

Advancing Health... Caring for People

Fall 2019

Thank You!

Third Class of Aspirus Scholars Named to Tackle Physician Shortage

In spring of 2019, the Aspirus Health Foundation's Aspirus Scholars Program awarded scholarships to four medical students from the Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin campus (MCW-CW). The program is a community collaboration to address the national physician shortage and meet the needs of people and communities in north central Wisconsin and Upper Michigan today and for future generations.

The program provides generous scholarships for tuition to medical students and connects them to Aspirus and the communities served by Aspirus during their training. In return, students commit to employment at Aspirus in the areas of primary care, psychiatry or general surgery.

Four Aspirus Scholars recipients have accepted scholarships in return for future employment with Aspirus:

- **Madeline Klippel** (Hometown: Merrill, WI)
- **Joseph Novak** (Hometown: Antigo, WI)
- **Hannah Marti** (Hometown: Pittsville, WI)
- **Natalie Weeks** (Hometown: Orfordville, WI)

“Our Aspirus Scholars award recipients already have strong ties to north central Wisconsin as well as the U.P. of Michigan and are passionate about medicine

and caring for patients,” said Kalynn Pempek, Executive Director of the Aspirus Health Foundation and Volunteer Services. “Each will be a tremendous addition to the Aspirus family and the communities we serve.”



Matt Heywood, CEO of Aspirus, welcomes medical students, Joe Novak, Madeline Klippel, Natalie Weeks, and Hannah Marti to the Aspirus Family

“We are thankful to our community partners whose generosity has made this important program possible.”

Aspirus Employees Give Back

Employees at Aspirus put their generosity into action during the Aspirus Health Foundation Employee Giving Campaign, “Caring starts with US”, to help people in need in our community.

“It’s a way for me to give back to the community, and also set an example for my children that we can discuss about engaging with the community,” said Wayne Pierce, Information Security Officer at Aspirus. “It helps set an example for my children, but also allows them to see that there are small ways they can help other people and things they can do to make life better for others.”

“I like to give through the Aspirus Health Foundation because I can choose where the money goes. In a lot of organizations, you just give the money and you have no control over what happens with it, or where it’s given to,” Wayne continued.

“Everybody needs help at some point, we help when we can.”

Employees shared over \$35,000 in personal gifts to help people in need in our community.

The campaign also included jeans days and raffles raising \$4,715 to help create the new Aspirus Family House.



Aspirus Cardiology Clinic employees show their support for the Aspirus Family House by donating to wear jeans.

Vivian’s Legacy of Caring



*Vivian M. Koppa
April 7, 1925 –
May 10, 2019*

Vivian Koppa was born in Wausau in 1925. She graduated from Wausau East High School and completed her nurse training at St. Mary’s Hospital, where she worked for many years as a nurse in a caring profession. So, it comes as no surprise that she chose to include a charitable gift which would help care for people even after she passed away. Through

her estate plan, Vivian made a gift of \$24,300 to support end-of-life care at the Aspirus Hospice House in her hometown, at the hospital where she trained as a nurse and cared for patients and families.

Vivian cared about the Aspirus Hospice House, and her gift is one that will help people during their end-of-life journeys to continue her legacy for years to come.

Vivian’s hope was that her gift might inspire other donors, like you, to match her gift.

To learn more about the hospice care that inspired Vivian to make a gift in her estate plan, to take a virtual tour of the Aspirus Hospice House, and to make your own gift, visit our website at [aspirus.org/hospicehouse](https://www.aspirus.org/hospicehouse).

Family House Groundbreaking Celebrated



Donors from our community and medical community celebrate the groundbreaking with hard hats and sledgehammers in hand.

The sky was blue and the weather conditions were perfect on June 25, 2019 for the groundbreaking celebration at the site of the new Aspirus Family House in Wausau.

Aspirus leaders were joined by donors from our community and medical community who helped make the Family House possible through their gifts to the Aspirus Health Foundation's Give Healing a Home capital campaign.

Every year, thousands of people travel to Wausau from the regions served by our hospitals and clinics for specialty care at Aspirus. This includes patients traveling for long-term outpatient care, as well as families whose loved ones are hospitalized. We know that the cost of housing is a burden to our most vulnerable patients and families. That is why we are proud to create the Aspirus Family House to help patients and families with temporary housing during a difficult time in their lives.

A building on the corner of 28th Avenue and Westhill Drive was purchased specifically for this project due to its close proximity to Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

The fact that the Family House will be adjacent to the hospital will offer peace of mind to patients, families, and caregivers and will aid in the healing process. Renovation began following the groundbreaking celebration, and the Family House will begin serving guests in January 2020.

The Family House will include ten bedrooms with private bathrooms and shared living spaces designed as a home-like environment, conducive to healing and support from our community and others going through similar health experiences. Guests of the Family House will be served by dedicated staff and volunteers. Community groups will provide additional support.

We are grateful for our donors who helped bring the vision for the Aspirus Family House to life.

Details about the project and future donation and volunteer opportunities are available online at aspirus.org/familyhouse. Sign up for the e-newsletter to stay connected.

Woman Gives Back To Recognize Heroes Who Saved Her Hand

Imagine being in a strange town when your hand and arm sudden swell up and cause excruciating pain and you need to find an emergency room and hospital. That's exactly what happened to Peggy Jordan of Wausau in January of 2018. She was traveling in southern Wisconsin when she found herself in a strange hospital under scary conditions. She knew something was not right with her care there but could not advocate for herself due to the medications that altered her ability.

