For the tenth year in a row, Mercy Hospital South is helping families in its community by giving grants to Parents as Teachers programs. This year’s grants will benefit five Parents as Teachers programs serving the following local school districts: Affton, Hancock, Kirkwood, Lindbergh and Mehlville.

The mission of Parents as Teachers (PAT) is to provide resources that will help create and nourish a healthy family environment that helps prepare children for school and achieve goals that will enable them to become productive members of the community. Parents as Teachers is a state-funded program that requires group events and parent education events as part of its programming.

When budget cuts over the past few years resulted in limited funding for these events, Mercy Hospital South stepped up and partnered with local Parents as Teachers programs. Mercy Hospital South realized that this essential educational tool - meeting families where they are in the community to help educate and support them - should not be lost.

The grants from Mercy Hospital South will be used in part to fund a Speaker’s Series for each PAT program that focuses on topics that are closely aligned with health priorities set through Mercy Hospital South and their Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) process. Educational topics for the families range from emotional health and development, family nutrition, childhood obesity, and other helpful and healthful resources for parents and families.

**Total Community Benefit: $2,229,000**

**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: $68,000

**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: $91,000

**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: $92,000

**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: $30,000

**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: $1,948,000