

Message from Cristy



Cristy Garcia-Thomas with her daughter, Jayda, at Aurora Family Service's Family to Family Thanksgiving in November. Aurora Health Care is proud to be one of United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County's top five "Corporate Leaders." Family to Family Thanksgiving is one of many programs we support together.

It's so gratifying when we can show you the impact and the influence your generosity is having on your friends, neighbors and complete strangers every day.

There are few better examples than Patricia and David Hallam, who you will read about in this issue. Thanks to your gifts to the *When Minutes Matter* campaign, David is alive today. You helped purchase computer software called Emergency Medical Dispatch, and it enabled Patricia to keep her husband alive after he collapsed in their driveway. You helped ensure that David, a beloved husband, was able to make it back home to Patricia and continue the life they love in Saukville. I hope you'll read their story and hear how truly grateful they are that people like you cared enough to give.

Their story is also a great example of how your gifts to Aurora Health Care Foundation stay local. By now, you have probably seen the news of the merger between Aurora Health Care and Advocate Health Care, based in Illinois. We are very excited about the opportunities that will come when we work together. However, we want you to know that Aurora Health Care Foundation will remain separate, and 100 percent of your donation will continue to go to the funds you choose and will only be used for that purpose.

So when you support campaigns like *When Minutes Matter*, you're helping people like David in your own community. At Aurora Health Care Foundation, we know that caring connects us all. And thanks to your generosity, we're able to enhance Aurora's programs and services that make a difference to so many.

Thank you for making such an incredible impact.

Sincerely,

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

Caregivers committed to their community

Every October and November, Aurora holds its employee giving campaign, the Aurora Partnership Campaign. And every year, our caregivers amaze us with their giving spirit. 2017 was no exception.

In 2016, Aurora caregivers surpassed the **\$4 million** mark for the first time in the campaign's 20-year history. In 2017, Aurora caregivers went the extra mile again, giving even more to support patient access and buoy our community partners:

- **\$4,108,504** in total gifts
- **\$2,102,814** in gifts to Aurora Funds

What this means

Our caregivers' incredible generosity made an impact on more than 1,500 charities. But the real key here is that with gifts like these – and yours! – what we can do for our communities and patients is immeasurable. *Because when we work together, so much more is possible.*

Thank you, caregivers, for helping to transform care and strengthen our communities!



Aurora caregivers put the FUN in fundraising! Events were held across eastern Wisconsin to help raise money for causes people care about.

Patricia saved her husband's life and YOU made it possible!

"My husband just collapsed; I think he had a stroke. David, wake up! David?"

That's how Patricia Hallam's seven minute 911 call began on September 15, 2017. Her 64-year-old husband, David, had collapsed in the driveway of their home in Saukville.

But help was on the other line, thanks to Emergency Medical Dispatch software, or EMD, which was funded by donors to Aurora Health Care Foundation's *When Minutes Matter* campaign in Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties. The software helped Ozaukee County Sheriff's dispatcher Michael Eibs talk Patricia through CPR while she waited for an ambulance to arrive.

"Just stay on the line and I'll tell you exactly what to do next," he said.

Not only was Michael able to give Patricia instructions, he also made sure she kept her cool while performing chest compressions on David.

"How he kept her calm during the whole situation, I'm really pleased with that," said David at a recent news conference, where Patricia received an award from the Sheriff's Office for her bravery. "I'm pleased to be here," he added.

David is alive and well today because of Patricia, dispatcher Michael Eibs, the first responders who rushed to their house, and donors like you who made EMD a reality.



David and Patricia Hallam

"We would just like to say thank you, thank you, thank you to all the donors who provided money for this program," said Patricia.

"When suffering from life-threatening conditions, rather than have your medical care start when the paramedics show up, your medical care is going to start as soon as you call 911," said Steven Zils, MD, Out of Hospital Medical Director for Aurora Medical Center in Grafton and Sheboygan, and medical director for the new dispatch system.

