GENEROSITY
IN ACTION

2024 IN REVIEW

Advocate Health Care® Charitable Foundation | Aurora Health Care® Foundation

ADVOCATE HEALTH **BY THE NUMBERS**

162K
Teammates

5.4M
Unique Patients

$6.05B
in Community Benefit

69
Hospital Campuses

1K+
Sites of Care

56K
Babies Born

547K
Inpatient Discharges

507K+
Continuing Health Admissions

40K
Most new cancer cases treated per year in the nation

26K+
Stroke Patients Treated

103K+
Cardiology Procedures

685+
Organ Transplants

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on another remarkable year, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. Your contributions empower us to make a profound impact every day in our hospitals, clinics and communities. From groundbreaking research and exceptional clinical care to meaningful patient programs and innovative advancements, your generosity truly makes a difference in driving our efforts forward.

As we live our purpose to redefine care for all, we remain committed to embracing the unknown through fearless curiosity and unshakable optimism, thinking boldly together and leading the way in charting new paths that lift everyone up–because we believe that everyone matters. These words will help build our foundation and guide our actions.

This far-reaching impact also comes to life throughout this report, where we've captured transformative moments made possible through philanthropy. As we continue to expand our services and deliver the best clinical outcomes, we are grateful for your support and are excited about building the future of health care with you alongside us.

With gratitude,

Leslie Wininger
President
Advocate Charitable Foundation
Aurora Health Care Foundation

Your 2024 Impact

More than
$47M
in gifts received from generous donors to Advocate Charitable Foundation and Aurora Health Care Foundation

500
teammates assisted through the Teammate Emergency Care Fund

Over
$6.4M
contributed by teammates across Advocate Health through Advocate Health Gives

1,300
donors supported the organization as Visionaries in Health*

**Donors giving $1,000 or more annually automatically qualify as Visionaries in Health*

$7.49M
donated through corporate giving

53 donors
joined our Amicus Society by making a planned estate gift

$25.64M
donated to enhance quality care access for all in Illinois and Wisconsin

DONORS IN **ACTION**

GATHER elevates exceptional care for all

Advocate Charitable Foundation and Aurora Health Care Foundation hosted GATHER, a night to amplify our commitment to disrupting the barriers of care for our patients and communities. A conversation between CEO Gene Woods and Chef José Andrés highlighted the humanitarian's dedication to addressing food and hunger issues and our shared commitment to enhancing the overall well-being of underserved communities. The event raised more than $525,000.

Scan the QR code to learn more about how we're redefining care for all.

Hope Shining Blue

Hosted annually on Denim Day, Hope Shining Blue offers supporters and community members an opportunity to join together in celebration of the inspiring healing journeys of resilient survivors of sexual and domestic violence. In 2024, the event had nearly 400 attendees and raised over $240,000 for care services including trauma therapy, specialized nursing and advocacy, as well as assistance for expectant and new mothers who have experienced domestic or sexual violence.

Marathon

From the support of the nearly 200 runners on Team Advocate at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, we received more than $365,000 to support services such as pediatric behavioral health, cancer care and other meaningful programs.

Advocate Children's Hospital Golf Classic

On June 3, nearly 200 golfers came together for the Advocate Children's Hospital Golf Classic, raising more than $420,000 to support the greatest needs of children and families receiving our care. Event proceeds support key initiatives that ensure excellence in clinical outcomes and subspecialty programs such as Advocate Children's Heart Institute, Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, Children's Cancer Care, Transport Services Program, Behavioral Health, pediatric nursing, research, education and resiliency.

Join us in making a difference

Each year, countless fundraising efforts are organized by passionate partners who rally the support of their friends, families and communities to raise funds for various programs within our organization. With the help of these partners, we're able to better care for our patients, engage our teammates, serve our communities and fulfill our mission.

Interested in learning more?
Scan the QR code to learn more about how you can support a program important to you.

Our Areas of ***Impact***

We're committed to making a positive impact in our communities. Together, our complementary strengths, diverse experiences and enhanced capabilities position us to focus efforts in six key areas, with philanthropy playing an essential role in our success.

