



HOSPITALS BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



A Look Beyond the Numbers

2007 Nebraska Hospitals
Community Benefits Report

Executive

Summary

HOSPITALS BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

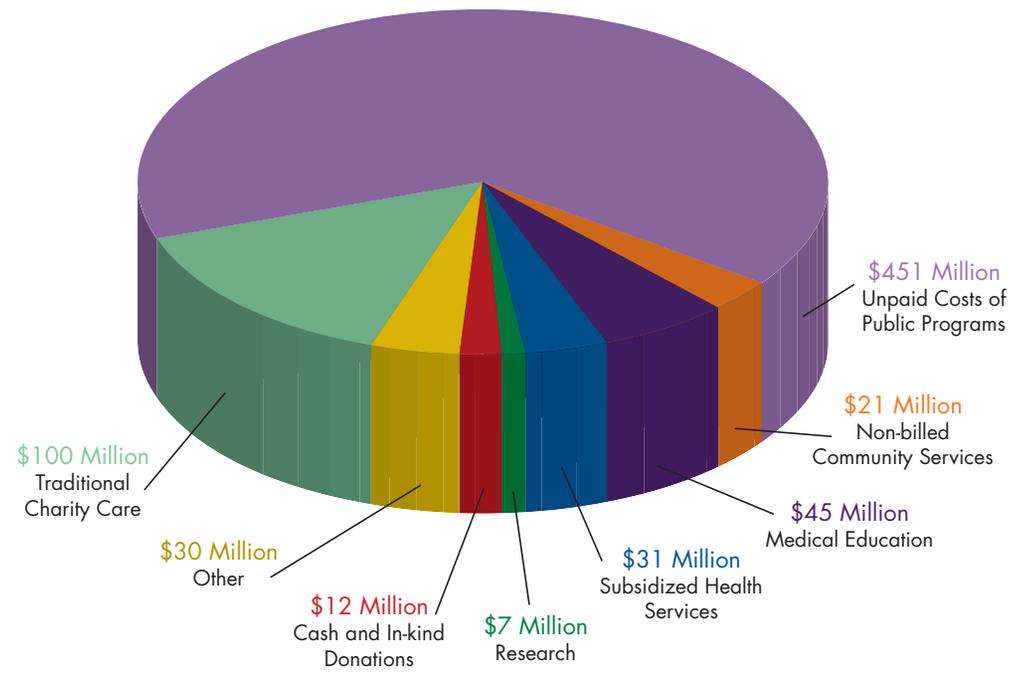
A LOOK BEYOND THE NUMBERS...

In fulfilling their missions, Nebraska's hospitals have a long history of providing significant benefits to the communities they serve. Every year, Nebraska's hospitals make enormous contributions to their communities in ways that extend well beyond traditional health care. These benefits go far beyond the walls of the hospital, reaching out to meet local and statewide community and public health needs. This is evident in the nearly **\$697 million** in community benefits reported in the *2007 Nebraska Hospitals Community Benefits Report*.

Community benefits are more than just numbers, and dollars alone can never communicate the complete story of how communities are enhanced by programs and services provided by hospitals. The benefit that hospitals routinely provide cannot exclusively be measured in dollars and cents; instead, it is evident in the millions of lives they touch. Behind each community benefit dollar is a mother, father, child or grandparent, whose life is affected by a hospital's commitment to care.

The *2007 Nebraska Hospitals Community Benefits Report* highlights how Nebraska's hospitals, as a matter of mission, go above and beyond the delivery of core health care services. The sampling of examples within this report tells the community benefit story more eloquently than all the statistics provided. These stories look beyond the numbers - capturing hospitals' ongoing efforts to build healthy communities. By doing so, hospitals are not only building a foundation for the future of health care, but are building community bonds that help make life better for everyone.

\$697 Million - Total Value of Community Benefits Provided by Nebraska's Hospitals



Community

Benefits

AT A GLANCE

Programs and Services	Net Community Benefit
Benefits for Low-income/Public Programs	\$ 550,662,000
Traditional charity care	\$ 100,182,000
Unpaid Costs of Public Programs	
Medicare	\$ 322,200,000
Medicaid	\$ 119,036,000
Other public programs	\$ 9,244,000
Non-billed Community Services	\$ 20,482,000
Community health education and outreach	\$ 9,192,000
Community-based clinical services	\$ 1,950,000
Health care support services	\$ 9,340,000
Medical Education	\$ 44,582,000
Scholarships/funding for health professionals	\$ 17,689,000
Other	\$ 26,893,000
Subsidized Health Services	\$ 31,438,000
Emergency and trauma care	\$ 4,206,000
Neonatal intensive care	\$ 184,000
Free-standing community clinics	\$ 4,210,000
Other subsidized health services	\$ 22,838,000
Research	\$ 6,934,000
Cash and In-kind Donations	\$ 12,274,000
Other	\$ 30,362,000
TOTAL COMMUNITY BENEFITS	\$ 696,734,000
BAD DEBT	\$ 166,603,000
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 863,337,000

- Sixty-seven of the 85 NHA member hospitals participated in the 2007 Nebraska Hospitals Community Benefits Survey.
- The data represents the aggregate results of the community benefits inventory for each reporting hospital's FY 2006 activities.

