DEEDING DEEDNING MOMENTAL SUMMER 2025

Giving FROM THE Heart



Giving From the Heart

As summer unfolds in the Northwoods, we are reminded of the beauty, adventure, and sense of community that make this season so special. Whether you're enjoying time on the lake, exploring scenic trails, or simply soaking in the warmth of long summer days, this is a time to recharge and reconnect.

At the Howard Young Foundation, we know that good health is essential to fully embracing all that summer has to offer. Through your generosity, we continue to support critical healthcare initiatives that keep our community strong, ensuring that individuals and families have access to the care they need—today and for generations to come.

> Wishing you a season of wellness, joy, and unforgettable moments in the Northwoods!





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Learn how donors helped support speech therapy at Lakeland STAR School/Academy on page 14.

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Cover Photo

Jodi Rohaley, RN, Supervisor of Emergency Services

Terra Schmoeger, MSN, RNC-OB, CLC - Director of Nursing HYMC

Andrew Weber, MD, Hospitalist & Medical Director for the Hospitalist Program at HYMC and Aspirus Rhinelander

Katie Look, NP, Hospitalist

Colleen Fraley, NP, Hospitalist

Meghan Coyle, RN, MSN, Manager of Inpatient Services

Special Thanks

Shawn Stigsell Stigsell Creative, Art Director

Carrie Hoye, Howard Young Foundation Board of Directors, Marketing Chair, and Executive Committee Member at Large

Shelly Husky, Photographer

And to all who shared their stories.

Connect

TEL: 715.439.4005

EMAIL: info@hyfinc.org

WEB: howardyoungfoundation.org

MAILING ADDRESS Howard Young Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 10 Minocqua, WI 54548

OFFICE LOCATION Howard Young Foundation, Inc. 420 Oneida Street, Suite #100 Minocqua, WI 54548



FROM THE CHAIRMAN & THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friend,

Welcome to this edition of *Defining Moments*, where we celebrate the many ways that giving from the heart transforms healthcare - and lives - in the Northwoods.

Giving takes many forms and each act of generosity plays a vital role in strengthening our community. Inside these pages, you'll find inspiring stories of donors, volunteers, and friends who embody the spirit of heartfelt giving. You'll also find an update from our hospitals, showing the incredible impact your support has made over the past year.

One of the highlights is the continued vision for expanding cardiac care at Howard Young Medical Center. What started as our donors' support in the creation of the Cardiology Suite at HYMC and purchase of the echocardiogram machine (see Page 5), continues as Aspirus plans to become the place to go in the Northwoods for non-invasive cardiac care. This will allow more patients to receive treatment close to home, reducing the need for distant travel and keeping families together during challenging times. Watch for more to come.

Every gift helps us move closer to a healthier future for all. We are grateful to each of you for giving from the heart and for being a part of this journey with us.

Thank you for making a difference.

Trig Solberg, Board Chairman Howard Young Foundation

Salling Oren Bren

Erin Biertzer, President Howard Young Foundation

Our Mission

The Howard Young Medical Center was built in 1977 through a very generous bequest provided by philanthropist Howard Young. Bearing his name to honor his philanthropic gift, the Foundation was established in 1984 to advance the health and wellness of all people in the communities we serve through your charitable support.



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YOU Brought Heart Care Closer to Home

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, Howard Young Medical Center (HYMC) now has a state-of-the-art echocardiogram machine-bringing this essential diagnostic tool to the heart of the Northwoods.

When it comes to diagnosing heart need to travel long distances for routine heart conditions, an echocardiogram is often the very first test a cardiologist orders. This non-invasive ultrasound provides a detailed view of the heart's structure, function, and blood flow—offering vital insight that helps guide treatment plans for patients with heart failure, coronary artery disease, arrhythmias, and more.



YOU BROUGHT HEART CARE CLOSER TO HOME

This new equipment will make a meaningful impact, as demand for cardiac care services continues to rise at HYMC and Aspirus Eagle River Hospital. The echocardiogram will soon be used five days a week, supporting inpatient and outpatient services. Patients no longer diagnostics-they can stay right here, close to family and community.

