Generosity in Action
2020 in review
A word from the President

Dear Friends,

There is no doubt 2020 was a challenging, yet inspiring year. On behalf of Advocate Aurora Health, I would like to express my appreciation for your steadfast support during this crisis. Now more than ever before, we see how philanthropy is pivotal in providing high quality, affordable health care for our patients and our communities. However you supported us in 2020, please know how grateful we are for your generosity.

Enclosed you will find the inspiring stories of health care heroes, patients and other donors just like you. Thanks to people like you, these stories illustrate how we’ve been empowered to respond to this crisis and beyond.

We can’t thank you enough for your generous support and we’ll always remember your spirit of giving during the pandemic. We’re so grateful to have donors like you alongside us on this journey - before COVID-19, throughout the crisis and as we navigate the path forward.

Sincerely,

Randy Varju, FAHP, CFRE
President, Advocate Aurora Health Foundations
Chief Development Officer, Advocate Aurora Health
BY THE NUMBERS in 2020:

- **More than $6.2 million** donated to support our COVID-19 relief efforts
- **Nearly 18,000** COVID-19 patients discharged
- **$3.6 million** was raised by team members through the Team Member Giving Campaign for Advocate Aurora funds and community charities
- **$1.3 million** was distributed through the Team Member Crisis Funds, helping our healthcare heroes overcome personal crises
- **$24 million** was distributed to support programs, research and equipment
- **Nearly 200,000** meals and snacks, **445,000** masks and hundreds of other gifts of gratitude were donated for frontline team members and patients

- **$44.6 million** raised by Advocate Aurora Health Foundations
- **Nearly $24 million** was raised by team members through the Team Member Giving Campaign for Advocate Aurora funds and community charities
- **More than $6.2 million** donated to support our COVID-19 relief efforts
Improving patient outcomes

Because of the generosity of donors, the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) at Advocate Children's Hospital was able to purchase four advanced airway simulation training tools. Airway task trainers simulate the anatomy of a person's airway, allowing for an immersive and interactive way for team members to train for intubating more difficult cases. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, these tools have served a far greater purpose than expected.

"We’re using the trainers more than we ever imagined we would. We’re learning how to place new pathways to help patients breathe. We can also practice with all the extra protective equipment we’re wearing – masks, face shields and goggles," said Sandy McIntyre, nurse practitioner. "And if a patient has COVID-19, or is suspected to have it, there’s a protective hood around them too, which can make it difficult to see what we’re doing. That’s no longer an issue because we’re practicing so frequently thanks to these devices."

Your support helps team members adapt during a crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic forced Erica Berry, a patient care manager at Aurora Medical Center in Grafton, to adapt as a nurse in ways she never imagined. Thankfully, generous donors provided Erica's team with iPads to help bridge the divide between isolated patients and their loved ones.

In several instances, Erica's team provided end-of-life care. The tablets enabled the patients to spend more time with their families when personal connection was needed most.

"One patient's wife would call and sing to her dying husband daily. It was a heartbreaking situation, but also so comforting for the wife to be able to see her husband's face and for him to hear her voice," Erica says.

To put it simply, adapting to this virus has been difficult for many health care workers. **But the generosity of the community has helped team members like Erica keep going.**

**Because of your support:**

- More than $1 million funded team member, nurse and physician education and professional development
- The Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Conference, hosted by Advocate Aurora Health, was held virtually for nearly 1,000 attendees from 40 different states
- More than 5,000 integrative medicine services were provided to cancer patients at free and reduced costs
- The Advocate Aurora Health Home Hospital Program was created, helping patients receive care in their homes
You provided hundreds of free cancer screenings during a pandemic

Aurora Walker’s Point Community Clinic is the largest free clinic in Wisconsin and exists to serve people who don’t have other health care options. Because of donor support, colorectal cancer screenings are provided to patients of Aurora Walker’s Point at no cost.

During the spring of 2020, community health workers developed an innovative, no-contact system to help provide screenings by arranging drop-off and pick-up of fecal occult blood test kits at patients’ homes. Despite the circumstances caused by the pandemic, the clinic completed 83% of colorectal cancer screenings that were due.

“Patient after patient expressed gratitude for this offering,” said Chris Casselman, Manager of Clinic Operations for Aurora Walker’s Point. “Completing screenings at such a high rate during a pandemic is a huge accomplishment. We are very, very grateful for the generous support of donors.”

