

# SUPERIOR Health Foundation Happenings

Fall 2023 Vol. 11 Issue 4

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The SHF Annual Gala brought together more than 400 guests on September 30 to help support Bay Cliff Health Camp.

**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.

## SHF annual gala a resounding success Event aids Bay Cliff Health Camp Beach Day Program

Marvelous!

That pretty much sums up the Superior Health Foundation's 12th Annual Gala held on Saturday, Sept. 30, in the Northern Center on the campus of Northern Michigan University.

More than 400 people attended the event, proudly presented by Marshfield Medical Center – Dickinson. Guests were treated to a social period, a wonderful dinner, a program and dueling pianos entertainment by Middle C. Entertainment.

At the event, this year's SHF gala partner – Bay Cliff Health Camp – was presented with more than



SHF Awarded Bay Cliff Health Camp more than \$15,000 to support its Beach Day Program.

\$15,000 for its exciting Beach Day project for its campers. Funding was used to purchase chairs to access the beach to enable campers of all ages to enjoy the beach on hot, summer days.

"It was a spectacular evening," said Jim LaJoie, executive director of the Superior Health Foundation. "We

Pictured at left, Gala attendees enjoy an evening of elegance. At right, dueling pianos entertain all.

had thousands of dollars in prizes. In fact, our 150 prize boxes sold out before dinner – a first.

"We have so many people to thank. First, a record 57 sponsors from all across the region. Without their incredible support, this event would not nearly be as successful as it is. We thank our gala partner, Bay Cliff. And, of course, we thank all the volunteers who made this event possible. Finally, our attendees. The night was simply beautiful in so many ways."

We're proud to report that the annual gala netted \$109,772.73! Thank you!



## Community Engagement and Annual Giving Coordinator welcomed

A proud Yooper, Emily Ellis joined the Superior Health Foundation team in late September. With nine years of experience in the non-profit sector focused on community inclusion, Emily is excited to join the foundation. She holds a bachelor's degree in molecular biology/human biology from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.



"I am grateful to work with an organization that serves the needs of the Upper Peninsula and truly makes an impact in our local community," Emily said.

With her adorable sidekick, dog Frank, Emily enjoys exploring the shorelines of Lake Superior. She also finds great joy on the ice and

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coaches figure skating locally. "We are elated to have Emily join the Superior Health Foundation team," said Jim LaJoie, executive director of the Superior Health Foundation. "Emily and her skill set really stood out in the interview process. Her background in non-profit work and community engagement will benefit SHF in so many wonderful ways."

## Consider SHF in year-end giving

This past year has been incredible. In 2023, the Superior Health Foundation will have awarded more than \$1.3 million in grant funding to help:

- provide pediatric mental health services across the region
- all U.P. residents have access to healthy food
- provide transportation to non-emergency medical appointments to those who don't have family or friends to get them to and from
- fight opioid addictions issues across the region
- support hospice care to give love and comfort so that no one feels alone
- communication boards to help non-verbal children express their needs
- all-inclusive playgrounds and camp
- recovery services
- education
- housing
- and so much more! (check out our website ([www.superiorhealthfoundation.org](http://www.superiorhealthfoundation.org)) to learn more).

We're 11 years into this, yet there is so much more work to do to improve the health and well-being of people across this wonderful place we call the Upper Peninsula!

Thank you for your trust and commitment in helping us make sure that EVERYONE has their healthcare needs met.

We are thankful for your generous support and ask that you please consider a year-end gift and/or join our monthly giving family. To give a charitable gift, visit <https://superiorhealthfoundation.org/give/>

Happy Holidays to you and yours!

In February, Days for Girls International – Marquette was awarded a \$559.39 pilot project grant for its Menstrual Solutions Project. The overall goal of this project is to increase productivity in service to local and regional women and girls in need of self-chosen, affordable, sustainable menstrual solutions with its team-made kits of sustainable menstrual supplies.



Menstrual Solutions Project helps women and girls in need of sustainable menstrual supplies.

There are reports of unrecognized and unmet menstrual needs of women and girls in our own region from teachers, school nurses and social service agencies. Women and girls in our community have their lives routinely interrupted by a lack of healthy menstrual care supplies due to the financial burden of purchasing disposable menstrual products or available alternative products on the market.

The organization attended the NMU Wildcat Wellness Health Fair and provided information at NMU Dormitories.

In March, the Superior Health Foundation awarded the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Negaunee a \$2,389.20 Equipment Fund grant for the purchase of an AED and training for 10 people in CPR and use of the AED. A trainer traveled from downstate to Negaunee to provide the training. The project was so well received by the people in the congregation



Immanuel Lutheran Church in Negaunee received an Equipment Fund grant for the purchase of an AED and training in CPR and use of the AED.

that 15 more people have requested to be trained.

A Negaunee Township Fire Department member will provide the additional training. Due to this grant, 25 people in the Negaunee area will now be better equipped to respond to a cardiac event emergency anywhere in the community!



Superior Health Foundation grant funding helped to support the purchase of an all-inclusive merry-go-round as part of the Mather Elementary Playground Project in Munising.