With your support, more than $31 million was invested in supporting programs, resources and initiatives that help us better care for our patients, teammates and communities.

Clinical Preeminence and Safety
Philanthropy helped fund advancements in areas such as surgical robotics, simulation training, enhanced technologies and equipment and more.

Health Equity
Your support enhanced countless programs such as our Mobile Health programs, Food Farmacy, Family Enrichment Program and abuse response programming.

Affordability
Donor support funded critical needs of our hospitals and clinics, providing new equipment, capital improvements and expansions.

Next-Generation Workforce
We were able to better support our next generation workforce through fellowships, resiliency and wellness programming and scholarships.

Learning and Discovery
Research was made possible in areas such as cardiology, oncology, Down syndrome, neurology and more.

Environmental Sustainability
Donations helped us implement green initiatives, sustainability practices and energy reduction.

Helping survivors come back stronger than ever

Tiffany Young, a 45-year-old mother of three and a dedicated oncology nurse at Aurora Health Care faced the unexpected when she was diagnosed with stage 3, triple-negative breast cancer in 2021. This aggressive form of cancer required an equally aggressive treatment plan, and Tiffany underwent chemotherapy in 2022, followed by surgery and radiation in 2023 at Aurora West Allis Medical Center.

As Tiffany completed treatment, she found herself struggling to regain her strength. It was then that she was introduced to Aurora's Team Phoenix program, which is made possible through philanthropy.

Team Phoenix is not just any fitness program; it is a transformative 14-week initiative designed to help women like Tiffany reclaim their lives after cancer by training for a sprint triathlon. The program's mission is to encourage women to take an active role in their health and survivorship, moving beyond the label of cancer survivor.

For Tiffany, Team Phoenix was a game-changer. The program not only provided her with the physical training she needed to regain her strength but also offered something even more valuable: a sense of community and support. Surrounded by other women who had faced similar battles, Tiffany found camaraderie and encouragement. Together, Tiffany and her fellow survivors pushed their limits, celebrated their progress, and supported each other through the ups and downs of recovery.

The impact of Team Phoenix extends far beyond physical fitness. It empowers survivors to redefine themselves as not just cancer patients, but also as powerful, resilient survivors who are capable of achieving great things.

Team Phoenix wouldn't be possible without the generosity of donors, whose contributions help fund the resources, training and support that make a profound difference in the lives of participants. They enable women like Tiffany to not only survive cancer but also emerge stronger and more empowered than ever before.

Scan the QR code to watch Tiffany's story.

"Your generosity fuels strength, resilience, and hope. Thanks to your support, female cancer survivors have the opportunity to rebuild their bodies and spirits through our donor-funded triathlon training survivorship program. Every donation empowers these incredible women to push past their limits, regain confidence and embrace life beyond cancer. Together with our donors, volunteers and leadership team, we've supported over 425 Team Phoenix alumni. Your gift isn't just funding a program–it's changing lives. Thank you for making a difference!"

Ilka Hoffins
Special Events Coordinator
Team Phoenix
Aurora Health Care

Your Cancer Care Impact in the Midwest

Integrative medicine therapies such as aromatherapy, reiki, acupuncture and massage were provided to cancer patients at free and reduced costs, helping patients manage symptoms such as nausea, pain, neuropathy and more.

The Cancer Survivorship Center at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital served more than 2,000 patients, providing valuable resources to help cope with life with cancer and beyond, including the creation of a program specially designed to care for the unique emotional and well-being needs of young people diagnosed with cancer.

The origami cranes pictured above were gifted by the Asian American Pacific Islanders Employee Impact Group at health care company, Fresenius Kabi and are now on display at the Cancer Survivorship Center. Cranes represent hope, healing and love, symbolizing heartfelt wishes for the Center's patients.

New technologies, research, programs and resources to better diagnose, treat and care for cancer patients have been funded, such as surgical robotics technology, clinical trials, genetic testing, educational materials and more.

A new era in dental care

In the heart of Chicago, with the help of a $5.2 million fundraising campaign, the once cramped and out-of-date Dental Center at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center has transformed into a state-of-the-art facility, marking a new era in patient care. The creation of this modern space has opened immense opportunities to serve more patients and enhance the quality of care provided.

