

# SUPERIOR Health Foundation Happenings



University food pantries benefit from Giving Tuesday

Winter 2021 Vol. 9 Issue 1

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## In memoriam: Mary Maurer

On Dec. 31, the Superior Health Foundation lost one its beloved family members.

Mary Maurer, a board director from St. Ignace, passed away after a courageous battle with

bladder cancer. Mary was many things. She was a loving wife, an invested person in her community and an astute businesswoman. For SHF, she proudly served on our Board of

Directors and sat on our Grants Committee. Before she died, she told her husband that she wanted the SHF team and board to know how proud she was to serve on our board of directors.

Mary was one of the most thoughtful, humble, caring people we've ever met. A truly beautiful soul. We, like many, mourn her loss and pray that she is now in a better place. Rest in Peace, Mary. You'll be sorely missed.

We are terribly saddened by the passing of Mary Maurer. As a member of the Superior Health Foundation's Board of Directors, Mary was committed to our mission to fund unmet healthcare needs, research, education and prevention programs throughout the Upper Peninsula. Through her work on the SHF Grants Committee, she was an integral part of awarding funding for health-related initiatives. While we will miss her tremendously, we are comforted in knowing she played an incredibly important role in supporting projects that will improve the health of people in the U.P. for years to come.

Our thoughts and abundant prayers are with Mary's family.

SHF Team and Board of Directors



Mary Maurer  
May 4, 1951 - December 31, 2020



**Mission:** To assist with unmet healthcare needs, with health education, and with programs and research on preventing illness and promoting health throughout the Upper Peninsula.

**Vision:** To improve the health of the residents of the Upper Peninsula.

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[P] 906 225 6914  
[F] 906 225 6916



121 North Front Street  
Marquette, MI 49855

superiorhealthfoundation.org

## 21 in 21 monthly giving campaign kicks off

We could hardly wait to share this with you!

This past year took us all by surprise, didn't it? For many people, businesses and non-profit organizations, the financial impact was and is

still devastating. Without you, the SHF could have never achieved so much.

Our entire purpose is to provide grant support to health-centered, non-profits across the Upper Peninsula.

Our grants ensure hungry families have healthy food, cancer patients struggling to pay medical costs feel a bit less of the burden, hospice

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# Twenty-one in 2021 Monthly Giving Donor

patients find comfort through a visit from a friend, people without transportation can finally make an appointment for much-needed medical attention and so much more.

There continues to be hope...and that hope is you!

You have the power to change 2021 for the better!

Please consider becoming one of 21 new monthly donors in 2021 (21 in '21). It's easy to join our SHF family! Beginning Feb. 22, simply visit [superiorhealthfoundation.org](http://superiorhealthfoundation.org) and click on the 21 in 21 Monthly Giving icon.

You will immediately receive a special gift from us as a token of our appreciation. Most importantly, you'll receive regular updates about the direct impact your gift is providing in your local community.

If you have ANY questions, comments or concerns, please call me, Lynn Hill, directly at 906-399-8696 or email me at [lhill@superiorhealthfoundation.org](mailto:lhill@superiorhealthfoundation.org)

The Superior Health Foundation looks forward to hearing from you as we continue to work together to keep the U.P. as healthy as it is beautiful.

*Lynn Hill*

Community Engagement & Annual Giving Coordinator

**"We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give."**

— Winston Churchill

## SHF accepting grant applications for Indigent Care Fund

The SHF is now accepting grant applications for its Indigent Care Fund.

SHF will award \$41,217.09 at its spring grant celebration in mid-April. Grants requests cannot exceed \$5,000.

Eligibility information and on-line application forms are available on the SHF's website at [www.superiorhealthfoundation.org](http://www.superiorhealthfoundation.org).

Applications will be accepted from February 1 through Feb. 18, 2021.

The SHF Grants Committee will review the applications and will make its

recommendations to the SHF Board of Directors at its March board meeting.

"We're excited to make this funding available to those organizations across the Upper Peninsula whose focus is on health and offer services to the indigent," said Jim LaJoie, SHF executive director. "There are no shortage of indigent care needs in the Upper Peninsula. We're optimistic that we'll receive a number of quality applications."

For more information, call 906-225-6914 or email [shf@superiorhealthfoundation.org](mailto:shf@superiorhealthfoundation.org).

## Giving Tuesday initiative helps restock food pantries at six U.P. colleges



Thanks to the generous support of many, food banks at Upper Peninsula colleges now have increased healthy food options from which to choose.

For Giving Tuesday, SHF sought charitable funding support to restock food pantries at the six colleges in the U.P.: Bay College (Escanaba and Iron Mountain), Gogebic Community College (Ironwood), Finlandia University (Hancock), Lake Superior State University (Sault St. Marie), Michigan Tech University (Houghton) and Northern Michigan University (Marquette).

With the support of many donors, more than \$3,100 was raised. Checks for \$528.33 were mailed to each of the schools in December.

