



GIVE WELL GIVE WELL



**Delivering care
where it's needed most**

**You can help kids like Jaleel fight
Leukemia from the comforts of home**

Message from Cristy

Hello friends!

As we head into the close of 2016, it gives me a chance to reflect on some of the amazing things we've done together that have made an impact on our community.

It's the time of year when we give thanks for our blessings, and recognize there are times in our lives when we all need help. Like Jaleel, a 12-year-old suffering from cancer who was too sick to even make it to the hospital for some of his treatments. Thanks to Aurora at Home, Jaleel is one of thousands across the state who receive this critical care in the comforts of their home.

Aurora Health Care is dedicated to help all people live well and this extends beyond traditional clinic-based care. Aurora at Home and a number of Aurora's Well Community programs resonate with so many of us because we can relate to them personally. We have a loved one, neighbor or friend who has faced a unique health challenge and needed further assistance to make her or him whole and healthy.

Joanne from Oshkosh is an example of that and her story is in this issue. She teaches self-defense courses and knows the importance of life-long healing for survivors. She brought the community together with her own fundraiser – bringing in six-and-a-half times her goal – to raise awareness and support for Aurora's abuse response programs.

That's why this issue of Inspire focuses on the contagious act of giving and its cumulative impact on needed services for all. From our Aurora Gala in October supporting women's health programs like Aurora's Safe Mom Safe Baby, to our 20th anniversary of Aurora Family Service's Family to Family Thanksgiving – a number of



Cristy pictured at the 2016 Aurora Gala with the co-chairs who helped make the night such a memorable one.

(L-R) Dr. Minnie Chambers, Kathy Turkal, Joanne Bauer, Patty Cadorin, Nancy Hernandez and Cristy Garcia-Thomas.

fall activities focus on bringing people together. Together, we can positively transform the lives of so many who sometimes have nowhere else to turn.

None of this is possible without all of you – our donors. I wish you a warm and healthy holiday season ahead, and am grateful for all that you do to help our communities live well. Thank you for your generosity and your continued commitment to Aurora Health Care Foundation.

Always,

Cristy Garcia-Thomas
Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Aurora Health Care,
and President, Aurora Health Care Foundation

Aurora Gala raises record \$740,000 for Women's Health

Strong. Inspiring. Unique. Just like You! That was the theme of the 2016 Aurora Gala, which raised more than \$740,000 to strengthen critical and unique programs and services that help women of all ages live well. More than 800 people attended this event at the BMO Harris Bradley Center, featuring a surprise concert by the band, Chicago! A special thank you to our 2016 Aurora Gala co-chairs – Joanne Bauer, Patty Cadorin, Dr. Minnie Chambers, Nancy Hernandez, and Kathy Turkal—who helped to make this event so successful.



Delivering care where it's needed most

You can help kids like **Jaleel fight Leukemia** from the comforts of home

"I went trick-or-treating with my dad and grandma; I walked a block and said, 'I'm tired,'" Jaleel explains. It was Halloween, 2015, and Jaleel knew an 11-year-old shouldn't be tired already. That was his first warning something was wrong. Finally, in January of this year, Jaleel was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, or ALL. And soon he would begin months of chemotherapy and suffer many different setbacks, like pneumonia and blood clots, related to his treatment.

But fortunately, when Jaleel was diagnosed, his mother Kashuan learned of the Aurora at Home program that allows for home health monitoring of chronic illnesses or even provides caregivers to deliver specialized care, like chemotherapy, in the comforts of a person's home. That meant that Jaleel, who was greatly at risk of infections, could remain at home in a safer, more comfortable environment.

"When I'm at home I get to watch movies. I get to be around things that are familiar to me, it's a lot easier," Jaleel explains.

Evelyn Hansen is Jaleel's Aurora at Home nurse who has been making "house calls" to care for him since the end of January. At that time, Evelyn was coming several times a week. She helped put his feeding tube back in, when it would fall out. She administered his chemotherapy medications and helped to treat numerous other infections. She has pediatrics patients like Jaleel all over eastern Wisconsin.

"Some days I drive 20 miles, other days I drive 120 miles. I love working with children in their home setting, I get to see them watching their favorite movies or video games. You get to know their families on a much more personal level," Evelyn shares.



Aurora at Home caregivers also train family members to care for their loved ones as well. Here, Evelyn reviews medication with Jaleel's mom, Kashuan.



