Gerard Circle Spotlight: Alive and Running

Members of Gerard Circle since 2020

Connection to UnityPoint Health:
“As a non-profit organization focused on suicide prevention and awareness, we have provided funds to UnityPoint Health over the years to update their mental health units,” says co-founder Troy Belmer.

Why are you inspired to give back to the Allen Foundation and give so generously to local healthcare?
“After losing a close friend to suicide at the age of 15, I have seen how suicide loss effects others. I want to make sure we are doing everything we can to improve mental health services in Iowa.”

What does being a member of Gerard Circle mean to Alive & Running?
“It’s an honor. The glory really goes to everyone who supports us by attending our events, donations and fundraisers. Without them, we wouldn’t be able to help.”

Why is philanthropy in our community/workplace important to you?
“I live by a mantra ‘people helping people.’ I believe life is more rewarding when you are helping others.”

Tell us something unique about Alive & Running.
“Myself, my wife (Candice) along with Ryan and Melissa Nesbit started this organization in 2010. Ryan and I lost a classmate in 1991 to suicide. This organization was formed from a conversation Candice and I had with Ryan and Melissa one night at our dinner table. We were discussing how suicide loss had impacted our lives and decided that night we were going to take action.”

Contact the Allen Foundation at (319) 235-3960 to learn more about Gerard Circle membership.

New Team Member
Tammy Bedard joined the Allen Foundation as the Annual Gifts Coordinator. She brings knowledge and experience with 22 years as the Marketing Director for Gordon Flesch Company, formerly Advanced Systems, Inc. In addition, she served as trustee and past president for MercyOne Waterloo Foundation and is an active member of the Grow Cedar Valley Ambassadors.

In her new role, Tammy will provide marketing support and event planning for the Foundation, as well as Allen College.

She lives in Raymond with her husband, Chad and has two adult children, Baylor and Tatum. Tatum is a May 2022 graduate of Allen College.
Join a community wide generosity movement and give back on November 29! When it comes to cancer, uncertainty and anxiety are a given. That is why when a potential cancer diagnosis affects you or a loved one, a quick response with treatment is so important.

**The Project & Goal**
Currently, Allen Hospital offers positron emission tomography (PET) and computerized tomography (CT) scanning services through a mobile unit on a truck that is available at Allen twice a week. This is a common practice for other hospitals as well. However, as more patients take advantage of PET/CT scans, we must respond and elevate our availability of these services to meet the growing need. With your support, a new PET/CT Scanner could be accessible five days a week at Allen Hospital.

With its superior capabilities for precise cancer staging and tumor assessment, the oncology service line needs greater availability and access to PET/CT imaging to support a growing demand. A new PET/CT permanently onsite at Allen Hospital will satisfy this need and help keep care close to home.

“In the end, it’s the patient who will benefit by expanding access to these services. A PET/CT scan provides assurance to the patient that the direction of their care is the right direction.”
– Natasha, Oncology/Hematology Nurse

Your gift can help patients and families in the Cedar Valley who are struggling with the fear and uncertainty of cancer.

Please consider making your Giving Tuesday tax deductible gift today. Be a part of something bigger and give back this holiday season. Thank you for making a difference for our community and showing patients how much they matter. We look forward to another successful Giving Tuesday!

Please contact the Allen Foundation at (319) 235-3960 or Michael.Lind@unitypoint.org with any questions.

**To give now, scan the QR code or go to:** unitypoint.org/waterloo/giving-tuesday

We are so grateful for the many supporters that help the Allen Foundation lead our mission. Some of you may not know, but a good amount of that support comes from our own employees of UnityPoint Health - Waterloo.

In late October, we will kick off our annual Employee Giving Campaign, giving team members an opportunity to support an area that they are passionate about, while also considering support of the Cedar Valley United Way.

The theme, of the campaign is Your Passion, Our Purpose which speaks to the fact that 100% of every dollar donated goes to an area designated by the donor.

Last year alone, more than 400 team members gave in support of the Employee Giving Campaign totaling over $115,000 in gifts! Additionally, Allen employees gave nearly $24,000 to the Cedar Valley United Way.

Thank you to UnityPoint Health - Waterloo team members for all of the amazing work you do to care for patients and our community AND for your generous support of the Foundation.

Thank you!

Mike Lind
Executive Director