He’s Back! Santana Dotson, the 2017 Lombardi Walk/Run to Tackle Cancer Chairperson
The reason the Green Bay Packers Hall of Famer cares so much

Santana gives a lift to one of his smallest fans, Cooper Haas, at the 2016 Lombardi Walk/Run in Milwaukee.
Dear Friends,

After a long winter, many of us look forward to spring and the happiness that comes along with it. A little sunshine and fresh air can bring a sense of hope and optimism. And it is with hope in our hearts that we continue to dedicate our efforts to tackling cancer in 2017.

With our generous partner, the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation, we tackle cancer as a team. This year, we were able to grow our Lombardi Walks to Tackle Cancer to 10 locations throughout eastern Wisconsin. Together, we raise funds not only to support Aurora Cancer Care programs, but to support ground-breaking cancer research and provide people with the most advanced treatment options—all close to home.

Last year, I lost a dear friend of mine to this devastating disease. I ran the Lombardi Walk/Run to Tackle Cancer in Milwaukee for him and many other loved ones. And this year, on May 21, I along with fifteen of our local community advocates, public figures and business leaders will come together in the fight against cancer for an event called Stepping with the Stars. Proceeds will benefit Aurora at Home’s cancer care programs. In this issue, you will also hear how cancer has personally impacted Santana Dotson, a former Green Bay Packers Hall of Famer, and the Lombardi Walks Chairperson. And you’ll see some of the “Lombardi Walk Champions” and the many reasons they are so dedicated to this cause. Their hard work absolutely inspires me. I’m sure you’ll be inspired too.

I am thankful for our Lombardi Walk committees, teams and volunteers who play such a huge role in this effort. And thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we will continue to provide hope and change lives.

Always,

Cristy Garcia-Thomas
Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Aurora Health Care, and President, Aurora Health Care Foundation
Why Santana Dotson cares so much about tackling cancer

Fist bumps, high-fives, selfies, you name it. When Santana Dotson rallies people to tackle cancer, he’s all in. Santana is about to return for his fourth straight year as the Chairperson for the Lombardi Walk/Run to Tackle Cancer in Milwaukee. One reason he keeps coming back is because he’s always liked being a part of a winning team.

“Vince Lombardi was legendary with what he did on the football field, but also now with how he’s impacting cancer through the foundation. So to be a part of that legacy, as a Packer at Lambeau Field, and with the foundation, it’s an honor and a blessing and a privilege,” Santana says.

He is a former Defensive Tackle for the Green Bay Packers, helping them win a championship in 1997, and is now in the Packers Hall of Fame. His football accomplishments are impressive, but there was always someone in his life who kept him grounded, someone who reminded him about the importance of giving back—his mother, Caroline.

“Being the son of a social worker, that tells you all you need to know. She wasn’t concerned about all-American or Super Bowl. She was concerned about how I was making not only my family better but my community better,” Santana shares.

His mom is another reason he supports the Lombardi Walks, not only because of those lessons she taught, but because of the impact this horrible disease had on her. Santana lost his mom to lymphoma three years ago. He and his sister took her to treatments several days a week.

“It upsets the entire support system and family unit. So for me to come to the walk and give people a hug or a high-five, it’s like a pep rally. It’s Lombardi’s way of saying, you can do it and we are here for you.”

If you’re a cancer survivor or want to support others in your community, you can join Santana’s team at one of 10 Lombardi Walks to Tackle Cancer this year. Santana will be in Milwaukee on July 22 and he’ll be ready with a fist bump, if you need it.
Honoring some Lombardi Walk Champions!

**Milwaukee: Dr. Nicholas Webber**

If you're going to tackle cancer, you'll want to have some warriors on your team. The “Sarcoma Warriors” have raised nearly $65,000 in the fight against cancer over the last five years. They are led by Nicholas Webber, MD, who specializes in orthopedic oncology, including the diagnosis and treatment of primary benign and malignant tumors of bone and soft tissue, or sarcomas, at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center.

“When I’m there it really is not as a physician, but as someone supporting the patients who are dealing with their disease on a day when we can all be a part of something bigger than ourselves,” he says.

**Oconomowoc: Angela Sampson**

You could say Angela Sampson is good at getting things organized. She’s a medical dosimetrist at Aurora Medical Center in Summit, so she does the treatment planning for all patients receiving radiation therapy. “I tell the radiation where to go and what to avoid,” Angela explains.

That ability to come up with a plan came in handy last year when she helped recruit over 75 people to join her team for the first ever Lombardi Walk to Tackle Cancer in Oconomowoc. “I walk for our patients. Not a day goes by that our team isn’t making a difference in someone’s life,” she shares.

**Williams Bay: Amy Patek**

In 2016, Amy Patek organized over 50 people in her small town community to join her team. And she did so in the middle of her husband, Jeff, fighting for his own life, as he’d been diagnosed with gall bladder cancer in 2014. Unfortunately, just one week after the walk, Jeff lost his battle at the young age of 49. So it’s been a tough road for Amy and their three girls. But they will be back again this year, because they’ve learned how important community support can be.

