

Karlie's Fund - Sharing the gift of reading with young children

72,000+ books in the hands of children across Central Minnesota...That's quite an accomplishment and also a tribute to Karlie Geiser Hobson, a speech language pathologist who made a big impact in her short, 32-year life.

Karlie died in a motor vehicle accident in August 2012. Her family chose to focus their grief and Karlie's legacy on something positive by starting Karlie's Fund for Reach Out & Read. (Reach Out & Read is a national program, funded locally, stressing the importance of reading to young children.)

Karlie's Fund is used to purchase books that are given to patients ages 6 months to 5 years of age at their well-child visits at CentraCare Pediatrics Clinic where her sister, Kelly Woods, worked as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

"Reading is very important in a child's language development which made it extremely important to Karlie. I know Karlie would be proud to know the impact "Karlie's Fund" has made over the past few years," shared Kelly.

The Reach Out & Read Program ensures families have age-appropriate and language-specific books at home to read with their children. Pediatric providers give a book to every child during their well-child visits and talk to the parents about the importance of reading with their child.

The Geiser family and their friends have organized different fundraising activities to support this fund. Karlie's father, John Geiser, MD, organizes the annual Sunflower Invitational, named after Karlie's favorite flower. This four-day golf tournament held in the Brainerd lakes area has had between 15-30 participants annually ranging in age from 25 to 80.

"While the golfers aren't required to donate to Karlie's Fund to participate, many of the winners of the various golfing competitions in the tournament have simply donated their prize winnings back to Karlie's Fund and just retained their 'bragging rights' for the year," said John.

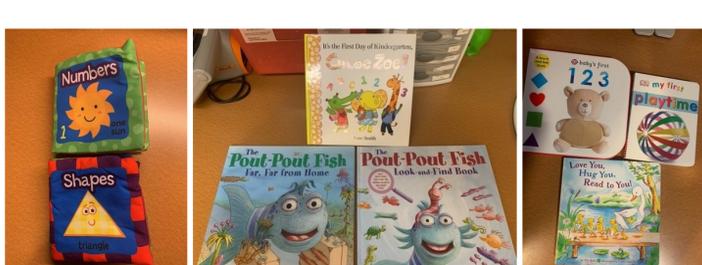
A family friend also has organized an annual cribbage tournament fundraiser with 16-20 friends who contribute an entry fee to play each other over several months, competing to win the "Karlie's Fund" cribbage trophy.

Many employees in CentraCare's Pediatrics Clinic also contribute to Karlie's fund each year during the annual CentraCare Employee Campaign. The Fund also has received significant support from individuals designating Karlie's Fund in their personal contributions to CentraCare Foundation.

If you would like to support Karlie's Fund for Reach Out & Read and continue to put books in the hands of children, visit [Karlie's Fund](#).



Karlie is shown working on speech development with her nephew, Chase Woods, in 2010.



Pediatrician recognizes impact of Karlie's Fund

Submitted by Jill Amsbery, DO, Pediatrician

As a speech therapist, Karlie Geiser Hobson understood reading as critical to language development. Through the kindness and generosity of the Geiser family, Karlie's fund was developed as a way to continue Karlie's passion and honor her legacy after her death in 2012.

Because of their generosity, CentraCare's Pediatric Providers have been able to give thousands of books through our Reach Out & Read program. For many of our patients, these books are the first they have received and possibly the only they will receive until they begin school. We know that language and literacy develop together and that development starts in infancy. We also know language and literacy are critical in reducing societal inequalities. Our clinic is committed to equity and the reduction of health disparities.

When our Pediatrics Clinic had the opportunity to remodel, we wanted to include something that honored Karlie, the Geiser family and Karlie's fund. Therefore, we had a mural painted with sunflowers, Karlie's favorite flower, as a reminder of the incredible gift this program and family have given to the children we serve. Watching a child receive a book, sometimes for the very first time, never gets old. We know as that book goes home with the family, it might open doors in their world they could not otherwise have imagined.

Thanks to the Geiser Family and CentraCare Foundation for continuing to support this program. I truly believe it to be a foundation to building healthy children, well families and connected communities.



This mural with sunflowers, located behind the front desk in CentraCare's Pediatrics Clinic, honors Karlie and the Geiser family's gift to the Reach Out & Read Program.



Spring Fling 2021 Success!

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and community, [Spring Fling 2021](#) raised \$135,000 to benefit [CentraCare Pediatrics](#) and [St. Benedict's Community](#) providing programs and services that improve the care experience for our young patients and enhance the living and community spaces for our Care Center residents.

Thank you to our presenting sponsor, [Granite Logistics](#) and to our co-sponsors: [Benton/Sherburne County Corn](#)

[Growers Association](#); [Marco](#); [Leighton Broadcasting](#); [SEI](#); [Lathrop GPM](#); and John & Mary Weitzel. Thanks also to our Fund-A-Need sponsors: SEI and [BCI Construction](#).

Special thanks to our host Chanda Gebhardt and to violinist Gabe Dalhoff for his beautiful performances.

If you missed the event, you can still watch it [here](#).



Hearing screening equipment benefits newborns and staff

Thanks to community and employee giving, CentraCare - Paynesville purchased new equipment for newborn hearing screenings. This new equipment is lightweight and portable so the screenings can be performed in the mother's hospital room.

The equipment also completes the test more quickly, which can help to alleviate difficult readings due to restless babies, and increases staff efficiency.

"As a mom who had babies in Paynesville, I can attest this equipment was a much-needed upgrade," said Jennifer Gully-Engen, Development Officer, CentraCare Foundation.



