



GIVE WELL GIVE WELL



## *Partners in Cancer Care*

How you can help people like Sandi get world class cancer care closer to home.

Read more on page 3.

Dr. Antony Ruggeri,  
Dr. Joseph Majewski and  
Sandi Conrad of Williams Bay.

## Message from Cristy

Dear Friends,

I truly believe that every gift has the power to transform lives. I have personally seen the positive effects your gifts have on people in our community. These are the people we know and see every day: coworkers, neighbors, loved ones. There is a common thread that connects us, and as donors, we help to fill gaps that exist above and beyond the exceptional care Aurora offers.

As donors, we are together advancing research, offering options to better address behavioral health needs, or supporting ways that give comfort to someone in a time of need. People receive the care they need at a time when they need it most. You help make that a positive experience.

Our generous donors include grateful patients and families who have firsthand knowledge of Aurora's specialized care. Each gift made to Aurora Health Care Foundation is a testament to the high-quality care received. It also encourages us to strive harder and achieve more for your benefit. You are the reason our world-renowned caregivers are leaders in reshaping the future of health care by developing technologies and procedures. And you are the reason we can offer new innovations and firsts in health care.

While Aurora continues to be a leader in advancing health care both locally and nationally, we know that it wouldn't be possible without our donors and our patients. It's a privilege to care for people in our communities and provide them with hope for a brighter future.

Our Inspire newsletter is just one way for us to share with you how your gift is making a difference. You'll notice a new look and feel with this issue. The look is different but it's still about how your gifts transform lives.

With your continued support, the possibilities of what we can achieve are endless. Together, we will impact the health and well-being of our patients, donors, families and neighbors.

Always,



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

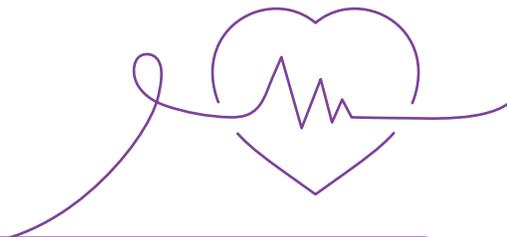
P.S. Please subscribe to our Foundation blog to read more about how your gifts are making a difference at [Aurora.org/FoundationBlog](http://Aurora.org/FoundationBlog).



Randy Lambrecht, PhD, President of Aurora Research Institute, and Cristy Garcia-Thomas. Through donor support, the Aurora Research Awards fund innovative research studies at Aurora Health Care.

“It’s a privilege to care for people in our communities and provide them with hope for a brighter future.”

~ Cristy Garcia-Thomas



## How you are helping fund tomorrow's breakthroughs

The Aurora Research Institute recently awarded over \$100,000 for patient-centered cardiovascular surgery-related research. These awards are only possible thanks to the generosity of donors to Aurora Health Care Foundation. The awardees are:



**Ulugbek Negmadjanov, MD**, to determine how disease causes heart repair cells to produce excessive scar tissue, which leads to complications after heart surgery.



**Vinay Thohan, MD**, to identify factors that may predict the development of gastrointestinal bleeding in patients with left ventricular assist devices (LVADs).



**Nasir Z. Sulemanjee, MD**, to study clinical outcomes in patients with LVAD and kidney disease.

Please consider making a gift to support research efforts by visiting [give.aurora.org](http://give.aurora.org) or calling 877-460-8730.

# How you can become a *Partner in Cancer Care*

## Helping people like Sandi get world class care, closer to home.

Sandi Conrad's cancer journey started in October of 2012 when she discovered, through a self-exam, a lump on her breast. "When you hear those words 'You have cancer,' it's so devastating and you go through a journey that changes your life forever," explains Sandi.

Sandi saw several doctors before she found Joseph Majewski, MD, a cancer surgeon at Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington. "Sandi needed a series of operations as opposed to just a single operation to remove her cancer," explains Dr. Majewski. "We had to change course a number of times in her treatment, and that was hard."

Sandi says she trusted Dr. Majewski immediately, "Something he told me I'll never forget was, you're you. It's your case and don't think what someone else did was the right thing, you're unique."

After her surgeries in 2012, Sandi chose Antony Ruggeri, MD, as her medical oncologist, who is based out of Aurora Lakeland Medical Center in Elkhorn. Dr. Ruggeri helped Sandi come up with a treatment plan to keep her cancer from recurring. It did not involve chemotherapy but does include medication that she must take for five years.

