

● YOU MATTER TO THE HEALTH OF ● THIS COMMUNITY

# inspire



UnityPoint Health  
Meriter Foundation



## THE NEW RESPITE & REFLECTION ROOM AT UNITYPOINT HEALTH - MERITER

A place for all patients, visitors and staff to reflect and find peace.



The newly renovated Respite and Reflection Room (formerly the Meriter Chapel) opened on July 1, 2022. Located within Meriter hospital, this inclusive place of worship, relaxation and mindfulness is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week to patients, approved visitors and staff.

To help all visitors, practices and faiths feel included in this peaceful space, Meriter provides a variety of items and supplies, including:

- an audio player
- yoga mats
- religious books
- reusable prayer rugs
- a designated area that points to Mecca
- a foot washing station
- a Wudu station

Take a virtual tour of the Respite & Reflection Room: [unitypoint.org/reflection](https://unitypoint.org/reflection)



*The redevelopment of the chapel into a culturally inclusive space was funded by Meriter Foundation thanks to a lead donation from the estate of Burt E. Miller. Burt was a longtime supporter and a member of the Methodist Hospital board of directors (Methodist Hospital and Madison General Hospital merged to become Meriter Health Services in 1987). When he passed, Burt left an ultimate gift that will forever change the way the Meriter community pauses to find peace and respite within our walls. Burt's dedication and passion for serving his community will live on within this space.*

*If you are considering a charitable gift to Meriter Foundation through your will, trust, or beneficiary designation, we would love to know about it. We are here to help you find the best fit for your gift and welcome you as Legacy Leader. Visit [unitypoint.org/legacy](https://unitypoint.org/legacy) or call (608) 417-5300 to learn how your legacy gift can make a lasting impact on the health of our community.*

# [care] FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

EXPAND ACCELERATE. ADVANCE DIVERSIFY

Together, we can cultivate a robust, talented and diverse workforce to meet the increasing healthcare needs of our community.

## Our community is facing a mounting healthcare staffing shortage.

In fact, the entire nation is grappling with a healthcare workforce deficit. Although this problem predates the pandemic, COVID-19 and its ongoing impacts have amplified the problem.

Nurses, in particular, are leaving the profession; **more than 50% OF NURSES in the United States are expected to retire within the next 10 years.**

This issue is only compounded by increasing patient volumes, spurred by both an increasing and aging population in Dane County.

While this issue is not unique to Dane County and UnityPoint Health – Meriter, we recognize the important role Meriter, as a community healthcare system, can play in helping to address this problem in our region.

Every person in our community should have access to expert, compassionate healthcare – now and for generations to come.

## With your help, we can create:

- Healthcare staffing levels that sustain optimal patient access, care, safety and outcomes.
- A diverse workforce of caregivers to advocate for all patients in our community and address health inequities.
- A healthy community for everyone.



"From a very young age, I felt profound meaning and wholeness in helping and caring for others. But to truly care for someone else in need, you must have your own care needs met.

"I am very optimistic about our ability to partner with our community to increase the number of new healthcare workers and help our devoted teams achieve the work-life balance necessary for their own wellbeing so they can continue to practice their passion for healthcare."

SHERY CASALI, MSN, RN,  
CHIEF NURSING EXECUTIVE AT UNITYPOINT HEALTH – MERITER



"We have an aging workforce. More people have left the NICU in the past 3 years than in the last 25 combined.

"It's great when they're here because the wealth of knowledge and experience they hold is hugely beneficial. But when they go, what will that look like? As someone who's planning to retire within the next couple of years, it's scary. We risk losing so much of that wonderful knowledge if we don't make a concerted effort to pass it on to the next generation of nurses.

"The thing about this impending shortage is we can do something about it if we act now."

