



GIVE WELL GIVE WELL GIVE WELL GIVE WELL GIVE WELL GIVE WELL GIVE WELL GIVE WELL GIVE WELL GIVE WELL GIVE WELL GIVE WELL GIVE WELL GIVE WELL GIVE WELL



Joe and Vera's special gift
It's "written in the walls" of
Aurora Zilber Family Hospice



Message from Cristy

Dear Friends,

As I look back on my four years as President of Aurora Health Care Foundation, I can say without a doubt that I have witnessed the powerful effects your gifts have on lives in our community. From birth to end-of-life care, you are making a difference for the people who rely on Aurora for their health care needs.

Aurora Zilber Family Hospice is one of our services that provides compassionate care in a comfortable, home-like setting for newborns to 101-year-olds during their last days. It is a vision made possible through a generous gift by Joe and Vera Zilber. This year, we are celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Aurora Zilber Family Hospice.

My father passed away two years ago and my brother just seven months ago. I remember when we discovered their time with us would be measured in days, not years. It was such a heart wrenching time for my family and me.

During that time, I wished that my hometown in Kansas had a place like Aurora Zilber Family Hospice for my father and brother to spend their final days. I have witnessed the remarkable celebration of life and peace that hospice care provides to our patients and families. It is something that I wish I could have given to my dad and brother. Each person who enters our hospice has a story to share and you'll read a few of them in this issue of Inspire.

You are receiving our Inspire magazine because of your generosity. We cannot do the amazing things we do without your support. Thank you for choosing Aurora Health Care Foundation. I wish you and your families a healthy and joyous holiday season.

Always,



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

PS: Stay connected on how your gifts are changing lives. Like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/AuroraHealthCareFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/AuroraHealthCareFoundation) or subscribe to our blog at Aurora.org/FoundationBlog.



(L-R) Cristy Garcia-Thomas and Elaine Burns, a volunteer at Aurora Zilber Family Hospice. Elaine started volunteering a year after her father passed away at Aurora Zilber. "It makes me feel closer to my dad by being here," Elaine says.

Caregivers who truly care

In 2014, Aurora caregivers pledged more than \$3.6 million to their favorite charities through the Aurora Partnership Campaign. \$1.63 million of those dollars were directed to Aurora Health Care Foundation funds. The two funds with the greatest number of gifts in 2014:

- Aurora Family Service's Family to Family Thanksgiving
- Sexual Assault Treatment Center located at Aurora Sinai Medical Center

Aurora Zilber Family Hospice CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Presented by Zilber Family Foundation

10th Anniversary sponsors:

Foley Family Foundation

Robert Sobczak - *In memory of Dr. Nancy Laning Sobczak*



Joe and Vera's special gift

It's "written in the walls" of Aurora Zilber Family Hospice



Joe and Vera Zilber made a generous gift that laid the foundation for Aurora Zilber Family Hospice.

Joe and Vera Zilber left an indelible legacy all over their beloved city of Milwaukee. Whether it's the Zilber School of Public Health at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee or the Zilber Neighborhood Initiative; Joe and Vera's passion to make Milwaukee better is evident. And at Aurora Zilber Family Hospice, that commitment is literally written in the walls.

It was early 2002 when Joe and Vera first decided they wanted to help bring the hospice to life. In Joe's book, "How I Built an Empire and Gave it Away," he shares the hospice experience they had with their own son Jimmy, and Vera's sister Joanie, had left a lasting impression. Joe was also eager to work with the program, now known as "Aurora at Home" to make it happen.

"(Aurora at Home) was a pioneer organization nationally in the area of hospice care. They go back more than 100 years, caring for the disabled, the elderly and the terminally ill. Both Vera and I were excited about the possibilities of helping out," Joe wrote.

The Zilbers committed \$1 million to create Aurora Zilber Family Hospice. It was the seed money that helped organizers secure the rest that was needed to complete the facility in just six months. Unfortunately, Vera wasn't able to see the finished project. She passed away suddenly in October 2003 before the facility even broke ground. However, on a "hard hat" tour in 2004, Joe and about 50 other friends and family members-- some of them donors as well-- got out pencils and each wrote their own special message to Vera on the drywall in an unfinished sunroom of the building.

"Vera, What a tribute to your family in this beautiful setting! May the patients who come here feel your welcome and the eternal blessings of God!" That was the

message from Art Wigchers, who was the President of Zilber, Ltd. at the time, and his wife Mary Ann.

"The written messages would be preserved for years and years within the hospice walls. In a way, those messages gave the hospice a soul," Joe wrote.

And 10 years later, Vera's warm welcome has been felt by over 5,000 families. Joe himself was even brought to Aurora Zilber in 2010 when his health quickly deteriorated on a plane ride to Wisconsin from Hawaii. Joe's daughter Marcy Jackson says her parents would be truly proud to see what their gift has become.