About this Report

HOSPITALS BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

A LOOK BEYOND THE NUMBERS...



Who Participated in this Report?

- This report represents 67 voluntary responses from Nebraska's 85 member hospitals (79 percent of all NHA member hospitals). The report only represents the results from participating Nebraska facilities – no extrapolation was made for non-participating hospitals.
- The information presented within this report provides just a small sampling from thousands of examples – instances of local residents being significantly impacted by Nebraska's hospitals' enduring commitment to care.

What Data was Collected?

- The NHA survey was designed to report community benefits in seven categories:
 1. Benefits for Low-income/Public Programs;
 2. Non-billed Community Services;
 3. Medical Education;
 4. Subsidized Health Services;
 5. Research;
 6. Cash and In-kind Donations; and
 7. Other.
- In addition to the aforementioned categories, "bad debt" was also included in this report. Hospitals shoulder the burden of bad debt when patients are unable or unwilling to pay their bills and decline to apply for charity care. Businesses generally consider bad debt as a cost of doing business. However, hospitals face a challenge at the time of admission to identify those who need care, but (for whatever reason) cannot, or will not, pay for it. This tends to blur the line between bad debt and charity care. Hospitals differ from traditional businesses in that other businesses can refuse to provide a service or product. In contrast, hospitals serve as the safety net of Nebraska's health care system and provide services regardless of an individual's ability or willingness to pay.
- To ensure report reliability and validity, standardized reporting guidelines were utilized by each member hospital. These guidelines were adapted, with permission, from the Catholic Health Association's Community Benefit Reporting: Guidelines and Standard Definitions for the Community Benefit Inventory for Social Accountability.
- The data represents the aggregate results of the community benefits inventory for each reporting hospital's fiscal year 2006 activities.

Medication Assistance Program Helps Prevent Impossible Choices

GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER
NORTH PLATTE, NE

“Nobody should have to choose between buying food for their family and paying for the medicines necessary to keep them alive,” says Nan Hynes, director of case management at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in North Platte, Nebraska.

Unfortunately, that is the reality for some residents of West Central Nebraska, but Great Plains’ Medication Assistance Program helps them before they have to make such impossible choices.

Through a partnership between Great Plains Regional Medical Center and the Physician-Hospital Organization (which is an organization comprised of local physicians and the hospital), patients in need can apply for financial assistance for their medications. Based on their doctor’s prescriptions, hospital employees research which drug companies may be able to provide low- or no-cost medications.

Working with doctors and patients, Hynes and staff complete the necessary applications and furnish it to the doctor for submission to the pharmaceutical companies. In the last year, Great Plains has seen the caseload grow to 355 patients, and in one five-month period, the program saved patients more than \$280,000 in prescriptions – critical medicines patients otherwise could not afford.

“It’s essential that people take their medications consistently and regularly as prescribed,” explains Hynes, adding that many patients are forced to skip their medications or take half doses so they can pay for food and rent.

“We’re preventing a lot of people from ending up in the emergency room and helping patients have more control over their health and well-being,” concludes Hynes.



Cindy Way, Great Plains Regional
Medical Center Pharmacy

Caring for our Communities

One of the most significant community benefits contributed by hospitals is uncompensated health care, which are health care services provided to the uninsured and underinsured.

Hospitals throughout the United States are currently faced with unprecedented challenges regarding uncompensated health care. The number of uninsured Americans, the majority of whom work full-time jobs, continues to grow. In Nebraska alone, one in 10 people lack health insurance, and only 43 percent of Nebraska private employers offer health insurance to their employees.