"With the increased capacity, patient access has significantly improved, particularly for those requiring anesthesia. Because of the additional space, the number of patients we serve with anesthesia each year could double," explained Ellen Canter, Development Director at Advocate Charitable Foundation.

One of the most significant advancements is the expansion of anesthesia services. Previously, the Center could only accommodate one or two medically complex patients or those with special needs who required sedation for even routine oral hygiene.

"Now, with an official recovery bay and a separate space for patients to recover, the Center can cater to a larger number of these patients," shared Ellen. "The new setup ensures patients who need anesthesia, along with their caregivers and medical equipment, have ample space, eliminating the clutter that once plagued the old facility."

The rooms have doubled in size, providing a more comfortable environment for both patients and staff. Patients and families now enjoy a serene view of grass and greenery through the windows, a stark contrast to the blank walls they used to face. This beautiful space not only enhances the patient experience but also contributes to their overall well-being.

This facility is one of few of its kind in the country, attracting patients from southern Illinois and even out-of-state referrals. The Center's commitment to workforce development is evident, with nine residents annually in general practice and an additional six in the dental anesthesia program. The expansion has also created space for more general dentists to have regular clinic days, further enhancing the Center's capacity to serve the community.

Alumni who have contributed to this project have done so because of the significant difference the Center has made in their lives. Their support is a testament to the Center's enduring legacy and its commitment to providing exceptional dental care. This new facility is not just a building; it is a symbol of hope, progress and the unwavering dedication to improving patient care.

"I have been bringing my special needs child to Advocate Illinois Masonic for their dental work for 10 years. The new space is outstanding. It is larger and so much easier to navigate with our wheelchair. In the procedure room too, there's enough space for all the equipment and the people to be there together without being on top of each other. Staff shared $5.2 million in philanthropic contributions made this amazing space possible. My family and I are very grateful to all the donors who supported this project, it means so much to us. Thank you!"

- Grateful patient family

Dental Center 2024 by the numbers

9,958
total patient visits

2,408
special patient care visits

1,290
mobile dentistry visits

344
anesthesia visits

300
pediatric dental van visits

From loss to light: Kids heal through Camp Bear Hugs

At first, they were all linked together by loss. By the end, they were connected by friendship and healing. At a sunshine-filled lakeside campground in Wisconsin, 20 children joined together, along with volunteers and our teammates, for Camp Bear Hugs's third annual event. This wasn't your typical summer camp, though. These kids all had a tragic, common thread: They recently experienced the death of a loved one.

The two-day grief support camp offered kids the opportunity to heal, grieve and feel their full spectrum of emotions with a volunteer "buddy" to guide them. Some were even returning for a second year. This much-needed outlet provided the safe space these children needed to express loneliness, anger and fear among company who were equipped to help them process and cope.

Grief is a complicated emotion with no timeline, and these young campers – some who've lost siblings or grandparents – were robbed of their innocence of being a kid. Camp Bear Hugs gives them just a little of that back, surrounding them with support and still giving them the chance to be kids, with simple pleasures like music, games, arts and crafts, and even ice cream, as part of the weekend. The only way out is through, and activities geared toward healing brought up emotional memories of their loved ones for the kids. "Noah's blue" was a paint color created by 7-year-old camper Elliot, who was mourning the loss of his older brother, Noah. He created the special color by mixing several shades of blue to show how he felt during his brother's journey, after losing him and how he wants to feel in the future.

Later, camper Brandon, who had lost both his brother and grandmother, was taking photos on a photo hunt. Although they seemed completely random to his volunteer buddy David, Brandon later explained that he took a photo of an old wagon on the campground because his little brother, who passed away accidentally at the age of 2 the year before, liked to be pulled around in one. Another photo of a swing set brought up memories of happy family times together.

In its namesake event, the kids create bears made from the clothing of their loved one, decorate them and leave special messages inside. As a tribute to his grandmother who had passed, Brandon used items she loved, like costume jewelry, to decorate his bear.

