

# Advancing Health... Caring for People

December 2016

*Thank You!*

## Gifts from Family Honor Daughter and Support Babies at Aspirus

Adam and Danielle Mullins of Junction City, Wisconsin, created The Brennan Mullins Newborn Support Fund with the Aspirus Health Foundation in early 2016. They wanted to find a special way to honor and remember their daughter, Brennan, who touched the lives and hearts of many people during her four short days of life following her birth on March 14, 2015.

“Adam and I received the gift of a love from Brennan that is unknown to a person until they have a baby,” said Danielle Mullins. “Brennan touched the lives and hearts of everyone who met her. She was a beautiful and amazing baby and gift from God who will always be with us and will never be forgotten. When we learned of the opportunity to create a fund in Brennan’s name that would help others, it felt like the right way to honor our beautiful daughter.”



*Brennan Mullins Newborn Support Fund, established in February of 2016 by the Mullins Family.*



*Adam and Danielle Mullins holding daughter Reagan, and Natalie Altenhofen, Aspirus Speech Therapist, at the 2016 Aspirus Anya Marie Jackson NICU Birthday Party.*

The Brennan Mullins Newborn Support Fund is already supporting babies and families at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. A special program to capture

## Gifts from Family Honor Daughter and Support Babies at Aspirus

photos and memories of newborns and their families in the Birthing Center has been implemented. Nurses take photos of the precious first few days of the babies' and families' time together and provide the camera's memory card to the family as a gift when they are ready to go home. In addition, eight new bassinets have been provided to comfort babies in the Birthing Center.

The Mullins have since happily welcomed a healthy baby girl named, Reagan. Danielle stated, "It will be neat for Reagan to grow up and see the many ways that newborns and families in our community are being supported because of her sister, Brennan, and their family's gifts to the Brennan Mullins Newborn Support Fund."

# Your Gifts Help Children

Through your donations to the greatest health needs of our community, funding helps provide much needed adaptive and medical equipment for children who have physical disabilities in Wisconsin.

Five-year old Kian has a rare heart defect and is unable to walk or crawl. He tried using a gait trainer a few times at school and showed signs that he liked using it. However, he was only able to use it at school two times a month when he had physical therapy. His mom wanted Kian to have a gait trainer to use at home in order to gain strength and coordination so he is able to move independently. Because of the Aspirus Health Foundation's support, Kian received a KidWalk gait trainer that he can use to be mobile just like all of the other kids.

His mom says, "Kian is getting much stronger in his lower body and able to make choices about where he wants to be. He is able to enjoy an upright position and get around outdoors without the use of his wheelchair."

"It's all about helping kids be kids," says Jessica Bauer-Phipps, Program & Event Specialist for Variety - The Children's Charity of Wisconsin. We are grateful to organizations such as the Aspirus Health Foundation for their support to allow this program to continue."



*Kian demonstrates his new KidWalk Gait Trainer*

# Gifts from Aspirus Employees Make a Difference to Help People Locally



**Rhonda Kardos,**  
*HR Business Partner,  
Aspirus, Inc.*

Through the annual Employees in Phi-lan-thro-py Campaign, employees shared over \$30,000 in personal gifts to help others in our community.

“I support The Aspirus Health Foundation because of the broad support they provide the community. From educational programs to assistance for our elderly, every program and initiative the Foundation is involved with embodies our Aspirus mission and values,” said Rhonda Kardos, Human Resources Business Partner at Aspirus. “I can think of no better way to show how proud I am to work for Aspirus than to support the efforts of our Aspirus Health Foundation.”

“Because we know sometimes people can’t afford to do what’s best for their health, a **new Patient Assistance Fund** was created this year,” remarked Kim Smerda, Fund Development Specialist for the Aspirus Health Foundation.



**Kim Smerda,**  
*Fund Development  
Specialist, Aspirus  
Health Foundation*

The fact is, sometimes people can’t afford to do what’s best for them, and they need help.

- A child’s parents can’t afford the inhaler he needs, so he struggles to breathe so that his parents can put food on the table for the family.
- An elderly woman is embarrassed to ask for help, so she stretches the supplies to clean her wound, and it ends up getting worse and causing severe pain.
- A veteran who lives in transitional housing can’t afford transportation to his doctor’s visit, so he cancels his appointment, and his mental health spirals out of control.

