WANDA S. BAUER, RN, FPNP
by Linda Nafziger

Passionate Inspirational
Compassionate Persistent
Knowledgeable Determined
Tireless Fun
The Ultimate Professional

These are all words you could use to describe Wanda Bauer in her role as a Planned Parenthood nurse practitioner.

She got her start by attending Indiana University and receiving her BS in nursing there. After moving to Colorado in 1965 she worked first as a nurse in pediatric surgery, then as a public health nurse. The family moved to Marshfield in 1973. After getting her kids off to a good start in school, she got back into nursing as an RN in the Marshfield Planned Parenthood office. Subsequently Planned Parenthood sponsored her to take the nurse practitioner course in Milwaukee. Becoming an obstetric - gynecologic nurse practitioner in 1983 led her to become the first full time Nurse Practitioner for the Central Wisconsin Chapter.

She was always an advocate for women and provided care to them at many stages of their lives, from teen primary care to contraception including birth control pills. For women ready to have a baby she provided pre pregnancy counseling, routine checkups and prescriptions. She treated all kinds of conditions in women, including genital yeast infections and herpes, STD testing and treatment, IUD services, HIV services, pregnancy testing and services. She was a one stop office for women's health. Her compassionate care and counseling were well known to all.

She was tireless in her work on behalf of women's health, continually learning more to be able to help women. The ultimate professional, she went above and beyond expectations to help women in need. Her smile radiated warmth and understanding and she could make difficult circumstances understandable and solvable. Wanda would help women get through whatever the situation was. They could always count on her to give them the information they needed. She would be there with them for the duration. Women always appreciated her dedication and persistence.

According to a physician who worked with her "she was a very competent, caring practitioner. I enjoyed working with her. I was her medical advisor at the Marshfield Clinic at the time and accepted her patients for appropriate follow-up care. Her patients had a lot of respect and trust for her."

Resourceful was the word for Wanda. In high



Wanda Bauer

school our daughter and her daughter were recruited to package "6 packs" of condoms to be sent with college students " in case" their friends needed them.

When the family moved to Eau Claire in 2000, she worked for the Chippewa Falls Planned Parenthood office and later became a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner collecting evidence after a rape to be used at trial.

Nothing frightened her, she always did what was right for women, enduring protests and threats from people who disagreed with Planned Parenthood's existence and practices. She started the "Freedom Fund" program to help women pay for abortions and other services when they couldn't afford to pay. It is still in existence today - helping women even now.

When asked to help out, she worked for Family Planning in Wausau and commuted long distances to help fulfill their goals and fill a need.

Besides her admirable work for Planned Parenthood and Women's Health in general, she took many leadership roles for her friends and the community. Right away she became active in the Newcomers Club and became president. The Traveling Trunk Theater Group provided an opportunity

for live Children's Theater in Marshfield and area schools. She was active in it for years.

She found there was no Girl Scout program in town, so she started one. She recruited amongst her friends to be leaders and provide girls with a wonderful program that is still in existence today. She remained active as a leader, trainer and Area Director. She received the Outstanding Leader Award. She packed up vans and took 11 girl scouts, two brothers, several parents and gear out to Wyoming to Girl Scout Center West for a weeklong camp for girls with horseback riding, performing skits, crafts, fishing, and hiking.

Cub Scouts needed her and she couldn't say no, so she was a den leader for several years. Her children saw what leadership looked like as they were growing up. She taught Sunday School and was chairwoman for the Education Commission at her church. She also volunteered for the Eau Claire Regional Arts Center.

Always cheerful, Wanda provided women and families with so many great opportunities to grow and learn and she continued to grow and learn all her life. She was a force to be reckoned with when necessary, but a lovely, spirited friend to all, and always an inspiration to women.

Wanda completed her life in 2016.