There's something to be said for giving these kids a tangible remembrance to hold on to when the weekend camp is behind them, and the inevitable waves of sadness roll in. Through Camp Bear Hugs, our hospice teammates and volunteers give these children hope, tools for the future and the space to share, reflect and perhaps, most importantly, the opportunity to be surrounded by kids who understand the heaviness they carry. It's in these cabins and fields of Wisconsin that the children get to be with others who understand their loss and come away with a sense of healing.

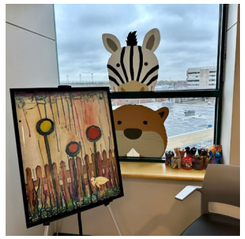
"Thank you for your contributions to such a much-needed resource for children who are grieving. In 2024, your donations were instrumental in providing 21 children a safe space for two days to speak openly about their loss, normalize feelings and find community amongst other children who are attempting to navigate life after a loss."

Jocelynn Hosea-Davis, APSW
Grief Support Specialist
Aurora Zilber Family Hospice

Legacy of love: A daughter honors her mother's legacy through creative healing space for kids

Grace Ann Giobbia was a beacon of creativity, kindness and unwavering care for others. Her daughter, Dina Giobbia-Stukel, fondly remembers how her mother's home art space was a haven for children in their neighborhood. It was a place where joy and inspiration flourished, leaving an indelible mark on the community.

In honor of her mother's legacy, Dina made a generous gift to the Child Life Program at Advocate Children's Hospital – Oak Lawn. This donation funded the creation of a new creative arts therapy studio, a space designed to bring the healing power of art to pediatric patients.



"Art was a central part of who my mom was," Dina shared. "Now, her legacy will live on in the hearts of pediatric patients in our community."

The dedication ceremony on November 14 was a heartfelt event. Dina, her five siblings, extended family, and members of the hospital community gathered to honor Grace's memory and her passion for helping others. Dina's words resonated with everyone present: "Life isn't about what you have; it's about what you do with what you have."

Children experiencing hospital stays often face thoughts, emotions and fears that are difficult to communicate. Art therapy provides a safe and welcoming environment for these young patients to process their experiences and express themselves. With the guidance of caring art therapists, children can explore their creativity and find solace through art.

Lori Mackey, an art therapist at Advocate Children's Hospital – Oak Lawn, explained the profound impact of art therapy: "We know art and music have the power to heal. What a gift and an honor it is for us to bear witness and be welcomed into our patients' lives during some of the most challenging days they may know."

The new creative arts therapy studio offers a vibrant sanctuary for young patients. It's a place where they can leave their rooms, engage in creative activities, and find comfort during their healing journey. "Art provides opportunities for self-expression and self-exploration. It gives patients a sense of control when so much has been taken away, normalcy and familiarity, relaxation and mindfulness," Lori said. "Art provides non-pharmacological pain management, enhances communication, allows for play and is an outlet for emotions."

The impact of this studio is made possible by the generous donations from supporters like Dina. By funding art supplies, therapy sessions and community events, donors enable the hospital to offer this vital program to more patients. Their support helps create a space where children can heal, grow and thrive.

Art therapy has a profound impact on mental and emotional well-being. It empowers participants to take an active role in their recovery, fostering resilience and hope. For the children at Advocate Children's Hospital, the program is a lifeline, helping them move beyond their illnesses and embrace a new identity as thriving, creative individuals.

Grace Ann Giobbia's legacy lives on through the art therapy studio, touching the lives of countless children. Her story is a testament to the power of creativity, kindness and the lasting impact of generosity. Through the support of donors, the healing power of art continues to make a difference, one brushstroke at a time.

Your Children's Health Impact

Invested more than **$1.7 million** into enhancing and expanding children's health programs, technologies, resources and more.

Donated nearly **$460,000** in toys, books and games during the Holiday Toy Drive for Advocate Children's Hospital campuses, providing joy and comfort to hospitalized kids throughout the year.

Launched the **Reach Out and Read Program** at Aurora Medical Center – Kenosha and Aurora Lakeland Medical Center, gifting pediatric patients with free books at their well visits to encourage early literacy.

