Generosity in Action

Your gifts are making healthy happen

2019 in review
A word from the President

Dear Friends,

As Advocate Aurora Health continues to battle the COVID-19 crisis, we’re leaning on the generosity of our donors more than ever before. The support we’ve received has been nothing short of overwhelming and we can’t thank you enough.

Our local communities have rallied together, bringing supplies and food donations to those on the frontlines and supporting our team members in many different ways. The spirit of giving we’ve felt during these challenging times is incredible.

Despite the chaos and uncertainty, our nurses, physicians, and other team members across our organization have shown up when our patients needed them most. The strength and unwavering commitment of our health care heroes brings grandparents, moms, dads, brothers and sisters home to their families.

Beyond this pandemic, Advocate Aurora Health continues to be a national leader in clinical innovation, health outcomes, consumer experience and value-based care. Our system serves nearly 3 million patients annually in Illinois and Wisconsin, across more than 500 sites of care. We’re engaged in hundreds of clinical trials and research studies and are nationally recognized for our expertise in cardiology, neurosciences, oncology and pediatrics.

Outside of our expertise and size, we’re aware now more than ever that philanthropy has and will continue to be pivotal in our ability to provide high-quality health care for our patients and in our communities.

Enclosed you will find compelling stories of people who have been impacted by the support of donors like you. These stories illustrate how you’ve helped us provide compassionate and cutting-edge care and how you’ve especially empowered us to do so throughout this crisis. We’re so grateful to have donors like you alongside us on this journey — before COVID-19, through it and as we navigate the path forward. We are all in this together.

Sincerely,

Randy Varju, FAHP, CFRE
Chief Development Officer, Advocate Aurora Health
President, Advocate Aurora Health Foundations
10 hospitals with Magnet designation for nursing excellence

**RANKED #3** in health outcomes*

**$47.8M** raised by the Advocate Aurora Health Foundations

**RANKED #2** in quality among top national health systems

Health at Home made more than **152,000** deliveries to patients

**MORE THAN $2.1B** in community benefits in 2018

**MORE THAN $27M** was distributed to support programs, research and equipment

**$4.6M** was raised by team members through the internal *Give Well Campaign* for Advocate Aurora Health funds

More babies delivered in an Advocate Aurora Hospital in 2019 than anywhere else in Illinois or Wisconsin

MORE THAN **8,000** guests attended an Advocate Aurora Health Foundation event in 2019

**RANKED #2** in quality among top national health systems

**2nd largest** heart transplant program in the midwest

NEARLY **$2.1B** in community benefits in 2018

*Benchmark Health Outcomes Analysis
Always Advancing

After a day of playing video games and being a typical 15-year-old, Cooper came down with a stomach ache and started vomiting. As the pain got worse, he became pale and his mom and dad knew something didn’t seem right. They decided to take him to the emergency department.

Not even 20 minutes after they arrived at Advocate Children’s Hospital, Cooper said he felt like he was going to pass out. Moments later, his face turned white, followed by the ringing on the alarm monitors and every stat dropping to zero. He went into cardiac arrest and his heart stopped beating for three minutes.

Shortly after resuscitation, a scan would reveal that Cooper had gone into septic shock from an infected appendix, something his family was unaware of and unable to recognize, given the seemingly ordinary nature of the symptoms that came so quickly.

He was rushed to surgery, but he coded yet again. Cooper was placed in the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) and put on life support and a ventilator. His family was told he was in critical condition, but that the team would fight like heck to save him.

Luckily, Cooper began to recover and his physician, Dr. Sofía Padilla, had recently implemented a few new initiatives. Among them was the donor supported PICU-UP program, which featured limited sedation and early mobility, which got him alert, up and moving around the hospital. He was able to go home in just under two weeks.

Despite some physical and emotional setbacks during the healing process, Cooper made it to his first day of sophomore year, celebrated his 16th birthday shortly after and even got his driver’s license.

Because of your support:

- Approximately **11,000 integrative medicine services** were provided to cancer patients at free and reduced costs
- **56 female athletes** crossed the finish line through the Team Phoenix cancer survivorship program
- **More than $750,000 in gift-in-kind donations** were received to support patients and families at Advocate Children’s Hospital
- **The Geriatric Emergency Department expanded** from 5 to 10 hospitals, each achieving Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation
- **13 people** received scholarships to the Culver Alumni House for substance abuse recovery
- **11 students** received scholarships to Kradwell School, a private alternative school on the Aurora Behavioral Health campus
- **More than $2.8 million** funded team member, nurse, and physician education
- **Approximately 2,000 individuals with Down Syndrome** were supported at the Adult Down Syndrome Center

