



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



A community of first responders

Learn how you can help save lives,
When Minutes Matter



Message from Cristy

Dear Friends,

We are just over a month into the new year, but I wanted to take a moment and extend my well wishes of a happy 2016 to you. I hope that this year finds you happy and healthy, surrounded by family and loved ones. Each year brings new hope and promise to each of us.

Each gift to Aurora Health Care Foundation – no matter the amount – has the opportunity to impact our entire community. You bring hope and change lives for so many; from women battling cancer and heart disease, to survivors of sexual assault.

In this issue of Inspire, you will read stories about how your generous gifts are reaching beyond the medical center and into the hearts and well-being of our communities.

The *When Minutes Matter* campaign in Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties is bringing communities together to focus on saving lives and providing superior care prior to arrival at a medical center. Since the campaign launched, more than 300 people have received CPR training and 911 dispatchers now offer life-saving, pre-arrival instructions for serious medical emergencies.

Meanwhile, donors in Metro Milwaukee are focused on improving infant mortality rates. With the help of community partnerships between the Wisconsin Division of Health and Human Services and the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County, Aurora Sinai Medical Center is leading the way in addressing low birth weight, premature births and safe sleep in our community. Your support is enhancing care and safety for our most vulnerable babies.

When a need is discovered in the community, it is amazing to see how much we can do together to make a difference. Thank you for partnering with Aurora Health Care Foundation and helping transform lives.

Always,



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



(L-R) Cristy Garcia-Thomas with Marcy Jackson at the 10th Anniversary Celebration for Aurora Zilber Family Hospice. Marcy's parents, Joe and Vera Zilber, made the initial \$1 million gift that helped start the hospice. To learn more about how Marcy and the Zilber family are still committed to the program, go to page 5.

Why Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center is YOUR heart hospital

- Performed first open heart procedure in 1957
 - First pacemaker installed in Milwaukee in 1960
 - Performed first heart transplant in the Midwest in 1968
 - Performed first trans-catheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) in Wisconsin in 2011
 - Performed 800th heart transplant in August 2013, establishing the transplant program among the top 5% in the nation
 - First in the Midwest to outfit hybrid operating rooms, allowing imaging and surgery to be performed in the same room in 2014
 - Onsite heart care team 24/7, 365 days a year (First in the nation and only one in Wisconsin)
 - Performs more valve replacements than all other hospitals in the state combined
 - Performs nearly three times more heart procedures each year than any other Wisconsin hospital
- If you'd like to support Cardiac Services at Aurora Health Care, please contact Rhonda Plotkin at Rhonda.Plotkin@aurora.org.



Learn how you can help save lives, *When Minutes Matter*



Every day, emergency responders meet people who never imagined they would need their services that day; it could be a heart attack, a car crash, the birth of a baby, etc. If it's you or a loved one in need of emergency care, you want help to respond as soon as possible. However, in rural communities, that response often takes longer.

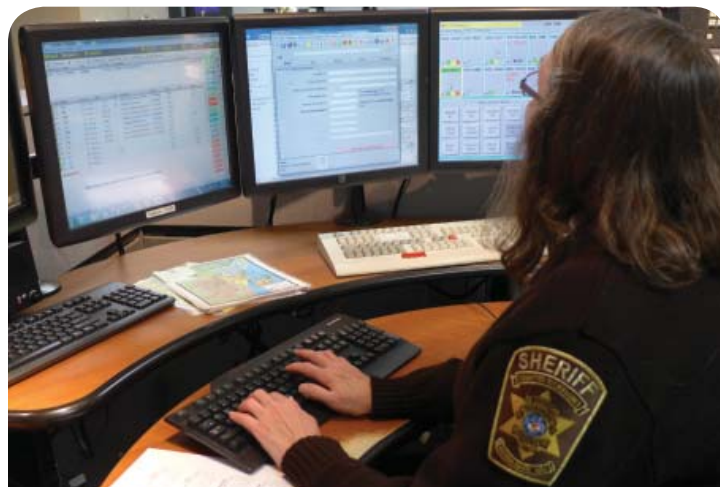
"The American Heart Association states the national average survival rate from cardiac arrest is between 6-8%. We know that for every minute a person goes without CPR, their chance of survival decreases by 10%. In Ozaukee County, the average response time for EMS is 8-10 minutes. So our local survival rate is likely in line with the national average," says Rick Boeshaar, the EMS and Community Educator for Aurora Health Care in Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties.