This achievement is just the beginning. HYMC has set the goal of becoming the place to go for high level cardiac care, and the echocardiogram machine is a critical step forward.

To every donor who helped make this possible-thank you. Your gift isn't just a piece of equipment. It's faster answers. It's peace of mind. And it's better care, closer to home.

🖌 We want to build on the outstanding culture we have here—a culture of excellence-and offer consistent, highquality cardiology services locally. The echocardiogram machine is the first step to making that happen."

- ANDREW WEBER, MD Medical Director for the Hospitalist Program at HYMC

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A YEAR OF GROWTH AND GRATITUDE: How Your Support is Transforming Care

Growing to Meet Our Community's Needs Howard Young Foundation (HYF): Can you share how Howard Young Medical Center (HYMC) and Aspirus Eagle River Hospital have grown over the past year?

Teri: It's been an incredible year of growth for both HYMC and Eagle River. We've seen expansion in primary care (in both locations), intensive care, and cardiac care. We thank our patients who have found a home in our primary care practice, we are continuing to add new providers to keep up with the demand. Thanks to HYF donors, we've brought in state-of-the-art technology, like a new echocardiogram machine, which is already making a difference in diagnosing and treating patients. We're also grateful for our dedicated staff and growing team of providers who ensure patients receive the care they need, close to home.

Reputation for Excellence in the Northwoods

HYF: What are HYMC and Aspirus Eagle River Hospital known for in the Aspirus Health system?

> Teri: HYMC is known for delivering high-acuity care. We receive the most patient referrals in the Aspirus system outside of Wausau and have more than doubled our inpatient numbers over the past

three years. With a strong team in Emergency, ICU, and hospitalist medicine, HYMC continues to be a trusted resource for complex care.

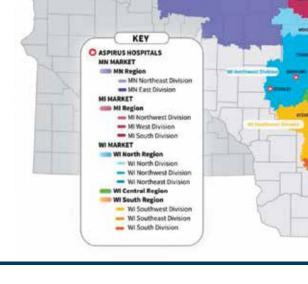
Eagle River is a hidden gem. The Emergency Department is staffed by board-certified physicians, and the clinic offers excellent primary care. The swing bed program is especially impactful—it supports patients recovering from illness or surgery and helps open beds at larger hospitals. Patients receive compassionate, personalized care during shorter stays or rehabilitation.

Looking Ahead: Expanding Services and Access

HYF: What does the future look like for HYMC and Aspirus Eagle River Hospital?

Teri: HYMC will remain a leader in high-quality care, focused on emergency medicine, primary care, high acuity care and several supporting services like Rehabilitation and the Aspirus Tick-Borne Illness Center. We're excited to welcome an orthopedic surgeon this summer, who will be performing surgery at HYMC, and we're expanding cardiac care that doesn't require a surgical intervention through telehealth. This allows patients to stay close to home, when possible, while still ensuring access to advanced care when needed at larger centers like Wausau or Duluth.

In Eagle River, we are consolidating our primary and specialty clinics into the hospital, creating a one-stop experience for patients. This means they can see their provider, receive lab work, and access imaging all in one place. It's a model that's been successful at HYMC, and we're excited to bring it to Eagle River.



Care Close to Home, with a Continuum of Support

HYF: How will you utilize the addition of Aspirus St. Luke's in Duluth?

Teri: Our priority is always to keep care close to home. But when patients need specialized treatment, they'll have a smooth transition to other Aspirus facilities like Duluth, Wausau, or Rhinelander. Thanks to HYF's support, we have strong ground and air transport teams to make these transitions safe and timely.

Meeting Challenges with Philanthropy

HYF: What has been the financial impact on our hospitals from declining reimbursements?