Gifts to this fund help provide a safety net for people through a program designed to support immediate needs until they can be connected with community resources.

“We’re grateful for the support of our employees and donors to help care for people in our community who cannot help themselves,” remarked Smerda.



# Gifts from Community Events Help People Locally



## Cancer Benefit – Casino Style

The first annual Cancer Benefit – Casino Style was held on February 14, 2016, to celebrate the life and memory of Diane Matsche. Hundreds of people gathered at Dale's Weston Lanes to have fun and raised \$8,654 to help people dealing with cancer in our community. The second annual event will be on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Visit the event's page on Facebook for details.

*Back row from left: Dr. Peterson, Wendy Schulz, Beth Knetter, Renee Barwick, Erin Novotny. Front row: Amber Clark, Juli Alford.*



## Run for Hospice

The 2016 Run for Hospice event was held on Saturday, May 7, 2016, at Fabiano Brothers in Weston. Together with 730 runners, walkers, donors, businesses, and volunteers in our community, the Run for Hospice raised \$40,610. This is a record high for participation and fundraising. Proceeds from the event will help support an important interior renovation of the 18 year old Aspirus Hospice House.

The event also serves as a way for some families to remember loved ones who have passed. Mark your calendar for May 13, 2017, and visit [runforhospice.net](http://runforhospice.net) for details.

*The family of Joyce Rossmanith, "Joyce's Angels," participated in the event to honor her memory and help others in need of hospice care.*



## Crusaders for Christ & Jr. High Youth Groups Fundraiser

The Crusaders for Christ and Jr. High Youth Groups from Trinity Lutheran Church in Athens presented \$1,442 to the Aspirus Regional Cancer Center from their June Youth Cancer Walk to stock the patient and family resource center.

*Pictured left to right. Front row - Deb Frick, Blake Hein, Andrew Frick, Emma Ford. Second row - Mary Kay Dreikosen, Siarra Hart, Lila Thompson, Anna Nowicki, Elizabeth Van Rixel, Abby Van Rixel, Judy Weise. Third row - Ron Zahrt, Rebecca Van Rixel, Heidi Somsen.*



## Stahel Family Memorial Pool Tournament

Friends and family of Mary Stahel held the annual Stahel Family Memorial Pool Tournament on April 2, 2016, and raised funds to support people locally. They raised \$21,000 for four community organizations, including \$6,000 for the Aspirus Regional Cancer Center.

*Pictured top row Eugene Stahel, Steve Stahel, Lori Baumann; front row Mary Kay Dreikosen, Heidi Somsen, Sheila (Stahel) Klug, Jack Pagels and Kim Smerda.*

# Philanthropy Facts

## A Letter to Aspirus Health Foundation

Words cannot express our grateful appreciation for Ramp-Up so that Fred now has a wheel chair ramp, so he can get to his doctor appointments and just take a ride with me. I can push him with ease. Thank you so much for helping by supplying materials, etc. It's nice to know there are people who care and do these wonderful deeds! Thank you so much.

*Fred and Lorraine Maly - Mosinee*



## Medical Equipment for Patients

Your gifts helped provide medical equipment for patients, like Linda, to improve their health. Linda received a scale to help her manage her Heart Failure. She used to judge fluid retention by how her hands and feet felt and looked and how her clothing fit. Now that she has the scale, she finds it easier to assess because she has an actual number to go by. She is now able to be consistent with weighing herself daily and thankful for the help and support of donors in our community.

*Pictured is Linda Mills.*



## DC Everest Gaming Club Dotation

The DC Everest Gaming Club made a special \$500 gift to the Pediatric Unit at Aspirus Wausau Hospital to help kids during their hospital stays. The annual Evercon Gaming & Anime Convention raised funds to support several local charities and causes to help our community.

*Pictured are members of the DC Everest Gaming Club.*



## Donation from 5th Grade Madison Elementary

5th Graders from Madison Elementary in Stevens Point donated 24 activity packages for patients and families at Aspirus Regional Cancer Center that included adult coloring pages and pencils, activity books, and coloring books for kids with crayons.

*Pictured is Pam Vetter, Mary Kay Dreikosen, Caden, Owen, Tate, Heidi Somsen, and teacher, Ms. McLarnan.*

# Gifts from Aspirus Women's Golf Classic Support Important Community Needs

The 10th anniversary Aspirus Women's Golf Classic held on Monday, August 1, 2016, at the Wausau Country Club in Schofield raised \$120,349.

