

Message from Cristy



Marie Golanowski, President of Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center, and Cristy Garcia-Thomas, President of Aurora Health Care Foundation and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Aurora Health Care

Dear Friends,

I recently spoke with Marie Golanowski, president of Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center, about how the hospital is on the forefront of research and technology and why it is so important to our communities.

It's an honor to be a part of a health care system that provides exceptional care today and is dedicated to leading the way in shaping tomorrow's medical advancements. We couldn't do it without our donors, physicians, caregivers and volunteers.

Always,

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

Q: What draws people from all over the world here, to Aurora St. Luke's in Milwaukee, to receive care?

Marie: The expertise and reputation of our physicians and nurses, as well as the overall exceptional care people receive here. We have leading-edge research and technology available to patients delivered in an integrated and comprehensive care model.

This is a part of the culture at Aurora St. Luke's and it is reflected by caregivers at every level. Our support service caregivers understand the important part they play to keep our campus safe, clean and in good condition, our volunteers who give their time freely and without reservation, and our nurses who make a connection with each person they treat. I could go on and on about everyone who makes Aurora St. Luke's a great place.

Q: What makes you the most proud?

Marie: The commitment of our physicians and all clinical and non-clinical caregivers; they are never satisfied with status quo. Their compassion and kindness to each other and all who enter our doors inspires me every day.

Q: There is a history of caregivers staying at Aurora St. Luke's. Why do you think that is?

Marie: It is the sense of community and support received for and from each other; the sense that they are truly making a difference each time they walk through our doors; and the complexity of the care we provide helps to push and encourage them to grow.

Q: Why is donor support so important?

Marie: There are no words to thank the people who helped us become who we are today and for many, their families have continued that generosity. Donations help to advance care and fund the technology and research to keep us on the cutting-edge. It is this support and trust that allows Aurora St. Luke's to continue on this journey of being a leader in health care.



IMAGINE THE FUTURE

A Gala to Celebrate
Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center
Saturday, September 12

Event co-chairs: Nan Gardetto | Jennifer and Joe Bartolotta

Signature Sponsor:





Premier Sponsors:

Aurora Health Care Medical Group/ Aurora Cardiovascular Services	Aurora Health Care Medical Group/ System Imaging Division	Aurora Orthopedics
		
		

Presenting Sponsors:

Aurora Health Care Medical Group/ System Critical Care Division	Aurora Metro Medical Staff
Jennifer and Joe Bartolotta	Nan Gardetto
	
	
	
	

Why the Bartolottas call Aurora St. Luke's a "5-star experience"

Joe Bartolotta knows what it takes to make a customer happy. Joe and his brother Paul opened their first restaurant, Ristorante Bartolotta, in Wauwatosa in 1993. Joe has since become one of the area's most well-known restaurateurs, opening many restaurants in Milwaukee and the surrounding suburbs, many of which are on Milwaukee's "Best of" lists every year.

"I've built a company of over 1,000 employees in 14 locations, so taking a risk is something I'm comfortable with," Joe says. Joe would learn that comfort in taking a risk would come in handy, even when it came to his personal health.

Joe was diagnosed with diabetes in 1981. In 2010 he began to suffer the devastating effects of the disease, particularly on his kidneys. His doctors at the time told him that transplant wasn't an option and he needed to start dialysis.

"It was at that point that we sought a second opinion from Aurora St. Luke's. We were so very fortunate to find ourselves in Dr. Bijoy Khandheria's office on a Saturday afternoon - for over two hours! But during the next two years, with the help of Dr. Khandheria, Joe lost 70 pounds, was able to better control his blood pressure and blood sugar levels, and he made himself eligible for a living-kidney-donor transplant. My baby brother, Jamie Shiparski, agreed to be the donor," shares Joe's wife, Jennifer.

"He's my angel, Jamie saved my life. Unsolicited, completely out of the kindness of his heart, he just said 'I'm in. I'll get tested'," Joe explains.

