

● YOU MATTER TO THE HEALTH OF ● THIS COMMUNITY

inspire



UnityPoint Health
Meriter Foundation

UNITYPOINT HEALTH – MERITER PHLEBOTOMY SCHOLARS PROGRAM LAUNCHES

Crafting innovative solutions to meet
the future needs of our community.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for phlebotomists will increase 25% by 2026 (fueled by America's aging population and advancements in technology).

As a community health system, Meriter recognizes the unique role we can play in cultivating a robust, talented and diverse workforce to meet the increasing healthcare needs of our region.

Following innovative planning and generous donor support, the first cohort of Phlebotomy Scholars began their training in May. The program offers scholarships to current Meriter employees to prepare them for careers in healthcare as phlebotomists.

After program completion, graduates will be instantly eligible to work at Meriter as phlebotomists with a competitive starting wage and extensive healthcare career growth opportunities.

The Phlebotomy Scholars Program at Meriter is possible thanks, in large part, to a generous lead gift from donors Virginia Graves and Peter Tropman.

"We are honored to be a part of the successful launch of Meriter's Phlebotomy Scholars Program. Meriter Foundation's role in the creation of programs that not only support a needed, diverse workforce, but also provides a pathway to advancement and greater economic security for employees is truly inspiring."

- Virginia and Peter

Our Team of Passionate Fundraisers has Grown—by Two!

To support the greatest needs of our patients, families and the communities we serve, the Meriter Foundation team is dedicated to creating a healthy community through meaningful partnerships with you, our generous supporters.

Each member of the Meriter Foundation team is here to **connect you to the causes you're most passionate about** and show you the impact that would not be possible without your support.

We're so pleased to introduce you to our new team members Adam Erdmann, Director of Development and Colleen Altenbernd, Associate Director of Development.



ABOUT ADAM

Why are you drawn to a career in healthcare fundraising?

This is my first time working for a healthcare organization, and I couldn't think of a better place to make a difference in lives. Every day, we can impact the direction and outlook of patients and their families. We can provide hope, care and compassion for our community when they need it most.

Which Meriter programs are especially meaningful to you?

As I have learned more about these programs, I have become more and more excited about the opportunity to support a variety of funds and causes, each with its own unique identity and impact on community health.

The **Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP)** program is near and dear to my heart because I know what an impact it has, especially on LGBTQ+ youth.

I also have a great appreciation for the work being done in the **HEALTH Program** (helping our neighbors facing homelessness and housing insecurity) and the newborn programs (**Littlest Angels** and **Newborn Intensive Care**).

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I'm a DIY-er at heart. I love home projects and I'm not afraid to try anything once. Carpentry, painting, plumbing, tile work—I've done it all and I think I've also learned my limits.

I have two dogs that are both about 1.5 years old: Princeton, a Boston Terrier and Portia, a Teddy Bear. My partner and I enjoy all forms of live entertainment. From theatre and live music to comedians and the occasional sporting event!

ABOUT COLLEEN

Why are you drawn to a career in healthcare fundraising?

It is so rewarding to see the impact your work makes in someone's life. Meriter Foundation supports the implementation and continuation of many wonderful programs that help improve the wellbeing of our communities. This kind of work truly matters.

I'm so proud and honored to be joining a team of such kind-hearted individuals who care so deeply about the work they do.

Which Meriter programs are especially meaningful to you?

Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP): Children who are experiencing mental health challenges benefit from the services our facilities are able to provide because of the generous gifts the Foundation has received.

Covid-19 Compassion Fund: It is more important than ever to take care of the healthcare staff who are working tirelessly to care for us.

Littlest Angels/NICU: Raising a child takes a village, and it's so important to give them the best and strongest start to life. New/first-time parents need so much support.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy hiking and exploring new trails with my husband, Gabe, and puppy, Sadie. We are still relatively new to the Madison area, so I love trying new restaurants.



Your Partner in Planned Giving

Adam Erdmann now leads the Estate and Planned Giving program at Meriter Foundation. If you are considering a charitable gift as you plan your financial future, Adam is here to help you find the best fit for you and your loved ones as you create a positive, lasting impact on the health of our community.

Nurtured by Nature

Science supports what we innately know: spending time in nature is good for us. In fact, spending just 20-30 minutes outside is shown to reduce stress, improve moods and improve physical health.

Earlier this year, UnityPoint Health - Meriter distributed more than 500 Wisconsin State Park Passes to team members in grateful recognition of their hard work and dedication. The park passes were almost entirely funded by a generous (anonymous) Madison General School of Nursing graduate, who recognizes the healing power of fresh air and nature.



Scholarships Awarded to Gifted Local High School Seniors Planning a Career in Healthcare

This year, thanks to the generosity of hospital patients, visitors and staff, 20 local high school seniors planning a career in healthcare received college scholarships through the Healthcare Scholarship program at UnityPoint Health - Meriter.

This scholarship support for promising young students is possible because of generous tips received in the Greenbush Garden Bistro and Dr. Joe's Coffee Clinic at the hospital.

Students were formally awarded their scholarships at the Meriter Healthcare Scholarship Reception on Wednesday, May 4.

Pictured clockwise from top-left: Tyler Maertz, Mia LaRico, Aoife Moran and Massimiliano Manzo.

To help promising local high school students pursuing a career in healthcare, visit unitypoint.org/scholarships

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you matter

A Message from Rebecca



*Rebecca Dopart,
President UnityPoint Health – Meriter Foundation*

On June 26, 2022, James Arnett assumed the role of President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at UnityPoint Health - Meriter. This news follows Sue Erickson's equally exciting announcement that she was promoted to help lead our entire system as the UnityPoint Health Chief Operating Officer (COO). Sue won't be far away and still closely connected to Meriter.

James will report directly to Sue to carry forward Meriter's outstanding

care for our community, both inside and outside of our walls. The Meriter Board of Directors unanimously voted to endorse this change, as James has proven to be an effective leader. I know him to be very measured, thoughtful and open in his leadership. As CEO, James will serve as an ex officio member of the UnityPoint Health - Meriter Foundation Board of Directors.

The future continues to look bright for Meriter!