The *When Minutes Matter* campaign is a \$650,000 fundraising effort that aims to improve survival rates from cardiac arrest in Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties. There are five main components: implementing Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD), supporting EMS on-scene, providing additional EMS training through computerized patient simulation, placing Automated External Defibrillators in the community and training our communities in CPR. The goal is to bring the entire community together to eliminate those critical moments that a patient goes without care while waiting for emergency responders to arrive.

Thanks to donor support, EMD was just implemented by the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office and the Village of



300 people have already been trained to perform CPR as part of the *When Minutes Matter* campaign. Rick Boeshaar, the EMS and Community Educator, says the hope is that a bystander will be more confident and willing to assist in CPR until first responders arrive.



An Ozaukee County dispatcher walks through the EMD software. It prompts her with questions to ask the caller in order to determine the most effective response.

Grafton Police Department in January. Nearly 90% of all 911 calls in Ozaukee County, including all cell phone calls, go through the Ozaukee County dispatch center. Prior to being trained with this software, dispatchers weren't able to offer instructions over the phone and callers, in need of critical care, were forced to wait. EMD will enable 911 dispatchers to offer life-saving pre-arrival instructions prior to professional help arriving.

"Some of my dispatchers are firefighters and EMTs, so it's a natural fit for them. They're excited because they want to help their fellow citizens," explains Ozaukee County Sheriff Jim Johnson.

Tom Meaux is the Ozaukee County Administrator. He calls it a perfect partnership, "In government, we're always challenged with trying to do more with less. So to have an organization like Aurora supporting this enhanced service, will allow us to deliver an improved, more complete service to our residents."

As the Aurora Out-of-Hospital Medical Director for Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties, Dr. Steven Zils is excited to see the community-wide support for the campaign, "If a patient in cardiac arrest doesn't have a pulse restored before they get to the hospital, they have a less than 1% chance of survival. If EMS, or even a bystander, can get a pulse on scene before they get the person to the hospital, their chance of survival is greatly increased."

If you would like to join the community of first responders and support the *When Minutes Matter* campaign, contact Sara Alger at sara.alger@aurora.org.

The woman at the heart of an innovative new collaboration

The Karen Yontz Women's Cardiac Awareness Center, located inside Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center, has been educating women about heart disease for many years. Ken Yontz made the initial gift that helped start the center in honor of his late wife, Karen. The center is about to take on new life and no one is more excited about it than Ken.



Thanks to Ken's generous gift, Karen Yontz (above) will continue to be the heart of a new collaboration.

"This new focus will really fit well into the cause of Karen's death. She had Hodgkin's in her 20s and had a significant amount of chemotherapy and radiation. She died from a heart attack at the age of 48. Her heart disease was all related to her cancer treatment," Ken explains.

The name of the new program is the Karen Yontz Center for Cardio Oncology at Aurora Health Care. It will launch at Aurora St. Luke's in early 2016. The program will be one of the first-of-its-kind featuring a unique collaboration between the cardiology and cancer service lines.

"We're building a database that will monitor patients who are treated with potentially cardio-toxic chemotherapy. This will allow us to track any cardiac side effects resulting from the cancer treatment and modify treatment plans as appropriate," says Bijoy Khandheria, MD, a cardiologist at Aurora St. Luke's.

Dr. Khandheria says some patients, depending on their risk, will require heart screenings before, during and after their cancer treatment to see what kind of effect the chemotherapy drugs are having on the heart.

James Weese, MD, vice president of Aurora Cancer Care, says the collaboration will help oncologists and cardiologists refine their treatment plans. The center will use molecular studies to find those patients who will be at greatest risk to develop cardiac toxicity so that their physicians can individually tailor drug dosing and cardiac monitoring when using those specific drugs.