THANK YOU for coming to the rescue

The *When Minutes Matter* campaign raised \$550,000! That includes our lead gift from Acuity and other significant gifts from Aurora Medical Center Grafton Medical Staff, Ozaukee County, an anonymous donor and many more. The goal was to provide more people in the community with lifesaving tools and empower them to act in emergency situations. Other ways your gifts are making a difference:



Automated External Defibrillator (AED): Assessment and placement of devices in the community to assist during cardiac events. You can help locate devices by downloading the PulsePoint app on your tablet or phone.



EMS support vehicles: Two vehicles purchased to provide immediate physician-led, on-scene response for emergencies and real-time education for EMS responders. Shortly after going into service, Dr. Steven Zils used a vehicle to quickly get to the scene of an industrial accident and help save a worker's life!



CPR training: 600 people in the community trained to perform CPR. Someone already used that training to help save a man's life!



Patient simulators: Multiple high-fidelity devices purchased to provide hands-on competency and proficiency training. Training targeted for this spring.

To see the list of generous donors who contributed to the *When Minutes Matter* campaign or to learn more about how their gifts are saving lives, go to give.aurora.org/minutesmatter.

Targeting cancer on a molecular level

Precision medicine. Those two words describe the future of medicine. More physicians and scientists are using this individualized approach to treatment to change health care as we know it.

“When it comes to prevention, diagnosis and treatment, precision medicine takes an individual’s variability to his or her advantage,” said Michael Thompson, MD, PhD, and co-director of the Aurora Health Care Oncology Precision Medicine program. “For example, depending on the molecular makeup of an individual’s tumor, a targeted treatment may be available.”

Aurora’s precision medicine clinic is a collaboration between medical oncologists, pharmacy, pathology, research, radiology and genetic counselors to provide patients with treatment options beyond radiation or chemotherapy. It’s a multi-disciplinary approach to treating cancer – especially cancers that are resistant to standard treatments.

Caring for the heart and mind

Precision medicine is also used in neurologic and cardiac care.

“This approach is giving additional treatment options to health care providers and some cancer patients,” Dr. Thompson said. “So we are combining molecular testing, clinical treatment and research studies when available.”

Precision medicine is being used to help reduce the chances of adverse cardiac effects associated with some cancer drugs. An Aurora study aims to help physicians make better medication decisions based on the patient’s

genetic makeup, using information available in their electronic health record.

Precision medicine is a regular part of caring for some brain cancers. For instance, patients with cancers like glioblastoma multiforme – one of the most aggressive brain cancers – are tested for their molecular targets from which individualized, effective treatments could be developed.

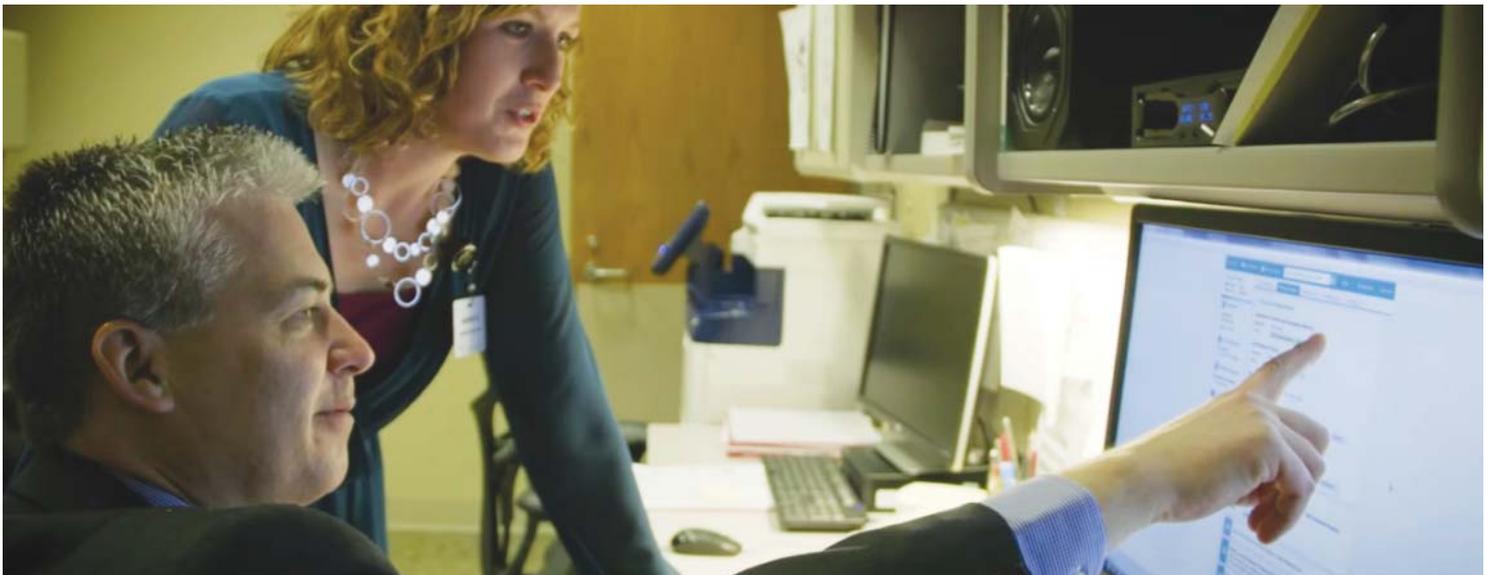
Why donating to precision medicine is important

