

Mercy MHL Community Benefit Report

The Awaken Project

CHIP focus: Substance Use



When Joe Richardson and Jeff Mozingo, of the Awaken Project, met with Mercy Hospital Lincoln's substance use committee and fellow community partners they were immediately impressed.

"I don't know what you're doing here in Lincoln County, but I've never seen a community so driven to get involved and support discussion with students and parents about the devastation of heroin and substance use," Richardson said "Keep doing what you're doing, and I hope others follow."

The facts are devastating, and should not be ignored. In the United States, heroin-related overdose deaths have more than quadrupled since 2010, with nearly 13,000 people dying in 2015. Stopping this epidemic starts with educating youth about the dangers of heroin and showing them that denying drugs is the only option.

To help stem the epidemic, Mercy Hospital Lincoln joined area businesses and organizations including Lincoln-Pike Counties Drug Court Foundation and Rise Up Probation and Intervention Services, LLC, to give all middle school students in Lincoln County access to an innovative anti-drug program, "The Awaken Project." Through a live rock concert and powerful, firsthand stories, students learned about the effects of heroin.

"We're empowering them to deny drugs completely," said Joe Richardson and Jeff Mozingo, The Awaken Project program coordinators.

Richardson, a former Boston Red Sox player and St. Louis native, has seen firsthand the ramifications of loved ones using drugs. He and Mozingo travel to schools across the country to warn students and faculty that addiction and death can happen to anyone, even after using heroin only once.

Total Community Benefit
\$1,103,055

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: \$421,108

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: \$36,901

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: \$9,918

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: \$1,500

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: \$633,628