"This could change how cancer patients are cared for in the future. Especially women, as many of the drugs being studied are often used to treat breast cancer," explains Dr. Weese.

Ken is excited about the impact the program is going to have, "I'm just really encouraged. The doctors who are involved are extremely impressive individuals and they are very engaged. There's a real need for this."

"Because of donors like Ken, we're going to advance the field and not just compete in it. This is setting a new standard," explains Dr. Weese.

If you would like to support the Karen Yontz Center for Cardio Oncology at Aurora Health Care, please contact Rhonda Plotkin at rhonda.plotkin@aurora.org.

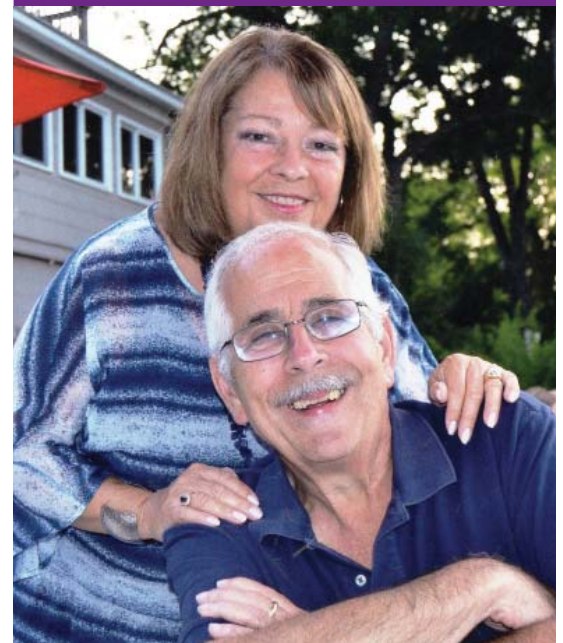
Paying it forward

In October of 2014, Peter Faust felt something "ripping" in his chest and his wife Gwen called 911. First responders took him to Aurora Lakeland Medical Center in Elkhorn where staff knew right away it was serious. They called Flight for Life to transport him to Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center in Milwaukee.

Peter ended up having an "aortic dissection" and was told only 10% of patients survive. Well Peter is one of the rare 10% and he and Gwen are incredibly grateful for the staff at both hospitals. In fact, Gwen is so thankful that she wants to return the favor. She joined the Benefit Ball Committee, which raises money every year for programs at Aurora Lakeland Medical Center.

"It was Aurora down the line, from the Emergency Department at Aurora Lakeland to Aurora St. Luke's; I wouldn't have my husband without them. I hope I can make a meaningful contribution," says Gwen.

Support for Aurora Health Care Foundation comes in many forms. To learn ways you can make a difference, go to give.aurora.org.



Zilber Family Foundation gives \$250,000 to strengthen hospice and palliative care services

Aurora Health Care Foundation received a generous \$250,000 grant from the Zilber Family Foundation to support continued education for caregivers at Aurora Zilber Family Hospice and Aurora at Home (formerly Aurora Visiting Nurse Association). This gift will help patients and their loved ones receiving end-of-life care to access the most compassionate and informed care possible. The gift was announced at the 10th anniversary celebration of Aurora Zilber Family Hospice, held December 1 at The Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee.



Joe and Vera Zilber's legacy of compassion continues to impact others through Aurora Zilber Family Hospice.

Hospice and palliative care seek to create an environment where the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of patients and their families are met. Through Aurora at Home, care is provided across eastern Wisconsin by teams of physicians, nurses, social workers, home health aides, therapists, chaplains, counselors, and volunteers in the comforts of the patient's home, hospital room or at Aurora Zilber Family Hospice. Many caregivers, especially volunteers, require special training in the complexities of end-of-life care.

More than a decade ago, Joe and Vera Zilber donated \$1 million to initially build Aurora Zilber Family Hospice. This new gift continues their legacy to improve the quality of lives of people in our community during some of the most critical times of care. Since opening, more than 5,000 families have been cared for at Aurora Zilber Family Hospice.

