

Advancing Health...

Caring for People

Annual Report 2020

Thank You!

Your Generosity Makes It Possible

Growing Stronger Together with the Family House

Thanks to gifts from you and community partners, the Aspirus Family House has been operating 24/7 and welcomed 597 guests from 12 states in its first year of operation in 2020, despite all that this past year has brought us.

Fulfilling this need was even more critical to support those whose medical treatment and care needed to continue during the COVID-19 crisis.

Guests THANK YOU:

“Thank you, thank you, thank you! Being able to stay here at the Family House really made an unpleasant experience joyful. The house is beautiful and the staff are wonderful.”

“A med-flight here to the hospital for my husband, peace of mind to be here at the Family House for me. Thank you for the care and compassion shown and the extras done.”

“Thank you so much for the wonderful visit and great night sleep. Thank you for all your kind, caring staff. Thanks to all the donors who made this lovely house possible. Thanks to those who provide snacks, etc. May God bless you all.”

We are so grateful for the generosity and engagement from community members and the medical community to meet the needs of our most vulnerable patients and families by bringing the Family House to life!

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House guests enjoy a meal together prepared by house guest Mike.

“What a wonderful place. Thank you so much for your thoughtful staff and a beautiful, warm place to spend the night. God bless you and all the donations received to build and keep this home running.”

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“The Aspirus Family House is doing such incredible work for families by providing a welcoming and safe home away from home while a loved one is undergoing treatment at Aspirus,” said Bailey Schepp, Community Relations Specialist, Connexus Credit Union. “When the doors opened in February, there was no way to predict how much COVID was going to affect the work that you are doing. We are so honored to support the important work they are doing, and we are excited for the promising future the Aspirus Family House has in the Wausau Community.”

Aspirus Health Foundation received a special gift from Connexus Cares, Connexus Credit Union’s philanthropic program, of \$25,000 to support the Aspirus Family House in November.

Tasha Stencil, Family House Manager shared, “Aspirus is grateful for our partnership with Connexus Credit Union and for this special gift through the Connexus Cares program, which will have a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of our most vulnerable patients and families in need for many years to come.”

With your support and gifts like this, the Family House can keep the lights on and the doors open for guests who need a place to stay when traveling for specialty care.

GUEST SPOTLIGHT

Mike stayed at the Family House for 6 weeks receiving daily treatments. He resides in Michigan so daily treatments meant he needed to stay close by, but a hotel was going to be a substantial financial burden and he did not know what to do. Mike learned of the Family House from the Aspirus Regional Cancer Center and it sounded like the perfect solution. But as you can imagine, he was still nervous and apprehensive coming to a strange town and staying at a new place... alone. Mike said, “From the moment I checked in, I began to breathe again. The house became my home and the staff and other guests my family.” Mike could not say enough about the entire Aspirus system of care. Mike’s sense of humor and outstanding cooking skills endeared him to many. There were well wishes and some tears shed by many when he finished treatment and he returned to Michigan.



*“I feel like I spent the last 6 weeks with family. The entire crew at Aspirus made me feel like a valued person, not a number.”
– Mike D, Michigan*

Your Gifts Save Lives

Last year, your gifts helped fund a program, *Increasing Access to Opioid Overdose Prevention in Marathon County*, and the prevention department's Naloxone distribution program through Vivent Health.

Overdose deaths were already on the rise before the start of the pandemic, but the CDC shows a sharp uptick in deaths since March 2020, when the coronavirus spread across the country. People recovering from addiction have been locked down and shut out of their usual support systems.

57 lives were saved because of prevention services.

Increasing the availability of Naloxone (Narcan) - a fast-acting opioid antagonist that can reverse and block the effects of an opioid overdose - and training is a key tool for preventing overdose deaths. It comes in the form of an injection or a nasal spray, both of which are easy to use after attending training.

In 2020, through this program 5,805 doses of Naloxone were distributed in Wausau; 316 individuals were trained; and 57 lives were saved because of prevention services.

Together we are making a difference to continue working to increase access to this lifesaving medication and help get it in the hands of those who can intervene quickly during an overdose emergency.