"My mother was a graceful, elegant and caring woman who made everyone feel at ease and comfortable. My father was a playful yet practical man. The hint of laughter in his voice and the twinkle in his eye were as much a part of him as his readiness to move on to the next adventure. My parents' legacy lives on in what the staff and volunteers at the hospice do so well - bringing grace and comfort to ease the way for people nearing the end of life," says Marcy.

You can support this legacy of care by attending the 10th Anniversary Celebration. Go to give.aurora.org/zilber10 to purchase a ticket or learn more.

A Walk to Remember



(L-R) Aurora Zilber Family Hospice's Dr. Glenn Ragalie with his wife Betty, sister Dee Ragalie and colleague Dr. Mike Malone (second row) joined more than 300 others at October's 10th Anniversary Walk for Aurora Zilber Family Hospice. Walkers came out to Hart Park in Wauwatosa and raised more than \$30,000 to support the program.

Partnering to give cancer patients new hope

Hope is getting a new home in the form of a brand new state-of-the-art cancer center in western Racine and Walworth Counties. Aurora Health Care Foundation's *Partners in Cancer Care* campaign was officially launched in January of 2015. It's a two year, \$2.2 million community fundraising effort to expand patient services at the new cancer center. In less than a year, over \$1.6 million has already been raised! What helped jump start the campaign was a \$1 million gift earlier this year from the Memorial Hospital of Burlington Community Foundation.



The new Aurora Cancer Care center is part of a larger Aurora Health Center being built near Spring Valley Road and Highway 36.

"There's a lot of excitement over Aurora making such a big investment in this community. We just haven't seen this before and now that it's happening people want to get behind it," says Chris Miller, Memorial Hospital of Burlington Community Foundation President.

The Benefit Ball Committee at Aurora Lakeland Medical Center also committed \$340,000 for a café at the facility, and the McGMO golf outing has pledged \$225,000. We are truly grateful for these generous gifts, plus to supporters of this year's Crystal Ball in Burlington, Lombardi Walk to Tackle Cancer in Williams Bay, Waterford Balloonfest and Color for Care event; all of which contributed to the *Partners in Cancer Care* campaign.

Join our campaign to ensure your family, friends and neighbors have access to the best cancer services available. Go to give.aurora.org/cancercenter to make a gift or learn more.



A community of first responders

There is an emergency in Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties and donors are responding to the call! The *When Minutes Matter* campaign was launched in October 2014, and has now grown to a \$650,000 effort that will support emergency services in both counties. So far, we are about halfway there with nearly \$300,000 raised.

The national average survival rate from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is around 5%. This campaign aims to improve that by: implementing Emergency Medical Dispatch, supporting EMS on-scene, providing additional EMS training through computerized patient simulation, placement of Automated External Defibrillators in the community and training our communities in CPR. To date, the campaign has helped train more than 300 people in CPR, and another significant achievement is just around the corner.

"We are excited to help implement Emergency Medical Dispatch this November, which will enable 911 dispatchers to offer life-saving, pre-arrival instructions prior to professional help arriving. This will improve survival rates from cardiac arrest and other serious medical conditions," says Steven Zils, MD, Out of Hospital Medical Director for Aurora Medical Center in Grafton and Sheboygan.



Donors of the Live Well Ozaukee event in August contributed \$45,000 toward the *When Minutes Matter* campaign.

The time to give is NOW!

The ACUTY Charitable Foundation has announced a generous \$125,000 match to all community donations for the *When Minutes Matter* campaign! We are about halfway there, so the time to give is NOW! To make a gift or learn more about this important campaign, please go to give.aurora.org/minutesmatter.



You can support families in need this Thanksgiving

Sharon Adams has been volunteering at Byron Kilbourn Elementary School in Milwaukee for more than a decade. She sees firsthand how hard some families struggle to put food on the table, especially around Thanksgiving.

"I can't tell you how many times over the years, families thought they weren't going to have anything special at Thanksgiving, and then all of a sudden they did," Sharon explains.

It's all possible because of gifts to Aurora Family Service's Family to Family Thanksgiving program. A donation of



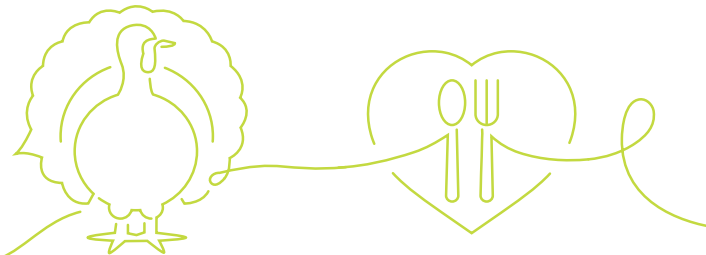
Sharon was overwhelmed with gratitude as her van was filled with turkeys and grocery bags of food in 2014.

