



Sue Ela, RN
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

Sue Ela, RN, FAAN, is executive vice president and chief operating officer for Aurora Health Care. Dedicated to patient care, she provides leadership and support for all clinical areas. Sue and the leaders of Aurora's Patient Service Markets help our caregivers in hospitals, clinics and home care settings fully bring to life our vision of providing patients better access, better service and better results than they can get anywhere else.

Aurora's singular vision of making things better for patients invigorates Sue to do the best job she possibly can. She considers taking care of patients a privilege, and always stresses the importance of making decisions with the patient in mind. Sue's role models are the caregivers who deliver care to our patients every day. Their commitment to the people we serve inspires her to do her best.



With more than 30 years of nursing and health care leadership experience, it is no surprise Sue has a unique blend of bringing both patient care and strategic vision to life. Sue came to Aurora as president of the Aurora Visiting Nurse Association, and her responsibilities quickly grew. She is passionate about listening to caregivers, patients, community leaders, employers and payers, and helping everyone work together to address patient needs. Sue believes that by working together collectively, more can be accomplished than when everyone works alone. A project that is near and dear to Sue is our collaborative Knowledge-Based Nursing Initiative. This project with the Cerner Corporation and UW-Milwaukee is a true illustration of Aurora's vision of finding a better way and Sue's conviction that a partnership between a health care system, a university and a business could achieve higher quality outcomes than any one member could alone.

Sue's dedication and motivation of others goes far beyond Aurora. Community volunteering has always been an important part of Sue's life. Her background is in pediatric nursing, and she fuels her passion for children by volunteering for organizations that serve youth. Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee and the Boys and Girls Club of Milwaukee hold a special place in Sue's heart. She sits on their boards because she believes in their missions of inspiring and empowering young people to reach their full potential, and that helping Milwaukee's youth is one powerful way to help build a stronger community. Sue serves on the Greater Milwaukee Committee and the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership with other community leaders. She is actively involved in the United Way, and co-chaired the Teen Pregnancy Initiative. She was a past United Way campaign co-chair, as well as a Women's Initiative Cabinet member.

Sue feels that one of the great things about working for Aurora is the commitment to work-life balance. Family life is important, and when Sue leaves work, she focuses on her family and friends. Sue and her husband have three children. One is in graduate school in Madison, one is in college, and their youngest is in high school. Right now, Sue spends most of her spare time with her youngest child. She also has extended family, six siblings and other relatives close by in the Midwest.