Teri: Like many rural hospitals, we've faced financial challenges due to lower reimbursements and rising costs. Food, supplies, and staffing expenses continue to increase. That's why philanthropy is so important—Foundation support allows us to invest in the tools, technology, and

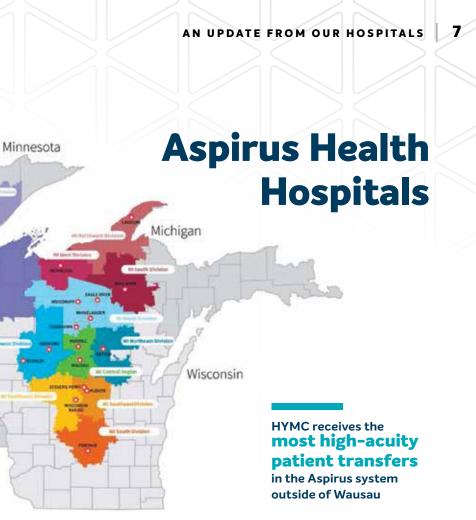
President, North Wisconsin Region, Aspirus Health

Teri Theiler.

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Teri: Every new service presents an opportunity to partner with the Foundation to enhance our care. Donor support has helped us acquire advanced monitoring equipment that integrates seamlessly with electronic health records, giving providers more time for hands-on, compassionate care. Your generosity—whether supporting state-of-the-art equipment, expansion and renovation, education, or enhanced patient services by investing in our people—makes a real and lasting difference.

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people needed to continue delivering exceptional care despite these pressures.

HYF: How can HYF and our donors continue to help ensure that we have the best possible healthcare in the Northwoods?

Thank you to all of our donors. As we look to the future, your continued support ensures we can keep growing, innovating, and providing the very best care for our Northwoods community.

THE GIFT OF HEALING **Todd's Story of Local Care** and Life-Saving Compassion

When Todd brought his wife to Howard Young Medical Center (HYMC), he never imagined he'd end up needing care himself. But the nurse caring for his wife, Sue Ohlsson, RN, noticed something wasn't right. Todd seemed unusually restless and short of breath. Trusting her instincts, Sue gently asked him a few questions—and quickly realized he needed to be seen.

Despite his reluctance, Sue urged Todd to visit the Emergency Department (ED) for an evaluation. That decision may have saved his life.

Todd's care team left to right: Jessie Heise, RN, Sue Ohlsson, RN, and Dr. Mark Richards

His blood pressure was dangerously high, and he later learned that his body was so full of fluid, his heart couldn't beat effectively. He was slipping in and out of atrial fibrillation—a life-threatening condition. "At that point I had not slept for a week. I even tried to sleep standing up," Todd admitted. "I couldn't breathe when I laid down."

Todd was quickly cared for by the ED team, including Dr. Richards and Jessie Heise, RN. He has special praise for "the tech who did the ultrasound in ER"—a critical part of his diagnosis

> and care. That very ultrasound machine was made possible thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

> Todd now credits the team at HYMC with saving his life. "Without Sue, I would not have made it to the end of the week. She is an angel on my shoulder."

> His story is a powerful reminder of why it's essential to invest in small, rural hospitals. Thanks to donorfunded equipment and dedicated staff, advanced heart care is available right here in our community—no long drives, no delays, just compassionate, expert care when it's needed most.

When you give from the heart, you help save hearts—just like Todd's.

Make a gift to the Howard Young Foundation one of your meaningful moments. Give today at howardyoungfoundation.org.

HEALING HANDS, GIVING HEARTS: Making a Difference

Great care starts with great people. For 33 years, Sue Ohlsson has been a compassionate and steady presence at Howard Young Medical Center, where she has cared for patients with unmatched skill and heart. As a nurse, she's known not only for her clinical expertise, but also for the warmth and kindness she brings to every bedside. But Sue's dedication doesn't stop when her shift ends.

Since 2004, Sue has been a proud supporter of the Howard Young Foundation through the employee giving program. Her consistent generosity is a powerful reflection of her belief in the mission of the hospital and the Foundation's role in advancing it.

