



Making a difference... TOGETHER

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Building a Holiday Tradition

Built over a period of twenty years, MeritCare Foundation's *Festival of Wreaths* has become a holiday favorite for many in the region. People anticipate the enchanted Festival setting with its elegant evening gala; one-of-a-kind wreaths and trees; the silent auction including in-home dinners prepared by local cooking enthusiasts; and the signature gingerbread cookies; as well as shopping for unique items in the specialty areas. This annual event wouldn't even happen without all the volunteers — the people who quietly, selflessly give of their time and abilities to make this annual three-day event a rousing success.

"The Festival of Wreaths volunteers are just incredible," says Sally McCravey, this year's chairperson. "Vice chairperson Kara Woodbury and all the volunteers have a wonderful, endless spirit that makes this a real joy. They love being part of this event and it shows."

Sally estimates up to 150 volunteers participate in Festival of Wreaths in a wide range of capacities — setting up before the event begins, welcoming and helping people during the event, tearing down when it's over, even delivering auction items to the homes of the lucky bidders. Several months before the event the various Festival of Wreaths committees have already begun planning, preparing and generating enthusiasm.



"The support and hard work of these volunteers is the main reason for the success of this event," says Sally.

For the 20th year, the event is held the weekend before Thanksgiving. This year's Festival begins on Friday, November 19, and runs through late Sunday afternoon, in the Crystal Ballroom at Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo.

As soon as the last ornament is in place on Friday, designers, volunteers and sponsors preview the magnificent display and then the Ballroom is opened to the public.

Everyone is invited to the Dazzle to Denim Dance. "The Shakers" will provide a variety of live music. "And we've added beer tasting this year, too. Put on your comfortable jeans, then spruce up with rhinestones. It'll be a great time," says Sally. Tickets are available at the door.

Saturday's lineup includes three traditional favorites: Breakfast with Santa, Pizza with Santa, and the evening Gala including the silent auction. "These events require reservations and typically sell out fast," adds Sally.

Sunday's new feature will be a Sunday Brunch and Style Show. "We'll show what's trendy, but at the same time we'll make sure it's 'real-people' clothes," says Sally.



2004 Festival of Wreaths Steering Committee

A cause that benefits everyone

Each year's Festival benefits an area of special need at MeritCare. Throughout the 20 years, this has included the hospital family rooms and the R2 Reader for breast mammography. This year's Festival of Wreaths funds will support the expansion and renovation of MeritCare Children's Hospital. Set for completion in 2005, this major project will result in a family-friendly, 21st century facility to meet the needs of our region's children and families now and well into the future.

"Everybody has their personal reasons for being involved in Festival of Wreaths, and my reason has a lot to do with the fact that I'm a realtor," says Sally, who works for Coldwell Banker in Fargo. "The way I see it, all of my clients in one way or another benefit from the care available at a highly rated hospital like MeritCare. It adds to our community's good quality of life."

Twenty years of tradition is hard to pass up. See inside for details and hours of the Shopping Extravaganza. Complete information can also be found at www.festivalofwreaths.meritcare.com.

Feder elected Chair of Board

Jerome Feder has been elected Chair of the MeritCare Foundation Board of Directors. "It will be a very exciting year with the expansion of the North Campus. I have never worked with such a dedicated board of directors and such a professional staff.



Therefore, it will be a wonderful experience; learning, and at the same time accomplishing so much." says Feder, Owner and President of Feder Realty Company of Fargo. He has served on the Foundation Board since 2000.

The Executive Board is comprised of:

- Chair — Jerome Feder
- Vice Chair — Dan Hannaher
- Secretary — Michael Solberg
- Treasurer — Kevin Powers
- Member at Large — Dr. Preston Steen
Dr. Roger L. Gilbertson

Welcomed to the Board are community and MeritCare leaders elected to their first three-year term:

- Dr. Steven Berndt, Managing Physician Partner, Anesthesia, MeritCare
- Ann McConn, President, Alerus Financial
- Dr. James Nagle, Managing Physician Partner, ENT, MeritCare
- Bill Schlossman, Managing Partner, Vogel Law Firm

Pamela Anderson will serve as a crossover Board Member from the MeritCare Health System Board of Trustees and has accepted a two-year term on the Foundation Board. Pam is Senior Vice President of Wells Fargo Private Client Services.

Renewing their commitment and serving second three-year terms are:

- Dan Hannaher, Hannahers's Inc.
- Kevin Powers, Bremer Bank

Continuing with their term are:

- Dr. Richard Bailly, Neurology, MeritCare
- Jerome Feder, Feder Realty Company
- Dr. Roger L. Gilbertson, President, MeritCare
- Mark Jackson, GRS/Greenberg Roofing
- Mark Johnson, Wells Fargo Private Client Services
- Nancy Jordheim, Fargo Public Schools
- Deb Matthews, Team Industries and Team Foundation
- Karen Offutt, community volunteer
- Kris Sheridan, Park Co/GMAC Real Estate
- Michael Solberg, State Bank and Trust
- Dr. Preston Steen, Oncology, MeritCare

The Board held its annual meeting in September. Sincere thanks were extended to Mary Johnson, Ben Anvary, Diane Hulbert, Dr. Greg Post, and Dr. David Clardy for their dedication to the Board. Their terms ended when the nominating committee approved new members. After serving six years, Mary Johnson, Dr. Greg Post and Dr. David Clardy were made Honorary Foundation Board Members.

Board Members serve as a link to the community and donors and as advocates for the Foundation. The MeritCare Foundation is strong and growing due to the leadership of these dedicated people.

