

The Visionaries Fund

Honor Our Founders, Innovators and Mentors

Many visionaries built the University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine and Community Health (DFMCH) into the outstanding department it is today. As physicians, teachers, researchers and leaders, they have improved the health of people in their communities, across the nation and around the world.

How have they made their mark on family medicine?

The graphic features seven circular portraits of individuals, each with their name written below. The names are: marc hansen, john renner, lynn phelps, rudy hecht, baldwin lloyd, and gene and linda farley. In the center, the text reads "THE VISIONARIES FUND" in bold yellow letters, with "Honor our founders, innovators and mentors" in a white script font below it. At the bottom left is the logo for the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Wisconsin, School of Medicine and Public Health.

Through the Visionaries Fund, you have an opportunity to commemorate those who, through their work and their example, have inspired legions of successful family physicians.

We invite you to reflect on those incredible people, and learn more about how you can formally recognize their legacy.

A Few of Our Finest

Marc Hansen, MD. Dr. Hansen is a pioneer in family medicine education and one of the original founders of the DFMCH. In the mid-1960s, he established one of the first primary care teaching practices, the University Family Health Service. In 1970, he created the Madison Family Practice Residency Program, which became one of the first 15 family medicine residency programs in the nation. Three years later, the University of Wisconsin Medical School formally recognized the Department of Family Medicine and Practice as an academic department.



Eugene Farley, MD, MPH, and Linda Farley, MD. Dr. Gene Farley was one of the “fathers of family medicine,” having developed one of the nation’s first family practice residency training programs. He chaired our department from 1982 until 1992, during which time he established a research division, affiliated with the Aurora/St. Luke’s family medicine residency program in Milwaukee and invigorated primary care education for medical students.



Dr. Linda Farley was a co-founder of Physicians for a National Health Program, and a recipient of the Wisconsin State Medical Society’s Physician Citizen of the Year Award and the American Academy of Family Physicians’ Presidents Award.

Both were outspoken advocates for universal health reform, and mentors and friends to many.

How Can You Help?

Through a donation to the Visionaries Fund, you can honor DFMCH founders, innovators and mentors—past or present—who have shaped our department. All contributions are valued and will be recognized.

Your donation will go to a special fund designed to support the DFMCH’s statewide missions of education, research, patient care and community service.

To discuss a contribution, please contact Linda Haskins at (608) 263-3402.



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