"Dr. Ruggeri spent a lot of time going over all of the test results and the research. It was a very emotional time for me, but he really made a difference in my outlook," Sandi says.

Sandi's care requires her to travel to both physicians for treatment at two different hospitals. And she's not alone. Traveling to different locations for cancer care is common in more rural communities. That's one of the reasons Aurora Health Care Foundation launched its \$2.2 million *Partners in Cancer Care* campaign. The effort aims to raise funds in order to expand patient services at a new comprehensive Aurora Cancer Center, which will serve western Racine and Walworth counties. This new \$5.6 million state-of-the-art cancer center will include a Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic and provide a central location for vital cancer programs, in addition to space for future expansion of services such as radiation oncology.



Dr. Antony Ruggeri and Sandi Conrad.

This new center includes a dedicated entryway for patients and visitors, and space for improved capacity, including 25 oncology infusion bays, 10 exam rooms and an outpatient procedure room. In addition, space has been dedicated for integrative therapies and support programs to provide care for the whole person throughout their cancer journey.

Dr. Ruggeri says combining resources will inevitably lead to a more collaborative approach. "The way of cancer care moving forward, is entirely to get things in one place. That way there's a great basket of knowledge in one location. It's the way of the future," he says.

"This new comprehensive cancer center will enable patients to have a comfortable area for treatment that's really close to home," explains Dr. Majewski.

The possibility of getting all of her treatment in one place makes Sandi even more excited about her future. "To have these marvelous doctors in our area is so wonderful. And I know all of my doctors talk to each other, but to be in the same building will save so much time. Won't it be wonderful when we're all together?" Sandi says.

\*You can support the *Partners in Cancer Care* campaign and help patients like Sandi get world class cancer care, closer to home. To make a gift or learn more, go to [give.aurora.org/cancercenter](http://give.aurora.org/cancercenter).



## Transforming cancer care in western Racine and Walworth Counties

In January, the Memorial Hospital of Burlington Community Foundation donated \$1 million to launch the *Partners in Cancer Care* campaign. In addition, Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation has committed \$300,000 to this initiative.

\*The 2015 Crystal Ball, Benefit Ball and McGMO golf outing will all support this exciting new project. Learn more at [give.aurora.org/cancercenter](http://give.aurora.org/cancercenter) or call 262-741-2600.



# WITI Fox 6's Brad Hicks feels like he has a brand new heart

Brad Hicks has a true love for cycling. He raced competitively for years and actually qualified for the Olympic Trials in 1988. But over the last few years, something was starting to prevent him from really enjoying his passion. And that thing was, ironically, his heart.

Brad developed something called atrial fibrillation, which is the most common type of heart arrhythmia. "It started happening if I was stressed, hungry, or sometimes when I was cycling. It was unpredictable, inconvenient and sometimes it was scary," Brad says. And it also started happening more often.

So that's why, in Brad's words, his cardiologist "plugged me into an electrician." That "electrician" was Ryan Cooley, MD, an electrophysiologist at Aurora Medical Center in Grafton. Dr. Cooley recommended a procedure called a cardiac ablation. Cardiac ablation works by scarring or destroying the tissue in the heart that triggers the abnormal heart rhythm. Brad, as it turned out, needed two procedures to fix his.

But only a year and a half after his surgeries, in the summer of 2014, Brad was back on his bike and taking on some of the toughest climbs in the world. "I was on the eastern slope of the Sierras, 14 percent grades above 10,000 feet; one 10 percent grade went on for seven miles with no break. My heart- like a machine," Brad explains.

Brad called the treatment "life changing" and says he hasn't had a single episode since. In fact, he's so grateful for the care he received, he shared his story for the 2014 Live Well Ozaukee event, in order to raise awareness and support for a new cardiac mapping system at Aurora Medical Center in Grafton.

Brad shared with attendees, "From the bottom of my heart, or from the top of it because 'Dr. C' was working on my atria, thank you for supporting this awesome cause."



Fox 6's Brad Hicks on the eastern slope of the Sierras in the summer of 2014.



Dr. Ryan Cooley says the new mapping system will cut down on the need for repeat procedures.

## Donors help purchase new mapping system to treat heart arrhythmias

Thanks to generous gifts from people in Ozaukee County and beyond, nearly \$59,000 was raised to help purchase a new cardiac mapping system that gives physicians like Dr. Ryan Cooley the latest technology in treating heart arrhythmias like Brad's.