More than 250 golfers, caddies, and volunteers partnered with Aspirus and many businesses and community members to raise funds for two important causes. The proceeds will support:

- Children and adult victims of sexual assault and abuse by advancing a nurse examiner program at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.
- Children's brain development through a novel, interactive, and fun approach using books through the Reach Out and Read program at Aspirus Clinics.

Aspirus Wausau Hospital is advancing a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program to support children and adult victims during this traumatic time of their lives. The program provides medical care and the expertise needed to correctly collect forensic evidence to pursue criminal convictions against their abusers. Proceeds from the Golf Classic will support extensive training for nurses, as well as specialized forensic equipment and supplies for evidence collection in the emergency room at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

"All of our emergency department nurses are trained in caring for domestic violence victims, but sexual assault cases require additional care, particularly when collecting evidence," said Robin Rudie, RN, nursing director of the emergency department at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. "Nurses who receive SANE certification are committed to these victims and have a passion for helping people who have suffered through this experience."

"I personally want to thank the Aspirus Health Foundation and my community for this year's Women's Golf Classic to support the SANE Program," said Heidi Wolfe. "I hold this program very near and dear to my heart as I'm a survivor of sexual assault by a family member, once as a child and again at the age of 41."

The SANE program is extremely important to a victim in the Emergency Room. I can say without a doubt the first person a victim meets that shows compassion, empathy, and understanding will help give the victim strength and hope after a traumatic life experience. Also, the process of how professionally and compassionately evidence is gathered will play a significant role in obtaining justice in a courtroom, as well as comforting the victim."



*Pictured left to right.  
Melissa Konicek,  
Melanie Peterson,  
Quinton Feltner,  
Katie Kuehnhold,  
and Heidi Wolfe.*



## Your Opportunities for Giving

Gifts to the Aspirus Health Foundation help people in our community by helping address the greatest health needs of our community, and by supporting programs and services for patients at Aspirus. As a donor, you are an important part of our mission work, and the following options for giving offer you the broadest framework for charitable giving in the present and the future:

### Partners in Health Giving Society

Your monetary gifts are appreciated and may be made online, by phone, or by mail using the enclosed gift envelope.

**Aspirus Hero Program:** Special gifts may also recognize an outstanding care provider through the Aspirus Hero program.

**Memorial & Honorary Gifts:** A donation or creation of a named fund is a thoughtful way to express your sympathy for the loss of a loved one or to honor someone special in your life.

Please contact the Aspirus Health Foundation or your financial representative to explore opportunities that are right for you (715-847-2470 or [ahf@aspirus.org](mailto:ahf@aspirus.org)).

### Legacy Society Gifts

How do you want others to benefit from the assets you will transfer and the goals you hope they will achieve?

Establishing an estate plan and reviewing it every few years is necessary to provide for your family's future. An estate plan with gifts to charitable organizations, like the Aspirus Health Foundation, may reduce tax liabilities, provide greater resources for your loved ones, and support causes that have been important to you throughout your life.

Because financial situations vary from person to person, there are a variety of options to explore:

**Direct Gifts:** Bequests, Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, Appreciated Securities

**Trust Gifts:** Charitable Lead Trust, Charitable Remainder Trust



**HEALTH FOUNDATION**

333 Pine Ridge Boulevard  
Wausau, WI 54401

# Calendar of Events

Show your support for the Aspirus Health Foundation and our community partners by attending any of a number of important community fundraising events, or get involved by joining a planning committee, donating an auction item, or sponsoring an event. For more information, please visit [aspirus.org/foundation](http://aspirus.org/foundation), call 715-847-2470, or email [ahf@aspirus.org](mailto:ahf@aspirus.org).



**May 13, 2017**

5K run/walk or 10K run  
to support hospice care



**August 7, 2017**

Women's Golf Scramble to support  
our community's health

## DONOR APPRECIATION *Celebration*

**October 5, 2017**

Annual event to celebrate our donors and  
the difference they make to advance the health  
and quality of life for people in our region

### Join Us Online

Please visit our web site to learn more about the programs and people your donations are supporting. Connect with us and other partners on our Facebook page. Thank you for making a difference!



**Like us on Facebook!**

[aspirus.org/foundation](http://aspirus.org/foundation)  
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[ahf@aspirus.org](mailto:ahf@aspirus.org)