Whether she's comforting a patient or



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Aspirus Health employees from left to right: Melissa Long Sandy Gramb Liz Kaufenberg Melody Wilson

championing the Foundation's work in the community, Sue is an extraordinary ambassador. Her giving is not just financial—it's personal. "I give because I believe in what we're doing here," Sue shares. "Every dollar helps us care for our patients better, and that's what matters most." Sue's story is a reminder that true giving comes from the heart. Through her years of service and continued support, she inspires others to believe in the power of compassion and the impact of giving back. We are grateful for her unwavering commitment and generous spirit.

Employees can make a difference by calling 715-439-4005 to enroll in the Employee Giving Program.

Are you an Aspirus **Employee**?

Did you know that you can give a gift to the Howard Young Foundation through payroll deduction each pay period? Just \$5 per pay period makes you a part of our Bonhomie Club - a club for annual giving.

THE GIET OF TIME: Volunteering From the Heart

At Howard Young Medical Center and Aspirus Eagle River Hospital, volunteers are essential members of the care team. They offer directions to visitors who look a bit lost, provide a friendly

In an era when healthcare can feel rushed, our volunteers bring humanity to the forefront. They're our neighbors, our friends, our family. They make our hospitals feel like home."

face at the information desk, and manage the hospital gift shops and thrift shop with care. But their contributions go far beyond logistics. They deliver flowers and packages to patient rooms, transport patients from one department to another, support clerical work, and even provide companionship to those who might otherwise spend the day alone.

"In every corner of our hospitals, you'll find a volunteer making a quiet

difference," says Leila Martinez, Volunteer Coordinator at HYMC. "They step in with a smile, lend a listening ear, and offer their time simply because they care. They are the heart They make our hospitals feel like home." of our hospital community."

It's not just what volunteers do—it's how they do it. They often form meaningful relationships with patients and staff, offering comfort during anxious moments or celebrating a good prognosis with a heartfelt high-five. Some have walked the halls for years, while others are just starting their journey of service. All are united by a common thread: a desire to give back.

Volunteers come from all walks of life: retirees, students, working professionals, and even former patients who want to give back. Some serve once a week, while others volunteer once a month. What they share is a commitment to making someone's day a little brighter, one moment at a time.

Amanda Martinson, Volunteer Coordinator at Aspirus Eagle River Hospital reflects that, "In an era when healthcare can feel rushed, our volunteers bring humanity to the forefront. They're our neighbors, our friends, our family.

Volunteer **Opportunities**

Howard Young Medical Center: Volunteer Coordinator: 715-356-8677

Aspirus Eagle River Hospital: Volunteer Coordinator: 715-479-0327

Howard Young Medical Center

Committee Chair Openings Awards Committee Chair Community Health and Education Chair Fundraiser Committee Chair Heartbeat Newsletter Volunteer Committee Chair Historian Committee Chair Public Policy Committee Chair Scholarship Committee Chair

Volunteer Opportunities

Gift Shop Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) G.I. Associates Reception **Radiology Reception Greeter**

Aspirus Eagle River Hospital

HELP Cart Patient Greeter & Escort Thrift Store

HYMC VOLUNTEER

Jean Allen

For Jean Allen, giving from the heart year at the Minocqua Dragon Boat Festival. has always meant giving her time, her She is also a Friend of Lakeland Pantry. talents, and her kindness to others.

