

2025
MERITER
FOUNDATION
IMPACT
REPORT

YOUR
Gift
YOUR
Impact



UnityPoint Health
Meriter Foundation

LOOKING BACK ON 2025 WITH GRATITUDE

Your generosity is improving the health and quality of life of people right here in our community.

The achievements celebrated within this report are YOURS. The appreciation expressed each day by patients, families, community partners and our healthcare teams BELONGS TO YOU.

Thank you for being an exceptional partner in this important work.

ABOUT UNITYPOINT HEALTH – MERITER FOUNDATION

THIS WORK BEGINS WITH OUR VISION:

A healthy community for everyone.

THIS VISION FUELS OUR MISSION:

To improve the health of the people and communities we serve through inspired giving.

These values drive the Meriter Foundation team to work to address the unmet healthcare needs in our region. Collaborating with donors like you, we are dedicated to upholding excellence in quality, safety and service—ensuring that high-quality healthcare remains accessible to every patient and neighbor in need. Together, we provide care and support for patients, families, caregivers and our community.

unitypoint.org/meriterfoundation

YOUR IMPACT IN 2025

\$1.7 MILLION RAISED

BABIES & FAMILIES



5,205 babies were delivered.

708 tiny patients received care in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU).



350 families were supported through the Human Donor Milk Pilot Program.

MENTAL HEALTHCARE FOR KIDS AND TEENS

789 kids and adolescents received care through Child & Adolescent Psychiatry's (CAP) inpatient and outpatient services.

49 counties were served by CAP, providing care to children and adolescents.

LIFELINE FOR OUR VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS



355 neighbors facing housing insecurity were served by the Health Outreach Program.

600 patients entrusted Meriter's Adult Psychiatry Program with their comprehensive mental health care.



1,650 patients with substance dependence were cared for through NewStart Addiction Treatment.



480 survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence were served by the Forensic Nurse Examiner Program (FNE).

1,177 elder patients received companionship and assistance through the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP).

FUTURE CAREGIVERS



34 individuals were provided healthcare career and advancement opportunities through the Pathways Program.

648 caregivers were trained at the Jeff Levy Education Center.



15 local high school seniors and Meriter volunteers received college scholarships through the Healthcare Scholarship Program.



DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

567 volunteers supported over 36 areas in our hospital and clinics.

50,661 hours were recorded by volunteers in 2025.

Because of you, Meriter Foundation granted over \$1.8 million to provide exceptional patient care for community.

Meriter Foundation Team Members

Rebecca Madson
Foundation President

Colleen Altenbernd
Associate Director of
Philanthropy

Cherilyn Brown
Executive Assistant

Hannah Freeland
Development
Specialist

Lindsey Giese
Director of
Philanthropy

Tamara McKinney
Director of
Philanthropy - Grants
& Programs

Bri Yanke
Senior Director of
Philanthropy

2025 Meriter Foundation Board of Directors

Bobby Adamov,
(Immediate Past
Chair),
Abbott, formerly
Exact Sciences

James Arnett,
UnityPoint Health-
Meriter

Jeffrey Beckmann,
J&K Security Solutions

**Holly Cremer
Berkenstadt,**
Community Advocate

Sherry Casali,
(Retired), UnityPoint
Health-Meriter

Mary Cullen,
(Board Chair),
The Alexander
Company

Dena Frisch,
NEI Turner Media

Virginia Graves,
Community Advocate

Thomas Keeney,
Fairbanks Morse

Jeff Levy,
Phillips Distributing
Corp.

Rebecca Madson,
UnityPoint Health-
Meriter Foundation

Chas Martin,
Sprinkman Real Estate

Tina Noel, MSN,
Essential Health, LLC

Julie Olson, DNP,
Aspen RxHealth

Cesar Pinzon, Jr.,
American Family
Insurance

Elizabeth Priller,
Community Advocate

**Baltazar De Anda
Santana,** Dane County
Department of Human
Services

Katie Schmitt, MD,
Child and Adolescent
Psychiatry, UnityPoint
Health - Meriter

John Sims,
U.S. Bank

Tony Sullivan,
(Board Vice Chair), J.H.
Findorff & Son

Matt Vanderloo, CPA,
(Board Treasurer), SVA

Pam Wetzel, MD,
(Retired), UnityPoint
Health-Meriter

YOU MATTER

A Message from Rebecca



*Rebecca Madson,
President, UnityPoint Health -
Meriter Foundation*

Because of you, our community received compassionate, exceptional care in 2025.

Your generosity brought reassurance and strength to our patients during some of their most vulnerable moments. Time and again, your support created comfort and connection, reminding each person that they were seen, supported and never alone.

Every gift you made helped ensure care reached those who needed it most - from the tiniest newborns fighting for a strong start, to children and teens receiving mental health support, to neighbors facing complex challenges who were connected to essential resources.