Purchased an **international biomedical neonatal transport incubator,** allowing for the safe inter-facility transport of our tiniest and most vulnerable patients.

Created **four new behavioral health rooms** at Advocate Children's Hospital– Park Ridge, increasing our ability to care for pediatric patients facing a behavioral health crisis.

Offered additional **training and education,** including funding for a pediatric advanced airway simulator, enhancing the skills of our care teams.

Supporting the next generation of health care professionals

Thanks to charitable gifts, Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center has launched three unique initiatives that support the next generation of nurses and other health care professionals: the Best Fit for Nurse Advancement, Bridge to Practice and Best Fit for Teens programs.

The Best Fit for Nurse Advancement (BFNA) program makes a profound impact on the careers of experienced nurses, empowering them to explore advanced nursing practice, transition into new specialties, and step into leadership roles. This initiative not only facilitates professional growth but also strengthens nurse retention, ensuring that skilled and passionate nurses remain within our organization. Of the 46 experienced nurses who participated in 2024, an impressive 27 have successfully advanced into new roles within the organization. Their career advancements span a diverse range of leadership and specialty positions.

Additionally, eight BFNA participants have either started or completed a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) or a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Most notably, the program has demonstrated an extraordinary retention rate—94% of nurses who have completed the program remain within the organization, contributing their expertise to enhance patient care and nursing leadership.

"Deciding to try this program has been one of the best decisions I have ever made," added Erin Kircher, System Chair for Professional Development Council. "It helped inspire me to return to grad school and gave me the confidence to pursue other leadership opportunities. I now am the co-chair for the regional nursing professional development council that helps support 22,000 nurses."

The Bridge to Practice program complements the Best Fit for Nurse Advancement initiative by providing structured support and mentorship to new nurses. This program pairs second-year nursing students with experienced nurses, offering students a glimpse into the realities of the health care work environment and specialty practice settings. Through monthly information sessions and hands-on mentorship, the program helps bridge the gap between academic learning and clinical practice.

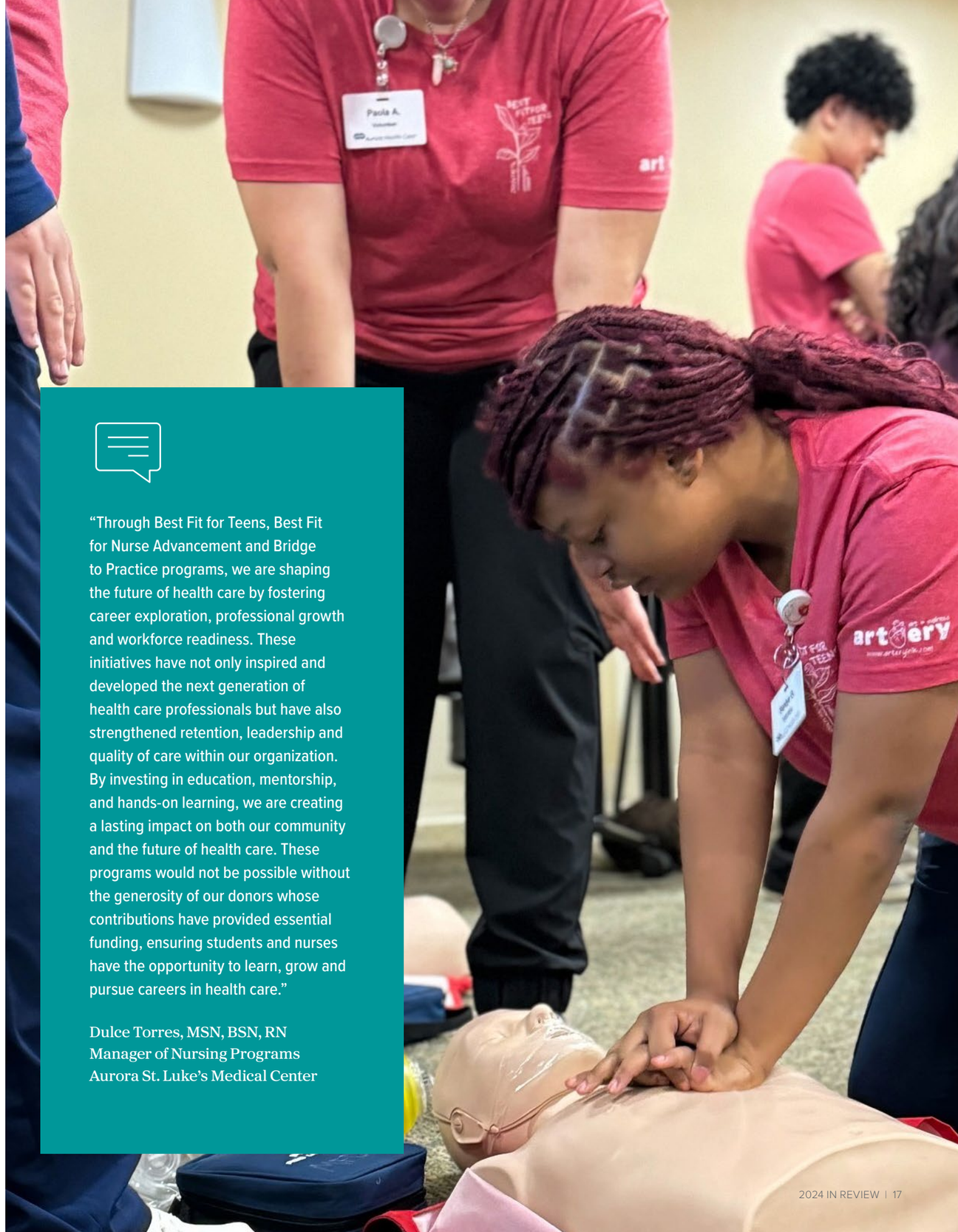
Both programs emphasize the importance of mentorship and support in the early stages of a nurse's career. By providing new nurses with the guidance and resources they need, these programs help build a more competent and confident nursing workforce. This, in turn, leads to better patient outcomes and a more positive work environment.

