

Mercy Hospital Jefferson Community Benefit Report

Mercy Donates Flu Vaccine



For more than 10 years, Mercy has partnered with community agencies to improve the immunization rate in impoverished areas in and around the St. Louis metropolitan area.

In partnership with the Institute for Family Medicine (iFM) and Deaconess Nurse Ministry, Mercy delivered 1,000 flu shots to the uninsured in October and November. The pharmacy department of Mercy Hospital St. Louis donates the flu vaccine and iFM and Deaconess provide the supplies and staffing.

Rev. Donna Smith-Pupillo, registered nurse and executive director of Deaconess Nurse Ministry, one of Mercy's long-time partners, said "The low-income person is likely to not go to the doctor's office or to health clinics where they perceive they have to pay a fee, so we come to them where they're already

gathering --- at churches and at food pantries."

While cost to the person can be a barrier, so is mistrust and lack of understanding about the vaccine. A person may be more likely to receive the vaccine if it's administered by someone they know, such as a health department nurse they see on a regular basis.

In Jefferson County, Mercy and Deaconess partner to bring over 100 flu shots to the uninsured at the Peace Pantry, the Arnold Food Pantry and Feed My People. The success of this outreach is reliant to the existing relationship between the Deaconess nurses at those sites and the community member.

Total Community Benefit: \$2,648,000
Total Persons Served: 12,836

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: \$2,330,000

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: \$299,000

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: \$17,000

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: \$2,000

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: \$0