Within this report, you'll see the impact of your kindness come to life. These stories reflect the strength of a community that believes in caring for one another and the powerful difference your generosity makes each day.

On behalf of all of us at UnityPoint Health - Meriter Foundation, thank you for standing beside our patients, families and care teams. Your continued partnership helps ensure that expert, compassionate care is available when and where it's needed most.

With gratitude,

*Rebecca Madson
President*

UnityPoint Health - Meriter Foundation

"These stories reflect the strength of a community that believes in caring for one another and the powerful difference your generosity makes each day." – Rebecca Madson, President, Meriter Foundation

WELCOME 2026 BOARD MEMBERS!

We are honored to welcome four new members to the Meriter Foundation Board of Directors in 2026: Kiah Calmese Walker, Chris Houden, Jr., Lea Culver and Saumil S. Mehta.

YOU BRING

Comfort to Babies and Families

95 Days, a Lifetime of Memories



Kaylee, Meriter NICU graduate

Because of you, families across our community are finding hope in life's most vulnerable moments with their babies.

At 25 weeks pregnant, Sarah went to a routine prenatal checkup and left in an ambulance. Within hours, her daughter Kaylee was born at just one pound, 13 ounces. There was no time to prepare. No time to process their baby was coming early. Only time to act. Kaylee spent 95 days in UnityPoint Health - Meriter's Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) fighting for her life, while Sarah and her husband, Pat, balanced life with their three young boys at home.

Sarah will never forget the first time she held her daughter at five days old. She was so small and fragile, yet full of strength. Sarah remembers the care team gathering at the door, walking through each step of Kaylee's care and always asking, "Mom, what do you think?" In those moments, she felt seen, included and supported.

"For me, the NICU has always been about hope. Thank you for helping give families like mine the greatest gift of all: the chance to bring our baby home." - Sarah, NICU Parent and Proud Mom of Kaylee

Because of your generosity, care for Kaylee's family extended beyond the bedside. Meal



Kaylee enjoying the outdoors

tickets meant Sarah did not have to think about where her next meal would come from while at the hospital. Time in the lobby offered a connection with other parents walking a similar path. Recordable heart devices gave her family the ability to share their voices with Kaylee with a special lullaby: "Frere Jacques."

Today, Kaylee is four-years-old and thriving. She is running, climbing, singing and filling her home with joy. Even now, she still listens to that recordable heart, smiling as she hears the familiar voices and softly singing along to the lullaby that once surrounded her in those early days.

Sarah and Pat continue to find connection with other NICU families, offering encouragement to others and finding strength in shared experiences.

Because of you, these moments of comfort didn't end at the hospital. They became lasting reminders of love, connection and the strength that carried this family forward.

Beyond the Fairway: Your Impact in Action



Golfers driving out to the course

At the 2025 Meriter Pro/Am Golf Classic, 140 golfers gathered and raised more than \$155,000 to support babies and families in Meriter's Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Baby & Family Care Program.

The impact of this event is already reaching families across our community. Proceeds help make possible resources such as hotel stays and gas cards so parents can remain close to their newborns, car seats so families facing financial hardship can safely bring their babies home and NICU family support groups for parents so they never have to navigate the journey alone.

Thank you to everyone who made this day on the green possible! Because of you, babies and their loved ones are supported, empowered and surrounded by kindness.

A Life Remembered, a Legacy of Love



UnityPoint Health - Meriter proudly dedicated a butterfly sculpture in the Center for Perinatal Care garden to honor Alana Rose and her family.

"While there was no way to save Alana, the doctors saved my life, and the nurses saved my soul." - Kim, Founder of the Alana Rose Foundation

At 32 weeks, Alana was stillborn due to a placental abruption that also threatened the life of her mother, Kim. In those devastating hours, her care team walked alongside them, offering compassion and support when it mattered most.

From this experience, Alana's family created the Alana Rose Foundation to help other families facing infant loss and to bring openness to conversations about grief. In her memory, they also donated a Cuddle Cot, giving grieving families the gift of more time with their babies at UnityPoint Health - Meriter.

They deepened their impact by establishing the Alana Love and Loss Lectureship, ensuring lasting support for Meriter's Pregnancy & Infant Loss Program. This will advance education, awareness and compassionate care for years to come. This legacy was made possible through



Butterfly sculpture with Alana Rose teddy bear

a blended gift, combining a meaningful contribution today with a future gift of life insurance - a powerful reminder that there are many ways to make a difference.

Because of you, and families like Alana's, healing continues. Together, we are creating spaces where grief is met with compassion and ensuring that no family walks alone.



Expanding Access to Donor Milk

The first days at home with a newborn can bring both joy and uncertainty, especially for families whose babies need supplemental feeding while a parent's breast milk supply is still being established. Accessing donor milk after discharge can be costly, creating added stress during an already vulnerable time. Your support helps ensure families have access to the nourishment and resources they need for their babies during this critical transition.

