The heart of the matter: A story of hope and healing

Having exceptional cardiac care close to home gave Joe renewed hope.

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Message from Cristy

Dear Friends,

No matter where we serve patients and their families throughout Aurora Health Care, it’s a fact that Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center – one of the nation’s finest – is known for pioneering advancements in cardiac procedures and patient care. It’s a legacy we continue to honor and maintain.

At the center of these innovations are physicians and researchers who labor countless hours to provide even better care for patients with serious, often life-threatening diagnoses. Generous financial gifts from our donors make this work possible.

As the only medical center in the country with a research center dedicated to cardiovascular aging, we’re at the forefront of investigating how to best serve our growing elderly population.

Our medical centers wouldn’t be as well-known without the fine work of our caregivers. I’m honored that a record 9,290 caregivers supported the 2012 Aurora Partnership Campaign, an annual effort for employees to make gifts through payroll deduction to their favorite charities and Aurora programs. Thanks to them and the support from individuals, foundations and corporations in the communities we serve.

Together, we’re finding better ways to help each other live well.

Always,

Cristy Garcia-Thomas
President
Aurora Health Care Foundation

Aurora Sinai Medical Center
150 years of exceptional care at Aurora Sinai Medical Center

This year, we celebrate the 150-year history of William Passavant’s Milwaukee Hospital and its descendants, Lutheran, Deaconess, Good Samaritan and Mount Sinai hospitals, whose legacies merged to form today’s Aurora Sinai Medical Center.

As the sole remaining hospital serving downtown Milwaukee, Aurora Sinai is a vital community of caregivers and volunteers dedicated to serving our patients.

We celebrate this rich history with the 150th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2013 at The Pfister Hotel.

In anticipation of this elegant evening in the tradition of the Sinai Grand Ball, held from 1953 to 1991, we extend our gratitude to the honorary chairpersons:

Dr. LaRoyce and Minnie Chambers
Doris Hersh Chortek
John and Irma Daniels
Sarah Dean
Pat and Joan Kerns
Stanley and Shirley Kritzik
Steve and Janice Marcus
Jere McGaffey
Toby Recht
Allan “Bud” and Suzanne Selig
Libby Temkin
Dr. Nick and Kathy Turkal

ROOTED IN THE PAST
Growing Toward the Future

We invite you to join us in celebrating this inspiring legacy throughout 2013. To participate or make a gift in support of the 150th anniversary, please call Elaine Maly, director of development, at 414-219-7827.
The heart of the matter

With a new lease on life, Joe Schlangen feels blessed at the age of 70. Since 2001, Joe suffered from the symptoms of atrial fibrillation (AFib) that forced him to do many things, like traveling and sports, more cautiously than he preferred.

AFib is a quivering or irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia) that can lead to blood clots, stroke, heart failure and other heart-related complications. According to the American Heart Association, an estimated 2.7 million Americans are living with AFib.

For 10 years, Joe’s AFib symptoms included a very rapid and erratic heartbeat that came on strong, especially when he was dehydrated or stressed. His chronic AFib symptoms were a constant impediment to living his life to the fullest.

Eventually, Joe sought the expertise of Jasbir Sra, MD, electrophysiologist, and David Kress, MD, cardiothoracic surgeon, at Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center, and both physicians came highly recommended. “Dr. Sra is well-respected in his profession,” he added.

Joe also praised Dr. Kress as a voice of calm and reassurance, especially as he explained the procedure that would change Joe’s life for the better.

Another cardiac first

Using a hybrid procedure, Drs. Kress and Sra combine laparoscopic surgery, sophisticated imaging and catheter ablation to treat patients with AFib for whom previous treatments have failed.

This innovative approach is available at Aurora St. Luke’s – the only hospital in Wisconsin and one of a few in the country offering the hybrid technique.

“The patients we are able to treat with this hybrid procedure are those with longstanding, persistent AFib who have had the least favorable results with traditional approaches alone,” said Dr. Kress. “I’ve tried just about every technique available for treating AFib, and I can say with conviction that this procedure will offer these patients the best possible outcomes.”