"It was interesting to learn we didn't have to go to the hospital all the time and family members could be with him here. Not only is Jaleel more comfortable, but I have three other children and a granddaughter to care for as well, so it is much more convenient. I wouldn't know what to do without it," says Jaleel's mom, Kashuan.

Jaleel is now finished with the intense chemotherapy, though he will continue with oral treatments and several procedures still remain. But he is going back to school this month where he is looking forward to "being the phenomenal one," he says.

And that spirited answer is exactly how Evelyn knows he's ready, "I can tell when he's feeling better, because he starts acting sassy." Back to a typical 12-year-old, indeed.

If you would like to support the care provided by Aurora at Home, or learn more about the pediatrics program, contact Judi Strout at Judi.Strout@aurora.org.



In 2015, Aurora at Home caregivers traveled nearly **3.6 million miles.**



They helped over **27,000** home care and hospice patients, including children.

Family to Family Thanksgiving: *You've been helping families come together for 20 years!*

Since 1996, your generosity has enabled Aurora Family Service to provide ingredients for nearly 60,000 deserving families to prepare a Thanksgiving meal in their homes. But this 20-year tradition isn't just about providing a meal; it's a recipe for families to be together.

"When the Board of Directors started this, it was an intentional thought to do something that would strengthen families around the holiday. It really is providing the occasion to gather together, especially at a time of crisis," explains Jane Pirsig-Anderson, Senior Director of Aurora Family Service.

Aurora Family Service identifies families through partnering community organizations, this year there are 113 of them. Those organizations will help identify 3,100 families as recipients of the food baskets. The bags are organized and packed on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, with the exception of the star ingredient—the turkey. The turkeys are added the Monday before the holiday, when the baskets are handed out and delivered.



Annie is a past recipient who lives in the neighborhood of Aurora Family Service. She brought her cart to take home her Thanksgiving meal. "I like the service here and the understanding. I'm so thankful God provided me this meal," she said.

3,100 families equals a lot of mouths to feed, and it would not be possible without the thousands of volunteers who have helped over the years, or the donors who support the effort. A \$35 donation enables a family of four to receive a 12-pound turkey, bread, butter, potatoes, stuffing, vegetables and fruit. And it's thanks to sponsors like Quarles and Brady, who have supported the program since nearly the beginning through workplace giving efforts, that the program has grown to the level it is at today.

"We send emails to employees about the program and raise money together. People are concerned about others who are less fortunate," explains Laurie Wagner of Quarles and Brady.

If you would like to be a part of the 20-year anniversary of Family to Family Thanksgiving, go to give.aurora.org/thanksgiving to make a gift, or contact Anya Gordon at anya.gordon@aurora.org.



Laurie Wagner, of Quarles and Brady, in 2013. Employees there have created a "turkey board" each year, with every feather representing a family they helped feed.

"Thanksgiving" letter from a past recipient:

I am taking care of two grandsons with a limited income. I felt so relieved to have this gift of a meal given to my family. My grandsons and I were able to come together around the table and eat a wonderful meal with the food you provided. We were able to share how thankful we are for each other and for people like you. My boys do not have a lot of extras so it was a real treat for them to get such a special meal. It made my day just to know someone cared.

Thank you for your kindness,

Judith

20th Anniversary presented by:



Opening new doors for cancer care

On October 1, people from across western Racine and Walworth counties came to see the new Aurora Health Center Southern Lakes - which offers world-class amenities including a new comprehensive cancer center, featuring a state-of-the-art Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic. This new cancer facility was supported by community members as part of the *Partners in Cancer Care* campaign. The campaign is set to close on December 31 and is on track to surpass its \$2.2 million campaign goal. Donors are helping to provide enhancements to cancer care, including a spacious healing garden, private infusion rooms, and the ability to receive a menu of cancer care options all under one roof.



The new medical oncology space overlooks a scenic healing garden that was created through donor support.



Some of our *Partners in Cancer Care*



“I did chemo in 1997, and I had to travel to Madison to a room filled with recliners and fluorescent lights. To see this space and room for healing is just incredible.”

Kim O'Keefe is a cancer survivor and co-founder of the McGMO Golf Outing.



“I am just amazed. With Claire, I went to treatments with her and she would be so happy to see this.”

