



2022
MERITER
FOUNDATION
IMPACT
REPORT

YOUR
Gift
YOUR
Impact



UnityPoint Health
Meriter Foundation

LOOKING BACK ON 2022 WITH GRATITUDE

We are humbled by your ongoing commitment to improving the health and quality of life of people right here in our community.

The accomplishments we celebrate are YOURS. The appreciation we receive from patients, families, community partners and our healthcare teams BELONGS TO YOU.

ABOUT UNITYPOINT HEALTH – MERITER FOUNDATION

IT BEGINS WITH OUR VISION:

A healthy community for everyone.

TODAY AND EVERY DAY, WE LIVE OUR MISSION:

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

This vision and mission inspire us to meet the needs in our region that are often overlooked. We partner with donors, like you, to support excellence in quality, safety and service, ensuring access to high-quality healthcare for patients and neighbors who need us. Together, we care for our patients, families, caregivers and our community.

unitypoint.org/meriterfoundation



Meriter Foundation Team Members

Rebecca Dopart
Foundation President

Kate Allen Rubin
Director of Annual Giving & Campaigns

Colleen Altenbernd
Associate Director of Philanthropy

Adam Erdmann
Director of Philanthropy

Cristie Jacobs
Executive Assistant

Ryanne Mobry
Data Support Specialist

Lisa Urban
Director of Philanthropy - Grants and Programs

Bri Yanke
Senior Director of Philanthropy

2022 Meriter Foundation Board of Directors

Bobby Adamov (Chair)
Vice President,
Commercial Rare Disease,
Exact Sciences

Mary Cullen (Vice Chair)
Asset Manager,
The Alexander Company

Diego Campoverde Cisneros (Secretary)
Manager, Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion,
UW Health

Matt Vanderloo
(Treasurer & Finance Chair)
CEO and Principal,
SVA Certified Public
Accountants

James Arnett
President & CEO,
UnityPoint Health - Meriter

Holly Cremer Berkenstadt
(Immediate Past Vice Chair)
Community Advocate

Tricia Braun
Director of Client
Strategies, JP Cullen

Sherry Casali, RN, MSN
Chief Nursing Executive &
VP of Patient Care,
UnityPoint Health - Meriter

Rebecca Dopart
President,
UnityPoint Health - Meriter
Foundation

Gabe Javier
Associate Vice Chancellor,
Student Affairs - Identity
and Inclusion,
University of Wisconsin-
Madison

Jeffrey Levy (Immediate
Past Secretary &
Treasurer) Vice President,
Phillips Distributing
Corporation

Chas Martin
Broker/Agent, Sprinkman
Real Estate

Matt Messinger
Executive Director,
Wisconsin Center for
Education Products and
Services

Tina Noel
Community Advocate

Katie Schmitt, MD
Medical Director, Child &
Adolescent Psychiatry,
UnityPoint Health -
Meriter

John Sims
(Immediate Past Chair)
Vice President,
The Private Client
Reserve, U.S. Bank

Alia Stevenson
Development Manager,
Advancing Girls Fund,
Tides

Tony Sullivan
Project Executive -
Healthcare,
J.H Findorff & Son Inc.

Mai Zong Vue
Board President,
The Hmong Institute

Pam Wetzel, MD
Chief Medical Officer,
UnityPoint Health -
Meriter

YOU MATTER

A Message from Rebecca



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

A healthy community for everyone. This is the heart of our work, and it's clear that you share this vision. It has been an honor to partner with you throughout 2022, and I am inspired and energized by the incredible things that are possible for our community thanks to your generosity.

Within this report, you will read about a few of the most remarkable philanthropy-powered achievements of 2022. I hope you will take a moment to discover the impact that you made possible.

Thank you for giving through Meriter Foundation in support of our most vulnerable patients and neighbors. Thank you for advancing the important work of eliminating health inequities in our community. Thank you for partnering with us to develop future generations of healthcare professionals from a diverse range of backgrounds, cultures and lived experiences. And thank you for believing that, together, we can ensure every person in our community has access to expert, compassionate healthcare—now and for generations to come.