Donors to Aurora Health Care Foundation, including the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation, helped to jumpstart this effort by supporting the hiring of the clinic’s co-director, Jennifer Godden, PharmD.

Standardized precision medicine practices that have been integrated into patient care are generally covered by insurance. However, insurance will not cover the development of the new and even more individualized precision medicine practices that could take patient care to the next level.

“Your support can help us innovate and push the boundaries of what is possible,” explained Dr. Thompson.

You can help raise funds for precision medicine and its impact on cardiac, neuro and cancer care at Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center by attending the upcoming Legacy of Excellence event. It will take place Friday, May 4, at The Pilot House at Discovery World. You can purchase a ticket or learn more at give.aurora.org/excellence.



Michael Thompson, MD, PhD, and Jennifer Godden, PharmD, are co-directors of the Oncology Precision Medicine program at Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Center, where individualized, targeted therapies can be developed based on molecular and genetic markers.

Your support of Aurora Healing and Advocacy Services is saving lives, like Herica's

Herica Silva doesn't have many pictures of herself from childhood, but in photos she has seen, she is never smiling.

"I don't think there's a picture of me as a child with a smile. In all of them you can just see the sadness," Herica shared.

That's because starting when Herica was about six years old, she was sexually abused by male family members—a total of five of them. The last time Herica remembers being abused she was 14 years old. But what makes Herica's story even more unthinkable is that she told her mother about the abuse, and she says her mother didn't try to stop it.

"It was like men would come around looking for little girls, and she allowed it," Herica explained. And that indifference from her own mother has been, at times, harder to manage than the abuse itself.

"I just felt so alone and I completely shut down. All throughout high school, my relationships were never meaningful because I didn't know how to trust people," she said.

At the age of 20, Herica locked herself in her bedroom and took dozens of pills, trying to kill herself. Thankfully, she survived and married her husband shortly after. Herica says her husband is the first person in her life who believed her when she confided her abuse. And then eight years ago, she made a phone call to Aurora Healing Center on Bruce, which is a program of *Aurora Healing and Advocacy Services*, and the woman who took down her information was the second.

"Right away, they totally validated me and said 'It's not your fault,'" Herica shared. Over the years, Herica



Herica was a survivor model at the 2016 Hope Shining Blue fundraising event for Aurora Healing and Advocacy Services.

has participated in art therapy and helped to launch pet-assisted therapy, but for her, it has been the group therapy sessions that left the greatest impact.

"Listening to some of their stories was like listening to myself; I finally knew I wasn't alone. I still keep in touch with members of my first group," she said.

Herica still goes to counseling and knows she has more work to do. But she says *Aurora Healing and Advocacy Services* has taught her how to deal with difficult emotions that get triggered, how to be a better mother to her two girls, and wife to her husband.

"Aurora Healing Center on Bruce helped me put a stop to the cycle of abuse in my life. It truly saved my life," she said.

