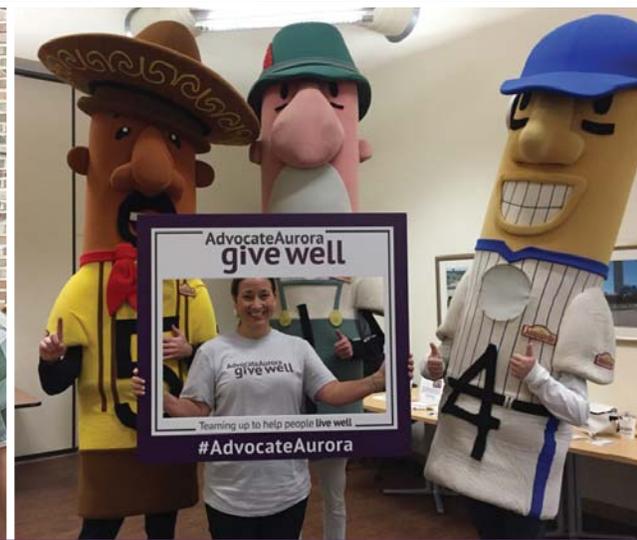




GIVE WELL GIVE WELL



Teaming up to help people live well

Advocate Aurora team members smash fundraising goals for Give Well Campaign

Message from Randy

Dear friends,

2019 is going to be a great year. How do I know this? It's because of the amazing faces you see on the cover of this magazine. They are donors, just like you. They are compassionate, just like you. Like some of you reading this, they are Advocate Aurora team members. And they are shining examples of how much more we can accomplish when we work *together*.

Merging two big organizations like Advocate Health Care and Aurora Health Care isn't easy, and we all knew there would be challenges. But we knew there would be opportunities, too. For example, each organization had its own employee fundraising campaign. But in the fall of 2018, we teamed up to help people live well with our first joint employee fundraising effort—the Advocate Aurora Give Well Campaign.

Not only did our team members smash our fundraising goal by raising \$6.6 million, they committed more than \$4.4 million to Advocate Aurora funds, which help improve access and outcomes for our patients. This shows how deeply committed they are to the communities they work in and the people they serve every day. Our team members want people to get the absolute best care possible, and they are willing to give their own time and treasure to make it happen. I am so incredibly grateful to be on their team.

I hope you enjoy reading about how our team members really put the “fun” in fundraising to support causes they care about. And I hope you feel as inspired by their generosity as I do.

Sincerely,



Randy Varju
President, Advocate Aurora Health Foundations
Chief Development Officer, Advocate Aurora Health



(L-R) Mark Michuda, owner of Michuda Construction, Inc, Leslie Winger, Leader of Foundation Well Community, and Randy Varju at the 2018 Corporate Partners in Philanthropy Networking Breakfast and Executive Briefing.



(L-R) United Way Board Chair Cory Nettles, and Campaign Co-chairs Cristy Garcia-Thomas, David Gay and Don Layden unveil the 2018 campaign total.

Building a stronger community together

In December 2018, United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha County celebrated another successful annual Community Campaign, which raised more than \$56 million to enhance programs that make our community stronger. Aurora Health Care Chief External Affairs Officer Cristy Garcia-Thomas served as a co-chair of the campaign, and helped lead it to another record year.

Aurora has served as a strong partner of United Way for more than 100 years. For the ninth year in a row, Aurora contributed more than \$3 million to the campaign, thanks in large part to the generosity of our team members.

United Way is Aurora Health Care Foundation's largest donor, giving \$1.6 million in 2018 to support vital programs like Aurora at Home, Aurora Family Service, Aurora Walkers Point Community Clinic and Aurora Healing & Advocacy Services.

Teaming up to help people live well

2018 was an interesting year for Advocate Aurora Health team members. As the two already successful health care organizations became one, uncertainty would be inevitable.

“Change can be a challenging time for anyone,” said Randy Varju, president of Advocate Aurora Health Foundations. “But giving always feels good. It reminds us that we’re all in this together.”

That’s why we decided our first big fundraising effort together would be to combine our respective internal giving campaigns, each over 20 years strong. And so, the Advocate Aurora Give Well Campaign was born. The campaign combined the best of both organizations’ initiatives and set a goal of raising \$5.5 million.

