

SUPERIOR Health Foundation Happenings

Winter 2024 Vol. 12 Issue 1

IN THIS ISSUE

Events Specialist hired – Page 2

SHF Golf Outing – Page 3



Players having a blast at the SHF golf fundraiser last June. For details on this year's event, see Page 3.

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 Executive Director Extends Farewell Career in health-centered philanthropy spanned more than 19 years

I hate good-byes. Always have. Yet, as I sit here today writing one last story for the Superior Health Foundation, the time has come to say so long.

After serving as the executive director of the Superior Health Foundation for 11 and one-half years and as the ED of the Marquette General Foundation for more than a year, I'm retiring.

Well, let me rephrase that. When I think of retirement, I think of moving to a 55-and-older community, playing pickleball, taking long naps in the afternoon and participating in swim classes three or four days a week.

I'd rather use the term "re-positioning." Ya, I like that word much better.

Serving as the executive



director of this incredible health-centered, grant-giving organization has been an absolute honor and privilege. In my tenure here, I've had the distinct pleasure of working with many incredible people, collaborating with some wonderful organizations and, honestly, having an extremely engaged, respectful and forward-thinking board of directors. I've had the best bosses

any man could ever hope for.

So, you ask, "Why are you retiring?" Well, there are a number of reasons. First and foremost, it's time.

Although I've loved every second of being in this role, the truth is the countless hours and dedication I've put into this has caught up to me. There always comes a time in someone's career when you know "it's time." Any good quarterback knows when it's time to handoff.

I turn 60 in March and, for the most part, my health is pretty good. When my now deceased dad retired at 59 and one-half, I made a vow I wanted to follow in his footsteps because I witnessed the profound joy he had in his retired life, the many hours of volunteering he did,

[Continued on Page 3](#)

SHF 13th Annual Gala Partner Selected

The Superior Health Foundation is pleased to announce that it has selected the Northern Lights Child Advocacy Center as its partner for the 2024 Annual Gala.

Based in Marquette, its mission is to help and serve all child survivors of physical and sexual abuse, neglect, human trafficking, and witness to violence. Children accessing its services are from all socioeconomic backgrounds, all races, genders, and from all parts of

Marquette County and surrounding rural areas.

At least \$15,000 in funding from



the gala, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 28, in the Ballrooms at the Northern Center, will be used to purchase supplies and technology vital to the services provided by the children's advocacy center.

These services include client intake and crisis counseling, forensic interviews, case coordination services, coordination of a multidisciplinary team including the prosecutor's office, law enforcement and children's protective services, and community prevention education.

"We applaud the work that the Northern Lights Child

[Continued on Page 3](#)

Winter 2024 Vol. 12 Issue 1

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SHF Grants at Work



In April, the Superior Health Foundation awarded the Gogebic County Sheriff's Office a \$2,500 Equipment Fund grant for the purchase of two refurbished AEDs. Gogebic County is a rural county with a population of 14,380. However, it is a large county of 1,476 square miles. This large area makes it difficult on Beacon Ambulance's response times.

The Gogebic County Sheriff's Office deputies respond to every medical emergency they are able to. From Aug. 1, 2023, to Dec. 14, 2023, the Gogebic County Sheriff's Office responded to 119 medical assists calls, and the new AEDs were readily available for use for all 119 calls.

In May, the Superior Health Foundation awarded Negaunee Public Schools a \$2,500 Pilot Project grant for the development of a garden at Lakeview Elementary School.

The Lakeview Garden is a school garden space shared and cared for by all Lakeview Elementary School staff and students. It is used for hands-on learning, farm to table food and education, and functional physical and sensory activities. The grant allows the garden to have a universally designed pathway which loops through the primary areas of the garden. It is an even surface to promote safe mobility.

Its width allows turn radius and space for



Pictured at left, Gogebic County Sheriff's Office received a SHF Equipment grant to purchase two AEDs. Above, SHF awarded Negaunee Public Schools a \$2,500 Pilot Project grant for the development of a garden at Lakeview Elementary School.

wheelchairs, walkers, wheelbarrows and other mobility devices. It is a looped path to promote ease of navigation, which benefits teachers, students and community members.

SHF is happy to fund this project!



Pink-tacular Pink Dollars!

In early December, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians presented the Superior Health Foundation with a check for \$3,728.86! The funding was raised during the month of October in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Players were encouraged to gift their gaming winnings while Lac Vieux Desert Band matched. In the photo, John Erickson of the Northern Waters Casino Resort presents SHF Executive Director Jim LaJoie the winnings.

"Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians has been an incredible partner for our annual Painting the Peninsula Pink event during October," LaJoie said. "We're so thrilled with this partnership. The money raised this year was absolutely incredible. What a wonderful holiday gift!"

During the month of October, the Superior Health Foundation raised more than \$13,000 for the SHF Breast Health Fund!