Support survivors like Herica during Sexual Assault Awareness Month



STANDING WITH SURVIVORS

on Denim Day, April 25, and supports *Aurora Healing and Advocacy Services*. Hope Shining Blue and Denim Day are two of the many ways you can stand with survivors throughout the month of April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Join these efforts, or start a fundraiser of your own to enhance the care for survivors all throughout our system. To learn more, go to give.aurora.org/supportsurvivors.

Herica Silva has not only overcome horrible abuse in her own life, she now works tirelessly as an advocate for other survivors. That's why she's being honored with the Thrive Award at the 5th annual Hope Shining Blue event at Turner Hall in Milwaukee. Hope Shining Blue is

Aurora Sinai is just like home for Dr. Michael Cicero



Dr. Michael Cicero in the Emergency Department at Aurora Sinai Medical Center

Michael Cicero, DO, FACOEP, describes Aurora Sinai Medical Center in Milwaukee as having a “gravitational pull.”

“Throughout the years I’ve seen people leave, but they always come back,” he explained. “It just has a family feel and people always say hi to each other. That doesn’t happen in other places.”

And he should know; Dr. Cicero is one of those people. He was actually born at Aurora Sinai on Christmas Day and grew up in the Milwaukee suburbs. Dr. Cicero and his wife, Andra Cicero, OBGYN, had settled in Chicago, but after having two kids, they knew it was time to move home. They were fortunate enough to get jobs at Aurora Sinai around the same time.

“My wife and I do give a lot here, in terms of patient care, but we also try and give back to the community in other ways. We, along with other caregivers, like to support students at a neighborhood school, and every year we show up at Christmas with an ambulance full of presents,” he said.

Dr. Cicero recently served as an Honorary Chairperson for Aurora Health Care Foundation’s fundraising effort to help build a comfort room near Aurora Sinai’s Emergency Department. It will be a private space for loved ones of trauma patients where they can relax during a very stressful time. It’s just another way for him to give back to a hospital that has already provided so much comfort to him.

“I’ve known some of the patients who have come in and I went to high school with a few doctors. I’ve had patients see my last name and say ‘Cicero? I knew your mother!’ So that’s pretty neat,” he shared.

To learn how you can help transform care at Aurora Sinai Medical Center, contact Adam Martin at adam.martin@aurora.org.

Chris Stebnitz knows the importance of paying it forward

Chris Stebnitz knows how vital emergency services are to a community. In fact, he would probably not be alive today if it weren’t for the help of a first responder who jumped into action almost 25 years ago. Chris was ejected from a car after a terrible crash and suffered a severe spinal cord injury.

“It just so happened, a couple of cars behind us was an EMT. He ran to help and that care I got at the scene was critical in saving my life,” Chris shared.

Chris is still in a wheelchair today, but he lived to go on and marry his wife, Jill, and they now have three wonderful children. It’s one of many reasons Chris and his family are so passionate about giving back to their community. He and Jill have supported the Benefit Ball, a fundraising event to enhance care at Aurora Lakeland Medical Center, since 2012. This year, the Benefit Ball will provide the funds to purchase an ambulance that will serve as a “mobile simulation laboratory” to help train first responders in the surrounding communities. It is a cause close to Chris’s heart.

“When I had my accident, people I didn’t even know were holding fundraisers and helping my family,” explained Chris. “They helped put an addition on my parents’ home to make it more accessible for me. So I have seen the good a community can do and it made me want to pay it forward.”

To purchase a ticket or learn more about this year’s Benefit Ball, go to give.aurora.org/benefitball.



Chris and Jill Stebnitz

We are so grateful for generous donors like Chris and Dr. Cicero who make their communities a safer, healthier place to live.

Legacy Society: Make an impact for years to come

Mona Hietpas: Transforming mental health care in Milwaukee



Mona Hietpas

For nearly two decades, Mona Hietpas was a leader with Family Service of Milwaukee, now known as Aurora Family Service, which helps promote family wellness and self-sufficiency through every stage of life.

