

Mercy Hospital South Community Benefit Report

Mercy Donates Flu Vaccines

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

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.

The iFM's Hancock Clinic, a free clinic for the underserved in zip code 63125, received a portion of the donated vaccines.

Dr. David Campbell, CEO of iFM, said "iFM Community Medicine has been a proud partner of Mercy for the flu vaccine program for several years. iFM not only makes these vaccines available to uninsured patients at our various locations (such as St Francis Community Center Vietnamese Clinic, Hancock Community Clinic, Lydia's House,



Covenant House of Missouri and more), but we also facilitate (through standing orders, vaccine and supplies) other charitable organizations, such as Deaconess Faith Based Nurses, and Healing Grace Clinic in Eureka to administer these vaccines to their uninsured patients. This has been a great partnership with a significant impact on the health of the community."

Mercy Hospital St. Louis Pharmacy Department's donation of the 1,000+ doses of flu vaccine again this year was instrumental in keeping this ministry (and our constituents) alive.

Total Community Benefit
\$6,462,000

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: \$764,000

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: \$149,000

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: \$98,000

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: \$5,421,000