And so in February of 2013, Ajay Sahajpal, MD, and Jeffery Steers, MD, both Aurora transplant surgeons, successfully did what other doctors told Joe couldn't be done, and completed a living-kidney-donor transplant. "My kidney function was down to 12 percent. And less than 15 minutes after surgery, my function shot up to 98 percent. It is a miracle. It really is," Joe says.

Joe and Jennifer are incredibly grateful to her brother Jamie for offering himself as the donor, and they feel blessed for the expertise of their Aurora physicians. But



Joe and Jennifer Bartolotta

Jennifer says what made the greatest impression on them was the way she and her husband were cared for, the minute they walked in the doors at Aurora St. Luke's.

"There is a very unique and certainly unexpected culture that permeates Aurora St. Luke's," Jennifer explains. "We always get the sense that everyone we come in contact with from the valet to the foodservice workers and of course the 'traditional caregivers' were created to respond to a higher calling, one of true service and of genuine care and concern."

"We can send back a steak that isn't cooked properly. Nobody is going to die. But in health care, you don't have that affordability, that luxury. From my perspective, it was absolutely a 5-star experience," Joe says.

A happy customer, indeed.

*The Bartolottas and the Bartolotta Charitable Fund have generously supported Aurora Health Care for more than a decade. Donor gifts to Aurora St. Luke's help to advance medical discovery and transform lives. To make a gift or learn more, contact Maureen Schuerman at maureen.schuerman@aurora.org.

The future is happening **NOW** at Aurora St. Lukes

- Transplant program is listed among top 5% in the nation
- Performs more aortic valve replacements than any other health system in the state
- Has one of the nation's largest Multiple Sclerosis treatment centers
- To learn more about what makes Aurora St. Luke's so special, go to aurorastlukes.org

The Spirit of Aurora St. Luke's

Because of your generosity, caregivers are transforming lives and



Elizabeth Marriott, MD

Medical Director of Stroke Program, Neurology

“ It’s comforting for me to know that no matter what time a patient comes to Aurora St. Luke’s, either through the ER or through transfer from another hospital, we have all options available to us all the time. So we can provide the most timely and effective stroke care for our patients. ”

Vicente Diaz

Facilities

“ I know a woman who used to come for treatment and she loved the flowers outside the hospital. Every time she would see us she would compliment the flowers, and I take pride in that. ”



Nina Garlie, PhD

Director of Regenerative Medicine Center

“ If my husband develops heart disease, I would want him to receive care at Aurora St. Luke’s and nowhere else. This hospital offers our patients the latest investigational drugs and devices through clinical trials, sometimes that they cannot get anywhere else. ”

Ajay Sahajpal, MD

Transplant Surgeon

“ The institution as a whole believes in our philosophy which is, both transplant and complex cancer surgeries should be offered to all patients regardless of how sick they are. They deserve a chance. ”



Faye Zwieg

Vice President of Nursing

“ Our nurses really are the backbone of the hospital and they truly care about each person who walks through these doors. ”

Daniel O’Hair, MD

Cardio Thoracic Surgeon

“ I am most proud of our ability to build a team of skilled staff and physicians that can offer the best and latest therapies to all our heart patients. Most of our patients are quite sick when they meet us, and many of them are feeling much better before they even leave the hospital. I get a lot of satisfaction out of that. ”



personalizing care everyday.



Nicholas Webber, MD

Orthopedic Oncologist

“ Aurora St. Luke’s means the best possible care for every patient. By combining the services of premiere specialists with exceptional resources and patient support, Aurora St. Luke’s provides an expert health care team to every patient – a combination that is available nowhere else. ”



Marie Oman

Medical Oncology Technician

“ The patients are why I’m here. They’re very inspirational to me, I’ve learned so much from them; how to be strong and how to be stoic. I could have retired after being here 27 years, but I don’t want to leave my wonderful patients. ”



