At Aurora Health Care, we believe in strong partnerships. It is my pleasure to personally share with you the progress of our biggest partnership yet. On April 1, Aurora Health Care joined Advocate Health Care in neighboring Illinois, making us now Advocate Aurora Health. Two national leaders in health care have come together as one to help millions of people live well, with unsurpassed access to world-class care.

As Advocate Aurora Health, we are now the 10th largest not-for-profit, integrated health care system in the country. We now have 70,000 team members, as opposed to 33,000 at just Aurora, and our new employee base includes 3,300 employed physicians, another 4,800 independent physician partners, and 22,000 nurses. We’re caring for nearly 3 million people at more than 27 hospitals, 500 outpatient locations and 63 Walgreen’s clinics. Together we provide a community benefit of nearly $2 billion throughout a larger footprint. Our combined strength and stability drives us forward, and together we believe we can reimagine health care and transform the care we provide.

Yet even though we are now part of something bigger, that does not change our commitment to all of the communities we serve. The numbers may be impressive, but health care is local, and we remain focused on the well-being of our patients and the communities in which we live and work. So you will still see our teal-roofed buildings and your familiar doctors, nurses and therapists you are accustomed to seeing wherever you receive care from Aurora. You will still see our Aurora logo and our volunteers out in the community in their teal Aurora shirts. The people you see from Aurora serving on boards will continue doing that work. The bottom line is that we remain committed to serving our communities and our patients will continue to receive the same great care close to home.

We may be Advocate Aurora Health now, and we’ll be working on how we integrate the best that each of our health care systems has to offer, but we are still your neighborhood health partner here to help you live well.

Cristy Garcia-Thomas
Chief External Affairs Officer
Advocate Aurora Health
Community Sponsorships

Aurora Health Care supported more than 180 organizations through community sponsorships from January-June, plus more than $33,000 of in-kind donations. Here’s how funds supported our four focused giving areas:

- Behavioral Health & Primary Care = $30,850*
- Community Wellness & Health Education = $401,092
- Diversity & Inclusion = $204,770
- Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault = $38,600*

TOTAL DOLLARS = $675,312

*Behavioral Health & Primary Care and Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault primarily funded by Better Together Fund. Visit www.aurora.org to request a sponsorship or speaker.

Aurora Partnerships

A. SIXTEENTH STREET COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS:
On top of a $1 million Better Together Fund grant, Aurora Health Care donated a building valued at $1 million to Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers in Milwaukee for a new clinic that opened in May on Milwaukee’s south side. The new Layton Clinic provides bilingual behavioral health and substance abuse treatment services.

B. I CAN SHINE BIKE CAMP:
Aurora Medical Center Oshkosh partners with COVEY and I Can Shine to bring the I Can Shine Bike camp to Oshkosh, Wisconsin. This week-long camp provides youth and adults with disabilities an opportunity to safely learn to ride a conventional two-wheeled bike. COVEY offers disability services and respite care to Central Wisconsin.

C. MEALS ON WHEELS IN SHEBOYGAN:
Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center just wrapped up a partnership with Meals on Wheels to make sure patients with congestive heart failure are eating right upon discharge. The hospital pays for 30 days of meals to be delivered and follows-up with the patient to check on his or her eating habits. The project has led to a decrease in hospital readmissions for the patients.
Leadership
Through Volunteering

New Leader Onboarding at Aurora Health Care has caught the volunteer spirit. The leadership development program is for first-time leaders or leaders new to Aurora. The various cohorts meet four full days over a three-month period and must plan, communicate, and implement a community service project as local teams.

“As new leaders, you have to think differently,” says Paul Bulski, who oversees the program. “You’re in the spotlight, so it’s important to lead by example. By developing a community service activity, you are going to model leadership qualities for your team and spark enthusiasm for serving others and helping people live well.”

So far 400 new leaders have participated, volunteering approximately 2,000 hours. The community service projects promote team-building, time management, communications, and of course, benefit the volunteers and the community. A win-win for everyone!

Kudos Aurora Team Members

1. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
Advocate Aurora President & CEO, Dr. Nick Turkal, received the Dr. Erastus B. Wolcott Distinguished Service Award from the Medical Society of Milwaukee County. The award recognizes physicians who with courage, vision, integrity and compassion devote themselves to turning obstacles into opportunities.

2. CANCER VISIONARY
Aurora Health Care’s Dr. Judy Tjoe received the first Melodie Wilson Oldenburg Visionary Award from After Breast Cancer Diagnoses (ABCD) for her dedication to working toward giving breast cancer patients the best life possible.

3. TWO TO WATCH
Two Aurora Health Care team members were among 40 individuals under 40 recognized by the Milwaukee Business Journal as ones to watch in shaping the city: Dr. Senait Tesfai Barker and Maggie Beckley, Real Estate Manager.

4. COMMUNITY HERO
Aurora’s Brittany Sabin used her nursing skills at a local health club to save a man’s life. She provided CPR until paramedics arrived and ultimately received the Community Safety, Security and Resiliency Hero award from the American Red Cross.

FRIENDS OF EDUCATION
Aurora Medical Center at Summit received a bronze Friends of Education award from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for partnering with the Pewaukee High School INSIGHT program. The program gives students hands-on, real-world experiences immersed in a professional setting.
At Aurora Health Care, *Every Drop Counts* is not only the name of a fun competition among businesses to increase the community blood supply, but also a theme that epitomizes the effort throughout Aurora to be a key part of this life-saving process.

For the second year, our Aurora Weeks of Caring focus from January 15–21 was blood donation, and our final tally showed that we increased the number of units collected by more than 20 percent over last year. This year, 874 Aurora caregivers and friends donated blood throughout our footprint with 788 of those being successful. That’s up from 656 successful donations in the same week last year. This increase followed our announcement that we had exceeded a three-year goal to more than double blood donation at Aurora.

Our success birthed the *Every Drop Counts* Challenge, which challenges MillerCoors and Harley Davidson to see which company’s employee base can donate the most blood through the Blood Center of Wisconsin from January 12 through July 12. The winner will get bragging rights and a traveling trophy.

In May, Aurora received the 2017 Blood Drive Award for Most Productive Blood Drives from the Association of Donor Relations Professionals, an International Division of America’s Blood Centers. Janet Rewolinski, a nursing professional development coordinator and key member of Aurora’s Blood Drive Steering Committee, accepted the award on Aurora’s behalf.