"It's a great advancement," Dr. Cooley says. "It creates really accurate maps, 3-dimensional structures of the chamber you're trying to treat. And it comes with catheters that help you to make sure the treatment you're delivering is effective."

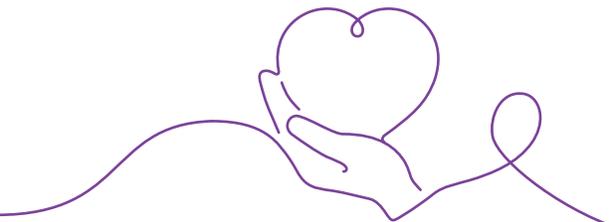
The new catheters have something called "contact force sensing" that helps determine the exact force between the catheter and the tissue.

"We know from studies you need a certain amount of force for that lesion to be permanent. So this system will help cut down on the need for repeat procedures which then cuts down on risk to patients, and also cost," explains Dr. Cooley. Prior to this, patients had to make a trip to Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center in Milwaukee for this procedure, as it's the only other Aurora hospital with this technology.

*\*This year's Live Well Ozaukee event is planned for Friday, August 14 and will benefit emergency medical services in Ozaukee County. To learn more, call 262-329-1070.*



## How John got the right tools to heal his broken heart



After losing his beloved dog, Sasha, John felt completely hopeless. He credits the care he received at Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center for helping him to heal.

At the age of 82, John was the oldest patient to go through the Partial Hospitalization Program at Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center. It's hard for him to explain exactly how he ended up there, but he woke up one morning in 2013 feeling like he didn't want to get out of bed and could no longer take care of himself. That's when he decided to get serious help.

Depression is something John has struggled with off and on throughout his life. He says he always did pretty well in school, but had a difficult marriage for 13 years, and in 1977 it ended in divorce. He eventually got a job at a factory, but said stress and worry would impact him physically, and about 20 years ago, he started taking medication to help with his depression.

John always had a network of people around him, but his depression just wasn't something he could talk about with others. "I became involved in the church I grew up in. I would volunteer a lot and there were groups I would interact with, but I just never felt like this was something I could share," John says.

It was the spring of 2013 when something hit him unexpectedly. His beloved dog, Sasha, a true companion for over 17 years, passed away. John was surprised to wake up one day and feel completely powerless.

"I thought about it every day and every night. I didn't have any really bad experiences that could be blamed for this; my health was okay, I didn't run out of money. It just started to build and all of a sudden I woke up hopeless," he says.

John took himself to the Emergency Room at Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center. They recommended the Partial Hospitalization Program, where you get specialized behavioral health treatment all day, but are able to go home every evening around 4 p.m.

In the program, John began group therapy sessions that had an immediate impact, "I was surprised how much I talked, right off the bat. It seems so easy to talk when you know you're with people who understand. We became like family and I kind of miss that."

That specialized care gave John the tools he needed to get his depression under control. He now says "life is good" and continues to keep busy volunteering, and going to various community events.

### LIGHTING THE WAY for people like John

**THANK YOU** to supporters of the *LIGHT THE WAY* campaign in Sheboygan County. Your generosity helped Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center meet its \$700,000 goal to create a new Behavioral Health Wellness Center in Sheboygan. This facility will provide more access to the specialized care that John credits for helping him.

At the campaign launch in October 2014, *ACUITY* Insurance announced a generous \$125,000 match to all community donations received by December 31. Thanks for helping us reach this goal – we could not have done this without your help!

Go to [give.aurora.org/lighttheway](http://give.aurora.org/lighttheway) or call Erik Barber at 920-482-3938 to learn more about this important campaign.



*ACUITY* President and CEO Ben Salzmann (left) presenting a check to Dave Graebner, President of Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center.

## Helping emergency responders, because every second counts



Alice Morava, Benefit Ball committee member, David Fladten, EMS Coordinator at Aurora Lakeland Medical Center, and Lisa Just, President, Aurora Lakeland Medical Center are pictured with one of the automated CPR devices that has already been purchased.

Performing effective chest compressions gets harder the longer you have to do it, even for trained emergency responders. “Even under the best of conditions, those providing CPR become fatigued and the quality of chest compressions begins to decrease rather quickly,” says David Fladten, Emergency Medical Services Coordinator at Aurora Lakeland Medical Center.

Add to that fatigue, the extra complications of long transport times to a hospital, and poor weather conditions, and the quality of compressions can be even more compromised.

