

2024 WHA Foundation Global Vision Award Winners Announced

Congratulations to the two winners of the 2024 Global Vision Community Partnership Award.



Growing Healthy Communities

ProHealth Waukesha Memorial Hospital

In 2017, Waukesha County's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), through a community health assessment, identified that residents needed better access to fresh, nutritional foods and to increase their activity levels. The *Growing Healthy Communities* program improves access to affordable and healthy food by promoting accessibility to farmers markets, community gardens and other healthy food outlets convenient to residents with food insecurity concerns. Through community gardens located in Oconomowoc and Waukesha, low impact activities for seniors and school-aged children are incorporated into the session lesson plans. As part of annual health and wellness check-ups and hospital discharge with a ProHealth Care clinician, food insecurity assessments are conducted. If a family identifies as food insecure, an emergency food package is prepared with staples that will support a family for 2-3 days. The amount of food provided is dependent upon the number of members in the household.

In summer, children can self-identify to a hospital employee to receive a free lunch to eat at the hospital or to take home. Success of this program is measured by the amount of fresh produce harvested and distributed to community partners and families. Pre- and post-tests and surveys are conducted after nutrition education sessions are hosted in the garden. Since 2010, garden programs have harvested 21,720 lbs. of produce valued at \$46,481.

Women's Outpatient Center

Ascension SE Wisconsin Hospital – St. Joseph Campus

For over 15 years, the Women's Outpatient Center (WOC) continues addressing the overlooked community health needs in Milwaukee, particularly among vulnerable populations of women and families. The primary health need addressed is maternal and child health, with a focus on providing comprehensive prenatal and postnatal care. This need was identified through direct interactions with the community, where many women experience their first medical relationship during pregnancy. The center serves approximately 700 patients annually, representing 35% of all obstetric volume at Ascension-St. Joseph. The need for enhanced support during pregnancy, safe childbirth and postnatal care was evident from the socio-economic challenges faced by the community, including housing insecurity, food scarcity and lack of access to essential healthcare services. The primary objectives of the program include enhancing maternal and child health, supporting socio-economic stability, educational empowerment, community resource connection and removing barriers to care. In 2024, the program served 436 car seat class participants and 392 safe sleep class participants. The children's waiting area hosted 251 children while their mothers attended over 160 appointments. More signs of success include a story of a high-risk pregnant mother who received necessary medical care and educational support while her children were supervised, leading to better health outcomes for her and her newborn. Another patient benefited from multiple services over seven years, resulting in the birth of healthy, full-term babies despite significant personal challenges.

The WHA Foundation would like to thank all the nominees for the award this year.

Established in 1993, the goal of the Global Vision Community Partnership Award is to provide recognition, financial support and public awareness of a community health initiative or project, created in partnership with a WHA member, that successfully addresses a documented community health need. Partnerships must reach across the community or population served and the program must be an active, ongoing enterprise at the time of the nomination.

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