

# THEE Alliance

## FORGIVING MEDICAL DEBT

Lord of Life Lutheran, Maple Grove  
Grace Presbyterian, Winona  
Cedar Valley Lutheran, Winona  
St. Anthony Park UCC, St. Paul  
Woodbury Lutheran LCMS, Woodbury  
St. Andrew Lutheran, Eden Prairie  
St. Michael Lutheran, Roseville  
Christ Lutheran, Preston  
Wesley United Methodist, Winona

First Congregational UCC, Winona  
Central Lutheran, Winona  
Lutheran Campus Center, Winona  
Falcon Heights UCC, Falcon Heights  
Trinity Lutheran, North Branch  
Trinity Lutheran, North Branch  
Gethsemane Lutheran, Hopkins  
Advent Lutheran, Maple Grove  
Zion Lutheran, Anoka

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It's been a year since we formed THEE Alliance and what a year it has been!

Thank you for the leap of faith you, the 17 Founding Members, took this past year. Because of you, there are **29,250 financial hardship families** in 42 states that no longer have the crushing medical debt and low credit scores which plagued them for years. With your cumulative gifts of **\$260 thousand**, through RIP Medical Debt, **\$38 million of medical debt has been forgiven**. The **"\$1 Given, Forgives \$100"** has been an unbelievable leverage. You are the core that is living the commandment, "Love your Neighbor" and we have only just begun. We are so blessed to have you as members.

Since August 26, 2019, after being inspired to learn about the work the RIP had done, the idea to bring any community of faith in MN, and eventually the Upper Mid-West, to forgive medical debt began what I call "inspired percolation." Lord of Life Lutheran gave an initial Benevolence gift in 2019 followed by year-end campaigns for the past 2 years. Separately, in 2020-21, the "Winona Faith Leaders" also put together a gift to forgive medical debt through RIP. Upon reading about this, I contacted Pastor Danielle Bartz of First Congregational UCC in Winona to see if she and the "Winona 5", as I lovingly call them, would be interested in joining THEE Alliance Forgive Medical Debt, and if she would be an Advisor. She immediately accepted and joined Pastor Peter Geisendorfer-Lindgren, Steve Miller and myself in getting things started. Rick Evans was also an Advisor and worked with me on a project called UNLOCK MN. This was an effort to get access from MN hospitals, through RIP, and make medical debt available for financial hardship

families in Minnesota. Due to the continuous work and education process over 18 months by the Minnesota Hospital Association and RIP, the first direct hospital medical debt was forgiven in July and is now an available option for you. RIP has also become an Endorsed Business Partner of the MHA.

Now that our core has been established, our second year has two primary focus areas:

1. **BROADEN** our new membership to include and reflect more of MN
2. Get **AWARENESS** out to religious and lay leaders of any faith community

To that end, Cheryl Myhr and Kris Wenker have joined our Advisor team to work on these areas. You also can help us. We have kicked off an initiative called **"YOU CAN TOO."** THEE Alliance has been a "grassroots" initiative. You have the most credibility and influence with your associates. Please tell other church leaders about your experience and the impact you have seen. Then tell them **"YOU CAN TOO."** Direct them to **THEEAlliance.org** and contact us.

Thanks again for all you have done and we can see our **\$100 million goal from here.**

Thank you again and let me know if you need ANYTHING,

Skip Lieser  
Lead Advisor  
THEE Alliance Forgiving Medical Debt  
THEEAlliance.org