Four hundred campaign champions from all over the system brought to life the campaign’s theme, “Teaming up to help people live well.” **Not only did our team members exceed expectations, they smashed them.** Here are the fundraising totals:

- More than \$6.6 million total dollars
- Over \$4.4 million for Advocate Aurora funds
- \$1.7 million to area charities of their choice

“We’re really proud of how much money we raised, especially for Advocate Aurora funds,” Randy concluded. “Those funds increase patient access, support innovation and improve health outcomes. When it comes to helping people live well, there’s not a better team in health care.”



(L-R) Wisconsin team members Missy Gonzales and Luther Carlson.

“It was really exciting to brainstorm with other team members, including my counterparts in Illinois, about ways to engage team members at the sites. Every one of us works incredibly hard, and every one of us has plenty to think about both in and out of work. Seeing the joy on my colleagues’ faces when they realized their impact, together as one team, made it all worth it.”

— Luther Carlson, learning coordinator at Aurora Administrative Offices in Milwaukee



(L-R) Illinois team members, Mary Clark, Abbey Oman and Joe Malas.

“I give back through the campaign because I believe at any time any one of us could be the person that needs help. I believe in paying it forward, and being a nurse, this is one more avenue I can use to assist other people and their families. It was an honor to serve on the first-ever Advocate Aurora Give Well Campaign.”

— Mary Clark, nurse manager at Advocate Children’s Hospital in Park Ridge, IL

Where the dollars are going:

Most popular Advocate Aurora funds:

1. Advocate Hospice
2. Aurora Family Service Family to Family Thanksgiving
3. Aurora Walkers Point Community Clinic

Most popular external charities:

1. American Cancer Society
2. American Heart Association
3. Humane Animal Welfare Society (HAWS)

How your gifts are helping survivors of assault to not just heal, but to THRIVE

“I stand with survivors because I am one,” shared Samantha Collier.

She has been a regular at the Hope Shining Blue fundraising event, which supports Aurora Healing & Advocacy Services, since 2014. Samantha was an ambassador who helped launch the event, a survivor model, client and volunteer of Aurora Healing Center on Bruce, and is now an outspoken advocate for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

Samantha was molested by someone she knew between the ages of 6 and 9. She was raped in her own home at the age of 27. Most of her life she felt ashamed, alone and isolated. She suffered in unhealthy relationships because she didn't know how to trust people. Then she started going to counseling and discovered Aurora Healing Center on Bruce. It changed her life.

“I took counseling and started volunteering all the time. I felt such a connection with the place and the people there,” Samantha shared. “I just felt welcome, and it helped me to open up.”

And open up, she did. Samantha is now a dedicated advocate for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. She created her own organization, Team Teal 365, and made it her full-time job. She is especially passionate about educating young people on the meaning of consent, sexual boundaries and gender-based violence. She speaks often to students in Milwaukee Public Schools and other partnering organizations.



(L-R) Maryann Clesceri, manager of Healing Counseling, Aurora Healing & Advocacy Services, with Samantha, at the 2018 Hope Shining Blue event.

That tireless advocacy is why Samantha has been chosen as the Thrive honoree for this year's Hope Shining Blue event. For her, it means she's come full circle.

“Being a thriver means it's not just about me; it's about empowering others. I hope I can help bring people out of the shadows and give them what was given to me—freedom,” Samantha explained.

HOPE SHINING BLUE

A Denim Day celebration honoring survivors of sexual and domestic violence

How you can Stand with Survivors like Samantha

You can help ensure survivors like Samantha get the help they need, from the point of crisis through lifelong recovery, by attending Hope Shining Blue. This year's event on April 24, 2019, will be held in a new venue, Milwaukee's Eagles Ballroom.

All proceeds support Aurora Healing & Advocacy Services. By purchasing a ticket or making a gift, you can ensure that forensic nurses have the resources they need to provide compassionate care and that survivors can get counseling, free of charge. To learn more, go to give.aurora.org/hopeshiningblue. If you'd like to support Aurora's forensic nurses throughout our system, you can learn more at give.aurora.org/standingwithsurvivors.