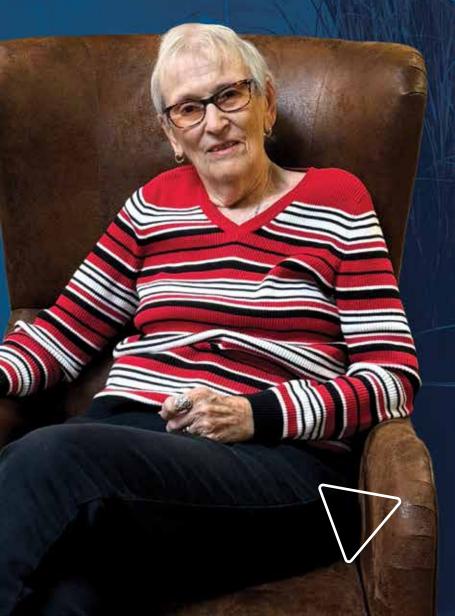
A retired teacher of 35 years, Jean from the heart can take many forms: has been a beloved volunteer at Howard Young Medical Center since 1990. Starting as a runner and later greeting countless patients and visitors from the Monticello entrance, Jean's welcoming smile has been a beacon of comfort for more than three decades.

Jean's spirit of generosity doesn't stop and for inspiring all of us to do the same. at volunteering. She has been a proud donor to the Howard Young Foundation since 2007 and is a dedicated member of the Bonhomie Club, which recognizes annual giving. Each year, she also handknits scarves, hats, and lap robes, donating them to the Lakeland Pantry to help local families in need.

Beyond the hospital walls, Jean's heart for service continues. She volunteers with the St. Germain Primetimers, helping each

Jean's example reminds us that giving a warm greeting, a helping hand, a homemade gift, or steadfast financial support. Her life's work, both inside and outside the hospital, radiates kindness and community spirit.

We are deeply grateful to Jean Allen for the many ways she gives from her heart



THE GIFT OF SERVICE: **Honoring Decades of Dedication to Lakeland Pantry**

For nearly two decades, John and Pam Winkelman have been the heart and soul of the Lakeland Pantry, guiding it from a small operation in a gymnasium to a thriving community resource. As they step into a well-earned retirement from the Board of Directors, the impact of their leadership is clear—both in the lasting improvements they've made and in the thousands of lives

The years of dedication and service that John and Pam have given to the Lakeland Pantry are truly extraordinary. It's rare to find individuals who give so much of themselves for the good of others, and their impact on our community is exceptional."

they've touched.

John and Pam first joined the Pantry in 2006, when resources were scarce, and the need for community support was growing. Over the years, their tireless efforts helped transform the Pantry into an organization that now serves over 21,000 individuals annually. Under their

leadership, the Pantry

- TRIG SOLBERG, HYF Board Chairman

expanded its services, allowing families to select their own food, access clothing and books, and even receive basic medical screenings. John and Pam built invaluable relationships with the Pantry's donors creating a strong connection between the Pantry and the community. Together, they helped grow the Pantry's funds from just \$10,000 to nearly \$2 million, securing its future for years to come while simultaneously highlighting the The Lakeland Pantry is a part of the Howard ongoing need for donations.

The Winklemans were also instrumental in a building expansion that included a much-needed



freezer for additional food storage, as well as in organizing fundraising events such as the Bear Cupboard Run and Wine, Women, and Winter. In addition, they played a key role in building a strong and passionate Board of Directors, ensuring that the Pantry's mission continues to thrive.

As these remarkable individuals step away from their leadership roles, they do so with confidence in the dedicated team that will carry their vision forward. Their legacy of service and compassion will continue to inspire the Pantry's work, ensuring that "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" remains more than just a motto—it's a commitment to the community that will endure for years to come.

Young Foundation. Honor their legacy of service by making a gift to the Lakeland Pantry in their honor at howardyoungfoundation.org.

Wist Your Knee on That Slalom Ski?

Howard Young Medical Center and Aspirus Eagle River Hospital are here for you!



HOWARD YOUNG MEDICAL CENTER OFFERS URGENT CARE 7 DAYS/WEEK FROM 7 A.M. - 8 P.M.

Both Howard Young Medical Center (240 Maple St, Woodruff, WI 54568) and Aspirus Eagle River Hospital (201 E Hospital Rd, Eagle River, WI 54521) have 24-Hour emergency care delivered by board certified physicians.

