CONNECTING THE DOTS

THE 2017 COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT

Akron Children's Hospital
We see the **BIG PICTURE**
At Akron Children’s, we see the big picture and connect the dots to care for more kids in more ways.

“Connecting the Dots” captures the spirit behind everything we do – a commitment to tackling the biggest challenges, striving for the brightest outcomes and helping each child in our community reach a future filled with potential.

Our ability to see the big picture is not just a part of who we are. It also reflects the values of our partnering organizations and the possibility of everything we hope to accomplish together.
PUTTING KIDS FIRST
Ensuring the needs of children remain our top priority.

2017 marked Akron Children’s Hospital’s 127th year of service as a community-based provider of care for children. Our health care system is an essential part of the communities we serve, and we are honored to be embraced so warmly by the families of northern Ohio. With children as our top priority, we partner with many organizations to ensure that all children have access to the care they need to thrive.

We are pleased to highlight in this report how we are reaching beyond our doors with an array of services to enhance the health and well-being of children. Whether we’re helping new mothers learn how to keep their babies safe or bringing mental health services to our pediatricians’ offices, we are continually looking to make it easier to find the right level of care in the right place at the right time.

Our primary goal is to ensure families have access to care that addresses the health concerns they are facing in their daily lives. Based on our 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment, we know parents are worried about their children’s physical and mental health. Topping the list of those concerns are asthma, behavioral health, diabetes, infant mortality and injury prevention. This report offers many examples of the types of targeted programs that have helped us move the needle forward to address these concerns.

At the same time, we are looking to resolve some of the social determinants of health that can act as barriers to achieving optimum outcomes for our patients and their families. You can see examples of these efforts in our community health worker program and school partnerships that offer pathways to success for students of diverse ages and backgrounds. You will also find examples of how our research, advocacy and medical education programs are advancing pediatric healthcare and impacting public health policy.

As we prepare to undertake a new assessment in 2019, we remain committed to staying responsive to the health needs of our communities. We will continue to partner with families and community organizations so our area’s children will have the chance to grow into their best selves. We cherish our role as a champion for children, and we are energized to continue our heritage of service.

Sincerely,

William H. Considine
Chief Executive Officer
Akron Children’s Hospital

Bernett L. Williams
Vice President of External Affairs
Akron Children’s Hospital
SETTING OUR COURSE
Akron Children’s Hospital Community Benefit/Community Health Needs Assessment Steering Committee

Committee Chair:
Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer
Probate Division
Summit County Court of Common Pleas

Members:
Donna Axson
Akron Children’s Hospital Women’s Board
2nd Vice President

Darlene Baad
Director, Protective Services
Summit County Children Services

Norman C. Christopher, MD
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Akron Children’s Hospital

Kristen Hildreth, PhD
Director of Community Health
Medina County Health Department

Christina M. Hodgkinson
Director, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

Sharon Hrina
Vice President, Akron Children's Hospital
Mahoning Valley

Cheryl A. Parzych
Chief Executive Officer
United Way of Medina County

Jared Pollick
Chief Executive Officer
Third Street Family Health Services

Donna Skoda, MS, RD/LD
Health Commissioner
Summit County Public Health

Ken Slenkovich
Assistant Dean, Director of Policy, Planning & Programs
Kent State University College of Public Health

LaTrice D. Snodgrass
Chief Operations Officer
AxessPointe Community Health Centers

Patricia Sweeney, JD, MPH, RN
Health Commissioner
Mahoning County District Board of Health

Beth Tenda
Akron Children's Hospital Parent Advisory Committee Representative

Lauren Trohman, MPH
Community Benefit & CHNA Coordinator
Akron Children’s Hospital

Robert Wells
Senior VP of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs
The Sherwin-Williams Company

Bernett L. Williams
Vice President, External Affairs
Akron Children’s Hospital

Heather Wuenisch
Director, Community Benefit, Advocacy & Outreach
Akron Children’s Hospital

Akron Children’s Hospital Implementation Team Leads

Asthma
P. Cooper White, MD, FAAP
Director, Locust Pediatric Care Group
Associate Chair for Primary Care and Community Health

David Chand, MD, FAAP
Physician Deployment Director, Center for Operations Excellence
Pediatric Hospitalist

Behavioral Health
Douglas Straight, MA, Ed, LPCC-S
Clinical Operations Director, Pediatric Psychiatry and Psychology

Diabetes
Bradley Van Sickle, MD, PhD
Pediatric Endocrinologist

Milva Holley
Operations Manager, Endocrinology

Infant Mortality – Mahoning Valley
Elena Rossi, MD, MMM, FAAP
Director of Special Projects, Akron Children’s Hospital Mahoning Valley

Jennifer Manning, DO, FAAP
Neonatologist, St. Elizabeth Boardman Hospital

Infant Mortality – Summit County
Jennifer Grow, MD, FAAP
Neonatologist

Stephen Bacak, DO, MPH, FACOG
Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist

Injury Reduction
Michael Forbes, MD, FCCM, FAAP
Director, Clinical Research & Outcomes Analysis
Pediatric Intensivist

Paul McPherson, MD, FAAP
Director, Children At Risk Evaluation (CARE) Center

This icon reflects top priorities of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).
What is Community Benefit?

Community benefit is the measure of the investments we make in the well-being of children, as well as the positive impact we have in the communities where we live and work. It includes the cost we incur to provide the resources we devote to programs, services and activities to meet identified community needs, as well as:

- Improve access to health care services.
- Enhance the health of the community.
- Advance medical or health knowledge.
- Relieve or reduce the burden of government or other community efforts.

Our community benefit investment includes:

- The losses we incur to cover the costs of providing medical care to patients whose families are unable to pay for all or part of their care.
- The costs of community outreach, education and wellness programs we engage in for which we are not reimbursed.
- The significant gap between the cost of providing care to Medicaid patients and the reimbursement received for those services.
- The costs for education and training for medical professionals, students and other caregivers.
- The costs of research, advocacy programs, volunteers and in-kind donations we make to support our community partners and other non-profit organizations.