To learn more about Aurora at Home or Aurora Zilber Family Hospice, please contact Judi Strout at judi.strout@aurora.org.



Your gifts will create more comfort at Aurora West Allis Medical Center

When the Emergency Department at Aurora West Allis Medical Center was first constructed, it was designed to meet the needs of a community in the early 1990s. Today, the Emergency Department serves nearly 37,000 patients every year.

"We've seen a real increase in volume the last seven years. We always serve people in a timely manner but sometimes patients are waiting in a hallway instead of a room and there isn't space for their family members.

It's not always as private as we would like it to be," explains Amy Kuehni, a Registered Nurse who works in the Emergency Department.

That's why Aurora Health Care Foundation is



Rendering courtesy of Zimmerman Architectural Studios, Inc. The new waiting room at Aurora West Allis will help the hospital meet the growing needs of the surrounding community.

supporting the partial renovation of the Emergency Department, which is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2016. Generous support from the West Allis community helped raise \$103,000 toward this effort, at the Evening of Promise event. These gifts will help in adding two patient rooms, renovating the triage area and expanding the waiting room area.

"This renovation will help us accommodate increasing volumes of patients while enhancing privacy and comfort at the same time. It will make the department more convenient for patients to use, and reduce the amount of time that they are in the Emergency Department for care," says Rick Kellar, President of Aurora West Allis Medical Center.

If you would like to support this effort, contact Adam Martin at adam.martin@aurora.org.

More training for nurses to help survivors of sexual assault, thanks to donors like you

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners, or SANE nurses, are on the front lines of helping survivors of sexual assault. Aurora has SANE nurses available in Burlington, Elkhorn, Hartford, Kenosha, Oshkosh, Milwaukee, Sheboygan and West Allis. At Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh, they are adding to their SANE program and it's helping to fill a real void in this area of care.

"We are getting cases from 80 miles away, people come from all over. We have seen a 250% increase in cases from 2014, not because there is more violence but because Aurora's program exists and the word is starting to spread," says Brenda Doolittle, who is the Forensic Program Coordinator for Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh's SANE program.

Because of donors like you, four additional nurses will receive the specialized training they need to make the SANE program available 24/7. Your commitment means that no matter the circumstance, a trained forensic nurse will always be available for women, men and children who need this specialized care.

"There is an advocate here for every session, every exam. We need to be available for them; they're at high risk for anxiety, depression and even suicide," Brenda explains.

By expanding the SANE program and increasing awareness and education of nurses, victim advocates, and community programs, more people will receive the resources they need to start their healing journey.

To make a gift or learn more, contact Beth Oswald at Beth.Oswald@aurora.org.



One of these SANE nurses is always available to offer this specialized care at Aurora Medical Center in Oshkosh.



How your gifts could impact Milwaukee's infant mortality rates

Aurora Sinai Medical Center specializes in micro-preemies, which are babies born at 23 to 28 weeks gestation. In fact, it is the only Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in downtown Milwaukee that provides a team of specialists on duty 24/7.



"You can't choose when you come into the world and these babies need our help. These ventilators will give them the best chance possible," says Jason Mattern, Manager of Respiratory Services at Aurora Sinai Medical Center.

"Many of the babies we're taking care of now are one pound or smaller. Their lives are so fragile, and they're also much more likely to develop chronic lung disease that can affect their lung function when they are older," says Dr. Jeffery Garland who is the NICU Director at Aurora Sinai.

According to the Milwaukee Health Department, nearly 60% of Milwaukee's infant deaths are due mainly to prematurity. That's why your gifts to Aurora Health Care Foundation are helping to purchase four CareFusion baby ventilators that specialists say will lead to better outcomes for these infants and their families.

Jason Mattern is the Manager of Respiratory Services at Aurora Sinai. Jason says, "These new ventilators will actually adjust to the oxygen needs of the baby; they are incredibly intuitive. When we look at infant mortality rates, these ventilators will help improve that number and have an impact that goes beyond the NICU here at Aurora Sinai."