OUR HOSPITALS ARE HERE FOR YOU 13

To make an appointment with one of the incredible providers at our full service hospitals call:

HYMC: 715-356-8000 AERH: 715-479-7411

A Gift that Amplifies **Every Voice**

Donors are bringing immersive speech and language therapy to Northwoods elementary schools including MHLT, AVW, Lac du Flambeau and North Lakeland.

In a world where communication is key, the ability to express oneself is nothing short of life changing. Thanks to a generous gift made possible by our donors, Lakeland STAR School/ Academy is expanding its already innovative speech therapy program—bringing even more meaningful support to students and creating a ripple effect throughout our community.

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) play a vital role in schools, helping students overcome challenges related to language, articulation, fluency, and

voice. At Lakeland STAR, however, this support goes far beyond the typical model. Here, speech therapy is woven directly into the classroom experience. Rather than pulling students out of class for separate sessions, the SLP is embedded in the day-to-day environment—observing realtime communication challenges and responding with immediate, individualized strategies.

"This immersive model has allowed our students to flourish in ways that are truly inspiring," says Rachel Wilson, STAR's dedicated speech therapist. "I've seen students who once struggled to express their needs now confidently speak at public events, order meals on their own, and even complete job interviews."

Lakeland STAR serves students in grades 6-12, however, research suggests that the earlier students can receive speech interventions, the more success they will have. The gift from our donors is making it possible to bring the Lakeland STAR model to more students by expanding the team to include additional SLPs in elementary schools across the Northwoods. This means earlier interventions, more tailored support, and greater collaboration with teachers and staff—ultimately creating a culture where all students, regardless of ability, have the tools to communicate and thrive.

> "Communication is a fundamental human right," Rachel adds. "Every child

deserves a voicespoken, signed, or supported through alternative methods. This gift supports that mission in the most profound way." The impact of this generosity extends well beyond the classroom walls.

C Every student learns in their own unique way. It is our responsibility—as therapists, educators, parents, and as a community-to meet each child where they are and implement tailored strategies that foster their growth and development."

Confident communicators grow into empowered community members-ready to contribute, connect, and lead. As Rachel beautifully puts it, "When students learn how to express themselves, they gain independence and autonomy. That changes everything-not just for them, but for all of us."

To the donors who made this possible: thank you for giving from the heart. You are helping voices be heard—and lives be changed.

Photos: **Racthel Wilson** and team nembers from Lakeland STAR School/Academy immersed with students in and out of the classroom

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The Power of **Philanthropy**

The support of friends like you helps the Howard Young Foundation bring state-of-the-art care to Northwoods residents and visitors, support innovation and research, and strengthen our community through health and wellness. Your gift to the Foundation has the power to change the way we view healthcare at our rural hospitals - one patient at a time. Philanthropy or charitable giving plays a big part in healthcare all over the United States, but it's even more important in small communities like ours.

CUMULATIVE GIVING

It is with deep appreciation that we recognize and honor those listed here for their generous and caring cumulative lifetime giving to the Howard Young Foundation totaling \$2,500 or more through 2024. These generous donors have ensured that the health and wellness of all people in the communities we serve will continue for future generations.

Extraordinary Benefactor \$1,000,000 or more

Don and Abby Funk Marilyn and Bill Hopper Koller Family Foundation -Frank and Betty Koller Trig and Tula Solberg Ed Uihlein Family Foundation Liz and Dick Uihlein Anthony J. Vodnik IV and Jean A. Vodnik James and Bernadine Warning Howard Young Trust

Exceptional Benefactor

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Become a Member of our Bonhomie Club Today by giving a gift of \$100 or more annually.

Scan to Learn More!



ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

MONDAY, JUNE 9TH AND **TUESDAY, JUNE 10TH, 2025**

Lakeland STAR **Golf Outing**

The annual Lakeland STAR Golf Outing held at North Fork Fin & Filet restaurant and Minocqua Country Club benefits Autism Services and the students of Lakeland STAR School/Academy and Rising STAR Transition Center.