Luckily, Peggy's daughter, Katrina, is a nurse with the Aspirus Weston Clinic and realized the urgency of her mother's condition and immediately traveled to be with her mother. With the assistance of Dr. Coy Johnston, family medicine physician with the Aspirus Weston Clinic, she arranged for her mother's release and transfer to Aspirus where Dr. Daniel Priebe, orthopedic surgeon with the Bone & Joint Clinic, was waiting to perform immediate surgery.

Peggy shared, "Dr. Daniel Priebe is my Hero. He is a very compassionate doctor and was ready to take care of me when I arrived at Aspirus. He calmed my fear and anxiety as he explained what happened to my hand, what needed to be done, and made sure I understood. He got me into surgery very quickly and saved my hand from permanent nerve damage.

"Without his care, I would not have the use of my hand today and would have had a very different life than the one I have now."

Peggy's husband, Joe, was out of town in Florida when Peggy was hospitalized and recalls his fear for his wife as he made the emergent trip home to be with her. When he arrived at Aspirus, Peggy was in surgery which ultimately saved her hand.

Joe remarked, "We are so grateful for Aspirus and Dr. Johnston, Katrina, and Dr. Priebe doing everything they could to help Peggy and get her to the care she needed.



Dr. Dan Priebe, Peggy Jordan & Joe Jordan



Katrina Clark, Peggy Jordan, Joe Jordan, and Dr. Coy Johnston

We're grateful to have the opportunity to make a donation through the Aspirus Hero program to recognize them for the difference they made in our lives. We encourage everyone to consider recognizing their caregivers through the Hero program. It is very healing to give back and say thanks to some pretty amazing medical professionals that we are lucky to have in our community."

To learn about how you can recognize your Aspirus Hero, visit aspirus.org/thank-your-aspirus-hero.

Gifts from Third Graders Comfort Cancer Patients

Patients on the Oncology Care unit at Aspirus Wausau Hospital received a special gift made by 3rd grade students from Rawson Elementary School in South Milwaukee and an uplifting visit from a family on Tuesday, April 23rd. Each student made a decorated wrapped box in brown paper with drawings that contained hand-made decorations for each holiday season, along with hand-painted tile trivets, bird feeders, stuffed animals, inspirational notes, a letter from the student, and a letter from their teach, Mr. Bill Gaynor.

Cancer patient Mary was so grateful for the act of kindness.



Bill Gaynor's students at Rawson Elementary School

"This is a grin bringer."

"This is a grin bringer," she said as she opened the beautifully decorated box and many wonderful items. She asked to have some decorations immediately posted in her room and looked forward to going home to hang up a paper windsock. She said it was the best day and will stay with her throughout the year.

Bill Gaynor's cousin, Marty Ferris, his wife, Jen, and daughter, Riley, residents of Wausau, delivered these special gifts to patients battling cancer to offer hope and kindness.



Marty & Jen Ferris with Sue Walter, Oncology Care Unit Manager

Recognize Your Aspirus Hero

Go online to aspirus.org/hero for more information.

Yes, I would like to make a donation and name my Aspirus Hero.

My Aspirus Hero: _____

Department: _____

My Story: _____

My Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____
(Checks made payable to Aspirus Health Foundation)

Please charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: ____ / ____ Security Code: ____ (3-digit)

Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please remove my name from the Aspirus Health Foundation mailing list.

A Home Away from Home

Parents grateful for family house during daughter's stay

Learning your child needs surgery is scary. When you have to travel to receive the necessary care, the situation can become more difficult – even overwhelming. That's what local father, Ben Fischer, told us about a recent experience with his six-month-old daughter, Nella.

Nella had a condition called Craniosynostosis, which causes problems with normal brain and skull growth. She needed to have a highly-invasive surgery at a children's hospital that required the Fischers to travel in order to get Nella the specialty care she needed.

Ben recalled how difficult the whole experience was for them.

"We were in shock when we found out about the condition, and somewhat in denial," he said. "We didn't know what to expect, having our daughter undergo general anesthesia for a day-long skull surgery. It was very scary no matter how many experts assured us all it would be okay, and this type of surgery is rather routine for them."



The Fischer Family - Ben, Courtney, Nella and Aggie.

Ben says that his family didn't have the funds to stay in a hotel room for more than a week. Luckily, the children's hospital had an affiliation with a family house where he and his family were able to stay.

"The family house was huge for us because that was one major concern we didn't have to worry about," Ben said.

"We could focus on Nella and her care, and not about where we would stay and how we would pay for all the expenses of traveling."

"It was easy access to and from the house to the hospital directly across the street," Ben said. "To this day, I'm grateful for everything, from the care to the home-like atmosphere of the family house that held my family together when it felt like life was tearing us apart."

"That is why my wife and I were so happy to learn that Aspirus would be creating a family house to serve patients and families who travel to Wausau for specialty care," Ben said. "We know that the Aspirus Family House will serve as a home away from home for many patients and families for years to come. And we love that it is located across the street from the hospital, because we know how important it was for us to be close to Nella when she was in the hospital. We look forward to touring the Aspirus Family House when it opens in January of 2020."

For more information about the Aspirus Family House, visit [aspirus.org/familyhouse](https://www.aspirus.org/familyhouse)

Generosity is Something You Can Give Back

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.

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, call 715-847-2470, or email ahf@aspirus.org.



November 26-December 1, 2019

Festival of Trees to support hospice

DONOR APPRECIATION
Celebration

April 30, 2020

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



August 3, 2020

Aspirus Women's Golf Classic to support our community's health

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
715.847.2470
ahf@aspirus.org

The incredible moment when

A husband overcoming loss finds laughter.

A child struggling with fitting-in finds a friend.

A new mother fighting cancer finds hope.

You have the power to change worlds. Supporting the **Aspirus Health Foundation** makes a direct impact on the well-being of our local families and communities.

Get involved at aspirus.org/foundation



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Passion for excellence.
Compassion for people.