In sum, it’s our total investment of time, resources and funding to enhance the health and well-being of children and families.
At Akron Children’s, we’ve made a promise to turn no child away, regardless of a family’s ability to pay. This is at the core of everything we do. As the needs of our community grow and we provide vital health services to more children each year, the amount of unreimbursed Medicaid and uncompensated care we incur also grows. Yet, despite these challenges, we remain focused on serving the needs of our community and treating all children as if they were our own.
In 2017, our surgery volumes continued to grow. To meet this need, our pediatric surgery team provides expert care and the latest technological advances in surgical facilities designed just for kids.

**Total Surgeries**

- **17,068**
- **Akron:** 15,134
- **Mahoning Valley:** 1,934

**Total Inpatient Days**

**77,747**

**Total Outpatient Visits**

**1,074,791**

**Total Home Nursing Visits**

**5,845**

Providing care in the familiar surroundings of home can promote a faster recovery, while reducing costs. As demand for these services increased, we made 119 more home nursing visits in 2017 than in 2016.

**Emergency Department Visits**

With two locations in Akron and the Mahoning Valley, our staff are specially trained in treating children – ensuring we’re always ready when a pediatric emergency occurs.

**Total Emergency Visits**

**105,137**

**Hospital Patients Who Rely on Medicaid**

**53.4%**

**Total Home Nursing Visits**

**5,845**
Adolescence is a time of rapid growth and development that affects teens in many ways. Our adolescent medicine specialists provide care that addresses the unique physical and emotional needs of our teen patients. They also provide care to juveniles who are in the Summit County Juvenile Detention Facility. Juvenile offenders frequently have health care needs that are unmet, whether due to parental neglect, drug or alcohol use, or other factors, so these services are helping more teens receive the care they need.

TRANSPORTS
When a critical illness or injury occurs, our air and ground transport teams ensure that infants, children and teens, as well as burn victims of all ages, arrive at Akron Children’s as safely and quickly as possible. We completed 100 more ground transports in 2017 than in 2016.

SUMMIT COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY
155 VISITS 675 PATIENTS
CHALLENGES
Akron Children’s is unlocking the power of research to advance patient care and improve health outcomes for all children. Our advocacy efforts and innovative community partnerships are connecting more children to the care they need, while taking on some of the biggest issues facing our community.
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Rebecca D. Considine Research Institute serves as the catalyst for research at Akron Children’s Hospital. It reflects the vision of William H. and Rebecca D. Considine to create a world-class research organization capable of making significant strides in pediatric care through creativity and scientific discovery. The research institute is home to a number of multidisciplinary endeavors, as well as specialized centers of research dedicated to population health services; brain, mitochondrial and muscle health; and vision sciences.

Our Haslinger Family Center for Pediatric Palliative Care is conducting several studies to evaluate the compassionate, end-of-life care we provide for children and their families facing serious illnesses. We’re collaborating with other pediatric hospitals in Ohio to improve the diagnosis and treatment of pneumonia and better predict those at risk for becoming sicker.

As one of 15 mitochondrial centers across America researching treatments through the North American Mitochondrial Disease Consortium, we’re giving patients access to new medications that are helping them better manage symptoms and significantly improve their quality of life.

Our innovative research in vision sciences includes a pediatric glaucoma study that has the potential to revolutionize the treatment of a leading cause of blindness in children without surgery.
PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

With the support of our research institute, our investigators published and presented more research than ever in 2017. We had a 10 percent increase in published research from 2016 and a 68 percent increase over the last five years. We also had a 15 percent increase in presentations from 2016.

- 136 ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS AND PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS
- 7 BOOK CHAPTERS
- 68 NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS
- 59 INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS
- 29 LOCAL PRESENTATIONS
- 15% INCREASE IN PRESENTATIONS

CENTER FOR NURSING RESEARCH

Our Center for Nursing Research mentors and supports nurses in the pursuit of research that contributes to nursing science and improves clinical care. Nursing research at Akron Children’s continues to grow, as more nurses are encouraged to serve as principal investigators.

- 47 RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS
- 39 ACTIVE NURSE-LED STUDIES
- 18 PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

SUMMER PEDIATRIC RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Through our Summer Pediatric Research Scholars program, we give college students in Ohio and beyond the opportunity to gain experience in clinical and quality improvement research. Summer scholars work closely with our physicians and other health care practitioners who offer guidance and mentoring throughout the research process.

- 100+ APPLICANTS
- 12 SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE
- NEARLY 150 SCHOLARS SINCE 2006
VIRTUAL PEDIATRIC SYSTEMS

Akron Children’s is a participating site in the Virtual Pediatric Systems database, an international network of pediatric critical care units. By standardizing and sharing clinical data with other participants, we’re improving the quality of critical care for our own patients, as well as children worldwide.

Through our participation, we’ve developed a test to identify those at greatest risk for developing severe septic shock, providing a huge advantage in preventing or reducing this life-threatening complication. We’ve also demonstrated the benefits of non-invasive respiratory therapy in improving patient outcomes and shortening hospital stays by reducing the risk of infection and other complications.

VERMONT OXFORD NETWORK

Our neonatal intensive care units participate in the Vermont Oxford Network (VON), a collaboration of nearly 1,000 neonatal intensive care units worldwide, working together to improve the quality and safety of medical care for newborn infants and their families.

As participants in VON’s Antibiotic Stewardship quality collaborative, we’re working to optimize the use of antibiotics for our tiniest patients. This initiative aims to reduce the overuse and misuse of antibiotics, which can lead to antibiotic-resistant bacteria and potentially dangerous, difficult-to-treat infections. Unnecessary and early antibiotic use in newborns can affect the growth of normal flora in the digestive tract, leading to long-term health problems such as obesity, asthma, allergies and inflammatory bowel disease.