Colorectal cancer screenings at Aurora Walker’s Point Community Clinic are funded with the support of the Judy Kerns Pence Cancer Fund and Kerns family.

You helped survivors thrive

At five months pregnant, Alexandra found herself homeless and in an abusive relationship with nowhere to turn. Fearing for her life and the life of her unborn child, Alexandra was on the verge of giving up. Then she was connected to the Aurora Healing & Advocacy Services’ Safe Mom Safe Baby’s Safe Home Environment (SHE) Program, which provided her with a safe place to live and inspired her to create a better life for her and her baby.

“Donor support provides safe housing, counseling and care coordination at no cost to the mother and her baby, giving domestic abuse survivors the access to the critical care and support that they need,” says Shirley Combs, Healing Volunteer Coordinator.

The Safe Mom Safe Baby program is funded with the support the Junior League of Milwaukee.

Because of your support:

- 3,100 meals were provided to Milwaukee families through Aurora Family Service’s Family to Family Thanksgiving
- Nearly 350 unique patients were served by the Mobile Dental Van in Chicago
- Nearly 1,000 sexual assault examinations were performed by specially trained nurses
- 1 million masks, including 10,000 pediatric masks, have been purchased and distributed to community members
- 6,000 COVID-19 Symptom Relief Medication Kits were provided to underserved COVID-19 patients in need
- 2,520 unique patients were served at Aurora Walker’s Point Community Clinic, the largest free clinic in Wisconsin
Pioneering Health

Your support is the backbone of this research

When COVID-19 first arrived in the United States in 2020, scientists and health care professionals knew little to none about the virus. Research has been critical to understanding how the virus is spread and how we can keep our health care professionals and community safe.

Sigrun Hallmeyer, MD, Medical Director and oncologist at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is the principal investigator of a current research study that aims to better understand COVID-19 exposure in health care workers and their families. It is completely funded by donor support.

“Initially, we were a hotspot at Lutheran General,” Dr. Hallmeyer says, referring to the high number of cases reported in the Park Ridge, IL, area in spring of last year. “We want to know if that would lead to higher rates of professional exposure and infection among our medical staff. We also need to know how effective we are at protecting ourselves from the virus.”

The study performs antibody tests on nearly 500 hospital physicians. It started in September 2020, and at various intervals, those same participants donate blood and their antibody baseline levels are evaluated. The research also includes a questionnaire about their professional and social behavior, attitude towards social distancing, the wearing of physical protective equipment (PPE), and household environment. The study will continue for a year, but Dr. Hallmeyer says they’ve already seen some interesting data.

“In our first analysis from September, we saw that only 20 physicians tested positive for antibodies, which is 4% less than the general population,” Dr. Hallmeyer explains. “They’re performing high-risk procedures like intubating COVID-positive patients, but their positivity rate is lower than the general population.”

Approximately $100,000 of Foundation funds have gone towards this study, mostly to cover the laboratory testing. There will be more to be learned once the study is complete, but the results could impact the health and behavior of not just physicians, but the entire medical community.

“Much of what we know about this virus is driven by clinical data. And without donor support, we wouldn’t have been able to do this. Philanthropy really is the backbone to this type of research,” Dr. Hallmeyer says.

Donor-supported research keeps older patients out of the hospital

Being released from a hospital to the comforts of home is the goal of every patient and caregiver, but hospital readmissions are quite common, especially for the elderly. Readmissions create an increased health risk, greater financial burden and are often preventable.

A frequent cause for readmission in older adults is delirium, which is essentially acute confusion. It can be life-threatening and has a one-year mortality rate. The Ed Howe Center for Healthcare Transformation, which is completely supported through philanthropy and part of Advocate Aurora Research Institute, is working to reduce cases of delirium and readmission rates.

The Bundled Hospital Elder Life Program, or HELP© and HELP in Home Care, adapted HELP© hospital protocols to the home care setting to prevent delirium and functional decline. In just a few short years, this transformational research has already been put into action and is reducing hospital readmissions, preventing delirium, and saving lives.

“The research involved changing the way team members practice, which is harder than it sounds. We were able to operationalize this protocol in the electronic health record and create an organizational infrastructure for Bundled HELP©,” shares Michelle Simpson, PhD, RN, director of the Ed Howe Center for Healthcare Transformation.

The program is a great example of collaboration between Dr. Simpson’s team, Jonny Macias, MD, the program medical director, and Mike Malone, MD, medical director of Aurora Senior Services and Aurora Health at Home. This collaborative research, made possible by generous donors, is truly making a difference.

