



Minnesota Association  
of Healthcare Volunteers

## MAHV-elous Awards for Outstanding Volunteers, 2021

### District A

#### **Benedictine Living Community (Crookston) – February 2021**

**Diane Seddon**: As Auxiliary president and volunteer, Diane serves on many boards and committees within the facility, notably helping with the large task of outdoor holiday lighting for room-bound residents to enjoy. As part of hosting a *virtual* LIGHT UP A LIFE fundraiser, she was on local radio promoting this year's creative new approach to the facility's largest annual fundraiser. Diane has been a rock star when it comes to "what *can* we do? vs what we *can't* do" during the pandemic.

**Marie Chaput**: Marie serves as the auxiliary accountant. COVID meant stopping indoor auxiliary meetings, but she never missed the outdoor, socially-distanced meetings that were held and calls to check in on what can be done to promote staff satisfaction during this time. Her creativity and support resulted in tee-shirts and treats for staff as well as bath aids to help make residents' bath day more of a spa experience. She is a phone call away, helping out when she can - with whatever she can- while still making deposits and keeping in close contact with the board.

#### **CHI St. Joseph's Health (Park Rapids) – March 2021**

**Anna Hudson**: serves as Auxiliary Secretary, taking extremely careful, detailed minutes of the meetings. Even before the pandemic, Anna stayed in close contact with hospital personnel to keep auxiliaries aware of hospital procedures and happenings. In 2019, she chaired our largest fundraiser, The Festival of Tables and played a pivotal role at the annual "Sweets, Treats, and Treasures" Cookie Walk fundraiser. Anna has made hundreds of masks during the pandemic, being one of the first to suggest and make them, and she hasn't stopped yet! Anna is a terrific sewer and jumped on a suggestion from a July District A and C virtual meeting to make *Busy Bags* to occupy children who accompany parents to the hospital. She initiated contact with the person who made the suggestion and ended up making these bags from recovered material from hospital gowns that would have been thrown away. Anna is thoroughly invested in all auxiliary's projects and "should be commended for her hard work!"





**Jean Ruzicka:** is the current past president of the auxiliary. Members of the auxiliary were excited when a newly-retired Jean joined the group, since she was well known as community news reporter for the *Park Rapids Enterprise*. Jean became president in 2018 during a transition of volunteer coordinators and successfully weathered a presidency with little guidance. She oversaw all fundraising events and, most notably, created a special section of the newspaper - at no cost to the auxiliary -

for a new fundraiser the 'Garden Stroll' in July, 2019. Because the community viewed this beautiful pictorial spread with articles about the gardeners beforehand, the fundraiser was a huge success. Unable to hold one of biggest fundraisers "Sweets, Treats, and Treasures" Cookie Walk in 2020 due to the pandemic, a "No Bake, Bake Sale" took its place. Jean was called upon to create another special newspaper section with tried-and-true recipes from auxiliaries, including lovely family stories about the auxiliaries and pictures. Jean is "commended for her ability to work with the newspaper, who gave the auxiliary free press, her attention to detail for this tremendous undertaking, and for bringing CHI St. Joseph's Health important volunteerism to Hubbard County's consciousness!" (She also made many masks for our community during the pandemic.)

#### **CHI St. Joseph's Health (Park Rapids) – April 2021**

**Peggy Morrow:** is a dedicated and conscientious member of auxiliary, who quietly volunteers and can be counted on to help carry out projects. Noted for being reliable and supporting all auxiliary functions, she most recently made and donated 2,000 masks the health care facility. Peggy is the definition of 'steadfast' in her service and commitment.



#### **CHI St. Joseph's Health (Park Rapids) – May 2021**

**Carol Luukkonen:** At auxiliary functions, Carol greets everyone with a great big infectious smile and contributes to all projects. She has served as the auxiliary president, and for several years as secretary. Recently, she has made over 1,500 masks to our health care facility and is still working on producing more masks to help fill the need. Carol is a "dedicated, enthusiastic, and hardworking member, truly a MAHV-elous volunteer."





**Carol Machovsky:** Carol is a dedicated volunteer to both the hospital auxiliary and the state association (MAHV and its predecessor HCAM). She is kind, supportive, organized and full of ideas to support the work of the auxiliary. She has served in offices at local, district and state levels. Carol always has a smile and is willing to help new auxiliary members and is a great problem solver. She excels at recruiting for volunteer jobs by choosing people that have the particular interests and skills. When with Carol, her humor and easy-going personality makes for a wonderful experience, even when faced with difficulties. It's no surprise that she is viewed as a core member of the auxiliary.

The hospital foundation's golf event is a major fundraiser. \$10 raffle tickets to win cash prizes are a big part of the event. Carol made a mission of selling tickets, going person-to-person and business-to-business. Amazingly, she sold 22 books of tickets. At \$10.00 a ticket (10 tickets per book) she brought in \$2,200.00 for the foundation event. That's a big WOW! Carol always gives 100% to everything she does. She certainly excels in everything in which she becomes involved. We are so very lucky to have her as an Auxilian, a hospital volunteer, and a part of our community.