\$35 provides an entire set of groceries, including a turkey, mashed potatoes, fruit, vegetables, stuffing and rolls. Volunteers and staff then pack the bags for 3,100 families in need. Most importantly, it means these families can enjoy this special holiday meal around the table, together.

In 2014, Sharon picked up bags of food for 25 families. She says the school is already looking for families to participate in 2015 and she can't wait to help spread the joy.

"When I get back here with the food, many of the kids help unload all of the groceries and they just really appreciate it. It's so wonderful how people really do care," she says.

Since 1996, Aurora Family Service has provided ingredients for more than 55,000 deserving families. Go to aurora.org/thanksgiving to make a gift or learn more.



Oh what a night! In September, a sold-out crowd came out to the BMO Harris Bradley Center for the 2015 Aurora Signature Gala, *Imagine the Future*. Local business woman and Aurora Health Care Board Member Nan Gardetto, along with Wisconsin restaurateurs Jennifer and Joe Bartolotta, served as co-chairs for this event. The event raised \$710,000 to advance medical discovery at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center and provide access to quality care through Aurora Walker's Point Community Clinic.



Aurora Health Care CEO Dr. Nick Turkal, Kathy Turkal, Richard Slater, Nan Gardetto, Jennifer and Joe Bartolotta and Cristy Garcia-Thomas.



Many of the more than 800 guests filled the dance floor with a surprise performance by KC and the Sunshine Band! **This high-energy performance was presented by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.**



How bereavement services helped Robert Sobczak on the road to healing

Robert and Nancy Sobczak were together 39 wonderful years. When you hear how fondly he speaks of her, it is clear he simply adored her.

“The thing about Nancy, she was so many things; an engineer, a farm girl, a singer, a pilot. She was so passionate about Marquette University,” Robert says. “She was a gourmet cook. She could do so many wonderful things.”

Because Nancy was the true love of his life, you can also imagine the heartbreaking devastation Robert felt when he lost her. Nancy was diagnosed in 2008 with breast cancer; it was an aggressive form and eventually spread to her brain and spine. By 2011, after an incredibly courageous fight, her battle ended. Nancy spent three days at Aurora Zilber Family Hospice.



(L-R) Robert and Nancy Sobczak. Robert says the support he received at Aurora Zilber “didn’t just end” after he lost his wife, Nancy.

“That’s where Nancy softly stepped into eternity. And yet months later, their job wasn’t over. I was surprised when they called me and suggested their bereavement meetings,” Robert says.

Robert attended eight bereavement sessions and learned that grieving is a process of discovery. “The process was very revealing to me. The answers are within you, you just have to find the right people to bring them out. Being able to go through it with people who were in the same boat as me was really a Godsend,” he says.

Jocelynn Hosea-Davis is the Bereavement Coordinator at Aurora Zilber Family Hospice. Her goal is to keep in touch with families for at least 13 months after their loved one passes away.

“We do outreach calls, support groups, bereavement workshops and other things to build coping skills. 13 months is important because it gets them past that one year anniversary,” Jocelynn says.

Robert still keeps in touch with the other people in his bereavement group; they get together about once a month. He also comes back to Aurora Zilber every year around the time of Nancy’s passing, to make a financial gift as well.

“I look forward to coming back,” Robert shares. “I don’t know if I would be where I am today if it wasn’t for Aurora Zilber. I feel so fortunate that we found it.”

You can support the compassionate end-of-life care offered at Aurora Zilber Family Hospice. Go to give.aurora.org/Zilber10 to make a gift and learn more.



Former Milwaukee Brewer lends time and support

We are grateful to have the partnership of former Milwaukee Brewers two-time All-Star Jeff Cirillo for the Aurora Golf Classic in July. The event raised more than \$120,000 to support the compassionate care offered at Aurora Zilber Family Hospice. Not only did Cirillo golf with the participants, he also stopped by Aurora Zilber before the event to visit with a patient—a 6-year-old boy who loved baseball.

“As a father, seeing how hard caregivers at Aurora Zilber Family Hospice work to bring a little light into such a sad situation really impressed me and made me proud to lend my name to this event,” Cirillo says.



(L-R) Jeff Cirillo is pictured with Greg Vaughn and Steve Woodard at the Aurora Golf Classic. All are former Milwaukee Brewers players. Next year’s event will be on Monday, July 18. Get your foursome together now! To learn more, contact Judi Strout at judi.strout@aurora.org.