I am grateful for your belief in Meriter Foundation as the trusted stewards of your investment, ensuring that your gift will be used to its fullest potential.

With tremendous appreciation for your part in this critical work,

*Rebecca Dopart
President*

UnityPoint Health - Meriter Foundation

2022 BY THE NUMBERS Your Generosity

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$3,352,047

TOTAL # OF DONORS

715

OF NEW DONORS

184

TOTAL ASSETS

\$29,127,476



A student in the UnityPoint Health - Meriter Phlebotomy Scholars Pathways Program



The newly renovated Respite and Reflection Room (formerly Meriter Chapel)



Newborn knit hats, crafted by Meriter Volunteers

YOUR IMPACT

Here is just a sampling of the ways you've supported patients, families, caregivers and our community through Meriter Foundation.

YOU CARED For Our Devoted Caregivers

155 ad hoc mental health appointments provided for team members (at zero cost) through the **Employee Compassion Fund**.



2,343 warm meals, nourishing snacks and comforting personal care items provided for dedicated caregivers through the **Employee Compassion Fund**.

1 newly renovated Respite and Reflection Room within UnityPoint Health - Meriter hospital, offering a tranquil space for patients, visitors and staff of all faiths and traditions to reflect, pray, meditate and find peace.



500+ hard-working Meriter team members nurtured by nature through the distribution of Wisconsin State Park Passes through the **Employee Compassion Fund**.



YOU PROVIDED a Lifeline For Patients And Neighbors



343 neighbors facing housing insecurity and homelessness served by the **HEALTH Program**.

559 patients with substance dependence cared for through **NewStart Addiction Treatment**. **223** of these patients enrolled in Evening Intensive Outpatient Services.



450 survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence given compassionate medical, mental and emotional care through the **Forensic Nurse Examiner program**.

1,080 patients received companionship and assistance through the **Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP)**, totaling **5,663** hours of service, thus reducing the risk of hospital delirium and mental confusion for patients age 65 and older.



88 community members received free seasonal flu and COVID-19 immunizations through the **Area of Greatest Need fund**, connecting historically marginalized communities to the care they need close to home.

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

YOU GAVE HOPE AND HEALING to Kids in Crisis



Each CAP patient received a take-home **art kit** to provide opportunities for creativity and self-expression.

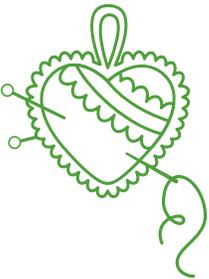


And each CAP patient received a take-home **safe kit** to offer comfort and reduce self-harm.

952 kids admitted to **Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP)** from 45 counties, including from Illinois, Minnesota and Michigan.

HELP for our Smallest Patients and their Families

4,893 babies delivered at UnityPoint Health - Meriter.



1,013 scent hearts sewn for the Meriter NICU by **Meriter Volunteers**, allowing NICU babies to smell their parents when separated, which promotes happy hormones and sensory development.

713 tiny patients (and their families) cared for in the **NICU**, including those born as early as 22 ⁶/₇ weeks gestation.



157 reduced-cost infant car seats provided for newborns and their families through the **Littlest Angels Program**.

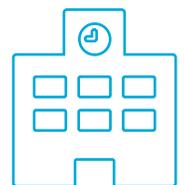
SUPPORT for the Next Generation of Healthcare Workers

11 entry-level employees provided healthcare career and advancement opportunities through **Meriter Pathways Programs**.