That’s why two events in 2014 raised money to purchase automated CPR devices for local EMS providers. The 29th

Annual Benefit Ball was held on May 10, 2014 at Geneva National Golf Club. It raised over \$206,000 to outfit 16 Walworth County emergency medical providers with CPR devices that constrict the entire chest instead of compressing it as a person would, improving blood flow in a cardiac emergency. Ten of those devices have already been purchased and six more are on the way.

The 2nd Annual Lake Country Gala was held November 15, 2014 at The Delafield Hotel in Delafield. It raised \$147,000 to purchase 14 automated CPR devices for surrounding Lake Country area ambulances. These ambulances serve areas in Washington, Dodge, Jefferson and Waukesha Counties. These devices allow the latest CPR technology to be taken from the emergency department and brought out into the community.

“When their hands are free, they can do other important things for the patient,” explains Dr. Krishna Prasad, MD, who is the Medical Director of the Emergency Department at Aurora Medical Center in Summit. “So the machine brings a lot more than just providing compressions, it frees up human beings.”



Emergency responders from the Dousman Fire District illustrate how this CPR device works.



### A true “thank you” from the heart

Greg Fleckenstein lived a full 94 years, most of them with the love of his life, Lorene. Greg passed away on September 6, 2014. Aurora Health Care Foundation recently received a legacy gift from his estate, along with a note from his son that truly stands out. The gift is to support the Cardiac Research Fund at Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center.

Greg’s son John said, “My father had a heart attack in 1973. He had bypass surgery at Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center. For 30 years, he and my mother traveled widely, exercised when they felt the need and delighted in their grandchildren. In their final years, they still had great times with friends, family and each other. Thank you for your part in giving him, and us that time.”

We celebrate donors like Greg and are truly grateful for his Legacy Society gift. **To learn more about how to make a gift through your will, please contact Patrick Rath at [Patrick.Rath@aurora.org](mailto:Patrick.Rath@aurora.org).**

## Standing with survivors of sexual abuse and assault

Each year, more than 2,500 survivors of sexual abuse start their healing journey in an Aurora Health Care facility. Your generous donation to The Healing Center, the Sexual Assault Treatment Center and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program at Aurora locations in Burlington, Elkhorn, Hartford, Kenosha, Oshkosh, Milwaukee and Sheboygan provides immediate care, advocacy and support to men, women and children.

As the SANE Program Coordinator in Kenosha, Rebecca Rodriguez, RN, has worked on over 200 cases of sexual assault since 2006. "We have a wonderful team of caregivers who understand the need to collect as much evidence as possible from a patient," says Rebecca.

The SANE nurses treat patients of all ages, who are incredibly vulnerable and it requires a very sensitive kind of care. "People ask me how I can do the work that I do. And for me, it's because I believe my path in life is to help survivors of sexual assault. They show tremendous courage reporting the abuse. I provide comfort and



Pictured are nurses from the SANE Program in Kenosha. They include, from left, Marie Bushchinsky, Joan Pacetti, Rebecca Rodriguez, Barbara Nace, Katie Wienke and Patricia Scott.

compassion to survivors as I gather evidence. My goal is to stop it from happening to someone else."

In addition to helping both males and females – children and adults, the SANE Program creates awareness and educates the community about sexual assault.

**Create awareness by supporting Denim Day on April 29.** Learn more at [aurora.org/denimday](http://aurora.org/denimday) or contact Jeannie Jackson at [Jeannie.Jackson@aurora.org](mailto:Jeannie.Jackson@aurora.org).

## What does a new outfit mean to you?



Jockey donated hundreds of boxes of brand new clothes. The tags are always left on so the person receiving it knows the outfit is brand new, just for them.

For a survivor of sexual violence, a new outfit can be the promise of hope and dignity. Jockey International, Inc. is a generous supporter of Aurora's Sexual Assault Treatment Centers throughout the state. Its most recent gift was nearly \$94,000 in brand new clothing.

During the examination process, survivors are asked to give up items of clothing including undergarments, as evidence. Without the clothing donation, survivors would need to wait for a family member to bring them clothes or they would need to leave in a hospital gown or scrubs.

