

Mercy Northwest Arkansas Community Benefit Report

Samaritan Center Health Screenings



In September 2016, Mercy partnered with the Samaritan Community Centers in Rogers and Springdale, UAMS and University of Arkansas community health students to provide periodic free health screenings. This outreach program provides access to vulnerable community members by inviting them to participate in blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol screenings. Participants are given follow up advice according to their results. Education on EHAC® (Early Heart Attack Care), heart healthy nutrition and tobacco cessation is available as well.

As of January 2017, the Mercy NWA chest pain center took over sponsorship of the program. Participants are low-income clients of Samaritan Center receiving food at the soup kitchen or food pantry. Many participants are Spanish speaking or Marshallese, especially in Springdale. Short-term program objectives are to

provide participant results, education regarding results, and disease prevention strategies. Our medium-term objective is to demonstrate a change in health behaviors of screened participants. A long-term objective is to demonstrate a reduction in diabetes and hypertension among low-income clients of Samaritan Center.

For fiscal year 2017, we had a total of 19 events and 370 participants were. For fiscal year 2018, we had a total of 22 events and 288 participants were screened. Community Health interns collected and evaluated the data and 50 percent had an abnormal HBA1C (>6.4), 26 percent had abnormal cholesterol (<200), and 37 percent had abnormal fasting glucose (>125). Participants were advised based on their results when to follow up with their physician or direct assistance making an appointment was given.

Total Community Benefit
\$5,422,000

Charity Care

Includes the actual cost of providing free or discounted care to persons who cannot afford to pay and who are not eligible for public programs. Charity care does not include bad debt.
Benefit: \$1,673,000

Community Outreach Services

Includes activities carried out to improve community health and services that are subsidized because they are needed in the community. Examples: education, support groups, health screenings, and immunizations.
Benefit: \$129,000

Health Professionals

Education and Research

Includes the cost of providing clinical placement for physicians, nurses and other health professionals plus the costs of the nursing anesthesia, EMS and radiology schools.
Benefit: \$282,000

Cash, In-Kind Donations, Workforce

Enhancement and Fundraising

Includes cash, in-kind donations, fundraising costs, food & supplies to shelters, use of Mercy rooms and facilities, donated office space and recruitment of health professionals in medically underserved areas.
Benefit: \$12,000

Medicaid Subsidies

Includes the actual unpaid cost of providing care to Medicaid patients and represents the shortfall between cost of care and the payments received by the government.
Benefit: \$3,327,000