

The story of the Rose Sisters

The Rose Sisters is a collection of ceramic wall art designed for Gundersen Lutheran's Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care. They symbolize the various aspects of the patient's experience, conveying understanding and promote a calming environment that encourages healing.

These pieces convey a message of vitality and beauty in life. On the bottom of the body is the traditional pink ribbon carved with a hole in the center of the loop. While the hole reflects what has often been taken from these women, in the end they remain beautiful and whole. The legs are roots that represent the ways people nourish the patients: sharing time, meals, letters, tears and stories. Rose vines encircling the body symbolize all the people who together care and support the patient; the thorns are our imperfections. The central carvings reflect what is going on inside the Rose Sister.

Five of the large pieces feature bodies carved with an interpretation of Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night*: dark sky symbolizing the inner struggle, the mountain represent the difficult upward battle. But there are glimmers of hope for a bright future and renewed appreciation of life reflected in the stars and moon.

The Rose Sisters at the entrance and in the procedure rooms also have a common theme. Interpretations of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* represent the beauty and hope inside each person. Their stances are thoughtful and compassionate. They offer a sense of calm and support.

About the Artist

Eva Marie Restel designed and created the Rose Sisters in 2010 for Gundersen Lutheran's Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care. Inspiration for this project came from her mother, diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999. More than a decade later, this project prompted Eva Marie to talk with her mother regarding the treatment process. Her mother's honest, heartfelt and sometimes difficult memories led Eva Marie to realize it was possible to improve the treatment experience through artwork. In preparation for the project, it became evident that the waiting times during treatment could be difficult on a patient's spirits. It is during those times that the Rose Sister will provide comfort and peace.

Eva Marie Restel is a local artist with a home-based ceramic studio. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in ceramics from the University of Georgia and spent time studying art in Italy. Information on her business, "Restel & Sons LLC, can be found at www.restelandsons.com.

To support programs and services for the Norma J. Vinger Center for Breast Care contact or mail your contribution to:

Robyn Tanke, CFRE
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation
1836 South Avenue
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 775-6600
rrtanke@gundluth.org
gundluth.org/foundation



Meet the Rose Sisters



**An inspirational art collection
honoring women united through
breast cancer**





Greeting Rose confidently and gently welcomes people with her inner self shining brightly, knowing the best possible care is awaiting each woman as she enters. She has yet to be adopted.

Sandra Rose, in her stance says, “Here I am. I’m going to do what I need to do.” The bright moon peaking through offers a beacon of hope for a brighter future. She was the first Rose Sister created by the artist and named in honor of her mother, Sandra Poehling. She is sponsored by Jeanne Johnson, MD.



Ami Rose, “dressed” in sunflowers, radiates light and hope to give people a reprieve from their worries. She is named Ami, French for “friend.” Honoring her strength and spirit, Ami is gifted by lifelong friends Heather Sayles, Ellie Hook, Joanne Litzow, Susan Johns, Cherry Lommen, Linda Sherwood, Kathy Donskey, Carole Washa, Linnea Mueller, Ginny Iverson, Yvonne Mc Gavock and Ellen Carmichael.

Denise Rose provides beauty for the eye and a sense of calm for the soul. Her pose is one of understanding. She is gifted in honor of special friends, Denise and Jim Hunter, by Barbara and David Skogen.



Patty Rose is taking a moment to smell a flower. Looking at her encourages us to take a moment to think of something that brings us happiness, too. Gifted in honor of Patty Harrison by her special friend, Roxie Weber.



Katie Bea Rose stands defiantly against a brick. Her inner strength shines brightly through the difficulty. She is gifted by Sara Battison and Virginia Gundersen in memorial to Katharine Elizabeth Battison and Beatrice Taggart Dalzell. “May others find strength through the Rose Sisters just as the memory of Katie and Beatrice continues to provide us.” Sara Battison.



Sheila Rose sits peacefully beneath a tree, a part of nature’s beauty. She encourages serenity. “A rose, beautiful yet strong and resilient, just as we remember Sheila,” say donors Ellen and Patrick Conway, MD, of Sheila Cane in whose memory this figure is named.



Sister Jean Rose ponders life and is found lost in thought. She offers compassion and support as her inner self continues to shine throughout her thought process. Gifted anonymously in honor of Sister Jean Kroeger who has provided thoughtful care and compassion to so many families in our community.

Callie Marie Rose (left), **Kayla Rose** (middle) and **Karisa Rose** (right) are walking together holding hands representing the support and friendship each patient provides to the others. Callie Marie, gifted by Patty Brown, is named for her daughter who was named after Patty’s mother, Marie, who lost her battle with breast cancer at age 44. Kayla Rose is gifted by Norma J. Vinger in honor of her granddaughter. Karisa Rose is named “to honor all those who wander down this path,” and is gifted by Sue Gelatt.