Our Akron campus NICU is also participating in a surgery collaborative through VON to improve the nutritional status of babies who are having surgery, as well as the process for daily rounds with our neonatology and surgery teams. Our goal is to have timely and efficient communication between our providers about the plan of care for each day.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES INTEGRATION

Integrating mental health services into primary care is essential to providing holistic care that addresses all of our patients’ needs. Either with our own staff or through affiliation agreements with community mental health providers, we are providing mental health services to children in the familiar setting of their pediatrician’s office. These mental health providers are currently available in 25 of our 28 primary care offices, including Akron Children’s Hospital Pediatrics locations throughout the region and in our hospital-based Locust Pediatric Care Group, which has a particular interest in serving children with special health care needs, international and refugee families, and families with foster or adopted children.

To make it even easier for children to access mental health services at their pediatrician’s office, we also offer a telehealth program in some offices using videoconferencing technology. Although most visits with a mental health provider occur in person, these virtual appointments provide a discreet option for patients who may be reluctant to pursue treatment. The high-definition equipment gives providers the ability to see nuances in facial expressions and other subtle behaviors that may be useful in assessing a child’s condition.
TIMELY SERVICE  
COMPASSIONATE CARE
Protecting our most vulnerable from harm

CARE AND CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS

The Children At Risk Evaluation (CARE) Center, located on our Akron campus, has a long history of evaluating and initiating treatment for children suspected of being physically or sexually abused or neglected. In the Mahoning Valley, our Child Advocacy Center also provides a quiet, non-threatening environment for responding to allegations of child abuse or neglect.

These services connect professionals from law enforcement, child protective services, medicine, mental health, victim advocacy and prosecutors’ offices, who work together to determine if abuse has occurred and provide a coordinated, compassionate response.

As advocates for children, our staff members also provide professional and community education, and serve as executive leaders for the Ohio Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers.

TIMELY RECOGNITION OF ABUSIVE INJURIES (TRAIN) COLLABORATIVE

Nearly one in three abused children in Ohio have been seen previously by a medical provider with a minor injury in infancy, such as an isolated bruise, that was not recognized as abuse. Six children's hospitals in Ohio, including Akron Children’s, are working together as part of the TRAIN Collaborative to help medical providers recognize and respond to the warning signs of child abuse. This early recognition is essential to preventing increasingly severe forms of child maltreatment and protecting those at the greatest risk.
**RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

**HEALTHY MOMS — HEALTHY BABIES**
Finding new ways to celebrate more first birthdays

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**INFANT MORTALITY**

Ohio’s infant mortality rates are improving, but they still remain too high and exceed the national average, especially for African-American infants. The Ohio Equity Institute (OEI) has identified nine counties accounting for the majority of infant deaths in Ohio, including Summit and Mahoning counties. Akron Children’s has joined together with community partners to tackle this challenge and ensure more babies reach their first birthday.

Through these community collaborations, we’re addressing many of the social determinants contributing to infant mortality, such as lack of access to prenatal care, short spacing between pregnancies and maternal stress. We’re also promoting progesterone therapy to reduce premature births and educating mothers on how to prevent sleep-related deaths.

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**MY BABY’S 1ST INFANT MORTALITY COALITION**

MY (Mahoning Youngstown) Baby’s 1st Infant Mortality Coalition is the OEI Better Birth Outcomes initiative in Mahoning County. It engages clinical, social and behavioral health service providers in Mahoning County and works collaboratively to promote healthy pregnancies and link pregnant women to community resources. Akron Children’s Dr. Elena Rossi is leading this initiative.

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**EVERYONE – SUMMIT COUNTY BETTER BIRTH OUTCOMES**

EveryOne is the OEI Better Birth Outcomes initiative focused on reducing infant mortality in Summit County. We are one of numerous local agencies, hospitals and other community partners working to address infant mortality and premature birth.
FULL TERM FIRST BIRTHDAY AKRON

Full Term First Birthday is an infant vitality initiative led by the City of Akron that works collaboratively with EveryOne Summit County Better Birth Outcomes to implement strategic, targeted efforts in key neighborhoods.

PATHWAYS HUB

The Pathways HUB is a network of care coordination agencies focused on reaching those at greatest risk and addressing their identified risk factors. Co-developed by Drs. Mark and Sarah Redding, it has received national recognition, including endorsements by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) for its effectiveness in improving health outcomes.

The model uses 20 pathways that address the social determinants of health. Implemented in Mahoning and Summit counties, it serves as an efficient and effective model for delivering care coordination. The Mahoning and Summit County Pathways HUBs were initiated as a result of several community efforts implemented to address infant mortality and represent years of planning and collaboration.

MATERNAL FETAL NEONATAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QUIP) COMMITTEE

In Summit County, Akron Children’s leads a collaboration that addresses opiate addiction and neonatal abstinence syndrome in our community. One of the goals is for our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to become the medical home for these families, keeping mothers at their baby’s bedside to receive addiction services, while participating in their baby’s care. To reduce the use of medications to manage symptoms of opiate withdrawal, these moms are encouraged to soothe their babies through swaddling, cuddling and skin-to-skin contact. We’ve also recruited volunteer cuddlers to hold and cuddle these babies when parents are unavailable.

24 NEW CUDDLERS TRAINED
HEALTHY KIDS
Through a variety of community programs and services, we’re reaching more kids where they live, play and go to school. Our efforts are focused on injury prevention, early literacy and wellness to give all children the best opportunity to reach their full potential.
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

HEALTHY KIDS  HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Reaching more kids with services close to home

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES
Through our School Health Services, we’re connecting more students to cost-effective school nursing services and wellness programs to keep them healthy. Our impact has grown with 119,640 more school clinic visits in 2017 compared to 2016. We also partnered with Health Heroes to provide free flu vaccines to 3,247 school children, including those with asthma and at greatest risk for flu complications.