Tessa Schaumann, RN, prepares Grayson Fuchs for his newborn hearing screening test.

Goodbye to Father Ken Thielman

Rev. Kenneth E. Thielman, age 92, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on Friday, May 21, at CentraCare - Melrose Care Center.

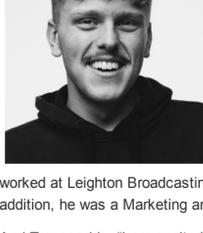
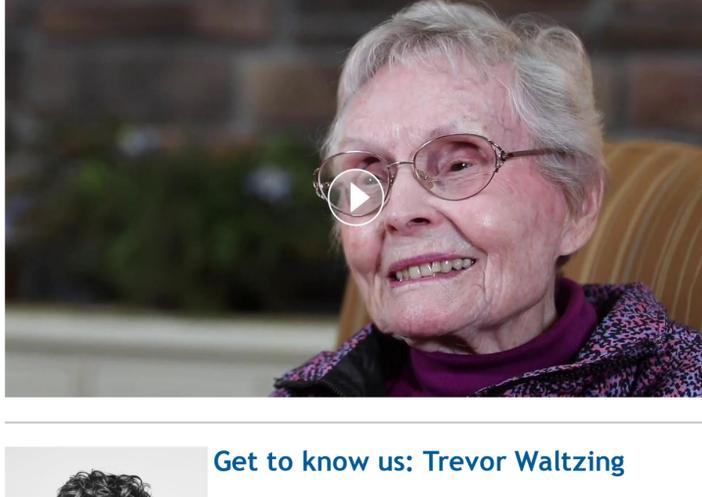
Father Ken was the recipient of the 2019 Service to the Foundation Award. This award recognizes benefactors for their work, commitment and generosity as philanthropists as well as their immeasurable service to CentraCare.

After his retirement in 1998, Father Ken moved to Park View Place in Melrose where he continued to perform daily Mass at the Center and provided Spiritual Care throughout the Melrose campus as needed.

This video, created for the 2019 LaGratitude event, shares the impact Father Ken made on many people through his service to CentraCare.



Father Ken Thielman



Get to know us: Trevor Waltzing

To help you learn more about our Foundation staff, we plan to introduce one team member each month.

This month, we welcome Trevor Waltzing as our new event assistant. Trevor brings a tremendous amount of volunteer experience and event planning to this role. He worked in event planning for Calvary Community Seasonal Concerts, was the President of the Travel and Tourism Club at St. Cloud State University; and a Student Leader, Event Planner and Social Media Coordinator for SCSU Campus Outreach. He received his bachelor's degree in Hospitality and Tourism from St. Cloud State University and worked at Leighton Broadcasting as a Promotional Event Planner and Marketing and Sales Intern. In addition, he was a Marketing and Promotions Intern for the St. Cloud Norseman Hockey Team.

And Trevor adds, "I am excited to work in the role as Event Assistant alongside Beth Cummings and the rest of the Foundation team to develop and execute events. I am looking forward to working with my team and making the events that our volunteer committees help to produce come to life.

I am not new to St. Cloud. I grew up in the St. Augusta area and am the youngest of four from a mixed family. I love to travel and hike at any opportunity I get. In addition to traveling, I enjoy volunteering in youth programs in the St. Cloud area. Currently, I am a youth leader at my church and volunteer at the Youth For Christ with their Band of Brothers group.

I also have had the honor of volunteering with Holly Ball for the past five years with the last two on the creative team. This volunteer opportunity is what drove me to apply and want to work for such a great Foundation."

For a full list of Foundation team members, visit our [website](#).

CentraCare - Monticello partners with community through the Bounce Back Project

As the school year comes to an end, we want to highlight a project that shows how community and employee gifts and encouragement helped teach area children the Bounce Back Project tools of resiliency and mindfulness to students of all ages.

Through an innovative school partnership, these donations are fostering happier, healthier students with social emotional learning and early intervention that encourage life-long mental health and well-being.

CentraCare is proud to partner with our local schools to promote health through happiness!



Scholarship recipients pursue Advanced Practice Provider degree

Thanks to the generous support of the Terry & Sue Pladson Fund and the Mark & Karla Donlin Fund, four \$1,500 Advanced Practice Provider scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

- Annie Gucinski, Spring Arbor University, Family Nurse Practitioner
- James Pohl, College of St. Scholastica, Nurse Practitioner specializing in Psychiatric Mental Health
- Michelle Bairett, College of St. Scholastica, Family Nurse Practitioner
- Michael Kihui, Morningside College, Family Nurse Practitioner

Recipients must be employed or previously employed at a CentraCare entity and be enrolled in a Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant or CRNA Advanced Practice Program.

Congratulations to these students who are the key to our future health care needs!

CentraCare In the News

Click on these links to review recent media stories featuring CentraCare.

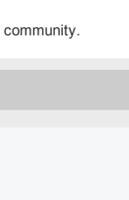
[May 21-28](#)

[May 15-20](#)

[May 7-14](#)

Follow us on Facebook

CentraCare Foundation has so many stories to share and people to thank that we've created our own [Facebook page](#) where you can find all these things and more! We invite you not only to like our page, but to take it a step further — invite your friends to the page to engage and interact with the posts on Facebook. And give feedback on how we can share the great things CentraCare Foundation is doing for our community, our patients and their families thanks to the generous support of our employees and the community.



Contact us at 320-240-2810 or Foundation@CentraCare.com

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