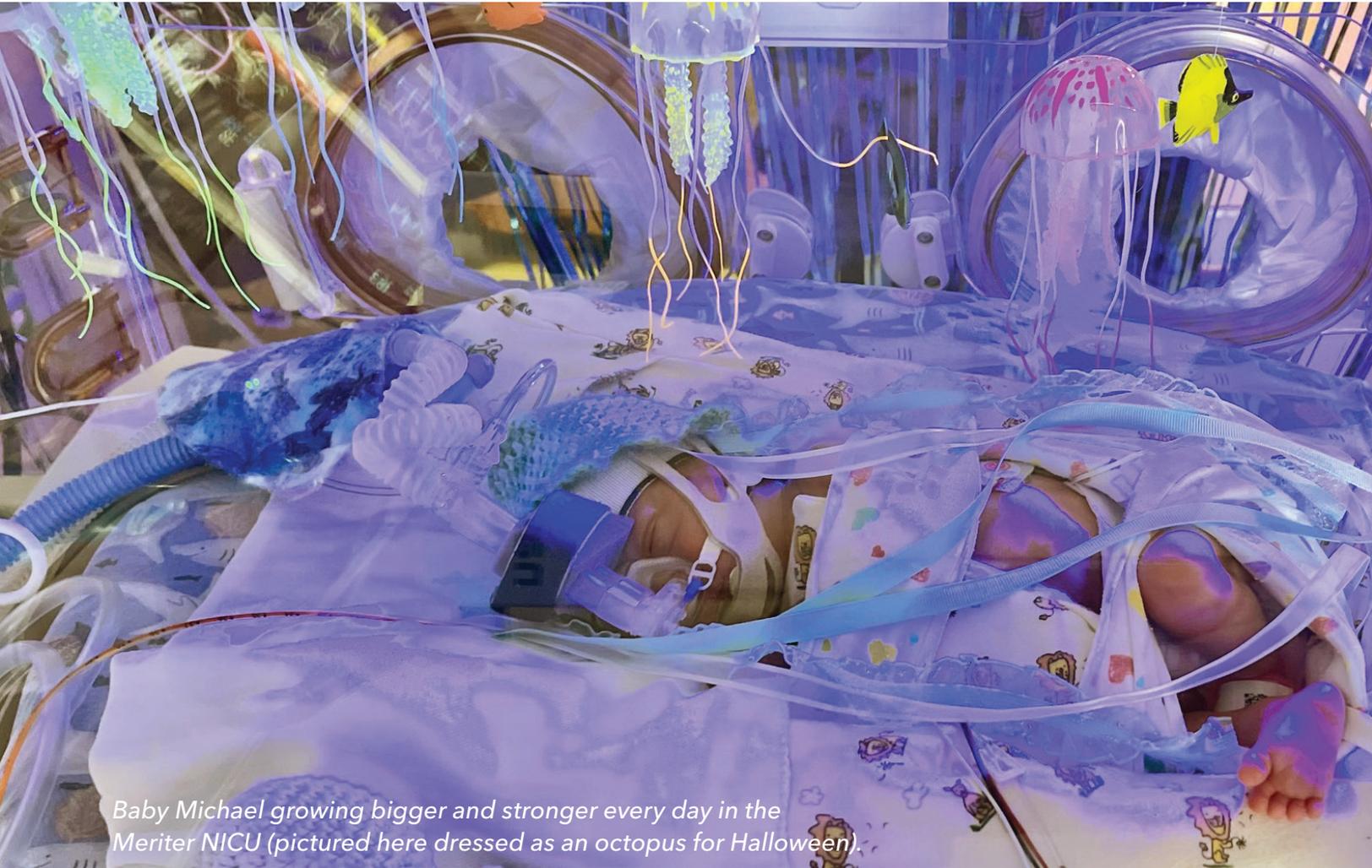


20 local high school seniors planning a career in healthcare received college scholarships through the **Healthcare Scholarship program** at UnityPoint Health - Meriter.

1 state-of-the-art healthcare learning center (Phase 1 completed in 2022) for team member education, hands-on training and collaboration.



[you supported OUR TINIEST PATIENTS]



Baby Michael growing bigger and stronger every day in the Meriter NICU (pictured here dressed as an octopus for Halloween).

Meriter is the busiest birthing hospital in Wisconsin, delivering nearly 5,000 babies in 2022. And each year, as a premier regional center for high-risk neonatal care, more than 700 tiny patients and their families turn to the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at UnityPoint Health - Meriter for life-saving care.

