

2012 Community Benefit Report

St. Mary's Health Care System

August 2013

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About Us

St. Mary's Health Care System is a not-for-profit Catholic health care ministry whose mission is to be a compassionate healing presence in the communities we serve. Founded in 1906 and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Mary's is built on a foundation of values that includes excellence, compassion, integrity and reverence for each person. St. Mary's focuses on neurosciences, cardiac care, orthopedics, general medicine/general surgery, women's and children's health, and gastroenterology. The system includes 196-bed St. Mary's Hospital in Athens and 25-bed St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital in Greene County. Services include emergency care, intensive care, stroke care, cardiac catheterization, home health care/hospice services, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, assisted living, Alzheimer's/dementia care, preventive care, state-of-the art diagnostic and therapeutic services and a growing network of physician practices.

Our Mission

As a member of Catholic Health East and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, the mission of St. Mary's Health Care System is to be a compassionate healing presence in our community, committed to the sacredness of human life and the dignity of each person we serve.

Our Vision

We will respect the needs and value the dignity of every individual and continually seek to improve the lives of all we serve, including patients, co-workers, physicians and those with whom we partner. We will optimize our clinical performance and will maintain high standards of stewardship and accountability. We will be progressive and responsive to change across the health care continuum and will be considered a vital part of the community.

St. Mary's Values

- *Reverence for Each Person*
- *Commitment to Those Who Are Poor*
- *Integrity*
- *Community*
- *Stewardship*
- *Compassion*
- *Justice*
- *Courage*
- *Excellence*



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Message from St. Mary's President and Mission Leader

August 2013

Community Benefit is central to the mission of St. Mary's Health Care System. It is the way in which we give back to our community as a not-for-profit organization. It is a demonstration of our commitment to the Catholic Social Traditions of service and stewardship on which St. Mary's was founded and which continue to be among our core values.

St. Mary's offers a wide array of programs and services to ensure the highest quality of care is given to community members receiving care at St. Mary's and to those in need who may never enter our facilities. Through our community based services, student mentorship programs, valued community partnerships, and charity care provisions, St. Mary's is privileged to be impacting the health and quality of life of individuals and families throughout our community.

In 2012, the total value of St. Mary's Community Benefit was more than \$15.6 million. St. Mary's is required by Catholic Health East as well as the U.S. Internal Revenue Service to track and report all Community Benefit activities each year. These requirements help uphold St. Mary's as a not-for-profit health care system and allow us to more accurately share our story with community members and stakeholders.

St. Mary's is very proud of and grateful for all the staff who worked tirelessly throughout the year to make St. Mary's an outstanding health care provider care as well as a leader in Community Benefit. We look forward to another year of service and stewardship in 2013 and hope to continue expanding our Community Benefit programs to better meet the needs of our community.

Sincerely,



Don McKenna

Don McKenna
FACHE President and CEO
St. Mary's Health Care System



Sr. Patricia Loomer

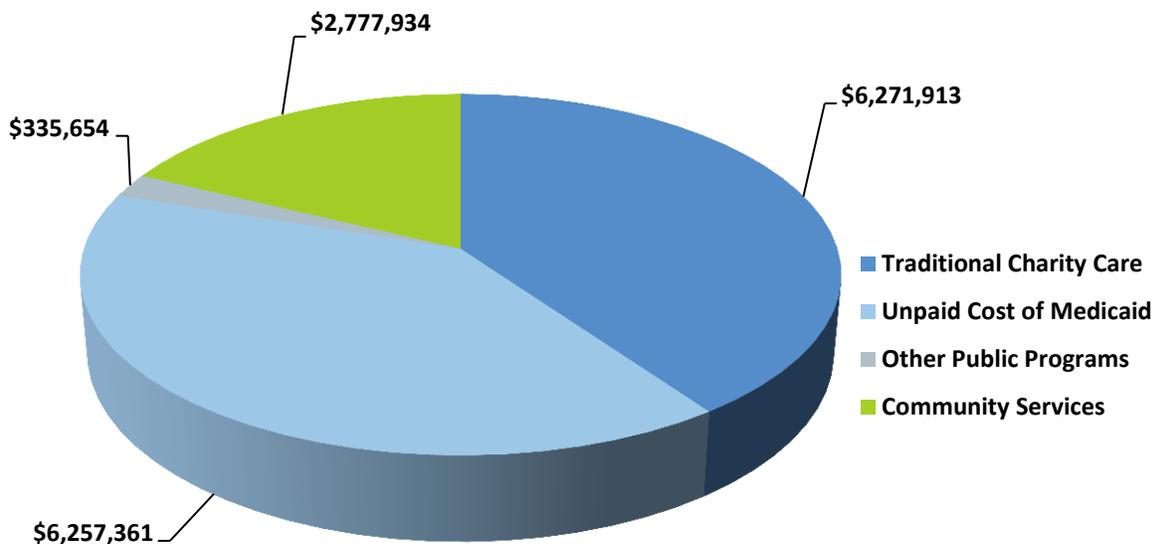
Sr. Patricia Loomer S.N.D. de N.
Vice President
Mission Services

