

## State award presented to Partners

More than 340 Partners, Auxiliary members and volunteers from medical centers across Wisconsin were in attendance for the Annual Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc. State Convention held at the Ramada Inn in Stevens Point. The theme for the three-day conference was "Recipe for Success: Be the Best You can Be." Representing Partners of Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital were Delores Bonney, Pat Dagnon, Marlene Grunow, Barb Huebsch, Deanie Kieser, Jeri Kluesner, Diane Koth, Iva Mulhern, Marsha Ritter, and Darlene Wolfgram.

The highlight of the convention for Prairie du Chien Partners was being presented the WHA Wisconsin Award for Volunteer Excellence (WAVE) in the category of Fundraising Programs for Preview to Christmas 2008 "Christmas Down on the Farm." Partners also received an Honor Point Award for meeting the criteria for outstanding service. Their organization has earned this award each year since the program's inception.

Diane Koth and Iva Mulhern co-chaired Preview to Christmas. Diane shares, "Preview to Christmas is a family and community-oriented event to encourage children and their families to visit the hospital in a positive atmosphere. It also showcases Partner volunteers working closely with hospital employees, many who are also Partner members. We also appreciate the support we receive from local youth groups and local and area news media and businesses."

Iva Mulhern adds, "The 2008 event drew a crowd of 191 children plus parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, totaling approximately 500 attendees. Kathy Buenzli, Materials Management Director at the hospital, suggested the farm theme earning the role of honorary chairperson. Our farm-centered decorations and interactive activities set the stage for entertainment for families. All children received a gift bag of small items and take-home fun pages. Activities that were offered at a small charge generated money that assisted in purchasing a mixer for the Dietary Department, Neopuff resuscitator for Obstetrics, and a new treatment chair for chemotherapy."



*The delegation from Partners of Prairie du Chien Memorial were dressed to share recipes for success at the Annual Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association Inc. State Convention held in Stevens Point. The representatives from left: Iva Mulhern; Deanie Kieser; Barb Huebsch; Diane Koth, Hospital Liaison; Delores Bonney, Treasurer (mostly hidden); Pat Dagnon; Marlene Grunow; Marsha Ritter; Darlene Wolfgram; and Jeri Kluesner, President.*



*Dawn Bye, Wisconsin Hospital Association WAVE Award Chair 2009, left, presented the Wisconsin Award for Volunteer Excellence (WAVE) Award to Iva Mulhern and Diane Koth, Partners of Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital. Partners received the award in the category of Fundraising Programs for Preview to Christmas 2008 "Christmas Down on the Farm." Diane Koth and Iva Mulhern co-chaired the event that drew nearly 500 to the hospital.*

"We are pleased that Partners received this statewide recognition," states Connie Achenbach, Chief Operations Officer at Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital. "Partners play an important part in linking the hospital to our communities. They serve as ambassadors and advocates to assist in meeting the health care and wellness needs of our health care community."

As released in November this annual community and fundraising event was canceled in 2009 after carefully considering the seasonal and H1N1 influenza and the risks of possible exposure to patients, clients, hospital employees, and to the community. Partners and Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital are looking forward to planning a fun family-oriented Preview to Christmas in 2010.