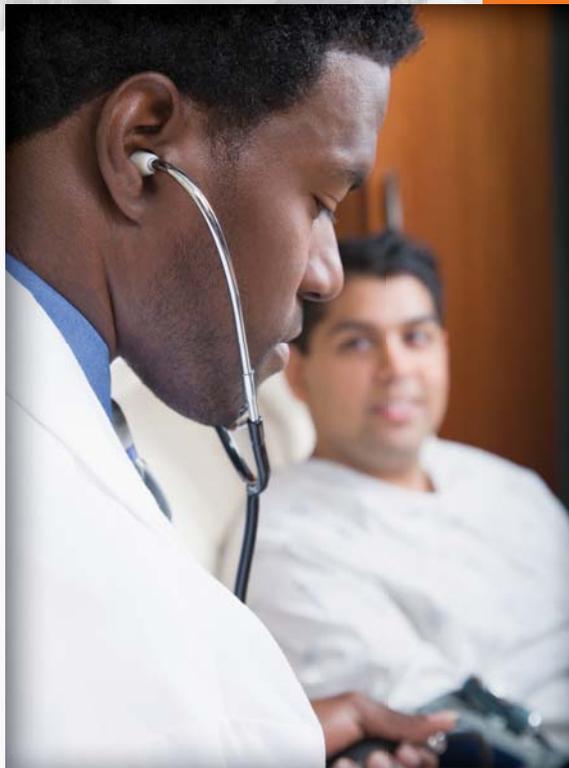
As the number of uninsured and underinsured grows, so, too, does the need for charity care and free or discounted health services for those who cannot afford to pay. Because of the high costs associated with health insurance, hospitals are bearing a significant portion of the financial burden imposed by the uninsured. Recognizing this need, Nebraska hospitals have established financial aid policies to assist patients who cannot afford hospital care. In addition, hospitals routinely provide assistance to patients in applying for government programs for which they may be eligible.

Reporting Nebraska hospitals provided more than **\$100 million** in traditional charity care. Charity care results from a hospital's policy to offer health care services free of charge or on a discounted fee schedule to individuals who meet predetermined financial criteria.

Because more than 50 percent of all hospital stays in Nebraska are paid for by Medicare and Medicaid, hospitals are highly vulnerable to changes in public policy and payment inadequacy. In many instances, Medicare and Medicaid payments are based on outdated information that does not accurately reflect the changing nature of health services, such as new equipment, new technologies and rising costs of supplies. Despite the fact that Medicare and Medicaid programs do not pay hospitals enough to cover the cost incurred by the hospital in caring for the patient, all hospitals welcome Medicare and Medicaid patients and provide the same quality care to all patients.

In fiscal year 2006, over **\$441 million** in health care services were provided to low-income and special needs populations through Medicare and Medicaid shortfalls — the deficit created when a facility receives payments that are less than the cost of care for public program beneficiaries. Other public programs, valued at over **\$9 million**, also provided significant benefit to the residents of Nebraska.

All of these categories – traditional charity care, Medicare and Medicaid shortfalls and other public programs – resulted in nearly **\$551 million** in community benefits.



Caring for Every Child... No Matter Their Ability to Pay

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
OMAHA, NE

In accordance with their mission, Children's Hospital provides necessary medical care to patients who are unable to pay or who require payment assistance.

In 2006, the hospital provided \$2.8 million in services in the form of charity care and write-offs for families unable to pay the bills associated with their children's medical care. This amount has been steadily increasing as responsibility for payment continues to shift from insurance carriers to the patient in the form of higher deductibles and coinsurance.

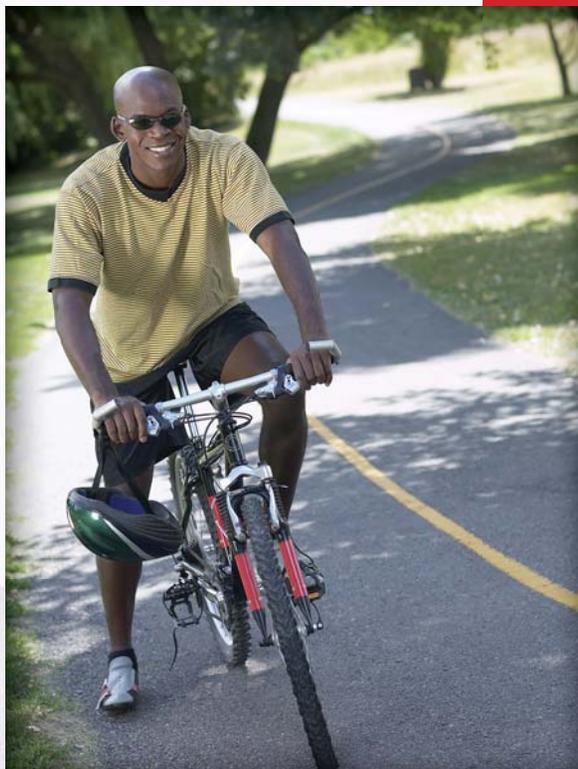
In response to increasing health care costs, Children's Hospital has developed and implemented a liberal charity care policy for its patients. Eligibility for financial assistance and charity care is based upon family income, size and other circumstances. Specially trained social workers, financial counselors and patient account representatives assist uninsured or low-income families in applying for financial help through government programs and other funding sources. When outside sources have been exhausted or when families identify themselves as unable to pay, the staff helps them apply for charity care.