8 COUNTIES
30 SCHOOL DISTRICTS
82,232 STUDENTS
562,866 SCHOOL CLINIC VISITS
230 STAFF MEMBERS
1,698 REFERRALS
92% BACK-TO-CLASS RATE

In Hudson and Barberton City Schools, we supported their Drug Free America Clubs by providing urine screenings for students who joined the clubs and pledged to be drug free.

ATHLETIC TRAINING
Our athletic trainers play an important role in keeping student athletes healthy and in the game with services ranging from injury prevention and conditioning to rehabilitation and therapy for sports injuries. Between 2016 and 2017, the number of student athletes we served increased by more than 92 percent.

22 HIGH SCHOOLS
22,206 STUDENTS
$1,169,102 2017 COMMUNITY BENEFIT
1 MIDDLE SCHOOL

Community outreach plays an important role in sharing our mission and expertise with those we are privileged to serve. Numerous departments represent Akron Children’s at community outreach and health education events. Our Outreach Events Committee is comprised of more than 35 members from a variety of hospital departments. They meet monthly to vet event requests that are submitted online by community members, ensuring we are represented at outreach events that share our mission of improving the health and well-being of children.

In 2017, we were fortunate to attend a large number of events and activities held throughout Summit, Mahoning, Stark, Medina, Trumbull, Portage, Wayne, Richland, Columbiana, Ashland, Cuyahoga and Holmes counties.

211 EVENT REQUESTS 153 OUTREACH EVENTS 12 COUNTIES
SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ONCOLOGY OUTREACH PROGRAM (SCOOP)

Children who return to school after cancer treatment often face many challenges. They may feel isolated from classmates or self-conscious about their appearance, especially if they’ve lost their hair or have experienced other physical changes. They may struggle academically or have learning difficulties as a result of their cancer treatment.

Through SCOOP, we advocate for these children and their families by supporting the social and academic needs of pediatric cancer patients, as well as patients with sickle cell disease. Staff members give presentations to classmates to help them understand our patients’ experiences, facilitate a smooth school re-entry after a prolonged absence and attend educational planning meetings to ensure each patient’s academic needs are met.

SCOOP staff members also provide community education on cancer prevention and distribute skin cancer prevention bookmarks through local libraries.

REACH OUT AND READ

Reach Out and Read is a national program that fosters early literacy in young children. Through our Reach Out and Read program, parents and caregivers receive new, age-appropriate children's books and suggestions on how to help their children develop a love of books and reading.

The books are distributed through our primary care offices located in communities throughout northern Ohio. We also provide gently used children's books to patients in other areas of the hospital and at outreach events in neighborhoods where children might not have access to books.

REACH OUT AND READ®

AKRON AND MAHONING VALLEY

28
PEDiatrician OFFICES

26
HOSPITAL DEPARTMENTS

68,955
NEW BOOKS

18,779
GENTLY USED BOOKS

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

We lead a team of Community Health Workers who make home visits and connect children and families to medical and social services in their communities. This ensures the needs of those at greatest risk are met.

REACH OUT AND READ AND MOLLY ANN GRIES FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

After the tragic death of their infant daughter due to an unsafe sleep environment at a babysitter’s house, Meagen and Jeff Gries established the Molly Ann Gries Foundation to promote safe sleep practices. Reach Out and Read partnered with the foundation to provide free board books about safe sleep practices to 28 pediatric offices at Akron Children’s. These books are given to parents at their newborn’s first medical appointment.

8,102 SAFE SLEEP BOOKS DISTRIBUTED
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SAFETY-FOCUSED   KID-FOCUSED

Offering injury prevention programs that put kids first

SAFE KIDS COALITIONS

Akron Children’s is the home base for two Safe Kids Worldwide® coalitions in Summit and Mahoning counties, as well as home to the Safe Kids Ohio state office.

Safe Kids Summit County and Safe Kids Mahoning Valley include community partners representing regional health and social service agencies, businesses, fire and police departments, as well as many other county-wide agencies and organizations concerned with the health and safety of youth. Safe Kids Ohio includes 18 local coalitions. We provide oversight, guidance and support to these coalition coordinators.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY (CPS) PROGRAM

A car safety seat is one of the most important purchases a family will make to keep their child safe, but it can also be one of the most complicated. As many as 70 percent of car seats installed by families have one critical installation error. Along with providing discounted or free car seats to eligible families, we teach them how to properly install the seats and safely secure their children. This includes professional seat checks offered by NHTSA-certified technicians and the Safe Kids Summit County car seat inspection station.

SAFE SITTER

The Safe Sitter® program prepares students in grades 6 to 8 to be safe when they’re home alone, watching younger siblings or babysitting. The course gives students the confidence and skills they need to become responsible and safe babysitters.

AKRON

6 SAFE SITTER CLASSES  67 STUDENTS TRAINED IN SAFE SITTER

MAHONING VALLEY

4 SAFE SITTER CLASSES  19 STUDENTS TRAINED IN SAFE SITTER

SAFE SLEEP AND CRIBS FOR KIDS

As a Cribs for Kids site, the Akron campus provides discounted Graco® Pack ‘n Plays to eligible families who need a safe place for their baby to sleep. Through 15 partner agencies and 24 distribution sites, we’ve increased access to these much-needed Pack ‘n Plays, while educating families on how to reduce the risk of sleep-related injuries.

OHIO BUCKLES BUCKEYES

Thanks to a five-year grant from the Ohio Department of Health, Akron Children’s became the lead organization within a six-county region for the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes Program (OBB). OBB provides child safety seats to eligible low-income families throughout Ohio, while promoting correct installation and proper use to prevent child passenger-related injuries. Prior to the grant, which began on Oct. 1, 2017, Akron Children’s distributed OBB child safety seats to residents in Summit and Mahoning counties.