Through the Littlest Angels Program and the NICU fund, you helped to give each baby born and cared for at Meriter a stronger start in life.

You supplied families in need with reduced-cost or free infant car seats (157 to be exact). You supported 269 nights of accommodation close to the hospital for families with infants staying in the NICU. You provided Kangaroo Care Wraps, supporting safe and secure skin-to-skin contact for teeny babies. You funded the SPIN Group (Supporting Parents in the NICU), carrying them through one of the most stressful and worrying times in their lives. You provided free or reduced-cost meals, transportation, educational materials, encouragement and comfort.



**SIMPLY PUT,
YOU GAVE THESE
FAMILIES THE GIFT
OF ALLOWING THEM
TO FOCUS FULLY
ON WHAT MATTERS
MOST: THEIR BABIES.**

"Families from all over Wisconsin trust the Meriter Birthing Center and NICU because they know they will receive the best care possible, even in the most complex situations.

"But beyond exceptional care, your donations provide that extra support that helps families not only endure, but flourish and grow through their most challenging times. *Thank you.*"

*Laura Ziebarth, RN, MSN, CLC, RNC-NIC
CNS NICU*

*Quality and Safety Pregnancy and
Newborn Care Services
UnityPoint Health - Meriter*



"Your support of the NICU through Meriter Foundation is critical to the work that happens in the Meriter NICU. From fabric scent hearts provided for our families to supporting advanced equipment and education, every element is essential in creating an environment known for the best possible care for infants and their families.

"Anyone who has stepped foot in the Meriter NICU knows that it is so much more than just medical care. Your support gives us the ability to create a healing environment where sensory systems can be developed; families are able to grow, bond and grieve; and staff are empowered in their ability to support patients through it all."

*Laura Megna, MSN, IBCLC, RNC-NIC
Family Liaison and Outcomes Coordinator
Newborn Intensive Care Unit
UnityPoint Health - Meriter*



You offered a **HELPING HAND** to neighbors like Rob

When individuals are focused each day on finding food, water, warmth, rest and security, healthcare is difficult to attain.

Your support through the HEALTH Program at UnityPoint Health – Meriter offered a critical lifeline to our most vulnerable neighbors.

YOU PROVIDED:

- **119 days in respite shelter** following hospital treatment (including emergency tracheotomy, cancer treatment and orthopedic trauma), ensuring patients could continue their recovery in a safe, quiet and private space.
- **19 mental health assessments** completed for folks unconnected to care. (Not having these assessments can be a barrier to housing.)
- **605 COVID-19 tests administered** from January to June. Early in 2022, there was a particular concern about a COVID outbreak at shelters because so many shelter residents are medically vulnerable. Through regular testing at Porchlight, Beacon, Safe Haven and The Salvation Army, Madison was able to entirely avoid an in-shelter outbreak—a testament to the vital partnership between the HEALTH Program, Public Health Madison & Dane County and the Dane County shelters.
- **A connection to care for more than 300 individuals** for a variety of health conditions, such as such as Fournier’s Disease, frostbite with amputation, tracheotomy, cancer care, diabetes education and management, medication reconciliation and wound care. Your support also helped supply durable medical equipment (DME) like canes, walkers, specialized beds, oxygen equipment, and blood testing kits.

CHARTING A NEW COURSE TO DRIVE— AND THRIVE

When Rob* first met the HEALTH Team in early 2022, he was in a wheelchair and completely disconnected from health services. He had one goal in mind: to improve his health and wellbeing enough to re-qualify for a driver's license.

The HEALTH team connected Rob to health insurance and a primary care provider to manage his full spectrum of care. He then received assistance through the HEALTH Program to help him navigate specialty healthcare scheduling and transportation. Only months later, Rob is no longer reliant on a wheelchair and is now using a 4-wheeled walker. He also finds himself in possession of a key to achieving his goal: a physician's document saying he is cleared to take his driver's test.

It can be easy to forget how life-changing the ability to drive can be. Driving offers freedom, connection to loved ones, increased employment opportunities, access to medical and food resources, expanded affordable housing options and more.