Supporters of the first-ever *Tradition of Caring* event helped raise more than \$45,000 toward this effort which will help our tiniest of patients. There's still time for you to give! Please contact Adam Martin at adam.martin@aurora.org.

Revolutionary research has a new home

It's a new era of innovation on Milwaukee's central city campus, and your gifts to Aurora Health Care Foundation make it all possible. Aurora Research Institute just celebrated the grand opening of its Discovery Laboratory, which is 14,000 square feet of transformed space located on the campus of Aurora Sinai Medical Center.

Aurora Health Care researchers work at the cellular and molecular levels to gain a better understanding of genes and proteins and how they react to therapies. The goal is to find innovative ways to improve patient outcomes for cancer, cardiovascular diseases and neurological disorders.

Donors and caregivers attended the reception and open house events to interact with scientists, experience the latest technological advances available only at Aurora Health Care and learn why research is integral to improving health care.

To learn more about how you can contribute to this exciting innovation, contact Michelle Schuerman at Michelle.Schuerman@aurora.org.



Bob Stoltz, Research Lab Manager, leads a tour through Aurora Research Institute's Discovery Laboratory.

Bud Selig named 2016 Vince Lombardi Award of Excellence Honoree

The Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation is excited to honor Allan H. (Bud) Selig at the 26th Annual Vince Lombardi Award of Excellence Dinner on April 9. Selig, a Milwaukee native, officially served as the ninth Commissioner of Major League Baseball from 1998-2014, though he served as acting commissioner beginning in 1992.

Selig transformed the game of baseball in many ways during his 20-year career, including the introduction of the wild card game and interleague play, a successful labor agreement that has resulted in over two decades of labor peace, and a tremendous increase in game attendance and revenue growth.

The Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation is a dedicated supporter of Aurora Cancer Care. In 2015, it committed nearly \$2.3 million to Aurora Cancer Care programs and services.

Bud Selig will be recognized at the Lombardi Award of Excellence dinner on April 9, 2016 at The Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee, WI. To learn more about this event, or to purchase tickets go to LombardiFoundation.org



Bud Selig, a Milwaukee native, is best known for his extended tenure as the Commissioner of Major League Baseball.



Inspire

aurora.org/foundationblog



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HOPE SHINING BLUE

A Denim Day celebration honoring survivors of abuse.

Wednesday, April 27
5:30 - 10 p.m.

Turner Hall Ballroom
Milwaukee

Join us for this annual Denim Day celebration to honor and celebrate survivors of sexual assault. This year's event will benefit Aurora Health Care's Milwaukee Abuse Response Programs including The Healing Center, Safe Mom Safe Baby and the Sexual Assault Treatment Center.

Purchase tickets and learn more at give.aurora.org/hopeshiningblue or contact Cindy Hosale at cynthia.hosale@aurora.org.

Calendar of events

Saturday
April 9

Lombardi Dinner Ball

The Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee

This event benefits the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation.

Go to LombardiFoundation.org

Wednesday
April 27

Hope Shining Blue

Turner Hall Ballroom, Milwaukee

This event benefits Aurora Health Care's Milwaukee Abuse Response Programs.

Go to give.aurora.org/hopeshiningblue

Friday
April 29

Hartford Centennial Celebration

Schauer Arts Center, Hartford

This 100 year celebration benefits Aurora Health Care services throughout Washington County.

Go to give.aurora.org/hartford100

Friday
May 6

Generations of Pride

Tuckaway Country Club, Franklin

This event benefits behavioral health programs at Aurora St. Luke's South Shore.

Go to give.aurora.org/generationsofpride

Join a Walk to Tackle to Cancer near you! June - July 2016

**Germantown | Green Bay | Kenosha | Milwaukee | Oconomowoc
Oshkosh | Sheboygan | Two Rivers | Williams Bay**

Support Aurora Cancer Care and Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation and start building your team now! We've expanded the walks this year to include more locations and that means more fighters on our team to help those battling cancer. All donations support Aurora Cancer Care programs and are eligible for a 50% match by Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation!

To register, go to give.aurora.org/lombardiwalks

