

Imagine.  
Inspire.  
Invest...  
Achieve

Meriter Foundation is making a difference in the lives of thousands of patients and families each year. Your generous support helps make that possible.

# Inspire

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IT ALL BEGINS WITH YOU

**MERITER**  
Foundation

2009 | SPRING

Meriter's New  
Oncology Unit

## Offering Hope During Difficult Times

When Rick Likwarz learned he had an incurable form of cancer in September of 2007, he decided to live life to the fullest. Never looking back or asking "why me," he continued to do all of the things he enjoyed: hiking, going to work, and weekend get-a-ways with his family.

Throughout the following year, Rick spent many days — some turning into weeks — in the former cancer treatment unit at Meriter Hospital. Rick truly valued the friendships he developed with his oncologist, Dr. Michael Huie and the oncology nurses and nursing assistants who cared for him each day, especially Michelle, Chessa and Angela.

Rick's wife, Janet, called Dr. Huie "an eternal optimist who offered them hope and the gift of his time." It was compassionate care, friendships forged, and meaningful conversations during difficult circumstances that made Meriter a special place for Rick and his family.

After spending time at Meriter Hospital and learning about the new cancer treatment wing under construction, Rick looked forward to seeing the new unit open its doors. Many of the features — private patient rooms, an outpatient treatment area, comfortable spaces for family members, and state-of-the-art air filtration — would benefit Rick and many other cancer patients receiving care at Meriter.

Unfortunately, Rick did not have the chance to see the new unit. He passed away on September 13, 2008, at the age of 65.

Yet, for a group of donors, physicians, nurses and other hospital staff, Rick Likwarz's memory was present at the celebration of the new Oncology Unit on November 13.



Janet & Rick Likwarz, celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary last summer.

Janet and their son, Andy, came to see the new wing and graciously shared their family's journey with all who attended.

During the donor celebration at Nakoma Golf Club, Janet described the extraordinary care her husband and their entire family received at Meriter.

"How the staff treated Rick and our family at the critical moments has meant the most to us. Moments when someone could have walked away but chose to stay, even when their shift was over, just to be with us," recalled Janet.

This compassionate care is the cornerstone of Meriter's cancer treatment programs. The new Oncology Unit provides the right surrounding for healing and comfort, and complements our patient care commitment. The unit is expected to serve 400 patients and their families during 2009. ●

*"How the staff treated Rick and our family at the critical moments has meant the most to us."*

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF MERITER FOUNDATION

New Oncology Unit: Hope and Comfort  
Screening patients for Peripheral Artery Disease  
Research & Education Grants: Training for the future



Photo courtesy of Laerdal Medical Corporation

— Jason Yelk, D.O., F.A.C.P.

"Simulation training provides realistic challenges and tests the clinical and decision-making skills of healthcare professionals in a controlled environment, without fear of causing harm to our patients."

2009 | SPRING

Inspire

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PROGRAM UPDATE  
Grant Work = Great Work

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE  
New Screening Equipment for P.A.D.

PLANNED GIVING UPDATE  
Consistency in Uncertain Times



# Philanthropy UPDATE

## New Equipment Alerts Physicians to Signs of Peripheral Artery Disease (P.A.D.)

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" best describes the preventative approach this new equipment will provide patients receiving care at Meriter's Heart Hospital.

The screening tool is designed to identify circulation problems in patients who are at risk for Peripheral Artery Disease (P.A.D.). P.A.D. is a narrowing of the arteries, especially in the legs, that can cause harmful complications from an increased risk of heart attack and stroke to loss of a limb. This disease can go unchecked and without symptoms.

Patients receiving care at the Heart Hospital are at risk for P.A.D. simply by the nature of their heart or vascular conditions. Physicians and hospital staff recognized a need to screen patients during their stay in order to identify any potential concerns and keep treatment on a proactive course.

Gifts supporting Cardiovascular Services at Meriter Hospital provided the funding for two life-saving screening devices.

Now, Heart Hospital patients receive a complimentary evaluation, and results are provided to the referring physician for consultation.

The test is as simple as taking blood pressure and requires only 10 minutes to complete. Four pressure cuffs measure blood flow pressure of the lower and upper extremities. If the ankle pressure is lower than the arm pressure, patients may have some stage of Peripheral Arterial Disease.

Depending on the severity, treatment may include changes in diet, addition of exercise, medications or surgical intervention. ●



The new screening test for P.A.D. is as easy as taking your blood pressure and made possible through donor support.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT P.A.D.

### Risk Factors

- Previous heart attack, stroke or vascular surgery
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Tobacco use

### Symptoms of P.A.D.

- Intermittent leg cramps
- Numbness or tingling in the feet
- Ulcerations
- Rest pain in the legs

Talk to your doctor about possible risk factors or symptoms.

# Planned Giving UPDATE

## Charitable Gift Annuities — Consistency in Uncertain Times

A charitable gift annuity is a way to make a gift to your favorite charity, and still receive a consistent income for yourself or yourself and another individual — for life.

