

Union Hospital Community Benefit Report

July 2009

- *For hundreds of people at the Senior Center it was a flu shot.*
- *For some local teenagers it was a springboard into a career in healthcare.*
- *And for running enthusiasts it was a healthy way to raise money for a great local charity.*

For Union Hospital, our Community Benefits program is a way to leverage our resources with local community members and organizations to produce some great results. As the result of these partnerships the benefits of health and wellness are extended to thousands of people.



Runners welcomed the cool April afternoon for the 2nd Union Hospital Annual Run for Home Half-Marathon.

weight, manage diabetes, or reduce their risk of a heart attack by attending an educational program. A Union Hospital wellness nurse is their teacher, mentor, and advisor for better health.

Partnering with running enthusiasts in the area UH was the primary sponsor for the inaugural Union Hospital Run for Home half-marathon race in April. More than 500 people of all ages participated to run the half-marathon alone or as a member of a relay team. More than 150 others enjoyed the one-mile Fun Run and Kids' Run at Tuscora Park. All the entry fees paid by runners, over \$10,000, went to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Tuscarawas County.

Union Hospital is involved with our local school districts at all grade levels with both educational and health-related programs. Working with our ER physicians and local police,

These programs help us move out beyond the walls of the hospital and into the schools, community centers, and places of business.

At the heart of our Community Benefits program is a regular schedule of screening and educational programs that bring our wellness nurses into nearly every city, town, and village in Tuscarawas County and several of the surrounding counties. Thousands of people are monitoring their blood pressure, cholesterol or blood sugar levels at a Community Health and Wellness event. They're working to lose



Union Hospital ER physicians held a bicycle safety helmet program for kindergarten students in New Philadelphia and other local school districts. Youngsters who already owned helmets brought them to school or were given a new safety helmet by the doctors.

bicycle safety programs were presented in New Philadelphia and Dover schools and dozens of helmets were given to children who did not already have one. Nearly 100 area high school students are members of our UH TECH program and attend monthly meetings at the hospital



One of the 91 computers UH donated to area schools is used by New Philadelphia High School Senior Ashlee Christmas, in teacher Kip Brady's science lab.

to learn more about careers in healthcare. One UH TECH member will win a \$1,000 scholarship from UH to further their education in a healthcare career. Three area school districts received a total of 91 computers, phased out of service by Union Hospital, but still suitable for student use. The computers have been installed in class rooms and computer labs at New Philadelphia, Dover, and Central Catholic High Schools.

Community Benefit totals surge when we consider the impact of patient care for which the hospital is paid a discounted fee, less than our cost of providing that care, or nothing at all. Thousands of

patients last year received free care or discounted charges because of their low household incomes. Charity Care at Union Hospital has been rising substantially in recent years as the economic recession deepens and more people are laid off or see reduced work hours and benefits. In 2008 our Charity Care total was \$5.5 million. Additionally the Medicaid program paid the hospital \$3.4million* less than the cost of the care provided to Medicaid recipients.

The combined total of our Community Health and Wellness programs, Charity Care and unpaid Medicaid expenses becomes Union Hospital's total Community Benefit amount of \$9.2 million.

While it's not counted in our Community Benefit totals, the cost of Bad Debt and underpayments from the Medicare program totaled \$10 million*.

Union Hospital and the rest of Ohio's not-for-profit hospitals are major contributors to the health of the community, its economic well-being, and provide a vital safety net to local residents who have no where else to turn.

** Medicare and Medicaid totals from 2007, the most recent data available.*