This hybrid procedure has several advantages over traditional surgical or electrophysiology procedures. Traditional surgery typically involves a sternotomy or an incision through the ribs to reach the heart. Both can cause a great deal of discomfort and difficulty with breathing after surgery. Laparoscopic surgery only requires three small incisions, leading to minimal discomfort and faster recovery.

Renewed hope

“Once the heart was beating regularly, it’s the feeling of going from 85 to 100 percent – I immediately felt better,” said Joe, describing the results of the November 2011 procedure that lasted 10 hours.

“The opportunity to have this done is pretty rare. I felt privileged to have been chosen for this combined surgical procedure. The quality of care and the level of expertise is outstanding. I’d like to see this made available to more people,” he added.

Joe is free to resume regular exercise at the gym and pursue some new goals, which included downhill skiing with his four-year-old grandson, Henry, during a recent trip to Colorado.

“This experience has enhanced the quality of our lives,” said Joe.

To make a gift in support of cardiac programs at Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center, please contact Carol Rausch, director of development, at 414-649-7892 or carol.rausch@aurora.org.
**Aurora Lakeland Medical Center**

Bob and Terri Jambor – Giving back to the community

Patients and caregivers at Aurora Lakeland Medical Center are lucky to have support from Bob and Terri Jambor, who serve the hospital in many ways. Terri serves on the Aurora Lakeland Board of Directors and the cancer committee. She assists the breast cancer support group, volunteers in the Emergency Department and keeps vigil at the bedside of a dying patient through the No One Dies Alone program.

The Jambors are generous with their time and financial support of Aurora Lakeland. This year, Terri is a co-chair of the 28th Annual Benefit Ball, where Bob will receive the Humanitarian Award on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

Their dedication to the Benefit Ball has helped it become one of the top events in the area. Since the event’s inception in 1986, more than $1.2 million has been contributed to bring state-of-the-art equipment to the hospital.

“Bob and I do everything as a team. We give back because we want our hospital to have the best resources,” said Terri. “We have fantastic doctors and they should have the best equipment.”

A recent gift from the Jambors benefited the Emergency Department by enabling the purchase of iSTAT machines to allow caregivers to assess and diagnose patients faster, and a SimMan to teach critical emergency medical skills.

*To make a gift in support of Aurora Lakeland Medical Center, please call 877-460-8730.*

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**Aurora Sinai Medical Center**

Pat and Joan Kerns – A legacy of love

The Kerns family has deep roots at Aurora Sinai Medical Center. Joan Kerns was born at the hospital, then known as Mount Sinai.

After Joan married Pat, she became involved with the Ladies Auxiliary, including service on the board. She also chaired the annual ball in the early ’70s and volunteered at the hospital.

As a member of Sinai’s Board of Directors, Pat was involved in the decision nearly 45 years ago to maintain operations in the heart of Milwaukee when other downtown hospitals moved to the outlying suburbs.

“We hope people realize how important this hospital is to the health and maintenance of the quality of life in our community,” said Pat, whose company, Kerns Carpet One, remains a thriving part of the city’s business landscape.

Nine years ago, their beloved daughter Judy lost her battle with colon cancer, prompting the establishment of the Judy Kerns Pence Fund for Colorectal Cancer Awareness at Aurora Sinai Medical Center. “We started this fund in honor of her life,” said Joan. The purpose of the fund is to create awareness and support education and outreach efforts.

“We wanted to honor our daughter by helping other people,” added Pat, who made this gift by creating a charitable gift annuity.

*To make a gift in support of the Judy Kerns Pence Fund for Colorectal Cancer Awareness, please call 877-460-8730.*

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*We’re honored to have both Pat and Joan as honorary chairpersons of Aurora Sinai’s 150th Anniversary Gala on Aug. 24.*
National Doctors’ Day
An opportunity to say thank you

Wether they help deliver a baby, perform surgery or guide patients back to health, doctors can have a profound impact on people’s lives. If a doctor has made a difference in your life, now is your chance to express your gratitude. March 30 is National Doctors’ Day, and every year on this day Aurora Health Care pays tribute to our outstanding doctors, who do so much for our patients and the community.