A labor of love celebrates its 17th birthday

She was a beautiful baby who has grown into an amazing teenager. The Aurora Women's Pavilion opened in 2002 at Aurora West Allis Medical Center, which means it's about to turn 17! Glenda Lee, MD, obstetrics & gynecology, said it all grew out of the need for a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) on Milwaukee's south side.

"At the time, if a woman was in preterm labor, we had to transfer the mom to a high-risk center," Dr. Lee shared. "We wanted to keep our patients here."

Dr. Lee has been treating women and delivering babies at Aurora West Allis since 1989. She's like many passionate supporters of the Aurora Women's Pavilion who are simply amazed at what their vision has grown into today.

"We are really providing women with the full spectrum of care in a very supportive environment," Dr. Lee explained.

Dr. Lee serves on the Aurora West Allis Board of Directors because she believes it's important to remain accountable to the community they serve. She's also been a generous donor to various hospital causes, particularly those that support women's health. She was honored at the 2018 Evening of Promise event for her commitment to the hospital. For supporters like her, it's incredibly gratifying to see their vision continue to grow, just like a baby she helped to deliver.

"I am most proud of the quality care we provide," Dr. Lee said. "That cycle of life is very satisfying. I'm treating pregnant women who I once helped deliver!" she said with a laugh.



Glenda Lee, MD, was an early advocate to create the Aurora Women's Pavilion at Aurora West Allis Medical Center.

You can help change the game for patients with an invisible illness



(L-R) Coach Kyle Rechlicz with Ryan Cooley, MD.

Most fans probably wouldn't guess that the UW-Milwaukee women's basketball head coach, Kyle Rechlicz, is anything but healthy. She's a former UW-Madison player, she has a robust workout routine and her healthy eating would impress any dietitian. But some of these lifestyle choices are not really choices at all. In fact, her health depends on them.

Kyle has postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS). It's a form of dysautonomia, which occurs when there's a malfunction in the autonomic nervous system – the part that controls the body's automatic processes like blood pressure.

Kyle started feeling sick in 2013. But doctors couldn't find anything wrong. Then she met a physician who'd recently read an article about dysautonomia.

"He took my heart rate while I was sitting, lying down and standing — and based on the results, he recommended I see a cardiologist," she said.

Kyle met with cardiologist Ryan Cooley, MD, at Aurora Medical Center Grafton and confirmed she had POTS. "From that first appointment with Dr. Cooley, my life changed."

Today, Kyle is thriving. And she credits Dr. Cooley and the team at Aurora Medical Center Grafton for her health.

"I'm blessed to still be able to do my job," she said. "And I feel very fortunate to live in a community that has access to this care, because not everyone does."

The Dysautonomia Center at Aurora Medical Center Grafton is one of only two such centers in Wisconsin. To make a contribution to further support dysautonomia programs, services and research, go to give.aurora.org/grafton.

A MIGHTYMAMA who gives back

Shannon Sprung wasn't able to enjoy her brand new baby girl, Nora, like most new moms. Instead, her first few months of motherhood were "very depressing," and it wasn't just because of hormonal changes, either. Shannon knew there was something terribly wrong, but the medical system that treated her at the time just didn't take her symptoms seriously.

"I called them almost every day for two weeks," Shannon explained. "They thought I was retaining urine, but I had horrible pains in my abdomen and I could barely walk around the house."

After a few weeks, Shannon got a second opinion at Aurora Medical Center Summit. That's where she was diagnosed with a rare hematoma in her pelvic wall. She had surgery; the recovery was difficult but Shannon said her care team at Aurora Summit was amazing.

"I could have died. It was very serious," Shannon said. "But right away I felt valued as so much more than a patient."

Shannon is so grateful for the care she received, she is now selling homemade "MIGHTYMAMA" bracelets, with each bead carrying a symbolic meaning to encourage and inspire moms. So far, she's raised around \$2,700 with all proceeds going to the Women's Health fund at Aurora Summit.

"I want to help Aurora so they can continue to treat their moms as the precious individuals they are. They take it seriously."



Shannon, with her husband, Karl, and daughter, Nora, who will turn 2 in April.