"Please accept our sincere thanks for the donation to our student food pantry," said Gayle Jackson, director of

student outreach and engagement at Gogebic Community College. "This year has been unique for us here at GCC and we've found our students are identifying significantly more need than they have in the past. This donation will make a genuine impact on the lives of students at GCC."

"Thanks so much for supporting college students and helping to eliminate food insecurities," said Kim Carne, vice president of college advancement at Bay College.

Added Hayley Rhoades, assistant dean of students at NMU: "It (the donation) will definitely go a long way! We really appreciate the opportunity for college food pantries to be involved with the Superior Health Foundation."

"The HuskyFAN food pantry is so grateful for all the support we have received from the physical and monetary donations," said Anna McClatchy, student support coordinator at Michigan Tech. "Especially during this pandemic, students who may have lost their part-time jobs, or have to quarantine themselves, have been able to utilize our pantry resources. Not having to worry about where their next meal may come from has helped our students to refocus on other aspects of their lives like graduating or applying for full-time positions."



# Grants at Work

In June 2020, the Superior Health Foundation awarded Gogebic Community College in Ironwood a \$2,500 Equipment Fund grant to purchase manikins for the UP Certified Nurses Aides (CNA) Academy. The goals of the program were to hire a permanent trainer with dedicated space and equipment to provide training, create multiple entry points throughout the year with a dependable training schedule, hold multiple classes throughout the year providing up to 190 training seats, stabilize the pipeline of applicants and build collaboration with regional employers to solve talent recruit concerns related to CNA applicants.

So far, a permanent trainer has been hired and oriented to the role. A bed, PPE, sink, training manikin and incidentals have been purchased. Three regional employers have purchased training seats through the academy, and six training sessions were offered to the community between May and December 2020. Variable training schedules (afternoon, evening and weekends) have been offered to meet the needs of the different demographic groups being served.



The equipment provided training stations that allowed students to practice skills prior to clinical practice. The talent pipeline is beginning to stabilize despite significant limitations from the pandemic: 46 students have either completed the program or are currently enrolled, and 35 applicants are working to satisfy the requirements to enroll in the course.

SHF is honored to support this initiative!

In June, the SHF awarded a \$2,000 Equipment Fund grant to Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes to purchase supplies to build a Low Ropes Challenge Course (LRCC). Its project goal is to enhance the physical health, mental health and therapeutic features at Girl Scout Camp Pow Low. Thus far, it has nine features completed, with two more features to be constructed in the spring with remaining materials.

It has partnered with Great Lakes Recovery Centers and MSU Extension 4-H, and plans for outreach to others with assistance from United Way agencies in the region and Grow & Lead. The course will be available for youth beginning at age 5, and training on the course will begin in the Spring.

Said Leslie Bek of the Girl Scouts: "Thank you for this fantastic opportunity to create a LRCC at Camp Pow Low. We believe this is a very complimentary healthy attribute to our camp. This is an example of 'If you build it they will come.' We want to share the joy of healthy activities at camp, of challenging yourself, and celebrating your accomplishments with youth, families and adult mentors from across the U.P."



## What's next?

**Spring Grants Celebration:** Wednesday, April 21, Holiday Inn (tentative)

**Annual Golf Outing:** Saturday, 10:30 a.m., Friday, June 18, Red Fox Run Golf Course, Gwinn

**Annual Gala:** 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 11, Northern Center, Northern Michigan University (tentative)

## In-person or virtual? SHF planning 10th annual gala

Planning is now under way for the SHF's annual gala, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 11, in the Northern Center on the campus of Northern Michigan University.

What will it be? Will we have a live, in-person, socially distancing event with reduced capacity? Will we have a live, virtual event, mirroring what we had in 2020? The answer is this. We simply do not know yet.

"We know 2020 was an incredibly challenging year. Precious lives were lost in the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Many lost jobs. Food insecurities were abundant," said Jim LaJoie, executive director of the Superior Health Foundation. "It's been a tough time for many. Yet, our gala is a vitally important

part of our operation. We're moving forward with our planning."

Rest assured, assuming we have a live event, whatever transpires in the coming month, we will follow all health guidelines and make the necessary moves to ensure a safe, healthy event. That is our No. 1 priority.

We understand the economic impact the pandemic has had on many restaurants and businesses. We know that for some, sponsorship dollars may not be what they have been in the past. That is okay.

Our goal is to carry on to the best of our ability while offering sponsorships that appeal to a wide range of budgets.

Our annual gala is successful because

of people and organizations like you who charitably invest in their communities.

We're incredibly excited about going down a path to normalcy and the 2021 gala, which will feature a world-renowned Mentalist as entertainment, promises to be exciting.

We're so appreciative of your ongoing support. Please visit our website at [superiorhelathfoundation.org](http://superiorhelathfoundation.org) to view sponsorship opportunities and see periodic updates on our annual gala.

We're hopeful we can gather in person on Sept. 11 and raise a glass to celebrate our good health and provide meaningful dollars to SHF and our funding partner, Dial Help, to address mental health needs across the region.