



FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY

Feb. 2024

A publication of
UnityPoint Health -
Allen Foundation

New Members of Gerard Circle:

- ~Dr. Rajeev and Sukruta Anugu~
- ~Rev. Victor Baderschneider~
- ~Joan Easton~
- ~Dr. Paula McFadden and Mr. Vincent McFadden~
- ~Mr. and Mrs. Richard Morris~
- ~Phyllis Lotus Stevenson~

To learn more about Gerard Circle, go to:
tinyurl.com/Gerard-Circle

Complimentary Estate Planning



Dr. Eddie Thompson
Thompson & Assoc.

Upcoming Dates:

- *Tuesdays* —
- March 12
- April 9
- May 14
- June 11

To learn more, call (319) 235-3960.

Gerard Circle Spotlight:

Wayne and Joan Burk

Members of Gerard Circle Since 2015



In the realm of philanthropy, there are those whose impact spans their own lifetimes, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of countless individuals. Wayne and Joan Burk stand tall as shining examples of such altruism, their unwavering commitment to education and healthcare evident through their longstanding support of the Erma Burk Scholarship at Allen College.

For nearly three decades, Wayne and Joan Burk's generosity has enabled numerous students to fulfill their calling in healthcare. The Erma Burk

Scholarship, established in honor of Wayne's mother, Erma Burk, has served as a bridge between ambition and achievement for countless young minds. Erma graduated from a nursing school in Black Hills, South Dakota. She made her way to the Cedar Valley working at UNI in the Student Health Center before landing a job at Allen Hospital. She worked at Allen Hospital for 20 years and later worked for Drs. Bailey, Morrison, and Basu. Erma lived on Hope Street near the hospital and walked to work; she frequently rented her upstairs to other nurses at the hospital whom she knew. Erma embodied compassion, dedication, and the spirit of service.

Wayne and Joan Burk's journey as philanthropists is a testament to the power of giving back. The ripple effect of their generosity extends beyond the scholarship recipients, touching the lives of patients, families, and communities that benefit from the compassionate care provided by the nurses they've helped nurture.

The Burks' dedication for learning started when they first met and graduated from Buena Vista College, in Storm Lake, Iowa. Wayne was in education for 43 years and Joan was an elementary teacher and special education teacher at the middle school level in northwest and southwest Iowa before moving their home to Independence.

In a world where challenges persist and the need for compassionate healthcare professionals remains paramount, Wayne and Joan Burk's story reminds us that every individual has the power to make a difference, and that a single act of kindness can set in motion a legacy that transcends time.





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DONATE to educate

ALLEN COLLEGE

February 18-22, 2024

REGISTER today to check out the wide variety of auction items for this year's event. NEW this year are "featured items" currently OPEN for bidding and with an option to **Buy It Now**. In addition, the Allen College Alumni Association board invites you to an open house on Thursday, February 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Allen College. See the auction items firsthand and get your final bid(s) in!

For the event page, scan the QR code or go to: tinyurl.com/DTE2024



Many thanks to our **sponsors** who make this event possible!

Platinum \$2,500: Drs. Jerry & Kathy Durham; Failor Hurley Construction

Gold \$1,000: Dr. Joud & Sara Dib; Dave and Kelly Hassman; Dee & Dave Vandeventer

Silver \$500: Grundy Center Memorial Hospital

Bronze \$250: Lind Family; Town & Country Home Improvement

5th Annual Mental Health Awareness Breakfast
Friday, May 10, 2024, 7 a.m. - 9 a.m.



Keynote speaker.

Joanna Rahnavardi (pictured with her service dog, Mocha)

A heartwarming and insightful morning featuring Joanna Rahnavardi, as she shares her inspiring journey of overcoming the unimaginable—the loss of her son to suicide.

To purchase a ticket or make a donation:

- Online: give.unitypoint.org/MHB2024
- Call (319) 235-3960
- Scan the QR Code



Danny Schmitz, Volunteer

Congratulations to Danny Schmitz, who was recently nominated by Allen Foundation for the "Gift of the Heart: Philanthropy Award," through the Association of Fundraising Professionals. He's a great example of a passionate volunteer who has given "time, talent and/or treasure" over a long period of time!



Notes from the Executive Director: Mike Lind



I am a little late in sharing this, but Happy New Year!

Before we dive too far into 2024, I'd like to look back at how donors to the Allen Foundation responded in 2023.

I am happy to say that nearly \$3.2 million in gifts came to the Allen Foundation last year! From a variety of initiatives, programs, events, grants and even some major capital investments, your gifts made a major difference to those we serve in the Waterloo area.

More importantly (in my opinion) we granted over \$4.3 million back into healthcare and healthcare education services in the Cedar Valley. We put your gifts to work in a big way, benefiting patients, families, students and the community. This equates to one of the largest years of impact made through disbursements, ever!

Thank you to the roughly 1,500 donors who made a philanthropic investment in the Allen Foundation in 2023. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Mike Lind, Executive Director