Kicking for a cure



Nichole Cogswell has raised more than \$23,000 to support Aurora Cancer Care programs in Manitowoc.

What started as a project has quickly grown into a beloved tradition in Manitowoc.

It was 2013, and Nichole Cogswell was working toward earning her fifth-degree black belt at Lakeshore Tae Kwon Do. She needed to complete a project as part of the testing process.

"I knew I wanted to do a kick-a-thon, and since it was October, I chose to raise funds to support breast cancer care," explained Nichole.

"Give a Kick to Cancer" was so popular that Nichole decided to continue the fundraiser. Then, her connection to breast cancer became personal.

"The wife of one of our students was diagnosed with breast cancer and had treatment at Aurora Health Care, so it became even more important to continue the event and support her."

All the funds raised stay in the community

"The reason we donate to Aurora Health Care Foundation is because we want to keep the donations local," shared Nichole. "We get updates every year on how the funds are being used to help people receiving cancer treatment in the Manitowoc area."

To date, the kick-a-thon has raised \$23,710, and students have done a total of 237,990 kicks. It's become a tradition the students, their families and staff look forward to each year.

"We get T-shirts made — it's just fun for everyone. And the last two years, we've added an incentive for reaching our fundraising goal. If we make it, students get to hit me in the face with a pie!"

Infinity Society: When your passion for a cause runs deep

About Affi, MD, has called Aurora Sinai Medical Center in Milwaukee his professional home for over 27 years. He completed his residency there and is now the fellowship director. It truly is his home away from home.

“This place has given me everything; it made me the doctor I am today,” Dr. Affi explained. “I’m a part of this community. We have a responsibility to each other, not just our team members, but our patients too.”

For Dr. Affi, seeing Aurora Sinai Medical Center succeed means seeing himself and his patients succeed. That’s why he gives generously every year, not just to his area of expertise, but to other hospital needs, too. **In 2018, he made a significant gift of \$200,000 to create the Affi Gastroenterologist Fellowship Fund.** Those resources will help train an internal medicine physician to become a gastroenterologist, just like him. But Dr. Affi has also supported Aurora Sinai funds that help rehabilitation patients, survivors of domestic and sexual assault, babies born prematurely and much more.

“We’re all in this together, and we need to help sustain this place,” Dr. Affi shared. “Sinai is really in the midst of this community. When you see the need up close and you aren’t just looking from afar, it makes you a more compassionate person.”

Dr. Affi’s passionate support will help train our physicians of the future and impact care at Aurora Sinai for years to come. If you would like to support Dr. Affi’s fund that will help train an internal medicine physician to become a gastroenterologist, please contact Adam Martin at adam.martin@aurora.org.



About Affi, MD, is a gastroenterologist with a long history at Aurora Sinai Medical Center.



Infinity
Society

Infinity Society: Recognizing our most loyal and generous donors

Dr. Affi’s support of Aurora Sinai Medical Center every year puts him in our Infinity Society of donors. Infinity Society members are individual donors of \$1,000 or more annually, who are dedicated to supporting Aurora Health Care Foundation funds at a local or system level. So, what are you passionate about? To join or learn more, contact Jeannie Fischer at Jeannie.Fischer@aurora.org.

Inspire

give.aurora.org/blog



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Calendar of events

Friday
April 12

A Cause to Celebrate
Badger State Brewing, Green Bay
Go to give.aurora.org/celebrate

Wednesday
April 24

Hope Shining Blue
Eagles Ballroom, Milwaukee
Go to give.aurora.org/hopeshiningblue

Friday
May 10

Generations of Pride
Boerner Botanical Garden, Hales Corners
Go to give.aurora.org/generationsofpride

Saturday
May 18

Benefit Ball
Geneva National Golf Club, Lake Geneva
Go to give.aurora.org/benefitball

Friday, May 3

**The Pavilion at Discovery World
Milwaukee**

The 2nd annual **Legacy of Excellence** will support cardiac education initiatives at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center.

Individual tickets are \$175.
Valuable sponsorship opportunities are also available.

To find out more, go to
give.aurora.org/excellence.

LEGACY OF
EXCELLENCE

More pictures of our team members joining forces to support causes they care about and help their community LIVE WELL!