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2012 Community Benefit Snapshot

St. Mary's Health Care System serves the community by providing uncompensated health care to those in need, engaging in a broad range of medical, research, education and training programs, and supporting community health initiatives. In 2012, our community benefit contribution totaled \$15,642,862, including \$6,271,913 in charity care.

Total Community Benefit: \$15,642,862



- Traditional Charity Care** is the cost of free or reduced health services provided to patients who cannot afford to pay and meet St. Mary's Health Care System financial assistance policy criteria.
- Unpaid Cost of Medicaid** is the cost to the hospital that remains un-reimbursed by the government when treating patients with Medicaid insurance.
- Other Public Programs** include the un-reimbursed costs of services provided by St. Mary's Health Care System Pediatric Subspecialty Clinic and Emergency Medical Services.
- Community Services** are offered to the community with the intent of improving community health. Programs and services are designed to respond to identified community needs.

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Creating Hope for a Healthier Life

Like so many Americans, Athens resident Sandra Bland wanted to live a healthier lifestyle, but was struggling.

“I would exercise, but not change my eating habits, or I would change my eating habits, but not exercise,” said the Family Engagement Specialist at Gaines Elementary School.

Then, a co-worker told her about a pilot program St. Mary’s was holding in partnership with Athens First AME Church: Hope 4 Health. The free, 10-week program combined exercise with information about diabetes, stroke, heart health and weight management; free equipment such as pedometers and dumbbells, and healthy meals catered by St. Mary’s Food and Nutrition Department.

Sandra jumped in and learned the importance of combining healthy eating with exercise. Putting the two together has helped her lose 12 pounds so far. She also learned potentially life-saving health information that she is relaying to family and friends.

“This is so important,” she said. “I’m sharing the knowledge to try to help others.”



Sandra is using exercise and information learned through St. Mary’s Hope 4 Health program to lose weight and improve her health.

The program grew out of St. Mary’s 2010 Community Health Needs Assessment, which found that in urban Athens-Clarke County, 28 percent of adults are obese, 23 percent are uninsured, 20 percent have limited access to healthy food, and 19 percent get no physical activity in their leisure time.

Led by St. Mary’s Mission Services, multiple departments came together and partnered with Athens First AME to address these underlying health issues in the community. The church provided space and helped recruit people to the program. St. Mary’s provided funding, instructors, health screenings, incentives and healthy meals.

“The response was outstanding,” said Sister Patricia Loomer, St. Mary’s Vice President of Mission Services. “Our participants loved it and nearly all of them showed significant improvement in one or more risk factors. Now we’re building on what we learned in the pilot so that we can make Hope 4 Health bigger and better in the future.”

St. Mary’s piloted this healthy living program in partnership with Athens First AME Church. Participants ranged in age from 32 to 92, and most made measurable progress toward their health goals. We are working to offer an expanded Hope 4 Health program in the near future.

