



**COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT 2020**



*Thank*  
**YOU**

FOR ALLOWING US  
 TO SERVE YOU

 **St. Claire  
 HealthCare**





“ In 2020, the landscape of community benefits – and healthcare in general – shifted dramatically. ”

At St. Claire HealthCare, we take great pride in being an engaged community partner devoted to enhancing the health and quality of life throughout our region. That devotion was put to the test as the COVID-19 pandemic reshaped life as we know it.

SCH was forced to rethink how we went about providing healthcare of all types. Of particular concern were our most vulnerable populations: the elderly, children, those who are already sick, and those in socioeconomic distress.

We adapted. We streamlined. We put elective services temporarily on pause in order to focus resources on our pandemic response. We planned and worked in concert with local, state, and federal partners. As information and needs evolved, so did our response. It was challenging. But in hindsight, I couldn't be more proud of the SCH team's unwavering commitment and adaptability to continue to care for our community.

To all those we serve, thank you for putting your trust in us to provide the quality medical care you need and deserve. It truly is an honor for us to care for you as we continue our mission to proclaim God's goodness through a healing ministry to the people of Eastern Kentucky.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D H Lloyd II". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Donald H. Lloyd, II  
SCH President/CEO

Community benefit programs are an integral part of a not-for-profit health system's mission and vision.

**Community benefit activities focus on collaboration and improving the health and well-being of the community in ways that go above and beyond what would be expected of any hospital or medical care provider.**

**Generally, community benefits respond to a community need and meet at least one of the following criteria:**

- Generate a low or negative margin
- Respond to needs of special populations, such as the underinsured or uninsured, the elderly or minorities
- Involve education or research
- Supply services or programs that would likely be discontinued if the decision were made on a purely financial basis

**St. Claire HealthCare tracks community benefits in the following categories:**

- **Care for the Uninsured/Underinsured** - This includes traditional charity care costs and the unpaid costs of care to Medicaid recipients.
- **Community Health Services** - Including health education, community-based clinical services and healthcare support services.
- **Health Professions Education** - To assist students and St. Claire HealthCare staff in honing their skills in order to provide better healthcare.
- **Subsidized Health Services** - These are patient care services that are provided despite a negative margin, because they are needed in the community and they would otherwise not be available to meet patient need.
- **Research** - This could include clinical or community health research.
- **Donations/Contributions** - Both cash and in-kind.
- **Community-Building Activities** - Including economic development, coalition building and community health improvement advocacy.



In the year ended June 30, 2020, St. Claire HealthCare provided **\$19.25 million** in net community benefits.

**BENEFITS FOR THE MEDICALLY UNINSURED/UNDERINSURED/ELDERLY ..... \$13.1 MILLION**

**Charity and Uncompensated Care..... \$5,364,525**

To help meet the medical needs of patients who have no healthcare coverage and cannot afford to pay for health services, SCH provided \$982,970 in charity care (at cost) last year. Uncompensated care, which totaled \$4.4 million, is the cost of SCH services to individuals who were unable or unwilling to pay, and did not officially meet guidelines for traditional charity care.

**Medicaid and Medicare Shortfall ..... \$7,762,380**

SCH routinely treats patients who receive Medicaid and Medicare benefits. Last year's government reimbursement for those services fell \$7.8 million short of the actual cost of care.

**BENEFITS FOR THE BROADER COMMUNITY ..... \$6.1 MILLION**

**Health Professions Education ..... \$2,724,915**

The educational development and professional training of medical personnel is key to improving our community's health. Programs in this category include physician and medical student training, nurse development and professional medical education, and scholarship support for students pursuing health careers degree programs.

**Subsidized Health Services ..... \$3,323,280**

These are patient care services that are provided despite a negative margin, because they are needed in the community and would otherwise not be available to meet patient need. These include some specialized physician services, which if not provided, would require some patients to travel long distances for needed care.