TOTAL CAR SEATS DISTRIBUTED

1,257 AKRON

509 MAHONING VALLEY

597 PACK ‘N PLAYS

24 DISTRIBUTION SITES

PORTAGE  SUMMIT  TRUMBULL  ASHTABULA  MAHONING  COLUMBIANA

COUNTIES SERVED

CHNA PRIORITY

INJURY PREVENTION

We’re committed to protecting children from unintentional injuries, especially those causing serious harm. We work to keep children safe wherever they may be – whether they’re passengers in cars, walking to school, home alone, asleep in their cribs, riding bikes or on the playground.
SAFETY AROUND WATER

In 2016, Akron Children’s Emergency Department treated three children for near-drowning and drowning incidents during Memorial Day weekend. This led to a conversation with our injury prevention team and the Akron Area YMCA on how to address the disparity in drowning rates of urban children, which is three times greater than that of suburban children.

In 2017, we launched a pilot of our collaborative Safety Around Water program within the city of Akron for children who participated in day camps through the Recreation Department. We provided a water survival course, consisting of eight sessions over four weeks to help children overcome their fear of water. After successful completion, the children knew how to exit a body of water after an unexpected fall or to stay afloat until help could arrive. By giving kids water survival skills, we hope to decrease rates of drowning among urban children.

Following the pilot, we expanded the program to students in Barberton City Schools and continue to enlist other community partners to reach our target of training 900 children to be safe around water.

251 AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS  222 BARBERTON CITY SCHOOLS STUDENTS

HIGH-RISK BABY SHOWER

Akron Children’s is the lead organization for this annual community event, which is held in September for Child Passenger Safety and Safe Sleep Awareness Month. Expectant mothers who cannot afford safety items for their babies attend a community shower where they may receive a car seat, Pack ‘n Play, and baby care products. Along with making the moms feel special, we teach them about safe sleep, child passenger safety, the importance of early childhood literacy and well visits, so they can give their babies a safe and healthy start.

80 MOMS

GOODYEAR SAFE MOBILITY PROJECT

This collaboration between Akron Children’s and the Goodyear Foundation targets Summit County neighborhoods where children are at a higher risk for injury. By bringing our resources directly into the neighborhoods we serve, we’ve raised awareness and educated more children and parents about bicycle and child passenger safety. We’ve also expanded our efforts regarding pedestrian safety and teen driver education. Through a website available in six languages, the Safe Mobility Project offers interactive tools to help families choose the right car seat and create a driving agreement with their teen.

450 CAR SEATS  100 BOOSTER SEATS  790 BIKE HELMETS

NEW TEEN SAFE DRIVING/DISTRACTED DRIVING VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

SAFE MOBILITY PROJECT

100

80

MOMS
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

BRIGHT IDEAS  BRIGHTER FUTURES
Opening more doors to health care opportunities

EXPLORERS POST, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA® – GREAT TRAIL COUNCIL
As one of the largest employers in Summit County, we’re committed to maintaining a strong workforce by encouraging area students to consider various health care careers. Through monthly meetings during the school year, high school students explored careers in nursing, cardiology, simulation, expressive therapy, sports medicine and physical therapy, as well as the work of the Ronald McDonald House.

- 38 students
- 46 hours of community benefit
- 6 hospital departments
When Akron Public Schools (APS) was looking to engage business partners throughout the community in a new approach to learning, Akron Children’s was the first northeast Ohio organization to come on board.

APS has launched an innovative approach to engage high school students and increase their readiness for life after graduation. A new career academy model is being rolled out district-wide, allowing students to explore different areas of interest in their home high school.

Akron Children’s partnered with APS to open the Akron Children’s Hospital Academy of Health and Human Services at North High School, which offers pathways in health care operations, early childhood education, biomedical science and allied health. In addition to a $250,000 commitment that can be used to enhance students’ experiences, the hospital also pledged $150,000 for in-kind services such as internships, teacher externships, white-coat experiences, speakers, job shadowing and other programs.

**AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS COLLEGE & CAREERS ACADEMY**

**HEALTHCARE IN PROGRESS PROGRAM**

Healthcare in Progress (HIP) is a partnership educational program among Akron Public Schools, Akron Children’s Hospital, Cleveland Clinic Akron General, Summa Health System, Northeast Ohio Medical University, Kent State University and The University of Akron. By helping high school students understand available health care opportunities and the steps to pursuing a successful career through various hands-on learning activities, we’re giving them a head start to a bright future.

In 2017, the HIP program exposed high school students to health care careers in a week-long summer experience at all partner organizations, including an interactive tour at the Austen Simulation Center for Safety and Reliability.

- 5 HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES
- 115 STUDENTS
- 62 HOURS OF COMMUNITY BENEFIT
Through our uniquely collaborative, community-based approach to training, we’re ensuring the next generation of health care professionals is ready to provide the highest level of care to children. As we move pediatric health care forward, we’re setting new standards of care, while supporting a diverse and inclusive workforce.
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

FUTURE CAREGIVERS  NEXT LEVEL CARE
Training the next generation of health care professionals

ASCEND PROGRAM
Through a program called ASCEND (Assuring Success with a Commitment to Enhance Nurse Diversity), we are promoting a more diverse nursing workforce. A 10-week summer internship, designed for nursing students entering their senior year, provides professional development opportunities, hands-on experience and the potential for future employment.

- 11,080 HOURS OF STAFF TIME PROVIDING DIRECT INSTRUCTION
- 25 EMPLOYEE EDUCATORS
- $20,000 GRANT RECEIVED

NURSING EDUCATION
- 31 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
- 1,869 NURSING STUDENTS
- 8,110 HOURS OF STAFF TIME PROVIDING DIRECT INSTRUCTION
- 16,193 PRECEPTING HOURS

NURSING COMMUNITY BENEFIT
$581,850

ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER TRAINING
- 20 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
- 175 CLINICAL PLACEMENTS
- 100-250 TRAINING HOURS PER STUDENT

ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER TRAINING COMMUNITY BENEFIT
$862,274

AUSTEN SIMULATION CENTER FOR SAFETY AND RELIABILITY
The Austen Simulation Center for Safety and Reliability is one of the largest, most comprehensive facilities of its kind in the region. It offers a variety of medical simulations and training experiences for health care professionals who care for children. The center also encourages high school students to explore clinical careers through interactive, hands-on tours.