In addition, the hospital provides care to the state's most vulnerable children – those dependent upon Medicaid and other government programs. Children's Hospital is not reimbursed for the difference in what these government programs will not cover. In 2006, the total shortfall amounted to nearly \$63 million. More than 40 percent of the patients cared for at Children's Hospital were beneficiaries of Medicaid or other government programs – a 29 percent increase from 2005.



Children's Hospital

Extending our Reach



Community health initiatives are often the best way to reach people who may never come to the hospital. The ultimate goal is to keep people from needing to seek hospital care by educating the community on healthy lifestyles, prevention and early detection of disease.

Nebraska hospitals offer community-wide health initiatives in areas such as: exercise, smoking cessation, prenatal and infant care, nutrition, CPR, disaster preparedness, support groups and numerous other health-related subjects. In addition to flu shots and other immunizations, hospitals conduct screening programs for diabetes, heart disease, cancer and other diseases to identify these problems when they are most curable. Health screenings are essential to improving early rates of detection and reducing illness.

Each Nebraska hospital is involved in some aspect of this care outside of their hospital walls, and these contributions resulted in over **\$20 million** in non-billed community services during fiscal year 2006. By extending their reach into their communities and encouraging prevention and wellness, Nebraska's hospitals are building community bonds that help make life better for everyone.

- Over **\$9 million** was contributed toward community health education and outreach. Some activities in this area include: caregiver training for persons caring for family members at home, health fairs, school health education services and health promotion programs.
- The 67 participating hospitals allocated nearly **\$2 million** to community-based clinical services, such as screenings, free clinics and mobile units.
- Over **\$9 million** was dedicated to health care support services including enrollment assistance in public programs, information and referral to community services, telephone information services and transportation programs to enhance patient access to care.

Stepping Out for Women's Heart Health

REGIONAL WEST
MEDICAL CENTER
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE

The *Stepping Out for Women's Heart Health* program was developed by Regional West Medical Center to increase local awareness about women's heart disease, the risk factors associated and the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. Using a survey assessment tool filled out by participants, the program is deeply rooted in measuring impact.

Since its launch in June 2005, committee members of the Regional West Medical Center's *Stepping Out for Women's Heart Health* program have been busy distributing heart health surveys, presenting to women's groups across the panhandle of Nebraska, organizing health fairs and planning social events specifically targeted at the risk factors for heart disease in women.

To date, the group has gathered over 1,000 risk assessment surveys. The surveys provide the participant with valuable information about personal risk factors for heart disease including high cholesterol, diabetes, inactivity, obesity, stress and high blood pressure. Using the survey information provided by the participant and computer software specifically designed to track heart health risk factors, the committee is able to provide each participating woman with a personalized risk assessment that reveals targeted areas for improvement. The confidential report is mailed directly to the participant free of charge.

The personalized data is extremely important because it defines for women the specific areas they need to work on and the areas in which they are doing well.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death among women in the United States, higher than the number of deaths caused by breast and lung cancers, stroke and obstructive pulmonary disease combined. In a vast amount of cases, heart disease can be prevented. The *Stepping Out for Women's Heart Health* program is designed to educate local women about the risk of heart disease, so that they can make necessary lifestyle changes.



Healthy Heart
Extravaganza,
Monument Mall,
Scottsbluff, NE



Investing in the Future



To fulfill a hospital's mission and meet the community's needs, hospitals need an adequate number of highly-qualified health professionals who can effectively and efficiently deliver needed services. But by 2020, the demand for health care workers is expected to outstrip supply for a number of health care occupations, including a projected shortage of 100,000 physicians and 800,000 nurses. To this end, the hospitals in Nebraska provided over **\$44 million** to assist with the training of doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

This category of hospital contributions includes the unreimbursed costs of clinical settings, residency education, scholarships and tuition reimbursement to non-employees and volunteers, job shadowing and mentoring programs for high school students and recruitment of underrepresented minorities.

Although equally vital, many costs associated with employee education are not categorized in this survey. For example, continuing education, staff tuition reimbursement, joint appointments with educational institutions or medical schools and orientation programs are not included in the **\$44 million**. Due to a number of factors, including a shrinking workforce, an aging population, an insufficient number of instructors, financial concerns and increased demand, educating health professionals is at the heart of Nebraska hospitals' missions.

University of Nebraska Medical Center Nursing Program

FAITH REGIONAL
HEALTH SERVICES
NORFOLK, NE

During the past two years, Faith Regional Health Services has been working with Senator Mike Flood, Speaker of the Legislature; the University of Nebraska Medical Center; and Northeast Community College toward the development of a college of nursing to be located in Norfolk. Following months of negotiations and strategic planning, the nursing program was officially introduced to the public during the summer of 2007.