(L-R) **Tracy Tinder**, with daughter Ana and friend Maria Kuhn. Tracy and her husband Rick (*not pictured*), made a gift in honor of their friend, Claire, who passed away after battling ovarian cancer.



“I'm so proud to be a part of this effort. Seeing this center come to life has been overwhelming. We saw it when it was nothing ... and seeing it completed today is just awesome.”

Cindi Schweitzer (center), with members of Connecting Communities for a Cure. Together, they are hosting Carnival for a Cure, to support the new cancer center on May 6.



“Wait until you see it. Just wait until you see it. Who would have thought my wish would become a reality?”

Sandi Conrad, with husband David. Sandi shared her breast cancer journey at the start of this important campaign.



“This is fabulous, just fabulous.”

Marianne Bonifacic (right) pictured with **Alice Morava**, both are members of the Benefit Ball Committee, which sponsored the new café at the facility.

How your gifts to *When Minutes Matter* campaign helped save a life

On a cold, snowy evening this past February, local veterinarian Deb Schneider attended the Sheboygan Dog Training Club Awards Banquet at the Town & Country. It included a lovely dinner with awards to follow.

Then, out of the blue, someone shouted, “Is Jean here?!”

Deb realized that someone was calling for EMS educator Jean Zemke. Zemke had recently conducted cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, training at the dog club, which Deb attended. Deb is one of 600 people who have been trained in CPR since the *When Minutes Matter* campaign first began in 2015.

Unfortunately, Jean wasn’t at the banquet, but Deb knew someone was in trouble so she went into action. Thanks to that CPR training, she was able to help fellow attendee and club member Gary Otte, who had stopped breathing. Gary’s wife, Ruth, commented that it all seemed to go by in seconds. But much more time had actually passed while Deb helped Gary regain consciousness. It took over ten minutes for emergency responders to arrive.

When Minutes Matter is a \$570,000 campaign that aims to improve the infrastructure and emergency medical training in Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties, in order to



Deb Schneider (left) pictured with Jean Zemke (right) at the Live Well Ozaukee event in August. Supporters of this event helped raise \$50,000 for the campaign.

empower more people in the community with lifesaving tools, when minutes — even seconds — count.

“You never know when something like this might happen in your life, whether you’re at the dog club, grocery store, restaurant, work, church...” Deb says. “Life is full of things that you’re not expecting. It may be up to you take action. And you can save a life.”

And thanks to donors like you, lives are being saved. If you would like to learn more or make a gift, contact Sara Alger at sara.alger@aurora.org.

A comforting paw helps survivors heal



Stephanie and Jasper at The Healing Center.

His kind eyes are a warm welcome. His gentle nature is a calming comfort. Jasper is one of the newest “counselors” at The Healing Center, a Well-Community program of Aurora Health Care, and Wisconsin’s only free center dedicated to helping sexual assault survivors recover and thrive. Jasper has had an incredible influence on the survivors he’s shared sessions with, and he just happens to be a dog.

“We had a survivor who experienced great difficulty trusting people. During our last group session, she shared that she was able to trust Jasper’s handler. And she was able to trust the handler, because she was with Jasper, and she trusted him right away,” explains Stephanie Collins, an abuse response advocate at The Healing Center.

Jasper is the pet therapy dog of Laura Hey, of Health Healers. They began providing services for two programs at The Healing Center in January of this year. The first group was so successful that a second session was offered in March, with another Health Healers dog named Luxe. Stephanie says survivors have often asked to bring their own pets to counseling sessions, this program helps provide that comfort with trained animals in a structured setting.

“The program is based on research that supports the idea that the use of animals in therapy can decrease anxiety and enhance the therapeutic alliance in various ways. Therapy animals can often earn instant trust and the survivors feel safe. It’s easier for them to open up,” she says.

Thanks to generous lead donors Linda and Bob Davis, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s Joseph R. Pabst Fund, and fundraising events hosted by Minday Lubar Price and Community Bark, which brought in more than 25 special friends. Their support means the Pet-Assisted Healing Program will be available at The Healing Center through 2017 and beyond.

Small event, big heart: Community fundraiser supports Oshkosh assault survivors

What started out as a get-together “under the stars” to emulate Woodstock grew into a way to support an essential local service that helps those truly in need of support: survivors of sexual assault. And so, Goodstock was born.