With a Doctors’ Day donation to Aurora Health Care Foundation, you can make the day special for a physician who has touched your life.

A tribute to our physicians
Each physician you honor will be given a letter indicating that you have made a Doctors’ Day gift, plus your personal note of acknowledgment and thanks. A patient’s gratitude often means more to a physician than any other honors or accolades he or she could receive.

A cycle of giving
Your tax-deductible Doctors’ Day donation to Aurora Health Care Foundation helps complete a circle of care. Your donation recognizes the excellent treatment you have received and allows Aurora Health Care physicians to continue to provide compassionate care not only to you and your loved ones, but to patients throughout the community.

To participate in our Doctors’ Day celebration
Please visit Aurora.org/DoctorsDay and complete an online gift form or call 877-460-8730. Please consider honoring one or more physicians who’ve made a difference. Without specifying your gift amount, we will send a thoughtful note on your behalf to the physician you honor.

Leave a legacy
Make your largest gift ever without writing a check
A bequest in your will or trust is one of the easiest ways you can leave a lasting impact on your favorite Aurora hospital or program. It can enable you to make the largest gift of your life without ever writing a check. Call Stephen Davis, director of gift planning, at 414-219-4751 and learn how to implement such a plan. Or you can visit AuroraLegacy.org for more information. If you’ve already included Aurora in your plan, please let us know. We’d like to say thank you. Remember, every gift can change a life ... your legacy can too!

For more information, visit: AuroraHealthCare.org
Kradwell School
Celebrating 50 years of providing hope for area students
Established in 1963, Kradwell School is a private, nontraditional education program for students in fifth through 12th grades. Neatly tucked into the beautiful 28-acre campus of Aurora Behavioral Health Services in Wauwatosa, Kradwell provides a unique learning environment for more than 100 students each year.

Many Kradwell students are challenged by dyslexia, ADD, ADHD, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, reactive attachment disorder and/or Asperger's syndrome.

Kradwell's teachers and support staff develop an educational plan tailored to the learning and behavioral characteristics of each child. The school provides an excellent alternative for children who have experienced abuse, the Sexual Assault Treatment Center of Aurora Sinai Medical Center, which offers safe and caring medical/support services to survivors of rape, incest, sexual abuse and sexual assault, Marquette University and United Way.

Aurora Health Care is a champion for sexual assault victims through the support of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs throughout eastern Wisconsin. At The Healing Center, survivors receive free counseling, group therapy and bilingual advocacy.

In 2012, Aurora caregivers contributed more than $10,000 to the Denim Day effort and support services that in many instances would not exist without their generosity, the support of other donors and Aurora's commitment as a health system.

Over the past year, 792 Aurora VNA caregivers have visited more than 253,000 patients and logged more than 3.2 million miles across eastern Wisconsin.

Care of our most vulnerable patients, including families with premature infants, infirm elderly and terminally ill patients, is supported by dedicated volunteers, care partners, and corporations and foundations.

To make a gift in support of the Aurora Visiting Nurse Association, please call 877-460-8730.
Generous donation secures future of research program

Aurora Health Care Foundation is proud to announce a recent gift of $500,000 that will transform cardiac clinical research at Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center. This generous gift from an anonymous donor will expand the Cardiology Fellowship Program.

The Cardiology Fellowship Program trains physicians in general cardiology, interventional cardiology and electrophysiology. The program currently has 23 fellows and is one of the largest and most sought-after programs in the Midwest. Anjan Gupta, MD, heads the overall Cardiology Fellowship Program and Tanvir K. Bajwa, MD, director of the interventional cardiology fellowship program, oversees the fellows’ research and clinical work.

It was this highly acclaimed Cardiac Fellowship Program that brought Dr. Bajwa to Aurora St. Luke’s in 1985. Since completing the program in 1989, Dr. Bajwa, an interventional cardiologist, has dedicated his life’s work to finding better ways to deliver exceptional care to patients with complex cardiac issues.

