Each year our community benefit plan is guided by our community health needs assessment (CHNA). To see our CHNA report, please visit www.aurora.org/commbenefits. We are happy to provide this brief overview of our community benefits work in 2014, organized into three main health priorities:

Our hospital participates in the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership ED Care Coordination Initiative to help uninsured Emergency Department (ED) patients become established with a “Health Home” to receive routine primary and preventive care. In 2014, a total of 106 follow-up appointments were scheduled in our ED before patients were discharged. Of the scheduled appointments, 67 patients were connected with a Federally Qualified Health Center and 39 were referred to other safety net clinics.

To ensure a safe discharge for patients, during 2014, our hospital’s Essential Medication Fund provided 405 prescriptions to uninsured patients who could not afford medications.

**Priority #1:**
Increase access for persons in our community with disproportionate unmet health needs.

**Priority #2:**
Build links between our clinical services and local health departments’ community health improvement plans.

**Blood pressure, mental health, physical activity, nutrition and overweight/obesity**

Our hospital’s Community Health Needs Assessment covers four public health jurisdictions in Milwaukee County, located along Milwaukee’s South Shore:

- Cudahy Board of Health
- Oak Creek Board of Health
- St. Francis Health Department
- South Milwaukee Health Department

Throughout 2014 our hospital president and behavioral health patient care manager were actively engaged with the Healthiest Cudahy Coalition. Our behavioral health patient care manager joined the new mental health and substance abuse workgroup, which is currently working to develop action steps to support plans to:

- Promote responsible use of alcohol among teens and parents
- Increase community awareness of substance abuse and mental health community resources
- Address mental health and AODA issues through a collaboration with the Cudahy School System and other community agencies

In 2014, we continued to support the Oak Creek Mayor’s Fitness Challenge, which challenges residents in southern Milwaukee County to think about what they eat, how they work out, and where they go to get community help to lose weight and get fit. We provided a physical therapist and other staff members for consultation, addressing questions related to fitness and injuries for the community Couch-to-5K program.

We continue to help community members keep accurate blood pressure records by hosting a free blood pressure clinic at our facility every Monday afternoon from 1 to 3 p.m. In 2014, the retired nurses who perform the blood pressure checks for community members provided approximately 25 screenings each week. As well, our stroke program coordinator delivered a stroke risk-factor awareness presentation to 45 members of the Young at Heart group, distributed stroke-awareness bookmarks to three local libraries, while two RNs provided outreach and education at an employee health fair.
Mental Health
In 2014, to address behavioral health concerns and increase awareness of mental health services available in the south shore area, we:

- Embedded behavioral health professionals in our Emergency Department (ED), who performed a total of 2,250 intake assessments for patients who arrived at the hospital due to a mental health or AODA crisis.
- Accommodated an average of 5.1 daily behavioral health visits through our mental health partial-hospitalization (half-day) program. We also served an average of 15.4 people per day through our inpatient behavioral health services.
- Provided publicly accessible information on our website about behavioral health services, including self-screening instruments for alcohol, anxiety, depression and stress.
- Provided outreach at St. John Lutheran Church in Cudahy through our Aurora Parish Nurse. Her holistic approach to care promotes health and wellness among the individuals, families, congregations and faith communities to whom she provides health education, personal health counseling and advocacy.
- Among her many roles, she hosts a grief support group, attended by 8-10 community members each month, and provides individual depression screening as needed. During 2014 this screening resulted in one direct referral to our hospital ED for suicidal risk.

Cancer education and support
We understand that individuals affected by a cancer journey need support in many areas of their lives. Examples of outreach we provide to help ease fears and concerns for individuals who have received a cancer diagnosis include:

- Our Cancer Nurse Navigator (CNN) is an experienced registered nurse to specialize in the care and support of cancer patients and their families. She serves as an advocate, coordinator, educator and patient-and-family partner at each stage of the cancer journey.
- Offering cancer prevention, detection, and early diagnosis education through various community venues and events in our South Shore communities, including an oncology course that meets twice per year.
- Hosting the American Cancer Society Look Good Feel Better program for community members with cancer to help restore and enhance their appearance during and after treatment.
- Addressing body, mind and spirit in our free Reiki program for cancer survivors.

Youth injury prevention
In 2014, our hospital partnered with Cudahy High School (CHS) to provide a licensed athletic trainer (LAT) from the Aurora Sports Medicine Institute. Our LAT also provided education and free injury evaluations to 11 staff, faculty and parents of CHS.

Our hospital’s Emergency Department leaders and clinical caregivers presented injury prevention displays and activities at the National Night Out events in Cudahy, South Milwaukee, and Oak Creek. Specific injury prevention topics included Animal Bites, When to Call 911 and Hot Weather Safety.

Healthcare workforce development
During 2014, our hospital and health centers provided more than 3,400 hours of clinical experience and placement hours for students from multiple universities and technical colleges working on undergraduate and graduate health and medical degrees.