### **CHI St. Joseph's Health (Park Rapids) – July/August 2021**

**Linda Paulsen** is always eager and ready to assist in any way she can. The gift shop has a new register system. Unfortunately, the software did not have an instruction guide. Linda came in every day for two weeks to work with our Gift Shop Coordinator to create a detailed instruction guide. Her assistance along with her always cheerful attitude made the task both easier and much more enjoyable.



Once upon a time, **Theora Goodrich** wandered into CHI St. Joseph's Health Services gift shop, where she chatted with the volunteer who was working in the shop that day. The volunteer convinced Theora to become a gift shop volunteer ... and the rest is history. It didn't take long for her generous spirit and outstanding leadership skills to shine. She soon became President of the CHI St. Joseph's Health Auxiliary for several terms.

She encourages volunteers to step up and take on projects; she supports and inspires success as activities progress. Theora is always pleasant, upbeat, and positive. Above all, she is unwaveringly committed to the mission of CHI St. Joseph's Health and the Auxiliary.

Theora currently serves as the District A Chair and brings innovation to the process of increasing leadership skills within district. During the pandemic, she coordinated Zoom meetings and webinars to teach us ways to be resilient and helps us stay connected with each other virtually. She inspires all to be better leaders and to take care of ourselves while caring for others.

## CHI St. Joseph's Health (Park Rapids) – September 2021

**Sharon Meyer** is described as the Energizer Bunny- it seems like she is always volunteering in some aspect of the hospital's mission. She has been a Hospital Volunteer for a number of years working at the Information Desk near the ACU/Same Day Surgery Center. Sharon is also a member of the Auxiliary's leadership team, serving first as Co-President, Co-Past President and is currently the Auxiliary Treasurer. In addition, Sharon volunteers for the Foundation's fundraisers and events. While the pandemic slowed her down a little, Sharon was one of the first volunteers back on the job by assisting at the Community Health's COVID-19 vaccination clinics. Sharon always has a smile on her face and is so generous with her time and talents.



## CHI St. Joseph's Health (Park Rapids) – November/December 2021

**Kathy Thompson** can be counted on to come up with creative ideas to keep the Auxiliary moving forward. Remember the old saying, "there's not a creative bone in my body?" Well, it's safe to say every bone in Kathy's body is creative.

She is a champion for fun with team building ideas that strengthen communication and friendship among members. She has a wealth of networking ideas, whether it's activities at our group gatherings or on a road trip. *She brings members together.*



As President of Auxiliary Group 2, Kathy would ask, "does anyone have an idea for?" ...then, wait for a response - hearing none - would say with a smile on her face, "I have one!" Soon her enthusiasm would have the whole group rallying around her idea, working to make it happen. She is a true leader, progressive thinker and always volunteering to help. She takes that extra step to start a project or activity, whatever it may be.

Kathy plays a major role in the Auxiliary by securing grants to help defray expenses of major fundraisers, boosting the amount of profit for our organization. She also mentors other members and encourages them to apply for grants to help the Auxiliary as a whole.



**June Goetzke:** Ready and willing to say "I can do that," June volunteers in countless Auxiliary roles and functions. She is often the first to volunteer, and her presence is valued at every Auxiliary function. June is kind and helps new members feel comfortable and part of the group

She is a proud Auxiliary member and loves to share the history of the organization. She has captured many activities, fund raisers and conferences, creating a historical account for future Auxilians. She records members in local, district and statewide leaderships positions.

Her introduction to the state board of MAHV was while working on history for the hospital. Carol Machovsky, MAHV (then, HCAM) President in 2016, asked June if she would organize several boxes of

old records by district and put them into albums. She said "why not?" and was sworn in at the next state board meeting as the Historian. The following year June travelled to the Spring and Fall District Forums displaying the albums. All the healthcare volunteers seemed to enjoy looking at pictures of their events. For her contributions, June received the 2016 President's Award.



**Kay Smythe**, an Auxiliary member for over 50 years, is always ready and willing to help on any project. In the early years of the Auxiliary, she helped organize meetings which were held in members' homes.

Kay has held every position on the Executive Committee and in her group, at least twice. She is the photographer for all of the Auxiliary events, enough pictures to make a book! Kay has served on the MAHV state board as well.

Most recently during the pandemic, Kay invited members to her home to participate in the virtual MAHV regional conference and District A Fall Forum. Her hospitality and generosity allowed members to work together, network and brainstorm future ideas for the local organization.

Though soft spoken, Kay is recognized a servant leader and dedicated volunteer.

***Each volunteer received a commendation from MAHV and an Outstanding Volunteer lapel pin.***