

Mercy MHW Community Benefit Report

Warming Center



The winter weather in Washington was wicked and windy as we waved good-bye to 2017 and welcomed 2018 with single digit temperatures. Factoring in the wind-chill and nighttime temps, the mercury dropped below zero in the night leaving many of our citizens in vulnerable states.

Mercy Hospital Washington decided to open their doors during this time as a warming center to provide space for people to get out of the cold and warm up. Guests were led to a private dining room off the hospital's cafeteria, where they were provided food, beverage, and shelter while the temperatures remained below 20°. Some were even allowed to shower and do laundry before leaving.

These gracious guests included those who were without a home while others came because they were unable to heat their homes.

Normal core temperature for humans is 98.6°. Hypothermia is defined as a core body temperature of 95° or lower

which is very dangerous. Hypothermia can cause the heart, nervous system and other organs in the body to function improperly which can lead to respiratory failure and death.

Warning signs of hypothermia can include shivering, exhaustion, confusion and slurred speech for adults and bright red, cold skin and very low energy for children.

Mercy provided a warming refuge for roughly 15 guests. Eric Eloff, president of Mercy Hospital Washington said, "This is who we are. Hospitality was a strong part of the Sisters of Mercy history and mission and it remains true today." Several of our homeless guests have since accepted employment with Centaur, a vendor that Mercy Medical Building South utilizes. One couple is now in their own apartment in no small part due to the efforts of some of our co-workers to help raise the funds needed to start them on their way and our collaboration with the Franklin County Homeless Task Force.

Total Community Benefit
\$1,205,945

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: \$1,821,248

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: \$106,551

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: \$55,119

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: \$40,857

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: (\$817,830)