In October 2022, the Superior Health Foundation awarded Munising Public Schools a

\$4,588 fall grant for the Mather Elementary Playground Project. Grant funding was used specifically for the purchase of an all-inclusive merry-go-round. The new playground equipment replaces the previous playground, which was nearly 30 years old, with new, ADA-accessible playground equipment. Since the playground opened on Labor Day 2023, there has been an increase in after-school and weekend use of the playground. The community has shared positive feedback about the project.

This was an excellent project we were happy to fund!



The team at Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice were grateful to receive a new AED and related supplies as part of an SHF Equipment Fund grant in the amount of \$1,564. This is one of many equipment fund grants awarded by the Superior Health Foundation each year to ensure health-focused nonprofits have the critical resources they need.

In April 2023, the Superior Health Foundation awarded Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice a \$1,564 Equipment Fund grant for the purchase of an AED and related supplies. This life-saving equipment is part of the organization's ongoing emergency preparedness plan and health safety initiative. Having the AED has the potential to save lives, but also contributes to patient and community well-being, regulatory compliance and emergency preparedness. The equipment reflects the Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice's commitment to safety for all who enter its door.



# SHF announces board of directors executive team

At its September annual meeting, the Superior Health Foundation elected its executive team leadership for the next year.

Sara Giles was elected president of the board of directors, David Jahn was elected vice president and Kara Katona continues as secretary/treasurer.

Giles, who serves as marketing director for Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital in Manistique, had previously served a year as vice president. She succeeds Dan Arnold, MD, who after a 19-year run on the board of directors, left with his term expiring.

Giles said she looks forward to the year ahead for the Superior Health Foundation.

"Serving on the Superior Health Foundation board has opened my eyes to the varied health disparities experienced across the Upper Peninsula," Giles said. "Many of our residents are facing challenges and barriers when trying to access health care and vital resources such as food, housing and mental health services.

"Despite the issues," she added, "our communities are resilient and creative in developing solutions to serve people and solve local problems. The foundation brings me hope as I have witnessed countless organizations benefit from the grants we have distributed. The impact is immeasurable. This foundation is changing lives and will continue to do so for



Pictured left to right, new SHF Board President Sara Giles and Vice President David Jahn were elected in September to the executive team.



years to come."

Jahn is a retired hospital administrator, having served 40 years as CEO at both Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital and War Memorial Hospital.

Katona, CPA is a managing

partner with Makela, Toutant, Hill, Nardi & Katona, P.C.

The Superior Health Foundation board of directors is comprised of leaders representative of the entire Upper Peninsula. The board currently has 12 directors.

# SHF says goodbye to two established board directors

At its board meeting in September, the Superior Health Foundation said a tearful goodbye to two, long-standing board directors. Dan Arnold, MD, and Carolyn Severson finished up their years of service on the board. These two incredibly special people served the SHF board of directors with pride, honor and compassion for 19 years.

Dr. Arnold served three terms as president and played an integral role on the SHF Grants and Fund Development Committees. His leadership and investment in our



Dan Arnold, MD

foundation will be sorely missed.



Carolyn Severson

Carolyn is perhaps the most dedicated board director the

Superior Health Foundation has ever had. She played an integral role on our Finance and Audit Committees, as well as the Grant Committee. Her engagement with Superior Health Foundation is unparalleled.

Replacing seasoned, veteran board leadership is never easy. The good news is that both have volunteered to continue on various committees with SHF. For that, we are abundantly grateful.

Well done Dan and Carolyn! Because of your leadership, passion and commitment to SHF, our organization is in a Superior place.

# Superior Health Foundation welcomes new director Carrissa Rondeau of Marquette begins first board term

Carrissa Rondeau, LMSW, BCBA/ LBA and Founder/CEO of Functional Behavior Services in Marquette, is the newest addition to the Superior Health Foundation Board of Directors.

Rondeau, a board-certified behavior analyst and a licensed master's clinical social worker, has spent a good portion of her career providing support for people with autism, developmental disabilities and social-emotional impairments.

She founded Functional Behavioral Services, LLC, in July 2015 and serves as its CEO. Functional Behavioral Services, LLC, contracts with agencies



across the U.P. needing specialized behavior analysis services. It also provides behavior analytic and mental health therapy services to individuals and families.

Previously in her career, she worked as a mental health aide, parapro and behavior analyst and specialist for Pathways Community Mental Health in Marquette.

Rondeau holds a bachelors of social science/sociology from Northern Michigan University and earned a masters of social work from Michigan State University.

"Joining the Superior Health Foundation board of directors is such a wonderful honor," Rondeau said. "My career in mental health began in 2005. Over the years, I have shared my passion with many

individuals and their families. As my career has progressed, it has had a number of twists and turns along the way ... each with a new opportunity to partner with and support individuals in our communities with their mental health needs. "Joining the SHF board will allow me to continue my passion of advocating for individuals with cognitive impairments and mental health needs," she added.

Away from work, Rondeau enjoys craft projects and spending time outside with her husband and three young children.