“The purpose of research at Advocate Aurora Health is to improve patient health. Research results are translated into clinical care to help our patients and the HELP protocol is a great example. It's a rewarding achievement for our researchers,” explained Nina Garlie, PhD, interim Vice President of Advocate Aurora Research Institute.

Because of your support:

• More than $4.1 million enhanced research in many areas including cardiovascular health, precision medicine, oncology, endocrinology, Alzheimer’s and more
• Advocate Aurora Health authored 547 peer-reviewed articles
• 100 TytoCare devices were purchased to support telehealth needs for children with high-risk medical conditions, enabling physicians to receive patient temperatures, listen to the heart and lungs and examine the ears virtually
• 497 clinical outcomes research projects were active across the system in 2020
Donors making a difference

A community rallying together to support health care heroes

When Amy True Flota was challenged by a coworker on how to help during the pandemic, she reached out to a friend who is a doctor at Advocate Sherman Hospital and asked what team members needed. She learned hospital cafeterias were closed, leaving health care workers with limited options for meals.

With the help of her network, Amy raised $13,000 and donated more than 2,500 meals over the course of four months. She was amazed at how many people and organizations wanted to help.

“The truth is, I have a really cool network of people that made this happen,” said Amy. “I feel so fortunate to have been involved. I formed some amazing friendships. It was very inspiring and very special.”

Making the world a better place in honor of their parents

In June, Lynne Becker and her three sisters experienced the tragic loss of their mother. Shortly after, their father became ill with pneumonia and was taken to Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center. Due to the hospital’s COVID-19 visitor restrictions, only one daughter could be in his room to say goodbye as the three other sisters visited virtually from the parking lot. After their father passed away, the sisters used the money from his memorial to purchase six iPads for the hospital, allowing other families to connect with their loved ones. “Our parents raised us to make this world a better place and do things for others,” said Becker.

Helping team members in crisis

Jean was among the many Advocate Aurora Health team members to receive a bonus at the end of 2020 for her remarkable work and sacrifices during the pandemic. Although she earned every penny, Jean’s humble heart told her that others needed the bonus money. So she donated it back to the Team Member Crisis Fund, which provides grants up to $1,000 to Advocate Aurora team members facing a financial crisis.

“Some people in need are single parents with small children, some have medical conditions of their own. I just appreciate so many of them who stepped up and took an enormous risk during COVID to help others,” Jean says.

More than $1.3 million was distributed from the Team Member Crisis Fund to team members in need in 2020.

Supporting families despite obstacles

Every year, the Oak Lawn Fire Department collects toy donations for pediatric patients at Advocate Children’s Hospital. But because of COVID-19, the hospital’s donation drop-off policy was dramatically changed, and toy donations weren’t allowed. However, they were still determined to help. The firefighters decided to raise funds for the hospital’s child life, creative arts therapies and education department. They collected nearly $7,000 in donations that will help children heal, express themselves creatively and feel like kids despite being hospitalized.

“There were many unknowns this year, but we knew one thing for sure – we were going to find a way to come through for the kids and their families,” said Jeff Goworowski, firefighter and public relations director for the Oak Lawn Professional Firefighters Union Local 3405.
Our team members and patients are thankful for YOU

I want to send a sincere thank you to all who graciously donated to our organization. The food, masks and many other items helped to keep our staff motivated and engaged. They have continued to do a great job serving our community and we could not have done it without your support. Thank you.

- Rich Heim, PSA President, South Chicagoland President, Advocate Christ Medical Center

The food is very much appreciated and is a mood elevator. But the message that comes with that donation is really what matters, that the community really cares about the health care team. That is very meaningful to us all.

- Dawn Moeller, Manager Clinical Emergency Room, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital

I just want to say thank you to all the people who donated. You aren’t even aware of the impact you’ve made in other peoples’ lives.

- Maria, Team Member Crisis Fund Recipient

I would like to sincerely thank all of you who have donated to our hospital these past few months to help sustain our dedicated and talented team members through this pandemic. Your generosity and thoughtfulness have touched us all. We are all truly better together. We continue to work hard every day to provide high quality health care services to our community and we are ever grateful to be of service.

- Ed Harding, President, Aurora Medical Center - Bay Area

To learn more about how Advocate Aurora Health Foundations are impacting care for your family, friends and neighbors, please contact giving@aah.org or visit advocategiving.org or give.aurora.org