The nursing program will be housed in a new facility, which will be built on the Northeast Community College campus. In addition to the existing basic nurse aide, licensed practical nursing and associate degree nursing programs offered by Northeast Community College, the University of Nebraska Medical Center will offer bachelors, masters and doctoral-level nursing degrees at the facility. Clinical sites for the program will be provided at Faith Regional Health Services, as well as at a number of other rural hospitals in Northeast Nebraska. Faith Regional Health Services has committed over \$1 million in support of these efforts over the course of the next five years. This is one way Faith Regional demonstrates its ongoing commitment to the communities of Northeast Nebraska.



Heidi Merritt, (left) Northeast Community College instructor, assists student, Maricella Zarate, during a clinical rotation at Faith Regional Health Services. Maricella hopes to pursue her bachelor's degree in nursing at UNMC in Norfolk.

Mission Comes to Life Through Community Benefits

Subsidized Health Services

Improving the health of people and entire communities is at the core of Nebraska hospitals' commitment to care. As an extension of hospitals' missions, subsidized health services and programs are provided by hospitals to meet specific needs. These programs include clinical patient care services that are provided – despite a negative margin – because they are considered necessary to the community, other providers are unwilling to provide the services, or the health services would otherwise not be available to meet patient demand.

Examples of these specialized services include emergency and trauma care, neonatal intensive care, freestanding community clinics, hospice, behavioral health and other programs such as pain management services. These activities generate little or no income and most likely would not exist, or would have to be operated by the government, if they were not provided by Nebraska's hospitals. The 67 reporting hospitals in FY 2006 provided over **\$31 million** in subsidized health services.

Research

Medical research is essential to remaining on the cutting edge of health care advancement. Studies to improve health care delivery, evaluation of innovative treatments, and staff-prepared research papers for professional journals are all initiatives in which hospitals are involved to help advance health care for patients. All community members profit when research leads to the prevention, treatment and cure of disease and injury. As with any type of research, solutions to today's medical problems are not discovered in a day, a week, or even a year. In order to improve the quality of life for the state's population, local hospitals are committed to the sustained investment in medical research. In 2006, Nebraska's hospitals dedicated nearly **\$7 million** to medical research.



National Comprehensive Cancer Network

THE NEBRASKA
MEDICAL CENTER
OMAHA, NE

The Nebraska Medical Center is a 689-licensed bed academic medical center that is well-known nationally for its oncology, neurology and cardiology programs, and has an international reputation for providing solid organ and bone marrow transplantation services.

The medical center serves as the teaching hospital for the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), contributing to the health of the community in many ways. A unique community benefit utilizes academic, research and medical professionals' expertise to make an impact around the world.

The Nebraska Medical Center is a founding member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), an alliance of 21 of the world's leading cancer centers. Approximately 25 physicians and numerous hospital staff from The Nebraska Medical Center provide expertise in the development of resources and clinical practice guidelines for use by patients, clinicians and other health care decision-makers. These guidelines are based upon new science and research from alliance members, including work done at The Nebraska Medical Center and UNMC Eppley Cancer Center. The complete Library of Clinical Practice Guidelines is available online at www.nccn.org or by request from The Nebraska Medical Center. NCCN and the American Cancer Society convert the clinical findings into understandable patient guidelines for consumers, available at no cost in English and Spanish. A resource guide for patients with cancer and family members was created on *WebMD*, a Web site that is visited by 35 million health-conscious consumers each month.

Medicare and other third-party payers consider using these national standards for payment guidelines and coverage policy to benefit patients in the oncology community. In addition, the NCCN Drug and Biologics Compendium will likely be used as the basis for national coverage determination for drugs and biologics in oncology. NCCN established an alphabetical listing of drugs and biologics for health professionals on the compendium home page (www.nccn.org/professionals/drug_compendium) with links to full compendium information for each drug and biologic, mapping back to the appropriate clinical guidelines established by NCCN panels.

The Nebraska Medical Center values the opportunity to share best practices in state-of-the-art comprehensive cancer care and consistently deliver the highest quality cancer care. The hospital's goal is to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of oncology practice so patients in Nebraska and around the world can live better, healthier lives.



The Nebraska
Medical Center



Dr. Ken Cowan,
Director of the UNMC
Eppley Cancer Institute

Dedicated to Improving our Communities



Cash and In-kind Donations

Nebraska's hospitals recognize the importance of giving back to their communities. As such, hospitals donate services and funds that help further the mission and goals of community organizations which, in turn, help improve overall health status and quality of life.

Nebraska hospitals annually contribute both funds and in-kind services to numerous health and community associations through corporate donations, contributions given by their employees, and donated medical equipment and supplies. These cash and in-kind donations ultimately improve the quality of life and enhance the overall well-being of the community. In 2006, the 67 reporting hospitals contributed over **\$12 million** to their communities through cash and in-kind donations.