"I was trained before it was widely available, and I have seen so many people live to see better days because of what you guys do and the supplies you make available" - Vivent Health, Prevention Client

Festival of Trees 2020

In 24 years, the Aspirus Health Foundation has never hosted a virtual Festival of Trees -- until 2020.

Thank you for keeping the tradition of Festival of Trees alive. We could not do it without you!

The annual Festival of Trees community event, held virtually Thanksgiving week, raised just over \$127,000 to support Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services, including two community bedrooms at Aspirus Hospice House for patients with a limited ability to pay.

“As different as it was this year, we are so pleased with the results,” said Kim Smerda, Fund Development Specialist for the Aspirus Health Foundation. “It’s fantastic for us to be able to come together with our community, still provide this event, and still provide that joy and spirit of Christmas. In a year of change and uncertainty, it is reassuring to experience the generosity of our community.”

Paul LaPree, Vice President for Business Development for Miron Construction Company said, “Miron is once again honored to be the presenting sponsor for this year’s Festival of Trees. And while we are saddened we cannot gather to celebrate the season together, the need for this event goes on. Caring for those who have given all of us so much really is the truest meaning of the holiday season.”

Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services is truly fortunate to be the beneficiary of the Festival of Trees, and is grateful for the many individuals, businesses and volunteers that supported and “attended” the Festival. Of course, the true beneficiaries of these gifts are the patients and families of Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services, as shared by a family this past year:

“I would like to say a special thank you to all of you. Your kindness, compassion and caring given to my wife and all of us was just so over the top! We will never forget that. There are ANGELS here on earth. Again, thank you so much!”

Thanks to the hard work of the Festival committee, the Opening Night Gala was live streamed with host, Steve Weiland, MD. The auction was held online and, through the generosity of community partners, new items such as an exclusive bracelet from Jim Kryshak Jewelers, holiday treat boxes from PK Creations, and much more were able to be auctioned.

Visit the Aspirus Health Foundation Festival of Trees YouTube Channel to watch the recorded Gala program and videos of the week’s activities with the favorite things our guests love when they attend the Festival of Trees - local festival musical performers were invited to submit videos, videos of holiday crafts to make were shown, and new this year were nightly Story Time videos.

We are so grateful for the generosity of our sponsors, “decorators”, donors, volunteers and “attendees” who made the 2020 Festival of Trees a success.

We hope to see you in person for our 25th Festival of Trees in 2021, the week of Thanksgiving! Thank you for your support!



Thank You!

Gifts Support Healthy Eating

The first hydroponic vertical garden was installed in November at Aspirus Wausau Hospital, thanks to the help of funding provided by the Community Foundation of Northcentral Wisconsin.

Now the hospital is able to provide even more healthy food to patients and staff all year long. In addition to lettuce products such as leaf lettuce, spinach and kale, Aspirus Wausau Hospital Nutrition and Food Services staff are excited to try growing basil, cilantro, cherry tomatoes, strawberries and more.

Because of you, hospitals can connect patients to local produce year round as a way to address food insecurity and improve health.



“Hospitals are uniquely positioned not only to educate and help patients understand how eating healthy can prevent many chronic illnesses, but they can connect patients to vital community resources, such as food,” said Tara Draeger, System Director of Community Health Improvement, “Our goal is to have five units on our Wausau Campus in an effort to efficiently cultivate produce that will also help address food insecurity by giving access to fresh local produce year-round and can then be replicated at other hospitals in the system. We are extremely grateful for the community partnerships that invest in projects like this.”

The vertical garden offers the opportunity to grow food locally through a sustainable, organic, and hydroponic process, helping to reduce our carbon footprint and save in operational costs. A single garden unit can provide 7,260 servings of lettuce annually.

Thank you for your commitment to sustainable, healthy food practices. Good food is good medicine.



Hospitalists Give Back to Recognize Heroes Who Stepped Up

The coronavirus pandemic is something the likes of which many health care workers have never seen. Yet, with COVID-19 surging across the nation in the spring, a call for Aspirus staff to volunteer on dedicated COVID medical units was made.

The Aspirus Wausau Hospitalists team wanted to do something for the Aspirus staff who stepped up to volunteer, putting themselves at a consistent high risk. They chose the Aspirus Hero program as a way to give back through the Aspirus Health Foundation and also recognize these Aspirus team members.