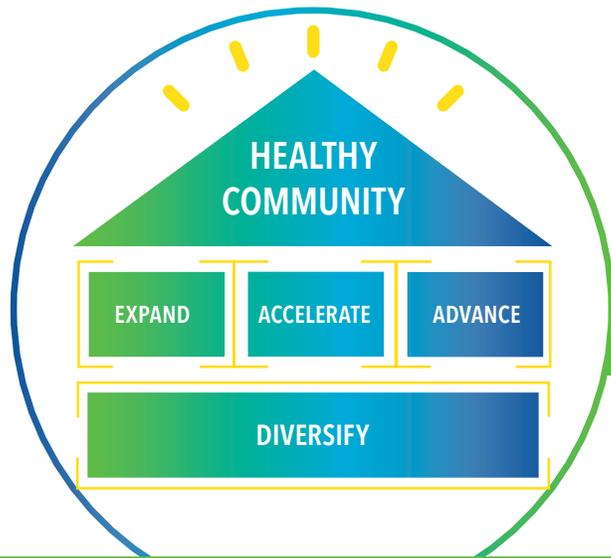
SARA STOLTMAN, BSN, RNC-NIC, CNIII  
CHARGE NURSE, NEWBORN INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU) AT UNITYPOINT HEALTH – MERITER



"We endured a pandemic, where every team member's job changed—sometimes daily. I have assisted with several retirement parties where nurses are retiring from Meriter after 40 years, and I have seen nurses start and end their careers over the course of these two very long years.

"We absolutely must provide the same standard of care, but I fear that if the shortage grows; the vacancies will exponentially increase because the staff who are here will be asked to do more with less help."

RENEE BUKOVICH, MS, RN, NP-BC  
MANAGER, NURSING EDUCATION AT UNITYPOINT HEALTH – MERITER



# [ transforming ] HEALTHCARE

ACROSS OUR REGION FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

UnityPoint Health - Meriter's ambitious Healthcare Workforce Initiative involves a suite of creative solutions expertly designed to address the complex healthcare concerns facing our community—both emerging and immediate.

**A HEALTHY COMMUNITY FOR EVERYONE is the heart of this campaign.**

**EXPAND** the talent pool, commensurate with increasing patient volumes.

By increasing access to healthcare education and training we will boost the number of individuals pursuing—and advancing in—the field of healthcare.

**ACCELERATE** getting new care team members to the patient bedside.

Newly hired and newly licensed caregivers are eager to begin their journeys as healthcare professionals. By streamlining the onboarding and team member training process, we will get new hospital and clinic team members to the patients who need them faster.

**ADVANCE** team members through career support and growth opportunities.

Clinical longevity is crucial to positive patient outcomes. We will advance and cultivate our own—with specific opportunities for team members from historically marginalized communities (i.e. people of color, members of the LGBTQ+ and/or disability communities)—ensuring every patient is treated by skilled, tenured caregivers.

**DIVERSIFY** our healthcare workforce.

Approaching this work through an equity lens is foundational; it is a guiding principle is integral to every action and initiative, now and into the future.

We will work to develop future generations of healthcare professionals from a diverse range of backgrounds, cultures and lived experiences, thus building a workforce that is best equipped to advocate for all patients and address inequities in healthcare.