Other

Additionally, community building programs and services directly contribute to the welfare of local residents. This category involves neighborhood improvement projects, transportation initiatives, mentoring programs, community health assessments, economic development, environmental improvements and workforce enhancement. Reporting hospitals contributed more than **\$30 million** to their communities in areas such as community building efforts.

Patients' Colorectal Health Important to Community Hospital

COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL
MCCOOK, NE

Colorectal cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. When found and treated in an early, localized stage, the survival rate of colorectal cancer is very high. In 2006, Community Hospital helped raise the awareness of colorectal cancer by supplying free colorectal cancer screening kits to area residents.

Three hundred and seventeen colorectal cancer screening kits were requested, with 169 of those kits returned to the Community Hospital laboratory for free testing. Of the returned kits, three tested positive for blood in the stool. Those persons were contacted and received follow-up care with their physician.

One of the three patients with a positive test result received a colonoscopy. The doctor removed abnormal growths called polyps; while most are not cancerous, they can turn into cancer. By identifying and removing polyps, a colonoscopy usually prevents most cancers from forming.

The patient said he was "very relieved" to find the polyps in an early stage and to receive the care he needed.

As a community service, Community Hospital invested more than \$2,000 to supply the kits to their community, and an additional 34 hours of paid staff time to mail and process the kits.



Community Hospital
Laboratory Personnel

Nothing Heals Like Hope

HOPE MEDICAL OUTREACH COALITION, OMAHA, NE



Hope Medical Outreach Coalition began in Omaha in 1988 through the vision of Dr. Dan Dietrich. Dr. Dietrich worked with Hope Lutheran Church to secure a grant from the Wheatridge Foundation/Lutheran Brotherhood. The grant was awarded, and Hope purchased a van to shuttle medical volunteers to area shelters. Five years later, Alegent Health partnered with Hope to fund a coordinator. In 1995, Hope began providing volunteer physician services to health care centers and clinics for the underserved. At the same time, Hope began a partnership with Metro Omaha Medical Society (MOMS) to collaborate on serving the growing medical needs of those who were either uninsured or unable to pay for critical health care. MOMS assisted Hope by soliciting more volunteer medical providers and the support of area hospitals.

Hope Medical Outreach Coalition became an official non-profit organization in 1997. The board of directors consists of representatives from local hospitals, community health centers and other community leaders. Funding to sustain the Hope organization comes from the local community.

Today, Hope provides health care services for patients from community health centers and clinics who would otherwise go without health care for often serious illness or disease. Services include medication assistance, dental care, vision exams and glasses, diagnostic and laboratory exams, hospital and surgical care. The partnership between Hope, Omaha metropolitan hospitals, and the volunteer physicians provides an unprecedented opportunity to prevent complications and death from disease for the very vulnerable.

In 2006, Hope Medical Outreach Coalition and partner organizations provided over 2,300 appointments, over 50,000 prescriptions to approximately 30,000 patients, and were able to negotiate over 160 hospitalizations.

Health Professions Club

BOX BUTTE
GENERAL HOSPITAL
ALLIANCE, NE

Safety, Excellence, Compassion, Integrity, Devotion – the five core values held by Box Butte General Hospital and its employees. To emphasize these values, Box Butte General Hospital takes great pride in supporting their community.

The Health Professions Club at Box Butte General Hospital is in its fourth year, providing local high school students an opportunity to become aware and see firsthand, through field trips, the many career options available in health care. The hospital sponsored a spring trip to Denver, Colorado to see the exhibit "Body Worlds." The club also toured the National Jewish Hospital, Children's Hospital and the Craig Rehabilitation Center.

In addition, the Health Professions Club spent a day in various medical settings in Rapid City, South Dakota. They experienced the radiology and respiratory therapy departments of Rapid City Regional Hospital and toured the nursing centers of South Dakota State University and the University of South Dakota. They also viewed programs at Western Dakota Tech in the fields of pharmacy technician, transcription and licensed practical nursing.

The Health Professions Club, which has 20 active members, continues to promote opportunities for careers in health care. This is just one way that Box Butte General Hospital meets its five core values.



(Back row, L to R) Robert Deaver, Hannah Steele, Katherine Becker, Katie Heupel, Tia Malewski, Monica DelaCruz, Rob Placek, (First row, L to R) Jordan Colwell (chaperone), Jane McConkey (Chief Nursing Officer), and Abby Keilwitz at Body Worlds.



Tia Malewski, Rob Placek, Katie Heupel, Monica DelaCruz, Abby Keilwitz, Robert Deaver, Jane McConkey (Chief Nursing Officer), and Kenny Hosac (Craig Rehab employee) at Craig Rehabilitation Center.