Verizon Foundation provides grant to help more high risk patients recover at home

A generous grant of \$15,600 from the Verizon Foundation will allow Aurora at Home to add 20 new telemonitoring units that will help an estimated 200 additional patients with in-home health monitoring needs.



(L-R) Aurora at Home's Ray Darcey, with Verizon's Jim Zmich and Hannah McKnight, pose with Aurora at Home's Melissa Jordan and Amy Shockley, as Verizon presents their check for the telemonitoring program.

"This gift will support the continued growth and development of Aurora at Home's Telemonitor Program. The additional equipment will allow for increased ability to provide chronic disease management and self-management support for vulnerable patient populations in the community," said Melissa Jordan, RN, Director of Quality at Aurora at Home.

Telemonitoring services allows patients to be safely monitored in the comforts of their own home. This includes even the most vulnerable patients, like people treated for heart disease, high blood pressure and other conditions. Through remote patient monitoring, patients can view their individual health action plans, recognize early warning signs and receive chronic disease management strategies and education. Aurora at Home Registered Nurses work with physicians to remotely monitor a patient's condition and progress. This includes monitoring the vital signs of heart rate, blood pressure, weight, oxygen saturation and temperature.

If you would like to support this Aurora at Home program or to learn more, contact Judi Strout at judi.strout@aurora.org.

Inspiring innovation in research

Congratulations to the following individuals who were recognized this fall by Aurora Research Institute for achievements in patient-centered research:

- Craig Hummer, Subject Hero Award
- Elizabeth Marriott, MD, Clinical Trials Research Award
- Michael Michalkiewicz, PhD, Investigator-Initiated Research Award
- Joseph Davies, MD, Senior Investigator Award
- Ulugbek Negmadjanov, MD, New Investigator Award
- Michael Mullane, MD, Research Champion Award
- Biorepository and Specimen Resource Center, Research Team Award (Natalie Polinske, MS, Anne-Marie McAnelly, Kujana Clayton, Brittany Last)
- Ashley Gehrand, MS, Research Service Award
- Whitney Jacobson, BSN, Research Service Award
- Robyn Shearer, MS, Research Service Award
- Leslie Waltke, DPT, JPCRR Article of the Year Award

Daniel O'Hair, MD, and Richard Rovin, MD, presented highlights of Aurora's latest innovations in cardiovascular and neurosciences research. They discussed successes of Aurora's Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement

Program, and robotic optical imaging advances Aurora is leading for the care of patients with neurological disorders.

Your gifts to Aurora Health Care Foundation can support research and inspire innovation. To make a gift or learn more, go to give.aurora.org/donate.



2015 Greater Milwaukee Clinical Research Awardee Recipients pose for a photo (not pictured: Joseph Davies, MD and Anne-Marie McAnelly)

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Wednesday, December 9

Aurora Zilber Family Hospice
1155 N. Honey Creek Parkway
Wauwatosa, WI

Join us for a very special Tree of Angels event to honor your loved ones and celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Aurora Zilber Family Hospice. In addition to the keepsake angel ornament available every year, this year we will also be offering a special commemorative angel for \$250. To purchase one or learn more, contact Judi Strout at judi.strout@aurora.org.

Calendar of events

Thursday
November 12

Tradition of Caring

Best Place at Pabst Brewery, Milwaukee
This event benefits Aurora Sinai Medical Center.
Go to give.aurora.org/caring

Saturday
November 21

Lake Country Gala

Marriott Milwaukee West Hotel, Waukesha
This event benefits Aurora Medical Center in Summit. Go to give.aurora.org/lakecountrygala

Tuesday
December 1

Aurora Zilber Family Hospice 10th Anniversary Celebration

The Wisconsin Club, Milwaukee
This event benefits Aurora Zilber Family Hospice.
Go to give.aurora.org/zilber10

Wednesday
December 9

Aurora Zilber Family Hospice Tree of Angels

Aurora Zilber Family Hospice, Wauwatosa
This event benefits Aurora Zilber Family Hospice.
Go to give.aurora.org/zilber10

Saturday
February 6

Crystal Ball

Veterans Terrace at Echo Park, Burlington
This event benefits the Partners in Cancer Care campaign. Go to give.aurora.org/crystalball



Leaders from Cousins Subs and its *Make It Better Foundation* presented a \$50,000 check to the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation after raising dollars through its first-ever 'Combos for A Cure' campaign. Throughout September, Cousins Subs earmarked a portion of all combo sales to support this effort. Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation is a dedicated supporter of Aurora Cancer Care.

(L-R) Cancer patient Ellen Guenther joins Aurora Cancer Care's Dr. Federico Sanchez, Cousins Subs' Justin McCoy, Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation's Erin Hareng, Aurora Cancer Care's Dr. James Weese and Cousins Subs' Jason Westoff for the check presentation.