

WEST RIVER HEALTH SERVICES AUXILIARY

The Hettinger Hospital Guild was organized on October 5, 1949, with Mrs. Ray Clark as President, an office she held continually until January 1961. It was agreed at the first meeting that \$1 annual dues were to be charged for each membership.

The first project was the purchase of materials and the sewing of drapes for patient rooms. The group also spent many hours preparing the hospital for opening day.

This began an endless list of gifts to the hospital by the Guild for items needed in all departments of the facility. Some of the more expensive equipment the Guild sponsored, in part or wholly paid for, were an X-ray machine and X-ray screen, oxygen tents, Electrocardiograph and resuscitator. They also paid for the digging of supplemental water well. Money for lab equipment was donated in memory of President Selma Galbreth; a cardio scope; a \$1,000 isolate for premature babies and \$2,500 was given to the hospital for projects during the 60's.

The Guild presented a gift to the first baby born in the hospital and has continued this practice each year. A \$50 savings bond is now given to the first baby born during Hospital Week.

After thirteen years of being the Hospital Guild, the organization changed its name in 1963 to the Auxiliary when joining the state organization.

In 1962, the Auxiliary president was Ardis Skaarvold. Other Presidents included Helen Amsden, Evelyn Haag, Selma Galbreth, Bea West, Susie Melby and Lillian Stenberg. Those were very productive years for the Auxiliary, with a membership growth of 96 new members recorded.

During that time the Auxiliary asked other organizations in the area to join them in their fund raising efforts. Nine organizations helped with bazaars, carnivals, talent shows, rummage sales, teas, serving lunch at community auctions and ice cream socials.

There was a sewing committee which was kept busy making dozens of towels, potholders, sterilization covers, slippers and other supplies. Mrs. Lena (Dabu) Springer was chairman of this committee.

The "famous knives" currently sold by the Auxiliary were first ordered in 1966 and continue to be a great source of revenue.

Another project started in 1967 was making caps for newborn babies. A cap was given to every baby born in the hospital until the late 90's.

The 1970's were busy years for the Hospital Auxiliary. The largest one-time event and the highest revenue for a project was when 220 people participated in the "Hee Haw Show" starring the Toastmaster Club and the Hee Haw Gang MCs. Edith Wothe was president at that time. Cherry Giese, Lizzie Anderson, Marian Retzer, Halfrid Knudson and Carolyn VanWyk were also presidents during the 70's.

Remodeling and an addition to the hospital found the Auxiliary busy with refreshments and acting as tour guides in May 1970. The Howell Addition was dedicated in 1975 at the 25th anniversary of the hospital. This addition brought forth a new look in the lobby. New furniture was given as well as drapes and other accessories in honor of the anniversary.

In 1977, the Auxiliary contracted to put televisions in each patient room. Many raffles began during this year. The annual Plant Transplant Sale was started and continues today thanks to the efforts of our current active members, especially Jan Sailer, the organizer.

From 1981 to January 2008, Eva Knutson was president of the Auxiliary. In 2003 she received the Good Neighbor Award from the North Dakota Rural Health Association, for her many years as president of the Auxiliary.

West River Health Services Foundation became active in the Auxiliary in the mid 90's and since that time Cindy Del Olson has been liaison between the Auxiliary and staff of the hospital.

From 1949 to 2006 the Auxiliary contributed over \$145,000 to support the needs of the hospital and community. With a contribution of \$500 donated to Partners in Health.

In 2006 the baby born during hospital week was a little girl "Laela Jensen" to Tonya and Greg Jensen of Hettinger and her big sister Ella. Laela was given a \$50 savings bond.

Two scholarships were awarded this year – one to Whitney Ham of Hettinger in physical therapy and the other to Ashley Nielsen of New England in biology/pre-medicine. Scholarships were changed this year from giving five \$200 scholarships to two \$500 scholarships.

In **2007** the first baby was to Colt Lewis to Randy and Heidi Kopren, Bison, SD Scholarships went to Eric Seamands, Hettinger in psychology/pre-med and Sarah Brentrup, New England in medical technology.

Funding requests honored this year totaled over \$5,700; consisting of flashlights for the ambulance squad, a DVD player, a new blanket warmer for X-ray, a new chair in the mammo room, a small arm procedure table for O.R., an ear wash system for the clinic (and hospital), an ice tea machine for the kitchen and a donation to Partners in Health. The Auxiliary is also supporting the Capital Campaign with a goal of \$10,000 over the next five years.

Eva Knutson announced her resignation as president of the auxiliary as of January, 2008. She has been president for 26 years.

December 6, 2007 – Dee Menke opened her home for a Tea to encourage women to join and re-organize the auxiliary. A nominating committee was formed to seek new officers.

