MGVs @ Work Oasis Garden at Oconomoc Memorial Hospital

by MGVs Mary Jane Swedberg and Ann Sokop

The Oasis Garden at Oconomoc Memorial Hospital is located in Oconomowoc, WI outside the Emergency Department. The garden was approved as a SEW-MGV volunteer garden three years ago. This spring will mark the 4th growing season and much progress has been made as we started from scratch with empty planting beds.

Featured in the garden is an herb bed where we grow a variety of herbs that the OMH Dietary Department chef uses in the Bistro 791 hospital cafeteria. We also have two perennial beds with some annuals added for color. A beautiful glass wind sculpture donated by a hospital physician and his wife graces one of the perennial beds. At the north end of the garden are two shrub beds with grasses, shrub roses and other shrubs. Various trees winding through the garden and a gravel path leads to a patio area with table, chairs and benches for patients, families and staff to relax in an outdoor area surrounded by beautiful plants. This spring, we are hoping to add a pergola for added shade and comfort.

The Oasis Garden is truly a combined community effort with MGVs, OMH hospital volunteers, hospital department members, Kettle Moraine Garden Club and the Lion’s Club all providing monetary or garden upkeep assistance.

Mary Jane Swedberg is the chairperson for the garden. She can be reached at maryswedberg@gmail.com. Co-chair is Ann Sokop (msokop@wi.m.com). We welcome anyone who would like to join us in garden upkeep. We are very flexible in our work schedule with most workers spending time in the garden when it is convenient for them.