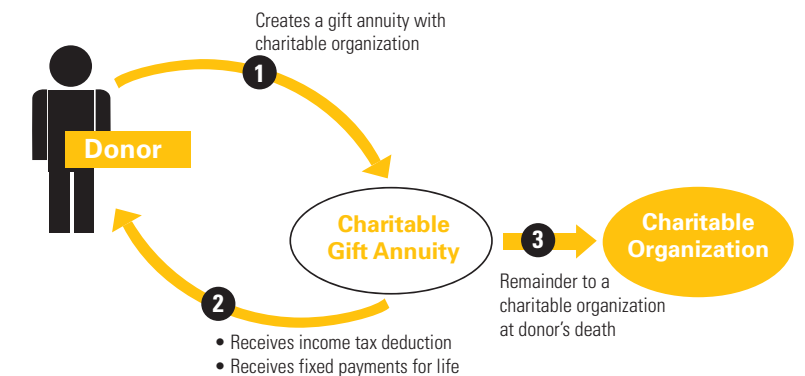
A gift annuity is a simple, contractual agreement under which a charity, in return for the transfer of cash, securities, or other property, agrees to pay a fixed sum of money for a period of time. The donor receives fixed annuity payments, not influenced by low interest rates or a volatile stock market.

For a period of years, based on a government table of life expectancies, a portion of each payment received is considered a nontaxable return of a portion of your gift. This means a portion of each payment you receive is considered tax-free income. This further increases your after-tax dollars available for spending or investing.

An annuity funded with appreciated property results in these additional advantages: (1) the gain allocated to the gift portion completely avoids the capital gains tax, and (2) the portion of gain to be recognized can be spread over the expected term of the contract (provided that the donor is a primary annuitant and the annuity interest is assignable only to the charitable organization).

Annuity rates are higher for older annuitants and lower for younger annuitants, based on life expectancy. As a result, gift annuity contracts are generally more appealing to older donors because the purchasing power of a fixed dollar return can shrink over any long period, even with modest inflation.

## Charitable Gift Annuity



The typical donors of gift annuities are 77 or 78 years old, retired, female and of modest means. Many want to support their favorite charity, but do not believe they can give up the income they currently receive from their assets until they learn more about gift annuities. Then they realize that they can often benefit from a gift annuity.

To learn more, visit our website at [www.meriterfoundation.org](http://www.meriterfoundation.org) or contact Fran Petonic at (608) 417-5300. ●

# Program UPDATE

## Grant Work Equals Great Work

The Meriter Foundation board of directors approved more than \$400,000 in grants supporting medical research and education over the past six months. Meriter Hospital physicians and staff proposed a variety of projects designed to increase safety, improve outcomes and reduce costs for Meriter patients. The approved research and education grants range from \$10,000 to \$65,000 and include:

- **Overcoming Barriers to Good Health in the Medically Underserved**  
A study to identify and address common barriers to routine medical care for low-income and homeless patients admitted to Meriter's Emergency Department. Findings will offer guidance in proactive primary care delivery strategies.
- **Core Equipment for Neonatal Simulation Laboratory**  
The purchase of equipment for a new, state-of-the-art neonatal simulation center. A patient simulator, featuring a mother and infant, will allow health care professionals to manage unpredictable medical emergencies through training experiences that pose no risk to human life.

- **Adolescents' Reactions to Psychiatric Hospitalization**  
A research study evaluating the stigmatizing effects of in-patient hospitalization from the perspective of children admitted to the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Hospital. Results will offer strategies to improve patient outcomes.
- **Team Training for Responders to Critical Events**  
Educational materials and hands-on equipment for training technical and non-technical skills needed for hospital responders to practice a team approach to medical emergencies involving critical events.
- **Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP)**  
A study to identify and address the needs of elderly patients, who become confused during hospitalization. Findings will provide strategies to improve patient safety and offer guidelines for care of our growing elderly patient population.

Grants also included funding for continuing education opportunities for staff members in the areas of adult psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, medical ethics, perinatal nursing, and drug and alcohol rehabilitation. ●

Since 1995, Meriter Foundation has provided more than \$4.5 million in funding for research and education grants at Meriter Hospital.

# Upcoming EVENTS

MERITER PRO/AM GOLF CLASSIC  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2009

University Ridge Golf Course



### HONORARY CHAIR:

John Rogerson, M.D., Orthopedic Surgeon

### COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Jeff Tubbs, J. H. Findorff & Son

This year's beneficiary of the Meriter Pro/Am will be a new Orthopedic Unit on the 9th floor of the hospital. This project will be a key part of Meriter's plan for an Orthopedic Center of Excellence.

This new unit will provide patients with a healing environment, tailor-made for bone and joint surgery recovery. Private patient rooms to lessen the chance of infections, a dedicated physical therapy space and extra space for family members to be part of the healing process are all part of the plan.

For more information call Courtney Crites, Director of Annual Giving and Special Events at (608) 417-5304. ●

## Imagine. Inspire. Invest... Achieve

Meriter has a very distinct role — a community hospital with a focused mission to heal, teach and serve. Philanthropy plays an integral part in Meriter's ability to implement programs and offer state-of-the-art technology and facilities to Madison and surrounding communities.

### YOUR GIFTS SUPPORT:

- Mission-based services
- Training of future health-care professionals
- Clinical research
- Enhancement of the patient care environment

Philanthropy helps bring dreams and possibilities to life, making our community a better place for everyone.

Please call Meriter Foundation President Fran Petonic at (608) 417-5300 or visit us at [meriterfoundation.org](http://meriterfoundation.org)

