desk, as well as helping organize the Al Hein Golf Tournament.

As for Lorraine, she has been a familiar volunteer in many parts of Hudson for the past 50 years – with her children in the school system, at a nursing home and then at a hospice service that was originally located at Hudson Hospital & Clinics. Now, like Bob, she welcomes people at the front desk, and offers a helping hand whenever needed, such as the blood drives.

“It’s a wonderful, warm feeling to help people,” Lorraine said. “It keeps us young at heart and moving.”



Sally and Bill Friedlander

Some events make a lifelong impact. For Bill Friedlander, one of those events was a car accident so severe that he spent 10 weeks recovering in Hudson Hospital & Clinics.

Another happened during those 10 weeks, with lifesaving medical treatment so sound and so caring, he remembers it vividly – though it happened 46 years ago.

“In those days, they didn’t have a lot of medications to control pain,” he said. “A sleeping pill was a back rub, warm milk and a piece of toast. That TLC exists today in the nursing area. They take pride in being very caring.”

Through the years, Bill, together with Sally, his wife of 57 years, have given their time and talents to Hudson Hospital & Clinics in many capacities. Sally, co-founder of Pooh Corner Pre-school, which operated for more than 24 years, volunteers at the front desk. She also calls home-bound elderly to make sure they are doing OK. “Sometimes, I’m the only person they talk to all day,” she said.

Bill, who worked in new product development at 3M for 38 years, was on the hospital board of directors for many years, including when the new hospital was built. He now serves on the board of the Hudson Hospital Foundation.

One of the joys of their work has been watching new Hudson residents come forward to volunteer. “It’s really impressive for us old guys to see the enthusiasm of new people of Hudson,” said Bill. “It’s kind of thrilling.” Sally recalled being asked to help rally some of the traditional movers and shakers in town to support a fundraising effort. But, in the end, she said “it was the new people in town who really forged ahead with the fundraising.”

They enjoy the community of fellow volunteers at the hospital and simply feel volunteering is the right thing to do – “with respect and love,” said Sally.

“I feel we owe a debt of gratitude for saving my life,” said Bill.

Local businesses are close allies with Foundation

When the cause is as important as the wellness of the community, local businesses step up to show their support for Hudson Hospital Foundation. Corporate leaders say it's their way of ensuring the success of a strong local hospital that provides a great service to the region.

Andersen Corporation of Bayport has long been a major corporate supporter of the Al Hein Golf Tournament, one of the Foundation's annual fundraising events. The company's community affairs manager, Susan Roeder, said it's simply a natural fit: "It's a lovely, long-term relationship we've had with this institution. We are big fans."

Local business leaders themselves, as well as board members of Hudson Hospital Foundation, Craig Gibson and Rich O'Connor co-chaired the Al Hein tournament.

"The event attracted a great number of community members and businesses who see the benefit of giving funds to our local hospital, to ensure that Hudson will always be able to offer great health care to our community," said Gibson.



Last summer, the Bohannon Group of Northwestern Mutual, which has an office in Hudson, led area businesses as the major sponsor of the Foundation's newest fundraising program, the Hudson Pro-Am Golf Invitational, held in coordination with Hudson's Troy Burne Golf Club.

Dave Tentis, the golf club pro who worked with the Foundation to develop the new tournament, said the tournament gives local amateurs the chance to play with a pro: "It's a little more serious – a whole different dimension."

Money raised by the golf tournaments and other fundraising efforts allows Hudson Hospital Foundation to purchase new medical equipment for Hudson Hospital & Clinics and supports

services that are critical to the community, including Lifeline[®] home monitoring, automated external defibrillators (AEDs), hospital facility funds and many other programs.

"We are very grateful for the sponsors and what they do," said O'Connor. "Even in a down market, most community sponsors are of the mindset that they want to contribute. Health care delivery is at the top of the priority list."

2008 Major Corporate Sponsors

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