Health Care AS NEBRASKA'S ECONOMIC LEADER*

The Economic Impact of the Health Care Sector on Income in Nebraska 2002**

The overall income earned due to health care (directly and indirectly) in Nebraska is estimated at \$6.21 billion, which accounts for 16 percent of the state's total income.

\$4.23 billion

of income earned in the health care sector of Nebraska

+

\$1.98 billion

of income created in other sectors of the economy of Nebraska

=

\$6.21 billion

aggregate impact of health care sector

The Impact of the Health Care Sector on Economic Output in Nebraska 2002**

The overall output created by the health care industry (directly and indirectly) in Nebraska is estimated at \$13.31 billion, which accounts for 11 percent of the state's total output.

\$7.52 billion

of spending in the health care sector of Nebraska

+

\$5.79 billion

of income created in other sectors of the economy of Nebraska

=

\$13.31 billion

aggregate impact of health care sector

The Impact of the Health Care Sector on Employment in Nebraska 2002**

The overall job creation due to health care (directly and indirectly) in Nebraska is estimated at 166,206 jobs, which accounts for 14 percent of the state's total employment.

100,124 jobs

in the health care sector of Nebraska

+

66,082 jobs

created in other sectors of the economy of Nebraska

=

166,206 jobs

aggregate impact of health care sector

* Authors: Li-Wu Chen, Ph.D. and Roslyn Fraser-Maginn, M.A., Nebraska Center for Rural Health Research.

** Not all of the government-owned health care facilities were accounted for in the 2002 analysis. Therefore, these figures may understate the total number of employees and total income for the health sector in Nebraska.

Supporting Nebraska's Economy

SAINT FRANCIS
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
WEST POINT, NE

Saint Francis Memorial Hospital makes every possible attempt to purchase locally. Over the past 15 years, Saint Francis has been remodeled from top to bottom, and local contractors and vendors have been utilized for many of these building alterations. Some examples of the remodeling upgrades include a new consolidated clinic, and the redesign and redecoration of the assisted living facility. By hiring local contractors, not only are the project dollars kept in the immediate service area, but a sense of pride and ownership is created throughout the community.

In addition, local vendors are used to supply paper and office equipment. Local electrical and mechanical services are used to maintain buildings. "Chamber Bucks" (cash certificates that can only be redeemed at participating local merchants) are used to reward staff and are utilized on many occasions throughout the year. These certificates put dollars back into the local economy. Local flower shops, heating and cooling companies, grocery stores, gas stations, waste services, auto repair shops and others benefit from the more than \$1,500,000 spent annually with local vendors.



West Point, NE

Community Benefits Comparison

Programs and Services	FY '05 Net Community Benefit	FY '06 Net Community Benefit
Benefits for Low-income/Public Programs	\$ 498,649,000	\$ 550,662,000
Traditional charity care	\$ 99,477,000	\$ 100,182,000
Unpaid Costs of Public Programs		
Medicare	\$ 282,163,000	\$ 322,200,000
Medicaid	\$ 110,830,000	\$ 119,036,000
Other public programs	\$ 6,179,000	\$ 9,244,000
Non-billed Community Services	\$ 22,841,000	\$ 20,482,000
Community health education and outreach	\$ 9,301,000	\$ 9,192,000
Community-based clinical services	\$ 3,399,000	\$ 1,950,000
Health care support services	\$ 10,141,000	\$ 9,340,000
Medical Education	\$ 46,152,000	\$ 44,582,000
Scholarships/funding for health professionals	\$ 8,482,000	\$ 17,689,000
Other	\$ 37,670,000	\$ 26,893,000
Subsidized Health Services	\$ 33,096,000	\$ 31,438,000
Emergency and trauma care	\$ 1,327,000	\$ 4,206,000
Neonatal intensive care	\$ 4,581,000	\$ 184,000
Free-standing community clinics	\$ 4,130,000	\$ 4,210,000
Other subsidized health services	\$ 23,058,000	\$ 22,838,000
Research	\$ 2,237,000	\$ 6,934,000
Cash and In-kind Donations	\$ 9,187,000	\$ 12,274,000
Other	\$ 27,773,000	\$ 30,362,000
TOTAL COMMUNITY BENEFITS	\$ 639,935,000	\$ 696,734,000
BAD DEBT	\$ 136,042,000	\$ 166,603,000
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 775,977,000	\$ 863,337,000

The data includes an analysis of community benefits between fiscal year 2005 and fiscal year 2006.

- Over \$56 million MORE in community benefits were reported in 2006 than in 2005.
- Fifty-nine hospitals provided fiscal year 2005 data, while 67 hospitals reported data for fiscal year 2006.

Conclusion

HOSPITALS BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

A LOOK BEYOND THE NUMBERS...