Joel Wallskog, MD

Orthopedic Surgeon

“ I am proud to provide orthopedic services at Aurora St. Luke’s. Patients receive cutting edge, quality, coordinated and comprehensive orthopedic care. From a simple carpal tunnel surgery to a complicated revision joint replacement, Aurora St Luke’s has the capacity to provide the entire spectrum of orthopedics. ”

Christine Collins

Patient Service Assistant

“ We’re here to take care of their needs, and make sure they get to their destinations in a safe and timely manner. I’m a people person and I love helping people and making sure their needs are met. ”



Jennifer Cooper

Research Nurse Coordinator

“ I have worked at Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center for 38 years. They have provided me with many diversified nursing opportunities so that I am constantly challenged. In addition, I have the support to pursue my Bachelor of Science in Nursing at age 60! ”



Jeff Casper

Facilities

“ I think the appearance on the outside has a lot to do with their impression of the facility. If they see the outside is well-maintained and clean, they’ll probably think the inside has to be just as great. ”

You're providing care for those with nowhere else to go

Aurora Walker's Point Community Clinic is the largest free clinic in Wisconsin with the highest percentage of uninsured persons in the state. In 2014, the clinic provided nearly 12,000 clinic visits to over 3,400 people. These are individuals who have nowhere else to go for important and sometimes lifesaving care. But the true impact at Aurora Walker's Point isn't the treatment being offered on any given day, it's the promise it brings for a brighter future.

17-year-old Jazmin Sanchez arrived at Aurora Walker's Point in the fall of 2014 with medical issues she hadn't shared with anyone. Jazmin had serious depression and her relationships with family members, including her parents, were in disarray. Jazmin shared her concerns for the first time with a nurse during her primary care visit. The nurse recommended counseling and Jazmin started seeing Staff Psychologist Leslie Davis.

"With my parents, I don't really talk to them about my problems. I have just kept it inside of me. But I come here and she listens to everything. I just open up," Jazmin says.

Thanks to donations and community grants to Aurora Health Care Foundation's Well Community Fund, specialists like Leslie were brought on full time to the clinic last year. Well Community donors are addressing gaps in health care delivery, ultimately making our community stronger. Leslie says most patients, like Jazmin, are referred to her from a primary care visit.

"The referrals for counseling might come after someone had tears during their medical visit, or because of uncontrolled diabetes or frequent headaches, and they have ruled out any medical basis for it. Sure enough, what often comes out is trauma they are disclosing for the first time, or severe depression or even domestic violence," Leslie explains.



Jazmin (*left*) and Leslie sit down for a counseling session at Aurora Walker's Point Community Clinic

Aurora Walker's Point Community Clinic is a community benefit service by Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center. Many of tomorrow's caregivers turn their academic studies into hands-on patient experience in the areas of primary and urgent care, health education, nursing and behavioral health services, among others. They are helping people like Jazmin, who thought they had nowhere to turn.

"The nurses here have really helped me with my problems. And Leslie listens and doesn't judge me, she is a very special person in my life. I've never met a person like her," Jazmin says.

After seeing Leslie for over six months, Jazmin now says she feels like her depression has faded, her relationship with her parents is much better and she's even looking ahead to something no one else in her family has ever done: going to college.

"I want to be a nurse. And I also like soccer. It's like therapy for me; so maybe sports medicine," Jazmin says. It's a future she couldn't even imagine, just six months ago.

Aurora Walker's Point Community Clinic is the largest clinic of its kind in the state. It provides bilingual urgent, primary and specialty health care. The clinic is an Emergency Room referral site and a site for hospital referral for the uninsured. **You can support the Clinic by making a gift in the attached envelope and selecting "Well Community."**

How your gifts **grow talent** and **advance research**

To provide the best outcomes for their patients, Aurora Health Care doctors balance research and teaching with expert care.

“These talented physicians from the best medical centers and fellowship programs provide clinical care, conduct research and pass on that knowledge to the next generation of practitioners,” said Randall Lambrecht, PhD, president of Aurora Research Institute and the senior vice president of Academic Relations for Aurora Health Care.