- 11,080 HOURS OF STAFF TIME PROVIDING DIRECT INSTRUCTION
- 25 EMPLOYEE EDUCATORS
- $20,000 GRANT RECEIVED

COMMUNITY BENEFIT
$87,175

NEONATAL RESUSCITATION PROGRAM
- 41 CLASSES
- 713 HOURS

NEONATAL RESUSCITATION PROGRAM COMMUNITY BENEFIT
$581,850
PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENT CLINICAL OBSERVATION

Both physical therapy and physical therapy assistant students have the opportunity to complete their required clinical education hours at Akron Children’s. Our training experience is unique, typically providing two clinical instructors so students are exposed to inpatient and outpatient pediatric physical therapy, as well as our interdisciplinary day rehabilitation program, inpatient rehabilitation and burn therapy. This clinical experience is currently available on our Akron and Beeghly campuses and our specialty care location in Hudson.

We also offer clinical education in outpatient physical therapy for sports-related injuries at these locations, as well as our specialty care office in Medina and LifeCenter Plus in Hudson.

2,020 HOURS OF STAFF TIME PROVIDING DIRECT INSTRUCTION

RADIOLOGY STUDENT TRAINING

Through a partnership with The University of Akron, first- and second-year radiology students complete placements at Akron Children’s.

4,257 HOURS OF STAFF TIME PROVIDING DIRECT INSTRUCTION

$205,652 COMMUNITY BENEFIT

$98,790 COMMUNITY BENEFIT

RESPIRATORY THERAPY TRAINING

We train respiratory therapy students from The University of Akron, Youngstown State University and Stark State College.

55 STUDENTS

$58,484 COMMUNITY BENEFIT

3 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

MEDICAL ASSISTANT EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

We welcomed our first group of medical assistant students from Stark State College who completed externships in a few of our primary and specialty care offices. They received hands-on experience in both clinical and administrative tasks, such as taking patients’ vital signs, and checking them in and out at appointments. In 2018, we’re expanding the program with students from The University of Akron.

$58,059 COMMUNITY BENEFIT

1,256 HOURS OF STAFF TIME PROVIDING DIRECT INSTRUCTION

$205,652 COMMUNITY BENEFIT
BURN CENTER EDUCATION
As the home of the Paul and Carol David Foundation Burn Institute, we share our expertise and knowledge in treating devastating burn injuries, as we advance burn care throughout the region.

Advanced Burn Life Support – Emergency burn care instruction for physicians, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, therapists and paramedics
24 TRAINEES 8 STAFF INSTRUCTORS

Burn Center Tours for Nursing Students – Tours and introductions to available resources and services for burn victims
2 TOURS 32 STUDENTS

Burn Treatment and Management Lectures – Presentations adapted for professional groups ranging from hospital emergency personnel to fire departments
9 LECTURES
208 EMERGENCY NURSES AND FIRST RESPONDERS SUCH AS FIREFIGHTERS, PARAMEDICS AND EMTS
28 ALLIED HEALTH STUDENTS
3 COUNTIES – STARK, SUMMIT AND MAHONING

S.T.A.B.L.E. PROGRAM
Akron Children’s is a training site for the S.T.A.B.L.E. Program, an innovative educational program focused exclusively on the care of sick and premature infants during the post-resuscitation/pre-transport stabilization period. S.T.A.B.L.E. stands for the six assessment and care modules in the program: Sugar, Temperature, Airway, Blood pressure, Lab work and Emotional support. In 2017, sessions were held on our Akron and Beeghly campuses and at Wooster Community Hospital for our staff and other area neonatal care providers.

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY
This half-day training program is designed to foster a deeper understanding of the challenges and strengths of our patients and families living in generational poverty. Our staff members learn how economic realities impact patterns of daily living, as well as principles for improving outcomes for those who are affected. From 2016 to 2017, the number of classes offered and the number of hospital employees trained more than doubled. We also offered training to staff members from three community agencies.

$135,549 COMMUNITY BENEFIT

$19,516 COMMUNITY BENEFIT

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPORT
Direct instruction and field training in our Emergency Department and Burn Center for EMS personnel

76 EMS BASIC STUDENTS
83 EMS MEDIC STUDENTS
2,825 HOURS OF STAFF TIME PROVIDING DIRECT INSTRUCTION
For many children, summer camp is an annual tradition filled with outdoor adventures, new friends and lasting memories. For those with certain medical conditions, this experience might not be possible without our specialized camps that offer plenty of summer fun under the supervision of hospital staff. Our summer camps also provide opportunities for children to form lasting bonds with others who have similar conditions.

**Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC) Camp**
ACBC Camp is for young burn survivors who have been treated in Akron Children’s Burn Center. Activities include swimming, field trips and the popular Fire Truck Day, when fire departments from the area bring their trucks to camp. Last year, Fire Truck Day attracted more than 200 people.

**Flying Horse Farms – Pulmonary, Allergy, Rheumatology and Craniofacial Camp**
We partner with Flying Horse Farms to offer summer camping experiences to children with various medical conditions. Flying Horse Farms is a member of the SeriousFun Children’s Network, the world’s largest family of camps for children with serious illnesses. Last year, campers included our patients with craniofacial and rheumatologic disorders, as well as those who require daily treatment for asthma.

**Kidney Camp**
Our patients who have kidney disease, including those on dialysis, have the opportunity to attend Kidney Camp where they enjoy a host of outdoor activities with other kids who have similar medical conditions.

**Diabetes Camp**
Through our Diabetes Camp, children and teens with type 1 diabetes enjoy a traditional camp experience and meet other patients, while hospital staff oversee their blood-sugar monitoring and medication.

Camp Ed Bear
This camp for children and teens with cancer and blood disorders gives patients the opportunity to enjoy ziplining, horseback riding, canoeing, swimming and many other activities with kids who've faced similar experiences.