On January 12, 2008 we had a gathering at WRRMC to say "Thank you" to Eva Knutson, Helen Lewis, Carol Zimmerman and Jan Sailer. Roses were given to each individual. Borderline Singers entertained us and refreshments were enjoyed by the many people who came to honor these women who held the auxiliary together with very few active members. Bricks with engraving were also given to each of the 4 ladies.

"The financial contribution from the Auxiliary is definitely important," stated Jim Long, WRHS Administrator/CEO, "but we need to recognize the non-financial support these ladies have given for its significance as well. From the beginning of the hospital these ladies have been there,

educating others about the needs of the health system, generating community support and offering encouragement that it could indeed be done. This region could, with everyone's help, support a quality rural medical system that not only met local needs but could be held out as an example of what could be done with a little hard work by a determined group of individuals. They were an important part of making it happen in the past and they are still here, supporting and encouraging, continuing to make it happen. I thank them for their many hours of contributed labor, their generous contributions and their unwavering support”.

New officers for **2008** were: Stacey Sandgren – President; Mary Kilwein – Vice President; Jackie Muggerud – Secretary and Dana Andress – Treasurer. The Auxiliary met at the Methodist Church at noon on the 4th Thursday of each month. We had a lunch, rotating among the members to serve.

In **December, 2008** – Stacey Sandgren resigned her position as President and moved to Wyoming. **Mary Kilwein became President and remained in that position until May of 2010.**

The Auxiliary then started meeting at the hospital classroom with lunch served from the cafeteria. A goal to keep our meetings to a maximum of 1 hour was approved. We were now having 18-20 members at each meeting.

Officers from **May, 2010** through **March 2012** were: Kaye McIntyre, President; Dana Andress, Vice President; Staci Miller, Secretary and Cindy Olson, Treasurer.

The following were events that occurred between **2008 through March 31,2012**

- Two \$500 scholarships presented each year
- Savings bond presented to the 1st baby born during hospital week
- Plant sales in May
- Purchased new gift cabinet for WRHS new addition lobby. (After re-organization it was moved to the old hospital lobby and used only for displaying decorative items). The old gift cabinet was moved to the museum and displays memorabilia in the hospital area of the museum.
- Turkey luncheon each year with raffle and cutlery sales.
- Name changed to West River Health Services Auxiliary to include Western Horizon Care Center.
- \$500 donation to Partners in Health
- Constitution re-written for updates. Fiscal year changed to coincide with WRHS. April 1 – March 31st. Election of officers will occur in March, every two years with new officers to start on April 1st. President, Vice-President, Secretary. Treasurer will now remain constant with West River Health Services Foundation Assistant.
- Bridge-orama continued
- Donations: 2008- \$6000; 2009-\$1719. 2010-\$9933.85. Total \$173,000 through 2010, included: Nursing Home Beauty Shop & blood pressure cuff, stethoscope \$1500; Flower beds for Western Horizon Assisted Living \$300; Clinic IV Room décor \$850, Old hospital lobby furnishings and Chapel décor \$3000; Lab waiting room furniture \$1300; Swing Bed furniture & TV \$850;

- Completed our \$10,000 pledge for Capital Campaign
- Purchased 3 new tables towards Lutheran Church fund drive. We can use them for our needs as well and can store them at Lutheran church.
- Hosted District II Fall Seminar October 14, 2010. Very successful with 68 members from surrounding communities. Good PR.
- Donation to Susan G Koman Foundation for Breast Cancer \$750 (50% of raffle income) from quilt made by Cindy Rick Olson for the turkey luncheon raffle. “Ribbon of Roses”
- Web site creation for WRHS Auxiliary – to include picture, history and prayer.
- Auxiliary Prayer was revised and approved.
- Creation of Project Committee to reorganize our current projects. Mary Kilwein to arrange cutlery inventory and sales with Cindy Ham arranging storage.
- Membership Drive on April 12, 2011 in hospital classroom. Follow up again at Turkey Luncheon.
- Farm and Home Show – Rada Cutlery sale
- Created an Auxiliary display at Dakota Buttes Museum
- Attended State Conventions
- Reorganization of Auxiliary records into appropriate folders and placed on the “public” folder in hospital computer system. Also on flash drive to follow current officers.

Donations given to various departments in 2011 equaled \$9632 including:

- Lobby inspirational
- Radiology refurbish
- Med/Surg fall prevention chairs
- Mott Clinic – scale and tables
- Obstetrics – furnishings / décor
- Western Horizons Care Center – patient lift

TOTAL GIVEN FROM BEGINNING THROUGH 2011: \$182,632

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| Net from projects: | Plant sale | \$ 934 |
| | Raffle | \$1426 |
| | Turkey Luncheon: | \$2740 |
| | Bridgorama: | 255 |
| | Rada Cutlery: | 602 |

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| Election of Officers for 2012/2013: | President: | Eve Safratowich |
| | Vice President: | Peggy Gunther |
| | Secretary: | Jackie Hedstrom |