Building on 20 years of experience in cellular therapy, Aurora researchers are studying investigational stem cell treatment options to restore normal heart and artery functions through clinical trials. Additionally, investigator-initiated research is also focused on studying brain cancer stem cells to develop new treatment options.

“The Regenerative Medicine Center at Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center integrates research and clinical care in an environment conducive to innovation,” Dr. Lambrecht said. “Physicians and research scientists work together to develop personalized approaches to treat diseases, learning from the patient’s own body and its ability to recognize and fight disease, then heal and regenerate.”

The Biorepository and Specimen Resource Center, located at Aurora St. Luke’s, houses Aurora’s brain cancer stem cell bank and provides tissue and blood samples for research uses ranging from Alzheimer’s disease to ovarian cancer to congestive heart failure.

Dr. Lambrecht’s team supports the research efforts of fellows – doctors seeking advanced training in a particular specialty.

Thanks to a \$1 million donation from Tim and Vivian Sullivan, the institute offers the Sullivan Cardiac Research Award for Residents and Fellows in interventional cardiology.

Daniel Ortiz, MD, received the first Sullivan award as a resident in 2014. His research successes gave him a boost that made him a top candidate for the 2015-16 Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program, based at Aurora St. Luke’s.



“Dr. Ortiz’s research has led to the development of a tool that categorizes patients at greatest risk for bleeding during treatment for peripheral vascular disease,” Dr. Lambrecht said. “This tool allows better management of patients and improved outcomes.”

Research associate Anne-Marie McAnelly stores brain cancer samples in an ultra-low-temperature freezer (-80° C).



Mark Mewissen, MD, collaborates with Daniel Ortiz, MD, recipient of the Sullivan Cardiac Research Award for Residents and Fellows

Cardiac research findings challenge studies behind FDA warning on testosterone therapy

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently required that all testosterone prescriptions include a warning label about possible increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

The next day researchers from Aurora Health Care’s Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani Center for Integrative Research on Cardiovascular Aging (CIRCA) presented new findings challenging previous studies that led to the warning.

After studying more than 7,000 men with low testosterone, these researchers led by Arshad Jahangir, MD, found the therapy did not cause cardiovascular harm. This research was possible because of a generous \$2 million donation from His Highness in 2014.

You can support research at Aurora St. Luke’s by making a gift in the attached envelope and selecting “Research.” To learn more about Aurora’s Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani Center for Integrative Research on Cardiovascular Aging visit aurora.org/circa.

inspire

aurora.org/foundationblog



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Celebrating
10
years

Walk with us in memory of a loved one and celebrate Aurora Zilber Family Hospice's 10 years of providing care and comfort to more than 5,000 people.

10TH ANNIVERSARY



Aurora Zilber Family Hospice

**Sunday, October 4
8 to 11 a.m.**

Hart Park, Wauwatosa

All proceeds from this 5K Walk benefit Aurora Zilber Family Hospice.

Register now at
aurora.org/zilberwalk

Calendar of events

Friday
August 14

Live Well Ozaukee

The Watermark at Shully's, Thiensville
For more information, go to
give.aurora.org/livewellozaukee

Saturday
September 12

Aurora Signature Gala

BMO Harris Bradley Center, Milwaukee
For more information, go to
give.aurora.org/imagine

Saturday
September 19

Lombardi Leather & Legends

The House of Harley-Davidson, Milwaukee
For more information, go to
lombardifoundation.org

Saturday
October 3

Infinity Ball

The Club at Strawberry Creek, Kenosha
For more information, go to
give.aurora.org/infinityball

Wednesday
October 7

Evening of Promise

Summit Place, West Allis
For more information, go to
give.aurora.org/promise

Saturday
October 17

Live Well Oshkosh

Brighton Acres Farm, Oshkosh
For more information, go to
give.aurora.org/livewelloshkosh

To support the many critical services and programs funded by Aurora Health Care Foundation, please consider becoming a member of our Infinity Society with a gift of \$1,000 or more.

To learn more, email thankyou@aurora.org.