## [ HOW TO HELP ]

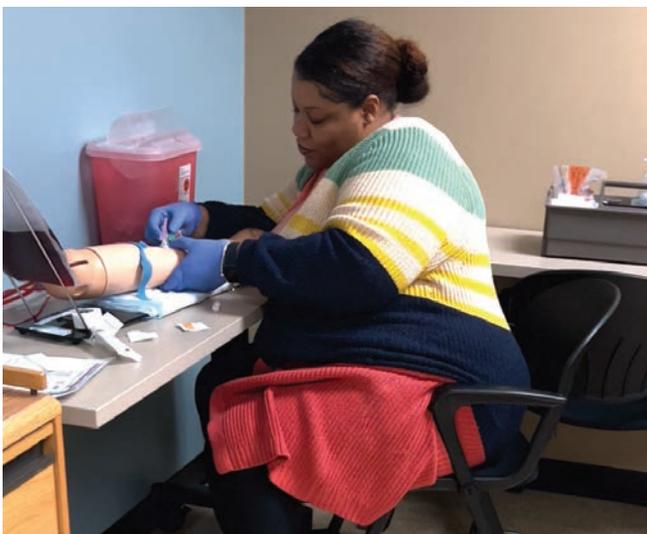
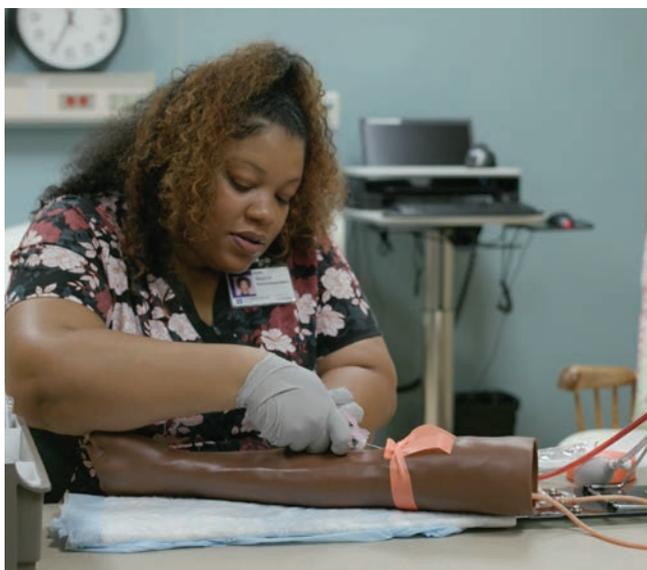
Together, we can develop future generations of healthcare professionals from a diverse range of backgrounds, cultures and lived experiences, thereby building a workforce that is equipped to address health inequities, supports our current team members and meets the staffing needs of our community.

Your gift—of any amount—will bring our community closer to ensuring no patient is ever turned away from the care they need.

**To learn more and make a gift, visit [unitypoint.org/givecare](http://unitypoint.org/givecare)**

# EXPANDING THE HEALTHCARE TALENT POOL

Gifts through the CARE for our Community's Future campaign will support Pathways Programs, courses offered through UnityPoint Health - Meriter that are uniquely designed to welcome talented individuals into clinical careers through educational programming and practical training. One such program is Phlebotomy Scholars.



## RACHEL STEPHENS

UNITYPOINT HEALTH - MERITER  
PHLEBOTOMY SCHOLARS  
(PATHWAYS PROGRAM) GRADUATE

"There is a lack of caregivers of color. I'm only one person, but I want to advocate for people who may not feel like they can advocate for themselves or be taken seriously [in a healthcare setting]."

"I had great nurses when having my children but none of them looked like me. In one of my most vulnerable times, I would have loved to have a person of color on my birthing team. I want to be that for other women of color."

"It can be harder to find veins on people with darker skin, so I'm eager to use the special techniques I've learned in my Phlebotomy Scholars training to help people who look like me."

Hear Rachel's story:  
[unitypoint.org/givecare](https://unitypoint.org/givecare)

## ABOUT PHLEBOTOMISTS

Phlebotomists are medical professionals who specialize in everything associated with blood draws. They collect, prepare and manage blood for testing so it can be analyzed in a medical laboratory. They may also collect blood for donation and perform blood transfusions.

With approximately 70% of medical diagnostics resulting from the work performed by phlebotomists, it is a critical role in healthcare.

Spurred by an aging population and advancements in technology (more conditions and illnesses can be diagnosed with blood tests than ever before), the need for phlebotomists is soaring; the US Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a 17% increase in demand through 2029.

## THANK YOU TO OUR LEAD SPONSORS:

W. JEROME  
FRATUSCHI



SARAH & NATHAN  
HERBST



A vibrant evening of self-expression, hope and love to support mental wellness and healing for our community's LGBTQ+ youth.

