

Mercy Hospital Washington Community Benefit Report

Total Community Benefit: \$1,150,000

Total Persons Served: 10,621

Mercy Donates Flu Vaccine



Community relationships and collaborations are keys to having healthy communities. For more than 10 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. Lincoln County Health Department and Franklin County Health Department received donated flu vaccine from Mercy again this year. Because their nurses have unrestricted doses of the vaccine, the health departments are less likely to have to turn someone away.

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.

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: \$1,895,000

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: \$66,000

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: \$8,000

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: \$29,000

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