Aurora employee Mark Decker, MD, and his wife Denise wanted to “do something good” for West Bend and Washington County. As an obstetrician-gynecologist at the General Clinic of West Bend for the past eight years, he’d seen that there are needy people even in a prosperous community.

That “something good” turned into a coat drive to collect coats, mittens, stocking caps and scarves for infants, children and adults. By early November, more than 1,400 coats, snowsuits and jackets had been given to people in need in the West Bend area, and another 900 were cleaned and ready for distribution, with several hundred yet to be cleaned.

The distribution announcement said the coats were for “Moms and dads that have to decide between the rent, food or clothes for their kids. It’s for the elderly on pensions or Social Security making the same decisions. It’s for people having a tough time making ends meet.”

“Already we’ve collected more than 2,500 coats from a town of only 24,000,” says Dr. Decker. He expects the final count of donated coats to reach 3,000. “Flamingly successful,” he declares.

The coat drive involved General Clinic employees, workers from the Washington County Volunteer Center and students from the high school Key Club. Donating all the dry cleaning is The Clothes Clinic, serving as the coat drop-off point is the local Pick ‘n’ Save and donating space and coat racks for the distribution, Paradise Mall.

Two more distribution times are planned before Christmas, then the balance of the coats will be available during the winter through service organizations in Washington County.

Dr. Decker is currently president of the General Clinic of West Bend, a part of Aurora Medical Group.
Holiday gifts from Sinai Samaritan Medical Center employees who care for the heart of the city is the theme of the holiday collection at SSMC. Coordinated by emergency department employees, this collection encourages employees and departments to sponsor whole families that have been identified by Aurora parish nurses.

To sponsor a family, call voice mail at (414) 219-3090 to leave a message. Indicate the sponsoring department’s contact person and phone number and the size family the department can sponsor. Departments will be provided with a family information sheet to help with shopping. The deadline to sign-up is Dec. 5.

The donations for each family, including wrapped gifts, should be securely packed in boxes that one person can lift and carry. Each family’s boxes should be marked with the family number and delivered to the west campus library between 6:30 a.m. and noon Friday, Dec. 19.

Sinai Samaritan recognizes service

Sinai Samaritan Medical Center Golden Moment Awards were presented in October to four employees who exceed the expectations of their patients, patients’ families, co-workers and other customers. Recognized were Cindy Koch, mental health assistant, Mike Matthias, psychotherapist, Nadia Moussavi, cardiology fellow, and Bernard Yorker, patient service technician.

Cindy and Mike were nominated for the immediate crisis intervention provided to a patient who had been the victim of a violent assault. Dr. Moussavi was nominated by 25 staff members from the critical care areas and 3-South for her ability to reassure patients, communicate with attending physicians, help other fellows and interact in a responsible and respectful manner with others. Bernard was nominated for his exemplary good will, the quality of his work and his respect for others.

Holiday Food Drive for the benefit of the Madison Street Outreach Clinic is underway at St. Luke’s Medical Center, St. Luke’s South Shore, the Physician Office Buildings, Heil Center, Aurora Corporate Center, Forest Home Center, Bay View Health Care Center, St. Luke’s Franklin, St. Luke’s New Berlin, Aurora Credit Union and Diversified Care, Inc.

The donations should be brought to the designated pick-up areas on Thursday, Dec. 18 at the times identified by Doreen Wheaton with the food program coordinators. If there are changes to the schedule, the food program coordinators will be aware of them by Dec. 15. If you have questions, please contact Doreen, (414) 649-7388 or pager 0490.
**Rummage Sale**
St. Luke's South Shore (enter at shipping & receiving, follow the signs), 8-9:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 6. Cash (checks, too) & carry, purchases must be removed by 9:30 a.m. Items for sale include tables, chairs, shelving, decorations and odds 'n' ends.

**Mapping Successful Strategies for Case Management**
Especially for counselors and case managers, 1-4 p.m., Monday, Dec. 15, offered by Milwaukee Mental Health Consultants, a division of Family Service of Milwaukee, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., $35 per person. Call 342-0928 for more information. Registration required by Dec. 10.

**St. Luke's Medical Center**
**Physical Medicine & Rehab**
**Annual Patient Christmas Party**
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Theater, Dec. 4
Cafeteria
Dining rooms A, B, C, & D will close at 3 p.m.
The cafeteria serving area and the front half of the dining room will remain open for employee use.

**Preconception Class**, the information you need before becoming pregnant, 1-3:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 18 at Sinai Samaritan Medical Center. Presented by childbirth experts Margaret Malnory, MSN, RN, and Barbara Peschong, MD. To register, call Carolyn Ruud, (414) 344-0233.

**Holiday Bazaar**
Village Adult Day Center
130 E. Juneau Ave., Milwaukee
9 a.m.-3 p.m., Wednesday Dec. 10. Free admission.
Plan now to purchase holiday decorations, hand-crafted gifts, baked goods and white elephants.

**Holiday Tribute Programs**
**Lifeline Christmas Tree Program**
Hartford Memorial Hospital
5 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 3

**Christmas Love-Lite Tree**
West Allis Memorial Hospital,
7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4

**Snowflake Tributes Ceremony**
Sinai Samaritan Medical Center
2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7

**Tree of Life**
St. Luke's South Shore
6 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 9

**Tree of Light**
St. Luke's Medical Center
7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 11
CellularOne, a provider of wireless communication service, offers Aurora Health Care employees these special rates -- $9.75 per month and $0.14 per minute, with a two-year service agreement. The cost of the phone is extra and varies, depending on what's purchased. Proof of employment is required. Call CellularOne (800) 261-5000 or (414) 291-3140 for information.

Bally Total Fitness offers discounts to Aurora employees signing up for new, renewable memberships. Also offered are special one-year, non-renewable memberships not available to the general public. For more information stop at a Bally Total Fitness club or call Chris Lundquist, (414) 777-3361.

Hats off to Kevin Wolf, a respiratory therapist employed at Sinai Samaritan Medical Center, who was named Employee of the Month by GranCare’s subacute unit which leases space and services at Sinai Samaritan. This is the first time a non-GranCare employee was honored this way.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, 158 N. Broadway, offers a $5 discount to Aurora employees who mention the discount code: END. Running Dec. 6-Jan. 4 is a holiday selection, Beyond the Fringe. The box office number is (414) 291-7800.

January 1998 Nursing Education Classes

The classes listed here are free to Aurora employees unless a fee is indicated in the course or class description. Courses or classes may be cancelled if the minimum registrations are not received. Pre-registration is required for every class and course in January. For further information and to register, call nursing education, (414) 647-6370, or fax the registration to nursing education, (414) 647-4878.

Jan. 7 Critical care course begins
Jan. 9 RN State Board review course begins, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., SLMC. To register, call Education Enterprises, Inc., 1-800-494-9048. Fee is discounted for Aurora affiliate employees.
Jan. 13 Care of the normal newborn, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.
Jan. 14 Basic ECG course begins, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Jan. 22 Care of the woman during labor, delivery and postpartum, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.
Jan. 26 Critical care module - pulmonary, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Jan. 27 Critical care module - medical, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Jan. 29 12-lead ECG: What's normal and what's not, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Aurora Conference Center.