**Community Health Improvement Support and Partnerships..... \$69,375**

These benefits include activities and programs provided to improve our community's health, such as health fairs and screenings, free sports physicals for area students, support groups for patients and families, and partnerships to advocate for the enhancement of community health.

**Donations ..... \$9,625**

This includes cash donations and in-kind gifts that SCH made directly to programs, organizations and foundations that serve the health and well-being of our region.

**Research ..... \$0\***

This includes clinical and/or community health research. \*The net financial benefit does not include research conducted by SCH and the Northeast Kentucky Area Health Education Center that was funded by approximately \$288,000 in government grants.

**TOTAL BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY ..... \$19.25 MILLION**



# COVID -19 RESPONSE

One thing has remained constant and that's the willingness of our staff to fight this pandemic head-on with strength, dedication, and compassion.

The work of St. Claire HealthCare's doctors, nurses, and frontline staff was nothing short of heroic. The COVID task force began making plans before the first case of COVID was detected in the state, and were ready to implement their strategically crafted plans when the first person under investigation (PUI) came to us for care.

**Regional COVID Testing Site** - When COVID testing became accessible, St. Claire quickly established a small drive-thru testing site for symptomatic patients. As community demand quickly grew, SCH was selected as a regional testing site which provided the region with expanded access to testing. In just over a year, more than 30,000 test specimens were administered.

**COVID Care at Home** - The need to improve hospital capacity led members of the St. Claire team to create an innovative home care program allowing appropriate COVID patients to recover from the virus in the comfort of their own homes. These patients were provided the same medical equipment and medications they would have received in the hospital, and were closely monitored by a team of healthcare professionals.

**Vaccine Administration** - The anxiously awaited COVID vaccines were without question our best weapon in the fight against COVID-19. St. Claire was fortunate to be named a regional vaccination site and administer vaccines to more than 12,000 patients.

# RESEARCH

While pandemic restrictions limited some of our usual community benefit activities in 2020, such as health fairs and screenings, we were able to continue work on some grant-funded projects of community benefit.

**Radon on the RADAR** - The Northeast Kentucky Area Health Education Center (NE KY AHEC) has collaborated with the University of Kentucky College of Nursing's BREATHE Team on radon-related projects since 2015. That initial study helped lay the groundwork for Radon on the RADAR (Residents Acting to Detect and Alleviate Radon), a five-year (2019-24), National Institutes of Health-funded project. NE KY AHEC is collaborating with the BREATHE Team in Rowan County to address community concerns about lung cancer by identifying geological and atmospheric conditions that increase radon intrusion into homes. This knowledge provides greater residential awareness of risk, enables home radon testing, homeowner feedback, and most importantly, growing access to affordable and adequate radon mitigation. NE KY AHEC received approximately \$38,000 last fiscal year to fund this research.

**Colorectal Cancer Screenings** - NE KY AHEC also has a long history of collaboration with UK College of Public Health researchers on colorectal cancer disparities

within the region. In a recently concluded project, NE KY AHEC linked UK researchers to four clinics and helped facilitate the development of a colorectal cancer screening multilevel intervention. In an ongoing, five-year, National Cancer Center-funded project titled "Accelerating Colorectal Cancer Screening and follow-up through Implementation Science (ACCSIS) in Appalachia," NE KY AHEC has linked UK researchers to six different clinics in the region. This project also focuses on multilevel interventions to increase rates of colorectal cancer screening, follow-up, and referral to care, as well developing science-based guidance for scaling up these multilevel interventions to reduce the burden of colorectal cancer. The NE KY AHEC received approximately \$250,000 for those two research projects in the 2020 fiscal year.

**Fighting the Opioid Epidemic** - NE KY AHEC continues to be engaged in several planning or service delivery grant projects, including a number focused on addressing the region's opioid epidemic.



Proclaiming  
GOD'S  
GOODNESS  
through a  
HEALING  
MINISTRY  
to the people of  
EASTERN  
KENTUCKY.

- OUR MISSION -



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