



For Immediate Release

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United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County Receives \$200,000 Matching Grant from Aurora Health Care to Help Prevent Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault

*Continuing Partnership with Milwaukee Film Festival will Increase Awareness
of Sexual Assault*

June 23, 2016, Milwaukee - United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County today announced a new collaboration with Aurora Health Care to help prevent intimate partner or domestic violence and sexual assault throughout Wisconsin.

This collaboration creates the “2016 Aurora Health Care Challenge Grant to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault” that expands United Way investments in programs promoting safety and well-being for teens, women, and male victims of assault.

The collaboration will match new and increased dollars to United Way’s 2016 Community Campaign up to \$200,000, and multiplies strategic grant making with United Way program partners to address the root cause of violence in our region and respond to immediate basic needs.

“The challenge grant we are announcing today is part of United Way’s longstanding efforts to support survivors of sexual assault and partner violence,” said Mary Lou Young, president & CEO of United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County. “Thank you to our friends at Aurora Health Care for this wonderful community investment. For anyone who has felt isolated and afraid, left out, and left behind as a result of a sexual crime, our message is clear: we will not forget you. We will not abandon you. You are not alone.”

Aurora Health Care has a long history of providing a variety of abuse response services, which are increasingly needed. “Sadly, Milwaukee has experienced a 33 percent increase in reported sexual assaults since 2010,” said Nick Turkal, MD, president and CEO of Aurora. “We see victims of all ages, all socio-economic backgrounds, both male and female. While treatment is critically important, so is addressing the factors that make this underreported crime so prevalent. That is why we are pleased to work with United Way, as together we can help prevent violence and bring healing to those who need it most.”

Aurora sees patients for acute care and trauma counseling through the Sexual Assault Treatment Center at Aurora Sinai Medical Center and Aurora West Allis Medical Center, as well as long-term mental health needs served by The Healing Center. Aurora oversees the Safe Mom, Safe Baby



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Program, which provides education, advocacy, and other domestic violence services for at-risk mothers, including those who have experienced sexual assault. Aurora also collaborates with Sojourner Family Peace Center to provide sexual assault treatment and counseling. Furthermore, Aurora spearheaded the Milwaukee Sexual Assault Review, bringing together criminal justice and health care representatives to review cases and make data-driven recommendations on solutions.

Dollars raised through this collaboration will allow United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County to increase its investments in sexual violence and victimization prevention for youth and adults, through targeted investments in the Healthy Girls/Healthy Birth Outcomes: Sexual Violence portfolio. This may include violence intervention, advocacy support, and other services to help survivors avoid becoming repeat victims. A specific, violence prevention-focused RFP will be issued in spring 2017, inviting applicants to demonstrate capacity to increase teen and adults' knowledge, skills, and safety.

Partnership with Milwaukee Film Festival

United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County and Aurora Health Care will promote their collaboration at the 8th Annual Milwaukee Film Festival, Sept. 22 to Oct. 6, 2016.

The Milwaukee Film Festival will screen a documentary highlighting the effects of sexual assault and partner violence and provide the opportunity to extend that film outward through conversation. With the film and continuing dialogue, United Way and Aurora Health Care will educate a diverse new audience about the ways they can come together to create lasting change in our community.

Last year, United Way hosted a panel after "Romeo is Bleeding," a documentary about gun violence and the after-effects it has on kids, families, and communities. United Way and community leaders heard youth voices describing the ways in which Milwaukee's own young people are making change in our community. The panel spotlighted many of United Way's agency partners, shining a light on Milwaukee's efforts to combat violence. The film went on to win the festival's Allan H. (Bud) and Suzanne L. Selig Audience Award.

"Milwaukee Film's partnership with United Way helps us achieve our mission to engage our community. We see ourselves as a convener, using the power of film to build empathy to start critical conversations in our city," said Jonathan Jackson, Artistic and Executive Director.

About United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County: *United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County improves our community by mobilizing people and resources to drive strategic impact in Education, Income and Health – the building blocks for a good quality of life. Learn more at:*

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