“What is in my heart is helping patients and teaching younger doctors who come to Aurora to follow their dreams. Our team of specialists provides innovative heart care, which results in the best patient outcomes in Wisconsin,” said Dr. Bajwa.

According to Dr. Bajwa, the need to elevate fellowship research has been identified as a goal of the Cardiac Research Committee. Generous support of this endeavor is critical to the advancement of cardiac clinical research and care.

“The research conducted by the fellows is critical to our cardiac program in that the projects are investigator-initiated and focused on patient outcomes. We are uniquely positioned to do many of the studies because of the large volume of patients at Aurora St. Luke’s and throughout Aurora Health Care,” said Dr. Bajwa.

The attending physicians, like Dr. Bajwa, cannot conduct these studies themselves, as they are focusing on their clinical research testing new devices and drugs through industry-supported research along with busy clinical practices. Dr. Bajwa, however, does oversee, mentor and help the fellows determine what studies they can initiate that would be best.

Working in collaboration with Dr. Bajwa, this gift supports hiring a Cardiac Research Scientist dedicated solely to his research. This scientist will develop research goals and methodology, design and implement projects with the fellows, and assist with preparation of findings for publication, presentation and meetings. The new member of the team will be integral in conducting translational research from bench to bedside.

For more information or to make a gift in support of cardiac clinical research, please contact Carol Rausch, director of development, at 414-649-7892 or carol.rausch@aurora.org.

Tanvir K. Bajwa, MD
Medical director of the Cardiac/Peripheral Intervention Program, Director of the Interventional Fellowship Program and 24/7 Program

struggling to find their way toward adulthood, yet tuition at Kradwell presents a financial strain for many families.

Approximately 15 percent of Kradwell’s students receive scholarship assistance to offset the cost of yearly tuition. Scholarship support ensures access to a Kradwell education for families who cannot otherwise afford it.

To sponsor or purchase tickets to our 50th Anniversary Gala on May 21, or make a gift in support of the Kradwell School scholarship fund, please call 877-460-8730.

For more information, visit: AuroraHealthCare.org

Low teacher-to-student ratios and tailored learning programs lead to success at Kradwell School.
Help support the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation and the fight against cancer, along with Packer legends Bart Starr and Jerry Kramer, and attend one or more of our events throughout the year. Please visit LombardiFoundation.org for more information or to get involved.

Calendar of events

March 30 ............ National Doctors’ Day | For more information, please call 877-460-8730.

April 24 ............. The Healing Center – Annual Denim Day | For more information, please call 877-460-8730.

May 18 ............... Aurora Lakeland Medical Center – Benefit Ball | For more information, please call Michelle Weber at 262-741-2382.

May 21 ............... Kradwell School – 50th Anniversary Gala | For more information, please call Judi Strout at 414-615-5935.

June 7-8 ............ Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation – Lombardi Golf Classic | To register online, visit LombardiFoundation.org.

June 8 ............... Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation – Lombardi Run/Walk | To register online, visit LombardiFoundation.org.

If interested in attending an event or to learn about sponsorship, donation or volunteer opportunities, please call Aurora Health Care Foundation at 877-460-8730.

Event Profile

150th Anniversary Gala celebrates Aurora Sinai Medical Center’s rich history

On Aug. 24, the gathering spaces of The Pfister Hotel will evoke the grace and style of the old black-tie Sinai Grand Ball. Guests will stroll through tree-lined paths adorned with reminders of the eras of our history, culminating in a festive dinner and entertainment in the historic Grand Ballroom.

The one-of-a-kind evening will celebrate the story of Aurora’s roots, from Milwaukee Hospital in 1863, through 15 decades to Aurora Sinai Medical Center, Milwaukee’s leading urban hospital.

When: Aug. 24, 2013 at 5 p.m.

Location: The Pfister Hotel, 424 East Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee

Individual ticket price: $250

To purchase tickets, provide sponsorship or learn more, please contact Elaine Maly, director of development, at 414-219-7827 or email elaine.maly@aurora.org.