Nebraska's hospitals do not view charity care and other community benefits as an obligation, but rather as an integral component of their missions. Hospitals throughout the state are invested in their communities far beyond traditional health care. In addition to saving lives through medical procedures, hospitals also work to improve health status through other means, such as holding support groups, offering free or discounted medical tests during community health fairs, ensuring the safety of children in car seats, improving access to primary care for the medically indigent, facilitating enrollment in health care coverage for vulnerable populations, and promoting community initiatives that improve quality of life.

Despite economic hardships, declining reimbursement and increasing costs, hospitals render a wide range of free and subsidized community services. From providing millions of dollars in uncompensated care, to offering free health screenings, to teaching students about disparate health care professions, the data and stories within this report capture the essence of Nebraska's hospitals' enduring commitment to healthy communities.

With nearly **\$697 million** provided in community benefits, Nebraska's hospitals are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of their patients and their communities. But behind every community benefit dollar there is a human being - a lifesaving procedure provided to a child, a mother diagnosed in the early and treatable stage of breast cancer, or a grandparent offered a critical heart medication. To every Nebraskan whose life has been enhanced by these charitable services and programs - community benefits go far beyond the numbers.



Nebraska Hospitals Participating in the 2007 Community Benefits Report

Alegent Health Bergan Mercy Medical Center,
Omaha

Alegent Health Immanuel Medical Center, Omaha

Alegent Health Lakeside Hospital, Omaha

Alegent Health Memorial Hospital, Schuyler

Alegent Health Midlands Hospital, Papillion

Antelope Memorial Hospital, Neligh

Avera St. Anthony's Hospital, O'Neill

Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center,
Beatrice

Boone County Health Center, Albion

Box Butte General Hospital, Alliance

Boys Town National Research Hospital, Omaha

Brodstone Memorial Hospital, Superior

Brown County Hospital, Ainsworth

BryanLGH Health System, Lincoln

Butler County Health Care Center, David City

Chadron Community Hospital & Health Services,
Chadron

Chase County Community Hospital, Imperial

Cherry County Hospital, Valentine

Children's Hospital, Omaha

Columbus Community Hospital, Inc., Columbus

Community Hospital, McCook

Community Medical Center, Inc., Falls City

Community Memorial Hospital, Syracuse

Cozad Community Hospital, Cozad

Creighton Area Health Services, Creighton

Creighton University Medical Center, Omaha

Crete Area Medical Center, Crete

Faith Regional Health Services, Norfolk

Fillmore County Hospital, Geneva

Franklin County Memorial Hospital, Franklin

Fremont Area Medical Center, Fremont

Good Samaritan Health Systems, Kearney

Great Plains Regional Medical Center, North Platte

Harlan County Health System, Alma

Howard County Community Hospital, Saint Paul

Jefferson Community Health Center, Fairbury

Jennie M. Melham Memorial Medical Center,
Broken Bow

Johnson County Hospital, Tecumseh

Kearney County Health Services, Minden

Kimball Health Services, Kimball

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Lincoln

Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital, Hastings

Memorial Community Health, Aurora

Memorial Community Hospital & Health System,
Blair

Memorial Health Center, Sidney

Nebraska Methodist Health System, Omaha

Nemaha County Hospital, Auburn

Niobrara Valley Hospital, Lynch

Oakland Mercy Hospital, Oakland

Osmond General Hospital, Osmond

Pender Community Hospital, Pender

Perkins County Health Services, Grant

Providence Medical Center, Wayne

Regional West Medical Center, Scottsbluff

Rock County Hospital, Bassett

Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center, Lincoln

Saint Francis Medical Center, Grand Island

Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, West Point

Saunders Medical Center, Wahoo

St. Mary's Community Hospital, Nebraska City

The Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha

Tri-County Hospital, Lexington

Tri Valley Health System, Cambridge

Valley County Health System, Ord

Warren Memorial Hospital, Friend

West Holt Memorial Hospital, Atkinson

York General Hospital, York

HOSPITALS BUILDING
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

A Look Beyond the Numbers

Mission Statement

The Nebraska Hospital Association is the unified voice for Nebraska's hospitals and health systems, helping hospitals provide comprehensive care to their communities.

Vision Statement

The Nebraska Hospital Association will provide collaborative leadership, assisting its members to improve the health status of their communities.

Designed Future

In 2010, the Nebraska Hospital Association is the influential voice in the state for health care. Nebraska is home to healthy communities where hospitals are known as leaders of quality initiatives. Health care sets the standard for service excellence, and Nebraska's hospitals foster innovation. Working from this set of shared values, health care has come to be the industry of choice in the state. Nebraskans are assured access to health care; there is full coverage and a fair payment system in place.

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3255 Salt Creek Circle, Suite 100
Lincoln, NE 68504

Phone: 402-742-8140

FAX: 402-742-8191

www.nhanet.org

Laura J. Redoutey, FACHE, President