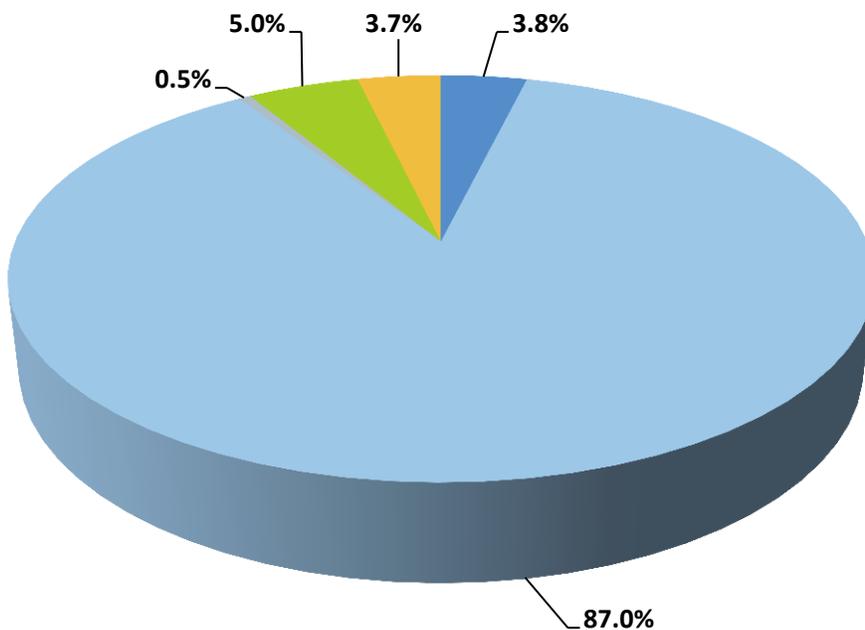


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Community Benefit Services

As a not-for-profit health care system, St. Mary's is committed not only to our patients, but also to the communities we serve. St. Mary's is proud to give back to Athens and Northeast Georgia, which have supported our institution for more than a century. Community Benefit is the process by which St. Mary's measures and reports the impact on our community of health improvement services, health professions education, research, financial and in-kind contributions, and community-building activities.

2012 Total Community Services: \$2,777,934



- Health Improvement Services
- Health Professions Education
- Research
- Financial & In-kind Contributions
- Community Building Activities

Of \$2,777,934...

\$106,390 (3.8 percent) was spent on **Health Improvement Services**

\$2,415,637 (87 percent) was spent on **Health Professions Education**

\$14,610 (0.5 percent) was spent on **Research**

\$138,201 (5 percent) was spent on **Financial and In-Kind Contributions**

\$103,096 (3.7 percent) was spent on **Community Building Activities**

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Community Health Improvement Services

St. Mary's is committed to providing quality community outreach health and wellness programs. We provide health fairs, screenings, special events, and educational opportunities in a variety of settings to help you, your family, your church or your business maintain your optimum health and well-being. St. Mary's hosted or participated in numerous community events in 2012 to provide free health screenings and information to thousands of area residents, including St. Mary's Heart and Stroke Day health fair, the Next Step 5K against stroke, Jackson and Walton EMC membership events, and Athens-Clarke County employee health fair.



St. Mary's had the opportunity to partner with CHE's global health ministry in a campaign to collect supplies for a new college in Peru. Global health ministry works with communities in several developing countries to provide health care by sending medical teams, equipment and supplies.



More than 20 St. Mary's staff and physicians laced up their walking shoes and participated in the annual Clarke-Oconee Heart Walk Sept. 20 at Bishop Park. Cool temperatures and sunny skies welcomed walkers on a route through the new University of Georgia Health Sciences campus. At last count, the event has raised more than \$84,000 for the American Heart/Stroke Association, including almost \$7,000 from St. Mary's.

Health Professions Education

St. Mary's is advancing healthcare by improving access to education and training. Each year St. Mary's welcomes hundreds of students from local colleges and universities who are studying to become the next generation of health care professionals. In fiscal year 2012, St. Mary's invested \$2.4 million in its health professions education programs.

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Cash and In-Kind Donations

Over the years, St. Mary's has developed productive partnerships with community organizations working toward the common goal of eliminating health disparities and improving residents' access to high quality medical care. In 2012, St. Mary's provided more than \$138,000 in cash and in-kind contributions for community groups, including \$25,000 for Mercy Health Center, a not-for-profit organization serving underinsured and uninsured residents; nearly \$12,000 worth of food to the Food Bank of North East Georgia; and over \$30,000 in cash donations to other organizations.

Research

In an effort to enhance medical education and better understand how emerging technologies can improve patient care, St. Mary's and the Georgia Health Sciences University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership School have teamed up to research how medical students use iPads in the patient care environment.

St. Mary's provided 106 free mammograms in 2012 in conjunction with two community partners, Athens Goes Pink, a project of the Athens Banner-Herald/Online Athens, and BreastFest, an annual event held by the Tyanna Foundation.

Community-Building Activities

St. Mary's is a lead facilitator in local and regional preparedness activities, ensuring that Athens-Clarke County is prepared should a disaster strike. In addition, St. Mary's staff donates time, materials, and leadership to a variety of community groups, including various schools, the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Athens, and United Way.



GHSU/UGA medical partnership students Nitya Nair and Tom Olinger join associate campus dean for medical education Michelle Nuss, M.D., and St. Mary's Chief Medical Officer Bruce Middendorf, M.D., and President and CEO Don McKenna, to show samples of the iPad computers St. Mary's is providing to all 2nd and 3rd year medical students at the Athens campus.

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For questions or comments regarding this report or St. Mary's Community Benefit program, please call
(706) 389-3424.