Every day, your support is helping people, like Rob, access the health resources and care they need: educational assistance, treatments and therapies, medication, vaccination, respite care and so much more.



"Thank you for all you do! I spent years in a wheelchair, and it's amazing what a little help from good people sending you to the right people can do."

Rob, patient in the HEALTH Program

**name and photo changed to protect privacy*

you provided HOPE AND HEALING FOR KIDS...



These past few years have been difficult for everyone, but even more so for kids. According to the CDC, 44% of youth report feeling persistently sad or hopeless during the past year.

As our community's only provider of inpatient psychiatric care for children, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP) at UnityPoint Health - Meriter fills a crucial need for kids in our region, ages 6-18, in search of hope and healing.

Because of your support, CAP was able to welcome more than 950 children in 2022. This was CAP's highest admission volume since 900 young patients were admitted in 2021.

CAP also experienced an increase in the number of counties served in 2022, welcoming kids from 45 counties (including from Illinois, Minnesota and Michigan), up from 43 counties in 2021.

The model of care in both our hospital and outpatient facilities focuses on wellness from many different angles. While CAP offers therapy and prescribes medication, its caring environment provides so much more—

AND THAT IS THANKS TO YOU.

Your support offers the caregivers at CAP the extra resources necessary to holistically meet the needs of every young patient who enters their care: young patients can use art to improve their mood or express themselves; kids exercise on the Ice Age Trail, in the gym, on the playground or on the outdoor track; for relaxation, children can use one of the sensory suites, do yoga, practice meditation, participate in movement-based therapy or take a walk in the healing gardens.

Thanks to donor support, we are able to provide clothing items to patients who arrive to the unit with limited or no clothing. We are also able to provide holiday-related activities for patients who are with us over the holidays. Finally, we are able to provide our staff with training and education so that they are able to support and help our patients in the safest and most evidence-based ways possible.

...AND THEIR FAMILIES

"There is no book or instructions for parents to use when they are caring for a child suffering from mental illness. The team at Child & Adolescent Psychiatry helps parents, like me, so we can help our children.

"My daughter will be 18 soon. I see a sparkle in her eyes. She smiles. I hadn't seen that from her in a very, very long time. She told me she is truly in a good place mentally. She said she hasn't felt that way in so long. My heart beams hearing those words. It's because of her strength and journey at CAP.

"I am thankful for Dr. Katie Schmitt and her team for everything they did for me and my sweet girl. My daughter stands here today because of the care and experience at CAP. She is excited about her bright future, big dreams and goals. The team at CAP truly SAVED my child's life—more than once—and I will forever be grateful!

"Your donations help make CAP a haven for so many children, like my daughter, on their journey to healing. CAP is such an important place for parents and children. Thank you all for your support."

Parent of a former Meriter CAP patient



"I am often asked what I like about working at Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. My answer is simple. I love (not just like) working at CAP because every single person who works with our young patients is incredible. They come here every single day intending to change someone's life.

"Don't get me wrong, the days are hard and sometimes reaching someone who is deeply struggling can feel like the biggest job you've ever had. But my colleagues never stop trying. They return each day ready to try again, find different approaches, and do whatever is within their power to make a difference. The caregivers at CAP aren't just special—they're magic.

"My colleagues and I are beyond grateful for every one of you, our supporters, who play a role in giving us the tools we need to keep that magic happening."

*Marielle Lowell
Inpatient Unit Supervisor,
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
UnityPoint Health - Meriter*

"Because we know how important a therapeutic environment is, having this colorful mural, rather than a white wall, is significant in our Child & Adolescent Psychiatry space. This particular design and color are vibrant and energizing, and the words focus on moving forward. Hope is so important in our journey toward wellness."

*Katie Schmitt, MD
Medical Director, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry,
UnityPoint Health - Meriter*

This cheerful mural, designed and painted by local artists OhYa Studio, was made possible thanks to generous donor support of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry



YOU CARED

for caregivers

"Working within the nursing profession is rewarding, as well as challenging. But being a nurse these past two years has been more challenging than ever before. Physical and mental burnout are huge—and overwhelming—feelings. I have experienced both. With the increase in the number of patients, as well as patients being much, much sicker than ever before, there became staffing shortages and burnout everywhere. We, as nurses, must work to care for ourselves as we care for our patients.