For more information visit howardyoungfoundation.org.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19[™], 2025

Let's Tee Off Against **Breast Cancer**

A vibrant, women-only golf event at Trout Lake Golf Club raises funds for "We Care" care package totes for first time breast cancer patients across the Northwoods.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2025 Lakeland Pantry Bear Cupboard Run

Get ready for the 16th Annual Bear Cupboard Run on the scenic Bearskin Trail! This fun event benefits the Lakeland Pantry.

Learn more at lakelandpantry.com.

SATURDAY, JULY 19TH, 2025 Seasons of Life Gardenfest

Garden tours, photo opportunities, Lakeland Gardeners plant sale, ice cream social, live music, raffles and more await you at this event to benefit the Seasons of Life Gardens. Learn more at lakelandgardeners.org.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH, 2025

Minocqua Dragon **Boat Festival**

Feel the energy of the 9th Annual Minocqua Dragon Boat Festival! Enjoy camaraderie, fun, and thrilling races to benefit the work of the Howard Young Foundation.

Register, volunteer, sponsor or pledge at minocquadragonboat.com.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2025

Bonhomie Club Recognition Dinner

This dinner is all about you, the donors that allow us to continue advancing healthcare in the Northwoods. Qualifying 2024 donors are invited to an exclusive event to celebrate their contributions to our hospitals and/ or Seasons of Life Hospice with hors d'oeuvres and an update on Howard Young Foundation activities. To be a part of the Bonhomie Club in 2025, donate \$100 or more before the end of this year.

They're at it Again!



MONDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, 2025

Thank you

to all who sponsor,

volunteer, participate

in or donate to one

or more of these

community events.

An Evening with **Dr. Zorba Paster**

Dr. Zorba Paster, WPR Radio host on "Zorba on your Health", will speak to the community at the Campanile Center for the Arts. Sponsored by the Women's Legacy Council, this event is free to the public. Stay tuned for more details!

Women's Legacy Council Raffle Ticket Sale Dates June Bloom Craft Fair Torpy Park on June 7th

After Loon Delight Torpy on August 7th

Minocqua Peach Truck Delivery Minocqua Dragon Boat Festival And more!

Visit troutlakegolf.com to learn more.

THE WOMEN'S LEGACY COUNCIL is once again putting their hearts into action-this time to support Aspirus Tick-Borne Illness Center Compassionate Care. Throughout the summer, they'll be raising funds by selling raffle tickets, with all proceeds helping patients access critical care, regardless of their ability to pay. Known for their dedication and generous spirit, the Council continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by tick-borne illnesses. See our Community Events page to the left for a list of where you can find their raffle table —and join them in giving the gift of healing and hope!



Raffle drawing will be held on Saturday, August 16th at 3:00 P.M. at the Minocqua Dragon Boat Festival at Torpy Park.



If you see these WLC ladies around town this summer, ask them about the raffle and **Compassionate Care!**

Katie Drerup, WLC Chair Elizabeth Duemmel Margo Gustafson Marilyn Hopper Carrie Hoye Claire Joyce

Joni Kahn Mary McFerrin Patti Olinyk Judy Russell **Colleen Skjerven**



Want to Give from the Heart?

Donate

To support our campaigns for our hospitals with a gift, donate today by:



ONLINE

Scan or visit our website at howardyoungfoundation.org



STOCK

Donations are a tax-smart way to give. (*Call* 715-439-4005 for instructions.)



PLANNED GIVING

When you include us in your estate planning. (Talk to your tax advisor.)

Other ways to give are by calling our office at 715-439-4005 or by mail at Howard Young Foundation. P.O. Box 10, Minocqua, WI 54548





Volunteer

Give back at one of our Northwoods Hospitals. Howard Young Medical Center: 715–361–1029 Aspirus Eagle River Hospital: 715–479–0327



Events Support one of our amazing community events. See page 22 for a list of all 2025 events.

Enjoy your summer!