“It would be nice for people to support their local cancer programs, because you never know when you might need to use it. I never thought that Jeff would get cancer and pass away at 49. It means a great deal,” she shares.

**Kenosha: Lynda Ruffolo, RN**

Lynda Ruffolo has worked in health care for more than 20 years. She is a registered nurse at Aurora Medical Center in Kenosha and worked in the oncology department for over eight years. Lynda decided to join the Lombardi Walk to Tackle Cancer because her co-workers committed to have a team, the Kenosha Cancer Kickers. She was the team captain.

“During the fall, a patient that supported our efforts lost his battle. He was one of the fiercest warriors I ever met. It was then I decided to continue to carry out the team captain position for the coming years.” Lynda believes participating as a team is a visible way to show her patients and their families that they are all in this together!
Donor Spotlight

Germantown: Chrissy Carroll

Chrissy Carroll is a health educator for Aurora’s HMR Program for weight management in Germantown. As a health educator, she thought the walk was a great way to motivate her patients to get moving for a worthy cause. “My request was that they would walk with us on that day so they could build up their walking minutes. One patient, Jim, pushed himself with his physical activity goals leading up to the event just so he could participate. His son, who lived in another state, flew in to support him at the walk!” Chrissy signed up as a team captain and got 31 others to join her, proving that exercise can not only feel good, but do good, too.

Oshkosh: Sherry Loderbauer

Sherry Loderbauer was diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer in November 2015. She is deeply grateful for the caring treatment she received from Aurora Cancer Care in Oshkosh, recommended to her after an unpleasant experience elsewhere.

While going through chemotherapy, Sherry signed up for the Lombardi Walk to Tackle Cancer, creating a team of 15 walkers. “Every week or so, I’d update my Caring Bridge site with my condition,” she explained. “I also included a link to the Lombardi Walk site so it was really easy for people to donate.” Sherry and many of her family members who have also been affected by cancer will be back again this year.

Green Bay: Linda Moudry

Over the past two years, Linda Moudry has raised almost $20,000 for the Lombardi Walk to Tackle Cancer. She does it in honor of her best friend Kay, who over time battled breast, lung, liver and brain cancer. Kay lost her battle several years ago, but her courage is what motivates Linda to keep helping others just like her. “Kay’s doctor at the time called her “The Lioness” because of her strength. Many of my friends have been affected by this terrible disease,” she says. “Nothing will change if we all sit back and wait for someone else to do something about it.”

Sheboygan: Sandy Flipse Claerbout

Breast cancer runs in Sandy Flipse Claerbout’s family. Her mother is a survivor, but never had to go through treatment. When Sandy was diagnosed, however, she needed a lumpectomy, a lymph node biopsy, 16 rounds of chemotherapy and 33 rounds of radiation. Sandy is incredibly thankful for the expertise and compassionate care she received from her team of caregivers, mainly at the Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic in Sheboygan. She walked last year with her 21-year-old daughter, Stephanie, in Sheboygan’s first ever Lombardi Walk to Tackle Cancer. It was a way to give back to those at the clinic who gave her so much. “Everyone at Aurora is so fabulous,” she concludes. “They are angels on earth.”

Two Rivers: Patsy Walesh

When you consider risk factors, Patsy Walesh wasn’t supposed to get breast cancer. She didn’t have a family history, she breastfed four healthy babies and even went through early menopause. But she learned in June 2013 that cancer doesn’t care. She was diagnosed with stage 2B, and it had spread to several lymph nodes. She had multiple surgeries, four months of chemotherapy and 36 rounds of radiation. She is now in remission.

When the Lombardi Walk to Tackle Cancer came to Two Rivers last year, not only did Patsy help gather more than two dozen of her friends and family to walk, she spoke at the event and volunteered to take pictures. “When you’re diagnosed with cancer, you have a connection. It doesn’t go away when your cancer goes away. I know it can happen to anybody,” Patsy shares.

For more information, visit: aurora.org/foundation
How you are making a difference for those fighting cancer

When you ask people if they’ve been affected by cancer, chances are few would say no. At Aurora Health Care, our donors are passionate about making a difference in the lives of those battling this horrible disease. In fact, one in three gifts to Aurora Health Care Foundation last year were directed to support the amazing work led by Aurora Cancer Care in communities across our system. We work closely with our cancer care leaders to help identify ways to make the best care available close to home. Together, we raise funds for the following areas that are imperative for patient success:

• Support fellowships in surgical oncology, so we can continue to train some of the best physicians at Aurora on the latest techniques in their area of care.

• Provide dollars for Cancer Research Awards – annual seed dollars provided to Aurora Health Care physicians and scientists across our system who are leading local cancer research.

• Support for local survivorship programs and integrative medicine therapies at our cancer clinics – such as acupuncture, reiki and massage therapy – to help patients during and after times of care.