"Despite the challenges, I am proud to be a nurse because I know that I matter to my patients, my coworkers, and our community that we serve."

*Erica, RN,
General Medical
UnityPoint Health - Meriter*



In the early months of 2022, COVID was still casting a dark shadow over our community. Thank you for recognizing the sacrifices of our devoted caregivers. Your gifts supported warm meals, nourishing snacks, and comforting treats for frontline workers; provided hardship grants for team members facing sudden financial concerns related to the pandemic; and funded ad-hoc mental health appointments for team members as they coped with and healed from mental and emotional impacts related to the pandemic.

Beyond your generous gifts, you shared uplifting messages of gratitude, donated blood (if eligible) to help address the nationwide blood shortage, got vaccinated in record numbers and so much more.

By the summer of 2022, we began to find ourselves in a better place, giving our healthcare teams a mental and emotional break from the intense stress of the pandemic. Your inspiring support was a bright light for our caregivers who have given so much these past few years.



The Healing Power of Fresh Air and 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.

Thanks to generous donor support, more than 500 Wisconsin State Park Passes were distributed to Meriter team members in grateful recognition of their hard work and dedication to helping others.

THE GIFT OF TIME & TALENT



Meriter Volunteer Peggy Herman rocks one of our newest patients to sleep in the Meriter NICU.

Volunteers Services at UnityPoint Health – Meriter

Kind words and personalized assistance go a long way in making guests comfortable. Meriter volunteers complement our dedicated healthcare team members by enhancing the quality of care provided to our patients.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

508 volunteers supported **62** different areas in our hospitals and clinics. Volunteers recorded over **43,000** hours—the equivalent of **22** full-time employees!

2,500+ hours spent holding NICU babies (an additional 2,250+ hours were spent pacifying, hand hugging and doing laundry).

8 Blood Drives hosted, collecting **370** units.

40 visits at the hospital from the Dogs on Call animal teams, providing affection, entertainment and emotional support to patients, healthcare teams and visitors.

5,663 hours spent visiting **1,080** hospital patients over age 65 through HELP (Hospital Elder Life Program), providing bedside companionship, meal assistance and mobility support, thus reducing the risk of hospital delirium and confusion.

921 hours spent visiting **346** hospital patients under age 65 through the Team UP (Unit Partner) program, closely mirroring the successful HELP model to improve inpatient physical and mental wellness.

36 patients per month (on average) received music, conversation and connection from Healing Beats.

3,707 Fall-Prevention Kits prepared.

200 Neonatal Resuscitation Program Learners Assisted.

Volunteer Crafters Made and Delivered:

- ▶ **3,878 Baby Hats**
- ▶ **234 Baby Blankets**
- ▶ **124 Bereavement Blankets** lovingly created for families of pre-term babies
- ▶ **186 Comfort Blankets** crafted for longer term patients or patients going home on chilly days
- ▶ **100 Tie Fidget Blankets** designed for patients to reduce anxiety
- ▶ **253 Heart Pillows** sewn to provide comfort for patients post-surgery
- ▶ **23 NICU Crib Sheets**
- ▶ **1,013 NICU Scent Hearts**, allowing NICU babies to smell their parents when separated, which promotes happy hormones and sensory development.
- ▶ **46 NICU Swaddles**
- ▶ **1,045 Patient Room and Meal Tray Cards** containing heartfelt messages and cheerful drawings designed to lift spirits and brighten days
- ▶ **24 Toe Warmers** fashioned for patients in a boot or cast

Freshly sewn Scent Hearts, ready for NICU babies and their families





[you matter

TO THE HEALTH OF THIS COMMUNITY

UnityPoint Health - Meriter Foundation
202 S. Park Street | Madison, WI 53715
unitypoint.org/meriterfoundation
(608) 417-5300