“... My son Cooper’s stay in the PICU was the most difficult time in our lives. My husband and I were devastated and heartbroken. The stress and sleep deprivation were overwhelming at times. As we look back at all that happened, we realized there were many things that eased his pain and ours as well. **To the donors who have made all these things possible, small and large, we would like to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts.** In a time of such despair, your kindness helped in ways you can’t imagine. ”

– Heather, Cooper’s mom

Above, Cooper with his care team
Caring for You with You

Samantha was molested by someone she knew between the ages of 6 and 9. She was raped in her own home at the age of 27. Most of her life she felt ashamed. She suffered in unhealthy relationships because she didn’t know how to trust people. Then, she started going to counseling and discovered Aurora Healing Center on Bruce in Milwaukee.

For Samantha, Aurora Healing Center on Bruce, where services are offered free of charge thanks to donor support, changed her life. The center allowed her to open up and talk about her abuse, without bias. She felt a connection to the place and people there and began volunteering.

Samantha is now a dedicated advocate for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. She created her own organization, Team Teal 365, and made it her full-time job. She is especially passionate about educating young people on the meaning of consent, sexual boundaries and gender-based violence. She speaks often in Milwaukee Public Schools and other partner organizations.

In 2019, Samantha was honored at Hope Shining Blue, an event which raises funds to support Aurora Healing & Advocacy Services and for her, it meant she had come full circle.

Because of your support:

- **3,100 meals** provided through Family to Family Thanksgiving for Milwaukee families
- **491 unique patients** were served by the Mobile Dental Van in Chicago
- **12,000 pounds of food** provided to patients through the Advocate Trinity Hospital Healthy Living Food Farmacy since August 2018
- **4,908 individual and group counseling sessions** were provided at Aurora Healing Center on Bruce
- **1,164 sexual assault examinations** were performed by specially trained nurses
- **27,090 students** received a free ECG screening through the Young Hearts for Life program during the 2018-2019 school year
- **3,821 children** were served through the Advocate Children’s Ronald McDonald Care Mobile
- **964 participants** were provided free training through the Advocate Workforce Initiative

“My healing journey began when I was able to speak openly about my story. Thank you for giving me the tools, reassurance and a safe space for me to reclaim my voice.”

– Samantha

Above, Samantha with Sharain Horn-Dalzin, Executive Director of Healing and Advocacy Services
Dr. Dean Govostis has been a vascular surgeon for more than 28 years. He had never been hospitalized, never needed an IV and in fact, had never really been sick. That all changed ... in a heartbeat, in August 2019.

Dr. Govostis was in his office by himself and just didn’t feel right; he scheduled an appointment to see a cardiologist the next day. He couldn’t have imagined that by the end of that day, he would be hospitalized and fighting for his life because doctors couldn’t stop his heart’s abnormal rhythm.

Dr. Govostis recalls looking at his monitor and knowing he was about to arrest at any minute. Running through his mind were his four daughters and young son. He knew he couldn’t leave them without a dad or his wife without a husband.

Doctors tried medication, but it didn’t help. An emergency balloon pump was placed in his aorta and he was transferred to Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, IL. That’s where he operates on cardiac and vascular patients nearly every day and where his colleagues are like his own family. Soon after, he needed emergency open heart bypass surgery. The operation went smoothly, but still his heart rhythm wouldn’t normalize.

At one point, doctors had to shock him while he was awake. Over the next several days, he coded three or four times and was on life support.

The only thing that could help Dr. Govostis was a heart transplant. On Sept. 16, a lifesaving donor heart finally became available. The transplant went well, but his journey back to health has been slow. He had to learn how to swallow and talk again. He is now doing physical therapy at his home. He knows how incredibly close he was to death. But he also knows he was in the one place that gave him the absolute best chance to survive.

As a physician, Dr. Govostis knows the research and technology that’s required to provide critical heart patients with the best care possible. Now, he’s experienced it for himself.

Because of your support:

- **More than $4.1 million** of research was funded
- **1,260 research and clinical trials** were active across the system in 2019
- Advocate Aurora Health authored **504** peer-reviewed articles

"The growing experience by dedicated providers and amazing technological breakthroughs have led to unprecedented stories of survival. **None of this would be possible without the generous and committed donors who continue to fuel the research, development and education that make it all possible.** Thank you from a grateful recipient and our entire family.

– Dr. Govostis

Above, Dr. Govostis with his wife and children
To learn more about how Advocate Aurora Health Foundations are impacting care for your family, friends and neighbors, please contact advocategiving@advocatehealth.com or thankyou@aurora.org or visit advocategiving.org or give.aurora.org