Friday, February 3, 2023

7 p.m. to Midnight

OVERTURE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

201 State St, Madison

- Live music with crooner Marc Lopez
- Drag performances by Miss Gay Wisconsin, Bianca Lynn Breeze, and friends
- Decadent desserts
- Dancing all night with DJ Christopher Vasquez!

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

[unitypoint.org/loveislove](https://unitypoint.org/loveislove)



PRESENTED IN ENGLISH, SPANISH & ASL



Dear friends,

On Friday, February 3, 2023, Love is Love returns! This fun, but incredibly meaningful event is lovingly designed with one purpose: **to raise funds to support mental health programs at Meriter Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP) for our LGBTQ+ youth.**

Did you know that **48% of LGBTQ+ youth** reported wanting counseling from a mental health professional during the pandemic but were unable to receive it?

**This cause rings true with me. In 2017, I lost my soul mate and closest friend, Garret Trinrud.** Throughout much of his life, Garret struggled with mental health issues. That didn't stop him though from lighting up a room with his infectious laughter and bubbly personality. He could naturally bring out joy in the people he met. Anyone who knew him will tell you it's true.



Garret Trinrud

Garret's challenges with mental health compounded, leading to physical health issues. He left the world when he was just 43 years old. **Every day I wonder: if Garret had received mental health care when he was younger, might he still be here today?**

In 2019, my dear friend, Tina Noel, and I created Love is Love to support CAP in heartfelt memory of Garret. Our commitment continues today, as we work to ensure every LGBTQ+ youth in our community has access to the mental health resources they need to help them find their footing. I don't want anyone else to lose their "Garret" far too early in life. As a registered nurse, Garret dedicated his life caring for others; I can only imagine this is what he would want me to do.

**Love is Love will not only provide critical support for our youth, but it promises to be a joyful celebration of self-expression, hope and love.** We have planned great entertainment, dancing and dessert—so please bring your friends!

I hope I see you there. It will be the kind of night Garret wouldn't have missed for anything.



Best,  
John Sims  
Board Member, Meriter Foundation  
Board of Directors  
Chair, Love is Love Planning  
Committee

# INTRODUCING OUR NEW LEADERSHIP

Meriter Foundation  
Board of Directors



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Chair  
Vice President,  
Commercial Rare  
Disease



**MARY CULLEN**  
Vice-Chair  
Asset Manager,  
The Alexander  
Company



**DIEGO CAMOVERDE-  
CISNEROS**  
Secretary  
Manager, Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion,  
UW Health



**MATT VANDERLOO**  
Treasurer & Finance  
Chair  
CEO and Principal,  
SVA Certified Public  
Accountants



202 South Park Street  
Madison, WI 53715-8932

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Join us for Love is Love!
- See Meriter's new Respite and Reflection Room
- CARE for our Community's Future

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## you matter

### A Message from Rebecca



*Rebecca Dopot,  
President  
UnityPoint Health - Meriter Foundation*

The pandemic put a spotlight on the tireless work of devoted healthcare teams across the nation. Healthcare professionals have faced unparalleled demands, particularly over the past 2.5 years. Looking ahead, it's clear that some healthcare challenges will remain: throughout the entire country, there is a mounting critical healthcare worker shortage.

Through its innovative Healthcare Workforce Initiative, UnityPoint Health - Meriter is taking action now to address the issue—working to prevent a crisis in our community.

I'm so pleased to share with you that in October, Meriter Foundation

launched the CARE for our Community's Future philanthropic campaign. **I know that when we unite around an important cause, incredible things are possible.**

Together, we can build a robust, talented and diverse workforce to meet the increasing healthcare needs of our community, now and for many generations to come.

We've shared some information about the campaign inside this newsletter, and I encourage you to learn more by visiting [unitypoint.org/givecare](https://unitypoint.org/givecare). I hope you'll consider making a gift of any amount in support of this vitally important work.