Sadly, national statistics show that 44% of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18. A brand new outfit can go a long way to make them smile. An Aurora Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) shares an example:

*Twelve-year-old, Helen, was treated in December by a SANE nurse. Helen was sexually assaulted by her mother's boyfriend. Her clothes were torn, dirty and too small. Helen had no socks and no undergarments.*

*After her exam was completed, Helen received an entirely new outfit – pants, shirt, underclothes, socks and a jacket. It was the first time she had new clothes that actually fit. Helen couldn't stop smiling and looking at herself in the mirror. For just a few moments, she forgot about what happened to her and felt happy.*

Thank you to Jockey and to all of our donors for helping survivors like Helen leave the hospital with dignity and hope.

BMO Harris Bank  
We're here to help.



### Support survivors of assault on Wednesday, April 29!

And join a Denim Day celebration at the second annual **Hope Shining Blue** at Turner Hall Ballroom in Milwaukee, benefiting Aurora's Sexual Assault Treatment Center, Safe Mom Safe Baby and The Healing Center in Milwaukee.

This event celebrates the resilience of survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Visit [give.aurora.org/hopeshiningblue](http://give.aurora.org/hopeshiningblue) or contact **Stephanie Shabangu** at [Stephanie.Shabangu@aurora.org](mailto:Stephanie.Shabangu@aurora.org) for more information.

# inspire

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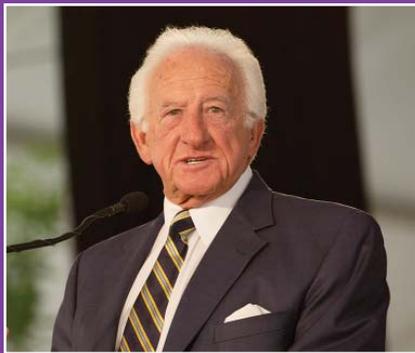
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## Calendar of events



### Vince Lombardi Award of Excellence Dinner Ball

Please join us as we recognize "Mr. Baseball" himself, Bob Uecker as the 2015 Honoree of the Vince Lombardi Award of Excellence Dinner Ball. This event was created to recognize individuals who capture the spirit of commitment and pursuit of excellence; standards which define the legendary coach Vince Lombardi and the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation.

**March 7 at 6 p.m**

**The Pfister Hotel  
Milwaukee**

Purchase tickets at [LombardiFoundation.org](http://LombardiFoundation.org), or contact Erin Hareng at [Erin.Hareng@aurora.org](mailto:Erin.Hareng@aurora.org).

**Saturday  
March 7**

**Vince Lombardi Award of Excellence Dinner Ball**, The Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee. For more information, contact Erin Hareng at [Erin.Hareng@aurora.org](mailto:Erin.Hareng@aurora.org) or go to [LombardiFoundation.org](http://LombardiFoundation.org).

**Wednesday  
April 29**

**Hope Shining Blue**, Turner Hall Ballroom, Milwaukee. For more information contact Stephanie Shabangu at [Stephanie.Shabangu@aurora.org](mailto:Stephanie.Shabangu@aurora.org) or go to [give.aurora.org/hopeshiningblue](http://give.aurora.org/hopeshiningblue).

**Saturday  
May 16**

**Benefit Ball**, Geneva National Golf Club, Lake Geneva. For more information, contact Jolene Halvorsen at [Jolene.Halvorsen@aurora.org](mailto:Jolene.Halvorsen@aurora.org) or go to [give.aurora.org/benefitball.aurora.org](http://give.aurora.org/benefitball.aurora.org).

### SAVE THE DATE for the Lombardi Walk to Tackle Cancer!



Start building your team now for summer 2015 walks held in:

- Green Bay
- Kenosha
- Milwaukee
- Oshkosh
- Walworth County

Register now at [lombardiwalk.org](http://lombardiwalk.org).

### Aurora at Home Zilber Family Hospice 10th Anniversary

Throughout 2015, Aurora Health Care will host a series of events to celebrate a decade of compassion and support offered by Aurora at Home Zilber Family Hospice:

- **July 20** **Aurora Golf Classic**, Chenequa Country Club, Hartland
- **October 4** **Walk for Zilber**, Honey Creek Parkway, Wauwatosa
- **December 1** **Zilber Hospice 10th Anniversary Celebration**, The Wisconsin Club, Milwaukee

For more information, please contact Judi Strout at 414-615-5935, or [Judi.Strout@aurora.org](mailto:Judi.Strout@aurora.org)

 **Aurora at Home  
Zilber Family Hospice**  
Presented by Zilber Family Foundation

Celebrating  
**10**  
— years —