Additionally, Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center offers The Best Fit for Teens program, which is a hospital-wide initiative offering high school juniors and seniors in the Milwaukee area a hands-on opportunity to explore careers in health care. Participants engage in job shadowing across various hospital departments, assisting caregivers, interacting with patients and observing health care professionals at work. The program includes learning sessions with guest speakers, CPR training, professional development guidance and a scholarship opportunity for eligible participants. It culminates in a special graduation ceremony to recognize the teens' achievements and dedication. This unique experience equips participants with valuable insights and skills for pursuing a future in health care.

"Walking out of that parking garage and into the hospital doors is a feeling like no other – knowing that just an elevator ride away is a world of what feels like limitless opportunities," shared one participant.

"This firsthand exposure showed me how meaningful and rewarding a healthcare career can be, as it allows you to make an immediate and lasting impact on people's lives," added another student.

These programs would not be possible without the generosity of our donors.

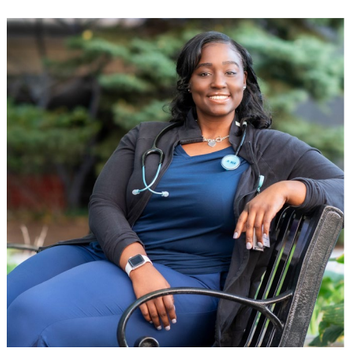


"Through Best Fit for Teens, Best Fit for Nurse Advancement and Bridge to Practice programs, we are shaping the future of health care by fostering career exploration, professional growth and workforce readiness. These initiatives have not only inspired and developed the next generation of health care professionals but have also strengthened retention, leadership and quality of care within our organization. By investing in education, mentorship, and hands-on learning, we are creating a lasting impact on both our community and the future of health care. These programs would not be possible without the generosity of our donors whose contributions have provided essential funding, ensuring students and nurses have the opportunity to learn, grow and pursue careers in health care."

Dulce Torres, MSN, BSN, RN
Manager of Nursing Programs
Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center

THANK YOU

To learn more about how Advocate Charitable Foundation and Aurora Health Care Foundation are impacting care for your family, friends and neighbors, please contact giving@aah.org or visit aah.org/foundations.



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