

MBMC increases donation awareness

by Kathy Behnke

To promote organ and tissue donation, a quilt was displayed in the lobby of Hess Memorial Hospital in April for National Donate Life Month. It included squares designed by the families of donors who have helped changed the lives of many others with their generous gifts.

An organ and tissue fair was also held at Mile Bluff in April, and many from the community stopped by to learn more about donation. Experts from Regeneration Technologies (RTI), the Lion's Eye Bank of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin Organ Procurement Organization were on hand to answer questions and give out information on donation.

It is estimated that over the past 10 years, Mile Bluff's donors have helped more than 3,700 transplant recipients. Each year RTI Donor Services recognizes hospitals that have exceeded national averages in providing options to donor families. It's because of the work of the Organ and Tissue Procurement Team that Mile Bluff has earned the Excellence in Donation award for a third consecutive year - no other hospital has even received this honor two years in a row. Melissa Haverly of RTI Donor Services will present Mile Bluff's Organ and Tissue Procurement Team with the award later this month.

Visit dhfs.wisconsin.gov/health/donatelife/ if you would like more information on donation.



Reverend Jeff Fairchild, Mile Bluff's Organ and Tissue Procurement Team coordinator, is pictured with Melissa Haverly of RTI Donor Services, and the memory quilt that was displayed in the lobby of Hess Memorial Hospital during National Donate Life Month in April.

Facts about organ & tissue donation

- Tissue donation is a gift that can benefit - and sometimes save - lives
- One donor can touch the lives of more than 50 people
- One out of 20 people will need a tissue transplant *this includes infants, children, adults and seniors*
- Over 98,000 U.S. patients are waiting for an organ transplant *that's 18 miles of people lined up single file*
- Over 1500 people in Wisconsin are waiting for a transplant
- Well over 3,000 new patients are added to the waiting list each month *that's a new person every few minutes*
- An average of 18 people die daily while awaiting an organ transplant
- About 35 percent of potential donors don't ever donate because family members refuse to give consent - share your wishes with your family



Mary Jean Cauley has been volunteering for over 30 years and currently plays organ for a number of worship services at Mile Bluff's Fair View Nursing Home.

Volunteer spotlight: Mary Jean Cauley

by Larry Arnold

When I went to take a picture of our "Volunteer of the Month" I found Mary Jean Cauley seated at the organ and playing for the weekly worship service at Fair View Nursing Home.

The residents were listening to a message from Reverend Jeff Fairchild, Mile Bluff's chaplain, who also led them in singing.

Mary Jean is a retired educator. After three years teaching at a country school, she came to New Lisbon, where she spent 43 years teaching third grade. She was highly regarded by her students, as well as the New Lisbon School Board and the community in general. She is proud of the fact that a number of her students became teachers.

She was born in the town of Kildare, and moved to the town of Lemonweir as a young child. When asked how long she'd been volunteering, she replied, "I'm not sure, but it is over 30 years."

Her volunteer work is now all at Fair View Nursing Home, where she is the organist for the weekly worship, as well as the every other week mass.

She recalled that in previous years she had helped take some of

the residents out to eat and had worked on other projects. "One of my favorite projects was when we did the Mile Bluff cookbook. Bonnie Davey was the activity director and I worked with Norma Conway, Yvonne Pedersen and Bea Zuelzke," she said.

When asked what she liked best about volunteering, Mary Jean said: "Really the volunteer gets more than we give; it is so nice to see the smiles and welcome when we come to Fair View."

In years past, she also helped with the Mauston Community Sharing Pantry.

Mary Jean lives midway between Mauston and Lyndon Station. She has a dog named JJ; he is black and very friendly. She doesn't have any idea of what breed he is because she adopted him when someone abandoned him on the highway near her home. Several cats keep JJ company.

It was a pleasure to interview Mary Jean. She was my daughter Gayle's third grade teacher and was one of her favorites.

~ Larry Arnold