• Continued funding for our Spanish Speaking Clinic at Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center – the only clinic of its kind in the state providing care for people who prefer care in a Spanish-speaking environment.

For more information on how you can make a difference in supporting cancer care at Aurora, contact Dawn Groshek at dawn.groshek@aurora.org.

In 2017, an estimated 33,000 people in Wisconsin will hear the words “you have cancer” for the very first time.

*American Cancer Society Facts and Figures, 2017

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Lombardi Walk/Run to Tackle Cancer in Milwaukee, and for close to that entire time, the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation has dedicated its fundraising exclusively to support Aurora Cancer Care. As our largest donor for oncology services, the Foundation has been instrumental in supporting key technologies and advancements at Aurora, including Cyberknife technology, a unique Healing Garden at Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center that overlooks the Milwaukee skyline, specialized cancer nurse navigators and breakthrough neurosciences research. You can be a part of transforming cancer care locally by joining a Lombardi Walk to Tackle Cancer near you! All funds raised will receive a 50% match from the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation and will support Aurora Cancer Care services in the communities where they were raised. Learn more and register at LombardiWalk.org.
Patrick Daly, MD, is a general surgeon at Aurora Health Center in Oshkosh. He has operated on many cancer patients throughout his career, but the impact of this horrible disease really hit home in May 2015. That’s when Gina, Dr. Daly’s wife, was diagnosed with sarcoma.

“She was stretching one day and noticed a lump in her leg. The mass had gotten big enough to where it herniated. It had been growing quietly for a while,” Dr. Daly explains.

Gina has undergone several rounds of chemotherapy and radiation, and just had surgery to put a rod in her femur earlier this year. Dr. Daly is a surgeon, who is used to helping patients get better. But this time the person in need of care was his own wife, and he wasn’t able help in the operating room. So instead, he came up with a fundraiser to not only lift Gina’s spirits but to also help other local cancer patients like her. He came up with the idea to “Put a Cork in Cancer.”

“We purchased food and then selected about ten different wines from different regions, with different flavors and styles. There was no fee for attending but everyone knew there would be an ask for donations,” Dr. Daly explains.

Around 40 people, including Dr. Daly’s neighbors, colleagues and Oshkosh business leaders, attended the fundraiser last fall. Together, they raised more than $12,000 for the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation. And thanks to the Foundation’s program of matching gifts by 50 percent, around $18,000 will go to the Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic in Oshkosh, which supports Aurora Cancer Care patients.

For Dr. Daly and Gina, keeping it local was important, “Sometimes if you donate to a big organization you don’t necessarily have a handle on where the money goes. We wanted to keep it here, we know the people here. I also wanted us all to relax and get to know each other better, because you just never know what tomorrow may bring.”

Will the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation “match” your next fundraiser?

The Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation’s matching gift program has been an important tool in spreading the mission and impact of fighting cancer throughout Wisconsin. It provides a 50% match of net cash proceeds for all eligible fundraising events that solely benefit the Foundation. The match is set up to help others raise funds in the name of Vince Lombardi’s legacy to support cancer care and research.

Another noteworthy event to receive the match is the McGMO Golf Outing every year in Delavan. Over the years, they’ve donated over $1 million to support cancer patients in western Racine and Walworth counties.

To learn more, contact Erin Hareng at Erin.Hareng@aurora.org.

“Put a Cork in Cancer” was all about good wine and good company for a great cause.
Celebrate 100 years of Aurora Lakeland Medical Center!

Join us for the 32nd annual Benefit Ball and help support Aurora Cancer Care programs at Aurora Health Center - Southern Lakes.

This black-tie optional event will feature our Honorary Chairperson, Chad Kort, MD, and a special Community Leadership Award will be given to the Thomas W. Whowell Family for their exceptional contributions to Walworth County.

For tickets, go to give.aurora.org/benefitball.

Calendar of events

Friday
May 12
Generations of Pride
Tuckaway Country Club, Franklin, WI
For more information, go to give.aurora.org/gop.

Saturday
May 20
Benefit Ball
Geneva National Golf Club, Lake Geneva, WI
For more information, go to give.aurora.org/benefitball.

Monday
July 24
Aurora Golf Classic
Grand Geneva Resort & Spa, Lake Geneva, WI
For more information, go to give.aurora.org/golfclassic.

Friday
July 28
McGMO Charity Golf Outing
Delbrook Golf Course, Delavan, WI
For more information, go to www.mcgmo.com.

Join us to celebrate the 5th annual Aurora Golf Classic on Monday, July 24 at its new location: Grand Geneva Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva, WI. And look forward to playing on one of two championship courses: The Brute or The Highlands.

This year, the Aurora Golf Classic will benefit both Aurora Zilber Family Hospice and Home Hospice Care. Foursomes are filling up fast, but you can still support the effort by attending the dinner and special program.

For tickets, go to give.aurora.org/golfclassic.