Year End Donations

If you would like to make a year-end cash gift and receive an income tax deductible receipt for 2004, there are a number of ways this can be done:

- By regular mail - your envelope **must be postmarked no later than Dec 31**.
- By visiting our web site **before midnight on Dec 31**, and making an online donation.
- By hand delivering your donation, during regular business hours, to our office **before 4:30 pm on Dec 31**.

Your receipt will then indicate a gift date on or before December 31st.

Use the enclosed envelope or send gift by mail to: MeritCare Foundation, PO Box MC, Fargo ND 58122-0302

Make an online donation at foundation.meritcare.com. Make a gift on this secure site using your credit card.

The MeritCare Foundation office is located on the first floor of the Scandia Hotel at 717 4th Street North in Fargo. (The hotel is across the street from the Emergency Center.)



Shopping Extravaganza

Saturday, November 20th, 10am-4pm and Sunday, November 21st, Noon-4pm. If you aren't attending any of the special events you can still purchase an admission ticket to bid on the silent auction items, pick up a tiny timber, shop in the Timeless Treasures Boutique and stroll through Gingerbread Lane. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. Adults \$3; Children 10 and under \$1.

Specialty Shopping Areas

With the purchase of admission to the Shopping Extravaganza you enter a world of holiday delights.

Gingerbread Lane - Mouth-watering decorations adorn these houses created and donated by local chefs, artists and children.

Timeless Treasures Boutique - An abundant assortment of decorations and many other holiday-related items to purchase and take with you.

12 Days of Christmas - Gift packages with wonderful themes that are available through the silent auction.

Festival Café - Specialty menus comprise these unique dinners available in the silent auction. All created and served by volunteer 'chefs' in their homes.

Tiny Timbers - Miniature trees decorated by talented volunteers are sold on a cash and carry basis.

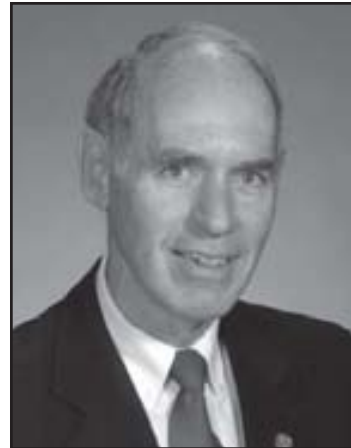
Santa's Treat Shoppe - Tasty treats including the infamous gingerbread cookies. Enjoy them with a cup of coffee or cider, or fill a bag to share at home.

Holiday Central - Showcase of the event with over 80 unique holiday items, mainly decorated trees and wreaths, that are acquired through a silent auction process.



LegacyCare: Recognition for Those who are Providing for our Future

Often times the most significant gift that we can give is the gift of a legacy for the future. In our country today, only ten percent of us are taking advantage of this way to make a difference far beyond our lifetimes.



*Bruce Furness, Chair
LegacyCare Committee*

In recognition of the future needs of our community and region for quality healthcare and improved quality of life; and, in recognition of our friends who have provided a future gift to MeritCare through their estate planning, LegacyCare has been established.

LegacyCare recognizes our donors who have made a gift through their estates, as well as our

friends who have notified us of an inclusion in their estate planning.

LegacyCare will help MeritCare plan for and design its future through the generous estate gifts of friends. We are grateful to all who have made this commitment and look forward to welcoming many new benefactors into LegacyCare membership.

We extend to you an invitation to join MeritCare Foundation's LegacyCare. LegacyCare is a program designed to build long range financial stability for MeritCare Health System. This is not an appeal for funds now, but a request that you include MeritCare in your long range plans. By doing this now, the possible tax advantages to you may increase the value of your estate, enabling you to do much more than you ever dreamed possible.

For more information regarding LegacyCare, please contact Yvonne Kroll, MeritCare Foundation, at (701) 234-6422. Highlights about specific types of gifts may be found on our website at <http://www.meritcare.com/about/foundation/give.asp>



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www.foundation.meritcare.com

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61for61

The location was closer to the ground but that didn't diminish the end results. The amount raised was higher than last year — a total of over \$92,300. Fred Bevill and Scotch, radio hosts from Fox 107.9, climbed to the roof of Krispy Kreme in Fargo at 6:00 am on Friday, October 1st. (In previous years they perched on a billboard.) Mike Waters, the third morning host, 'manned' the many activities happening below. For 61 hours they informed, entertained, and encouraged their listening audience.

Their message was the same — it takes everyone in the community to help battle cancer. Funds raised during this year's 61for61 will provide additional resources to support and expand clinical research at MeritCare Roger Maris Cancer Center. These clinical trials make the newest treatments available for the people of our region and improve cancer care overall.

Areas of research within Roger Maris Cancer Center include the Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP), the Children's Oncology Group (COG), and industry sponsored trials and research conducted by physicians and staff members within oncology.

The funds also will provide an increase in utilization of our registry data to answer questions through innovative research. The registry monitors the incidence of the different types of cancer occurring in our region. Population-based cancer registries are essential for assessing the extent of cancer in a specific geographic area. This data is analyzed for trends, related risk factors, and stages at which treatment begins and the success rate of types of treatments. Results will help effectively plan services, prioritize health resource allocations, develop and measure prevention and intervention strategies, and identify high-risk populations.

In all areas, the patient is the primary concern with the hope of bringing new treatments and knowledge into the fight against cancer, as well as lessening the impact that the cancer diagnosis has on the quality of life for both the patient and their family.



A Home Run/Walk participant writes a tribute on the Honor/Memorial wall.