SHF welcomes new Events Specialist U.P. native returns home to fill integral role

The Superior Health Foundation extends a warm welcome to its new Events Specialist.

Amanda Boundy is an Upper Peninsula native who grew up running through the woods and riding her bike on the backroads of Alger County. Amanda attended Albion College where she earned degrees in anthropology/sociology and music performance. She later received a Master of Music degree in Voice from the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University.

Amanda's love of music and the performing arts led her to both creative and administrative roles in the non-profit arts sector focusing on operations and event management. In the past, she supported large performing arts organizations, university music and theatre departments, and entertainment companies in areas of project management, communications and marketing.

After living in the southern U.S. for almost 20 years, Amanda returned home in late 2023 and is happy to join the SHF team.

"I enjoy working with people who just want to put a little more good into the world," Amanda said. "The Superior Health Foundation is that kind of place. I look forward to re-connecting with my community and meeting new people who are engaged in meaningful work across the U.P."

"We are abundantly pleased to add Amanda to the Superior Health Foundation team," said Jim LaJoie, executive director of the Superior Health Foundation. "Amanda brings an incredible skill set to SHF. Her experience in the non-profit world will serve us well."

Amanda is an avid reader and enjoys performing musical theatre, taking long walks, and hanging out with her dog, Gizmo.



AMANDA BOUNDY
Events Specialist

Executive Director Farewell, from Page 1

the genuine joy he had in caring for people. Like father, like son.

And, for those of you who know me best, you know I have a dislike for winters and being cold. My wife, Kim, and I have longed for the opportunity to move south for a few months in the winter and enjoy the warmth and sun. We also have some worldly travel plans in our future.

I haven't had a summer off since I was a sophomore in high school. It's time to read some books, author another book or two, have some meetings at the golf course morning, afternoon or evening and spend leisurely time at a beach and at our beautiful cottage on Lake Michigan.

So being a writer by trade, it's time to write my next chapter or two. I need to recharge my batteries.

I'll still be heavily involved in the non-profit world. Why wouldn't I be? I love helping people and get tremendous joy in putting smiles on people's faces. As I re-position, I'll be lending

"For 19-plus years in philanthropy, I've dedicated my career to making the Upper Peninsula a healthier place to live."

help to several non-profit organizations in the region. I'll continue writing my sports column for the *U.P. Catholic* newspaper and will be a regular contributor to *Marquette Monthly*. Writing is where I am at peace.

Consulting? You bet. In my 19-plus years working in fundraising, I've dabbled in fund development, grant writing, event planning, marketing, board development and other disciplines. I enjoy teaching and hope to pass on knowledge I've gleaned during this magical career to help others.

Is leaving SHF tough? There are no words for this. I'll sorely miss the interactions, the glorious grant celebrations, emceeding the annual

gala and planning for projects in general. Yet, as country singer Tracy Lawrence sang, "Time Marches On." For 19-plus years in philanthropy, I've dedicated my career to making the Upper Peninsula a healthier place to live. I will miss those relationships. I will miss serving on various SHF committees and the interactions. I will miss the people.

And my team? There are no words. Leah, Laura, Emily and Amanda are incredible. My successor will inherit a hard-working, dedicated and abundantly talented team. I'm so incredibly proud of them and their accomplishments. It's been my privilege and absolute honor to be their "boss."

The Superior Health Foundation has been my baby from the outset. Yet, I leave knowing it's in great hands and the future is incredibly bright.

So long for now. Thank you for sharing this wonderful, joyous, Superior ride with me for more than a decade. It's been the best ride of my life.

2024 Gala Partner Selected, from Page 1

Advocacy Center provides to those who so desperately need its services," said Jim LaJoie, executive director of the Superior Health Foundation. "It's a terrific organization and we are thrilled to partner with Executive Director Sarah Zyburt and her team."

The gala is again proudly presented by the

Marshfield Medical Center - Dickinson. Thank you!

The Superior Health Foundation is now actively seeking sponsors for the event.

To sponsor, please visit <https://superiorhealthfoundation.org/events/annual-gala/> and click on the sponsorship button.

It promises to be an incredible evening!

WWW.SUPERIORHEALTHFOUNDATION.ORG

Northern Lights
Child Advocacy Center

SUPERIOR
Health Foundation
HEALTHIER TOGETHER

ANNUAL GALA

Make a Difference, Become a Sponsor

Presenting Sponsor

Benefitting the Northern
Lights Child Advocacy Center

The Northern Lights Child Advocacy center serves children and families through comprehensive high-quality intervention for child maltreatment.


Marshfield
Medical Center
Dickinson

September 28, 2024

 Northern Michigan University

Save The Date!



Red Fox Run

SHF Annual Golf Outing

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024

10:30 AM SHOTGUN START

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