With partners David Hoffman and Jean Robinson, she helped found the program's Family Therapy Training Institute, or FTTI, in 1972. Mona describes this postgraduate professional school for marriage and family therapists as the beginning of the family therapy movement in Milwaukee.

"This training body was created to help our therapists better understand the full environment of what their patients experienced," Mona said. "Many individuals suffer from anxiety or depression. The effort in FTTI is to help therapists use a systemic approach to help clients understand the causes of their anxiety. Family therapists help people to better relate to family members and other small groups."

Partnered with Milwaukee Mental Health Consultants, the program today provides mental health professionals advanced skills for certification. Around 10 therapists complete the program each year. It's a passion that Mona will continue to support with a gift written into her estate plan for Aurora Health Care Foundation, leaving a positive influence on mental health for years to come.

"I want to make a contribution to what has truly been my life's work," Mona said. "In our world right now, we end up being more tribal than compassionate. There is such a need for trained family therapists. I hope we can return to an understanding of our culture and how we relate to each other with more compassion."

We are grateful for the compassion and generosity of people like Mona and Jennifer. There are many ways you can join our Legacy Society and many benefits for doing so. To learn more, go to give.aurora.org/legacy.

Jennifer Cooper: Grateful for patients and a fulfilling career

Jennifer Cooper, RN, has given a lot of her time, energy and expertise to Aurora Health Care. Aurora has been her employer for more than 41 years!

"My first job out of college was here, what is now Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center. I've worked in research for more than ten years, and before that was in the cardiac operating room," Jennifer shared.

For Jennifer, working at Aurora St. Luke's hasn't been just a job; it's been a rewarding career. With the help of Aurora's loan forgiveness program, she went back to school at the age of 60 to get her bachelor's degree in nursing.

"I feel like Aurora has given me a lot of opportunities over the years. I've had many different roles and you can really grow within Aurora," she explained.

Throughout her life, she has donated to many Aurora funds that are important to her by giving through the Aurora Partnership Campaign. But she decided to make an even bigger commitment by joining our Legacy Society and naming Aurora Health Care as the beneficiary of her retirement plan.

"I don't have a large family or anything, and I thought that since two-thirds of my life has been here, why not give back? Aurora has been good to me, and I value the people and the patients very much," said Jennifer.



Jennifer Cooper, RN

Inspire

aurora.org/foundationblog



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Calendar of events

Friday
April 13

A Cause to Celebrate

National Railroad Museum, Green Bay
Go to give.aurora.org/celebrate

Wednesday
April 25

Hope Shining Blue

Turner Hall Ballroom, Milwaukee
Go to give.aurora.org/hopeshiningblue

Friday
May 4

Legacy of Excellence

Pilot House at Discovery World, Milwaukee
Go to give.aurora.org/excellence

Friday
May 11

Generations of Pride

Tuckaway Country Club, Franklin
Go to give.aurora.org/generationsofpride

Saturday
May 12

Benefit Ball

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



A MINDFUL TRI AGAINST CANCER

Save the date for a "Mindful Tri" against cancer!

Saturday, June 2 -
Germantown and Oshkosh
Saturday, June 9 -
Kenosha and Sheboygan
Saturday, June 16 -
Grafton and Williams Bay
Saturday, June 23 -
Milwaukee and Summit

Who will you Hope.Heal.Feel for in 2018? We hope you will join us for one of our new Aurora Mindful Tri events this June to support those on their cancer journey. Come explore activities such as tai chi, an empowerment walk and various relaxation techniques that reflect the important role integrative medicine can play for those diagnosed with cancer. All funds raised will enhance Aurora's research efforts, integrative medicine therapies or cancer clinics in your area.

Save the Date for the 2018 Aurora Gala!



September 8, 2018
The Wisconsin Center, Milwaukee

Thanks to donor support, the 2017 Aurora Gala raised a record \$1M to support patient-centered research and other vital programs at Aurora Health Care. Join us in 2018 for our largest annual event celebrating new and leading innovations at Aurora Health Care that transform patient care, build community and help more people live well. Go to give.aurora.org/gala to purchase a ticket or learn more!