**Camp Ed Bear**
- **30 STAFF MEMBERS**
- **82 CAMPERS**

**Kidney Camp**
- **5 CAMPERS**

**Diabetes Camp**
- **33 STAFF MEMBERS**
- **120 CAMPERS**
We are deeply connected to the community and grateful for the generous support that allows us to give back in meaningful ways. Through donations of critical resources and time, our employees make a real difference in helping to build a stronger, healthier community.
COMMUNITY BOARDS
Employees throughout our organization serve on various local, state, national and international boards. Through this involvement, we are a voice for the children and families we serve, guiding efforts to address the most pressing needs in our community.

307 BOARDS
92 EMPLOYEES

BLOOD DRIVES
As a health care organization, we understand how important it is to maintain a reliable and healthy blood supply. We also know the need is constant. To lend our support, we conduct regular blood drives on our Akron and Beeghly campuses, helping to ensure this critical community need is met.

14 BLOOD DRIVES
10 AKRON
4 MAHONING VALLEY

PINTS OF BLOOD DONATED
758 AKRON
118 MAHONING VALLEY
876 TOTAL PINTS

DAY OF ACTION/DAY OF CARING
Each year, numerous employees serve as volunteers for the Summit County United Way Day of Action and the United Way of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley Day of Caring.

In 2017, 19 employees from Akron worked on a beautification project at the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) Longwood Branch in Macedonia. They mulched, weeded and cleaned up the property, and also sanded and stained tables. This is the 18th year we’ve participated in the United Way’s Day of Action.

Four employees from our Beeghly campus in Boardman worked on a soundproofing project at the OH WOW! Children’s Center for Science and Technology, where they created foam baffling and cut fabric to hang on the walls in the center’s InspireWorks lab.

23 TOTAL EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERS
209 VOLUNTEER HOURS
300 SERVED

EMPLOYEE FOUNDATION COMMUNITY DRIVE
Through the Employee Foundation Community Drive, our employees generously support charitable organizations that serve our friends and neighbors in need. The collective impact of our support touches hundreds of charities that are working to make a difference in our community.

906 EMPLOYEE PLEDGES
353 CHARITABLE AGENCIES
$228,769 PLEDGED

COMMUNITY IMPACT
GIVING BACK  GIVING HOPE
Supporting those with the greatest need
FOOD DRIVEs

Hunger in America is a serious problem that can be devastating to the growth and development of children. For the last 21 years, we’ve participated in Harvest for Hunger, one of the nation’s largest food and fund drive campaigns that provides critical resources to local hunger relief organizations, including the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank and Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley.

We held three organization-wide events to raise funds:
- Our annual Dollar Day, which collects $1 donations that can provide four meals to those in need
- The 10th annual Harvest for Hunger American Idol-style singing competition
- Our 14th annual basket raffle, which has raised more than $57,000 since it began

In addition, individual departments held dress-down days, bake sales, used book sales and contests to raise funds. Before the Harvest for Hunger campaign began, 138 employees and their families volunteered at both local food banks.

2,662 POUNDS OF FOOD DONATED
371,225 TOTAL MEALS SERVED THROUGH ALL FOOD DRIVE AND FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER EFFORTS
118,189 MEALS SERVED AS A RESULT OF OUR FOOD DRIVES AND FUND RAISING FOR THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOOD BANK AND SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF THE MAHONING VALLEY

MEDWISH

Akron Children’s is a supporter of MedWish International, a non-profit organization that saves lives and the environment by repurposing discarded medical supplies and equipment. Our donations help provide life-saving supplies in developing countries where resources are often limited.

MEDICAL SUPPLY DONATIONS

NEARLY $1.7 MILLION DONATED IN 2017

GLOBAL HEALTH USED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DONATIONS

Through our Office of Pediatric Global Health, we’re helping to advance pediatric care in impoverished countries where medical resources are vitally needed. In 2017, we donated medical equipment to hospitals in Haiti and the Dominican Republic to help them provide essential health services.

1 EKG MACHINE
1 RADIOLOGY SUITE
1 SLIT LAMP FOR EYE EXAMS

$12,700 TOTAL VALUE

AKRON READS

As tutors with Akron Reads, our employees donate their time and energy to help second graders who need help with reading. Tutors work with students at King and Leggett Community Learning Centers to improve their basic reading skills and foster a love of reading.

6 EMPLOYEE TUTORS
72 HOURS OF TUTORING
13 STUDENTS

$23,993 RAISED BY HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES

$286,489 DONATED IN 2017
Our community benefit activities align with our promise to treat every child, regardless of financial circumstance. Beyond our primary mission, we are fully engaged in activities to foster sustainable change in the communities we call home. Our outreach efforts target improving the health of children through prevention, treatment and research, increasing access to care and providing health and wellness education – all geared toward bettering the quality of life for children and their families.
INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

$7.3 million
Community programs and services
Health education, injury prevention and wellness initiatives to improve the health of children.

$6.9 million
Health professional education
Programs to train professionals, residents, fellows, students, interns and nurses.

$5.2 million
Research, advocacy and community partnerships
Pediatric research programs, advocacy programs and community-building activities, financial assistance and services given to other non-profit organizations and partners.

$113.6 million
Unreimbursed Medicaid and uncompensated care
Unreimbursed Medicaid is the difference between the costs of providing care to Medicaid patients and the reimbursement received. Uncompensated care includes the costs of caring for patients whose families qualify for Ohio’s Free Care program and our charity care program. It also includes bad debt, meaning the unreimbursed costs (not charges) for services that are billed, but are uncollectible.

### 2015-2017 Total Community Benefit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community programs</td>
<td>$7.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health professional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research, advocacy</td>
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<td>and community</td>
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<td>Unreimbursed Medicaid</td>
<td>$86.8</td>
<td>$87.7</td>
<td>$113.6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTALS**

Dollars in millions

$96.5 $107.3 $133.0

* Unaudited
THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY BENEFIT DELEGATES

who assist in community benefit reporting and data collection. Through their hard work, they help to ensure we are directing our efforts toward the biggest needs in our community.