“I teach self-defense classes at my dojo, and I come across survivors all the time,” shares Joanne Nelson. Joanne is the owner of Nelson Family Tree Farms and American Martial Arts Academy in Wautoma. She’s also an eight-degree black belt in tae kwon do and jiu-jitsu. “The issue is so widespread, and yet resources for treatment and recovery can be hard to come by outstate.”



Joanne (middle) with her granddaughter, Grace, and son, Michael.

The Goodstock event raised \$2,600 for the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, or SANE, program at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh, including a \$1,000 clothing voucher from County Cupboard, for survivors who must leave their clothing behind as evidence.

“I’m so passionate about the SANE program in Oshkosh, and being in a small town, we don’t always have a lot of resources,” says Joanne. “I wanted to give back in a way that could help provide much needed resources for the program.”

Serving a region of survivors

For Winnebago and Waushara County survivors of sexual assault, Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh is the *only* hospital in the area that offers SANE services 24 hours a day. This provides survivors with services essential to the proper collection of evidence, as well as immediate support and referrals to other support services.

Proceeds from the Goodstock event will help support the program’s operations, as well as training and support for its dedicated caregivers. Joanne says her event’s success is due to the generosity of a small community that works diligently to help each other. “In fact, including contributions from those unable to attend and our own small art auction, we’ve raised six-and-half times our initial goal,” reports Joanne. “Our community is amazing!”

Joanne, we think you’re pretty amazing, too. To find out how you can help fundraise for a Foundation cause that’s vital to your community, visit give.aurora.org/start-a-fundraiser.



How Aurora is leading the way in clinical trials

From Green Bay to Northern Illinois, Aurora Health Care wants all cancer patients to have access to the absolute best care possible. Additional grant money from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) is helping to make that possible.

NCI has awarded Aurora an additional \$125,000 beyond its projected \$755,000 annual grant for its third year of participation in the NCI’s Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP). This is the third year in a row that the NCI has increased the grant allotment to Aurora NCORP.

Aurora is one of 34 sites nationwide participating in the program, which brings clinical cancer trials to people in their own communities, instead of only at major research institutions. Conducting clinical trials in a range of communities means that a more diverse patient population can participate in clinical trials in “real world” health care settings.

Thomas Saphner, MD, an oncologist at Aurora Medical Center in Manitowoc County and NCORP co-principal investigator explains, “The NCORP grant means the latest trials are available to the people of Manitowoc County. The studies here are the same studies used at national cancer centers.”

To learn more about clinical trials at Aurora Health Care and how you can support innovation like this, contact Michelle Schuerman at michelle.schuerman@aurora.org

Inspire

aurora.org/foundationblog



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Calendar of events

Saturday

November 5

Infinity Ball

Racine Architect Hotel and Conference Center, Racine

For more information, go to give.aurora.org/infinityball

Thursday

November 10

Tradition of Caring

The Grain Exchange, Milwaukee

For more information, go to give.aurora.org/caring

Saturday

November 19

Lake Country Ball

Milwaukee Marriott West, Waukesha

For more information, go to give.aurora.org/lakecountryball

Tuesday

December 6

Tree of Angels

Aurora Zilber Family Hospice, Wauwatosa

For more information, go to give.aurora.org/toa

Saturday

February 4

Crystal Ball

Veterans Terrace at Echo Park, Burlington

For more information, go to give.aurora.org/crystalball



 Aurora Family Service®

FAMILY TO FAMILY THANKSGIVING



Presented by:

NEAR WEST SIDE

A Neighborhood of Neighborhoods

Celebrating 20 years of supporting families! Aurora Family Service's Family to Family Thanksgiving program began in 1996 as a way to provide families a holiday meal and to serve as a catalyst to bring them together around the dinner table. From one family to another, please help us celebrate this special tradition by making a gift!

Distribution day:

Monday, November 21

To learn more, go to give.aurora.org/thanksgiving



Packers fans pose with a combo meal outside Lambeau Field in support of the campaign.

Combos For A Cure: A delicious way to give

In September, Wisconsin-based Cousins Subs® hosted its second annual Combos for A Cure campaign, and donated a portion of every combo meal sold to the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation. Thank you to Cousins and its patrons, who raised a whopping \$50,000 in just 30 days! Cousins' Make It Better Foundation also contributed to the \$50,000 goal.

"Cousins Subs is a critical teammate in the trenches," says Erin Hareng, executive director of the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation.

Vince Lombardi
CANCER FOUNDATION