What began as a simple idea from UnityPoint Health - Meriter's lactation consultants—to make donor milk more readily available through a voucher program—has grown into a program now supporting hundreds of families.

Meriter's donor milk voucher pilot program provides donor milk to families in need at hospital discharge, bridging the gap until their own supply is established. Since early 2024, the voucher program has provided more than 5,000 ounces of donor milk to over 350 families.

The impact is already clear. Families have greater peace of mind as they transition home with feeding plans that support their goals.

Having a feeding plan they feel good about is huge. It eases the transition home when so much can feel uncertain.” - Dr. Nicole Baumann-Blackmore, Newborn Hospitalist and Research & Education Committee Member

This kind of progress is made possible through the support of Meriter Foundation's Research & Education Committee. This committee helps advance and fund innovative programs that improve care and create lasting impact for patients and caregivers.

Your generosity helps bring ideas like this to life, providing immediate support for families today while creating healthier outcomes for the future.

YOUR SUPPORT

Brings Healing and Hope

Restoring Dignity, One Patient at a Time

Because of you, survivors of violence in our community are met with care that begins the moment they enter Meriter.

Meriter's Forensic Nurse Examiner Program stands as a vital resource for individuals who have experienced sexual assault, domestic violence and abuse. *Meriter is the only hospital in Dane County to provide this specialized care 24 hours, seven days a week, and serves patients from more than 55 cities, including those who travel from outside the state.*

In 2025, the team completed 480 exams, caring for patients from just 15 months to 94 years old.

Because of your generosity, that care extends beyond clinical treatment. When a survivor arrives, often without personal belongings, your support ensures they are offered a clean set of clothing and safe transportation. This restores a sense of comfort and dignity when it is most needed.

Your kindness also supports continuing education opportunities for the Forensic Nurse Examiner team. Thanks to you, our specialized nurses can pursue ongoing education and attend conferences,

staying at the forefront of best practices in trauma-informed care.

"Because of donor support, I'm able to care for my patients in ways that go beyond medical treatment. Providing clothing gives them dignity, comfort and confidence, helping support their recovery. It truly changes lives." - Heather Hentrich, RN, Forensic Nurse Examiner Program

This work doesn't happen in isolation. It is deeply collaborative and brings together physicians, law enforcement and community partners, all working in unison to support each individual's unique needs. Through it all, the focus remains the same: to meet each person where they are, to honor their story and to help restore a sense of control when so much can feel out of reach.

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank you for being part of this essential work and bringing dignity and healing to those who need it most.

YOUR SUPPORT

Provides Care to Our Neighbors in Need

Helping Families Stay Close

Because of your support, a parent and their adult child experiencing homelessness were able to stay together when the parent developed a serious need for oxygen. Rather than moving into a nursing home, they found safety and care in a shelter, with the van from Meriter's Health Outreach Program delivering oxygen and vital supplies each week.

This simple act of transportation helped preserve their dignity and independence while providing compassionate, lifesaving care. Thank you for making this possible.



YOU HELP

Empower Kids and Teens

Seen, Supported and Free to Dream

In 2025, Meriter proudly celebrated its third Love is Love event, uplifting LGBTQ+ youth on their journey towards hope and healing at Meriter's Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP).

Throughout the evening, moments of reflection and celebration showed us what's possible when compassionate people come together. Thanks to nearly \$300,000 raised by donors like you, that impact is already taking shape in meaningful ways. LGBTQ+ youth are connecting through support groups led by affirming behavioral health therapists, expressing themselves through art, accessing gender-affirming resources and seeing their identities reflected in books, care items and daily messages of love.

Your generosity is also advancing inclusive care through specialized staff training, supporting workshops for transgender and gender diverse youth and their families, and creating healing spaces like an outdoor therapy suite, where young people can connect with nature.

Thank you for standing with LGBTQ+ youth and helping build a future where every child feels seen, supported and free to dream.

"I was ready to give up on myself for so long, but Meriter wasn't going to let me give up. They saved my life. Now, thanks to CAP, I finally understand how to fight for my life and keep going... how to not just survive, but actually live." - Beck, Love Is Love 2025 Featured Patient Speaker



The Growing Garden

Rooted in Care, Growing in Hope

Last fall, Meriter's Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Hospital (CAP) unveiled The Growing Garden, an expanded outdoor therapeutic space made possible through a lead gift from Greg & Michelle Leyer and Family. Thanks to your generosity, kids and teens receiving outpatient mental health care now have access to an environment designed to support the whole child through mind, body and spirit.

Raised garden beds invite hands-on moments of growth and grounding. A gazebo offers a quiet place for reflection and therapy. A sport court, sledding hill and open play areas create opportunities for movement, connection and joy.

These spaces are an extension of compassionate care made possible by people like you. They give kids room to play, to process and to begin healing in ways that feel natural and empowering.



Therapy Circle



Sport Court



[you matter

TO THE HEALTH OF THIS COMMUNITY

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