Helen Aberegg
Volunteer & Visitor Services

Michele Adams
Neonatal Administration

Ashley Allison
Health Information Management

Mindy Aylward
Hematology Services

Kym Baker
Neonatology – Mahoning Valley

Jane Beight
Radiology

Vishal Bhatt
Hematology Services

Sarah Black
Neonatal Administration

Irene Boehlefeld
Hematology Services

Emily Browning
Patient Experience Innovation

Rebecca Bryant
Engineering – Mahoning Valley

Debbie Cabral
Administration

Heather Cairns
Surgery Administration

Tiffani Camp
Legal, Risk Management & Compliance

Tracey Carkido
Administration – Mahoning Valley

Nancy Carst
Palliative Care

Melody Case
Human Resources – Mahoning Valley

Laura Cessna
Volunteer & Visitor Services

Amy Chand
Sports Medicine

Shawn Cordes
External Affairs

Tammy Cox
Nursing Administration

Jodi Cracraft
Nursing Administration – Mahoning Valley

Joanna Dague
Center of Nursing Professional Practice

Cynthia Daddario
Audiology

Jamie DeMain
Volunteers – Mahoning Valley

Anna Desrosiers
Administration

Jennifer Dirker
Nursing Education

Megan Dorrington
Nursing Education

Ashley Dunbar
Sports Rehabilitation

Anna Dusseau
NeuroDevelopmental Science Center

Shirley Feaster
Administration

Renee Flynn
Public Relations

Bonnie Folk
Emergency Administration

MaryAnn Forrester
Transport Services

Debi Gengler
Public Safety

Ashlee Glass Ogle
Plastic Surgery

Susan Haddox
Administration

Nhi Haines
Respiratory Care

Becky Handley
Managed Care

Kathy Hanson
Locust Pediatric Care Group

Maurie Harmon
Administration – Mahoning Valley

Charlene Hayes
Food Service and Nutrition

Jules Hennessy
Public Relations

Carolyn Hofmann
Organizational Effectiveness

Denise Jimenez
Department of Pediatrics

Joani Johnson
Respiratory Care

Lisa Kelemen
Heart Center – Mahoning Valley

Kay Kirtley
Children’s After Hours

Casey Klinginsmith
Trauma Services

Barbara Kovac-Cuckler
Austen Simulation Center

Ed Lehner
Material Management

Felicia Lewis
Hematology Services

Carrie Litten
Emergency Administration

Lisa Long
Palliative Care Program

Jamie Lucey
Research Institute

Ellen Matlock
Grants Administration

Deborah Mayer
Maternal Fetal Medicine

Mary Ellen Michael
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit – Mahoning Valley

Aimy Miller
Pulmonary Medicine

Andrea Mistovich
Child Advocacy Center – Mahoning Valley

Victoria Middas
Public Relations

Mary Mondozzi
Regional Burn Center

Theresa Moore
Administration

Jill Morgan
Public Relations

Carolyn Muha
Developmental Pediatrics

Shaylene Mulford
Athletic Training

Jan Mull
Medical/Surgical Unit

Colleen O’Connor
CARE Center

Pat O’Desky
Administration

Kelly Ott
Administration

Doug Palmer
Social Services

Abby Parrish
Interns and Residents

Debbie Pfahl
Psychiatry and Psychology

Anna Porquez
Occupational Therapy

Chanda Porter
Legal, Risk Management and Compliance

Jeannie Raatz
Chaplaincy Services

Rhonda Reed
Transport Services

Michelle Rich
Maternal Fetal Medicine

Gloria Roy
Administration – Mahoning Valley

Lisa Ruppert-Dies
Quality Services

Joanna Scarazzo
Administration – Mahoning Valley

Mary Sebest
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit – Mahoning Valley

Mary Smith
CARE Center

Sharon Sheeler
Sports Medicine

Tammy Smith
Neonatology – Mahoning Valley

Carmen Smith
Adolescent Medicine

Monica Smith
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Meghan Smol
Physical Therapy

Janet Sobnosky
Neonatology – Mahoning Valley

Annie Sofran
Public Relations

Kari Solosky
Administration

Jayme Speight
Department of Pediatrics

Dana Stahleker
Center for Operations Excellence

Ashlee Stubbs
Critical Care Administration

Anthony Suncire
Heart Center

Kathleen Taylor
Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Christine Thome
Lab Administration

Patty Vitullo
Surgery – Mahoning Valley

Kim Vorhies
Administration

Meghan Weese
Nursing Education

Davina Werner
Public Relations

Katrina Wolford
Interns and Residents

Aubree Uhler
Speech Pathology

Christine Young
Nursing Administration

Mary Lynne Zahler
Total Rewards

Mark Zito
Accounting

Kim Zolnier
Pediatric Unit – Mahoning Valley
2017 ACCREDITATION AND RECOGNITION

For 2017-18, Akron Children’s urology and neonatology programs were included in U.S. News & World Report’s annual ranking of the Best Children’s Hospitals.

Our Burn Center was re-verified by the American Burn Association and the American College of Surgeons.

Akron Children’s Hospital Pediatrics and Locust Pediatric Care Group were recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance for their commitment to quality care.

Our Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology was accredited by the American Diabetes Association for Quality Self-Management Education.

Our Heart Center was accredited by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories in the areas of pediatric and fetal echocardiography.

We are one of 10 pediatric cancer programs in the country verified by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer.

The neurodiagnostic laboratory in our NeuroDevelopmental Science Center was accredited by the EEG Laboratory Accreditation Board of ABRET.

Our Haslinger Family Center for Pediatric Palliative Care received Advanced Certification in Palliative Care from The Joint Commission.

Our Craniofacial Center was accredited by the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association.

Our Cystic Fibrosis Center was accredited by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

We received designation from the American College of Radiology as a Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence.

Our Sleep Center was accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

Our nurse residency program received accreditation with distinction from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.