Team members of Nurses, CNAs, Techs, Respiratory Therapists, and EVS workers who volunteered to work exclusively on the COVID-19 units were recognized as Aspirus Heroes by the Hospitalist team who made a gift in their honor.

“As members of the Hospitalist team, we have seen first-hand the impact these individuals are making on these very sick patients,” Dr. Adam Clements shared appreciation from the Hospitalist team. “You all model the compassion that Aspirus is known for. Your courage and dedication to serving others is admired and deeply appreciated! Thank you for your hard work, dedication and passion for patient care.”

To learn more about how you can recognize your Aspirus Hero, visit aspirus.org/aspirushero

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HERO Awards presented to those who volunteered for the COVID-19 unit.

Generosity is Something You Can Give Back

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 giving to the greatest needs offers you the broadest framework for charitable giving in the present and the future.



Your Gifts in Action – Thank You!

The Aspirus Health Foundation is grateful for your charitable gifts to help patients and families at Aspirus and friends and neighbors in our community. Thank you and all our partners, donors, and volunteers for your generosity last year and for your continued support in 2021.

Aspirus Health Foundation 2021-2021 Board of Directors

Ben Reif, <i>Chair</i>	Brad Peck
Stewart Etten, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Christopher Peterson, M.D.
Ellie Reineck, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Charles Peth
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Deborah Kane	

Aspirus Health Foundation Team

Tara Draeger, *Interim Executive Director*
 Kim Smerda, *Fund Development Specialist*
 Lori Artz, *Database Specialist*
 Mary Dobeck, *Executive Assistant*

Statement of Financial Position *June 30, 2020*

Assets

Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$438,788
Current portion of assets limited as to use	
Investments	800,000
Pledges receivable	226,000
Prepaid expenses and other	38,342
Total current assets	1,503,130
Investments	6,053,453
Noncurrent assets limited as to use	
Investments	24,566,571
Pledges receivable	189,328
Other noncurrent assets	772,565
Property and equipment - Net	0
TOTAL ASSETS	\$33,085,047

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:	
Current portion of long-term liabilities -	
Donor-imposed	\$800,000
Accounts payable	30,035
Other accrued liabilities	170,056
Total current liabilities	1,000,091
Long-term liability - Donor imposed liability	6,851,826
Total liabilities	7,851,917
Net Assets:	
Without donor restrictions:	
Designated by Board for Scholars Program	10,522,752
Undesignated	7,103,057
With donor restrictions	7,607,321
Total net assets	25,233,130
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$33,085,047

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets Year Ended – June 30, 2020

Changes in net assets:	
Support and revenue:	
Total amounts raised	\$1,168,405
Less - Amounts designated by donors for specific organizations	(675,364)
Total contributions	493,041
Investment income	414,852
Grant revenue	-
Other income	91,389
Total support and revenue	999,282
Expenses:	
Contributions - Community programs	411,834
Program support	265,490
Administrative and general	236,753
Fund-raising	88,018
Total expenses	1,002,095
Change in net assets	(2,813)
Net asset transfers	0
Net assets at beginning	25,235,943
Net assets at end	\$25,233,130

This is a summarized financial statement presentation. The complete audited financial statement is available upon request.

Our Heartfelt Thanks

As we work together to meet the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are humbled by the compassion and generosity of our community. Throughout the evolving crisis, our spirits and strength continue to be uplifted by the compassion shared by you and your neighbors.

Your gifts help us prepare and respond to the evolving demands of the pandemic. Contributions have been inspiring - ranging from donating protective gear and supplies, financial gifts to our COVID Support Fund, food donations, hand-written notes, handmade masks, and more.

Your commitment to the health and safety of our medical staff, patients and community are very much appreciated. Your donations are actively helping prevent the spread of COVID and helping to save lives.

Because of local businesses and people like you, we are and will remain strong.

Your compassion and generosity has united us in countless ways over the past year and will continue to do so as we navigate this time **together**.

A heartfelt **thank you** from all of us at Aspirus.



Your Foundation Events



August 2, 2021

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



November 23 - 28, 2021

Festival of Trees to support hospice

Thank You!

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](https://www.aspirus.org/foundation)

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