

# Caring for our communities

2020 COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT

# Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Strategies

Fiscal year 2020 was the second year of work on three-year strategies developed by the five Memorial Health System hospitals to address community health priorities.

In 2018, each hospital completed a Community Health Needs Assessment in collaboration with county health departments in Sangamon, Logan, Morgan and Christian counties, as well as other health and social service providers who represented vulnerable members of the community. (Decatur Memorial Hospital, which was not affiliated with Memorial Health System at that time, completed its Community Health Needs Assessment separately.)

Detailed information on each hospital’s Community Health Needs Assessment and outcomes of the implementation strategies are available at [ChooseMemorial.org/HealthyCommunities](http://ChooseMemorial.org/HealthyCommunities).

## 2019-2021 Priorities

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### Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital Logan County

Obesity, Mental Health, Cancer, Substance Use

### Decatur Memorial Hospital Macon County

Access to Care, Substance Use, Mental Health

### Memorial Medical Center Sangamon County

Access to Care, Mental Health, Substance Use, Mother/Infant Health

### Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital

Community benefit total of **\$3,249,000**

Patient Financial Assistance  
\$632,000

Unpaid Medicaid  
N/A

Other Community Programs  
\$2,617,000

### Decatur Memorial Hospital

Community benefit total of **\$19,992,000**

Patient Financial Assistance  
\$2,303,000

Unpaid Medicaid  
\$11,417,000

Other Community Programs  
\$6,272,000

### Memorial Medical Center

Community benefit total of **\$103,872,000**

Patient Financial Assistance  
\$5,639,000

Unpaid Medicaid  
\$19,002,000

Other Community Programs  
\$79,231,000

### Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital Foundation

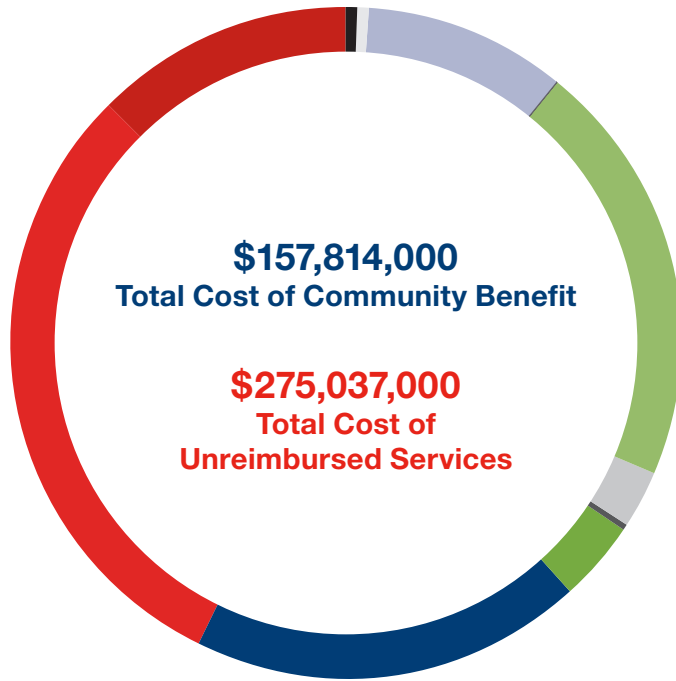
Community benefit total of **\$1,309,000**

### Decatur Memorial Hospital Foundation

Community benefit total of **\$17,000**

### Memorial Medical Center Foundation

Community benefit total of **\$228,000**



- Community Health Improvement  
**\$1,761,000**
- Health Professions Education  
**\$1,689,000**
- Subsidized Health Services  
**\$26,401,000**
- Research  
**\$232,000**
- Cash/In-Kind Contributions  
**\$56,561,000**
- Community Building Activities  
**\$7,921,000**
- Community Benefit Operations  
**\$423,000**
- Financial Assistance  
**\$10,452,000**
- Unpaid Medicaid  
**\$52,374,000**
- Unpaid Medicare  
**\$83,515,000**
- Bad Debt  
**\$33,708,000**

**Passavant Area Hospital**  
Morgan County

Access to Care, Mental Health, Substance Use

**Taylorville Memorial Hospital**  
Christian County

Mental Health, Substance Use

**Passavant Area Hospital**

Community benefit total of **\$19,082,000**

- Patient Financial Assistance  
\$1,261,000
- Unpaid Medicaid  
\$12,915,000
- Other Community Programs  
\$4,906,000

**Passavant Area Hospital Foundation**

Community benefit total of **\$72,000**

**Taylorville Memorial Hospital**

Community benefit total of **\$763,000**

- Patient Financial Assistance  
\$488,000
- Unpaid Medicaid  
\$142,000
- Other Community Programs  
\$133,000

**Taylorville Memorial Hospital Foundation**

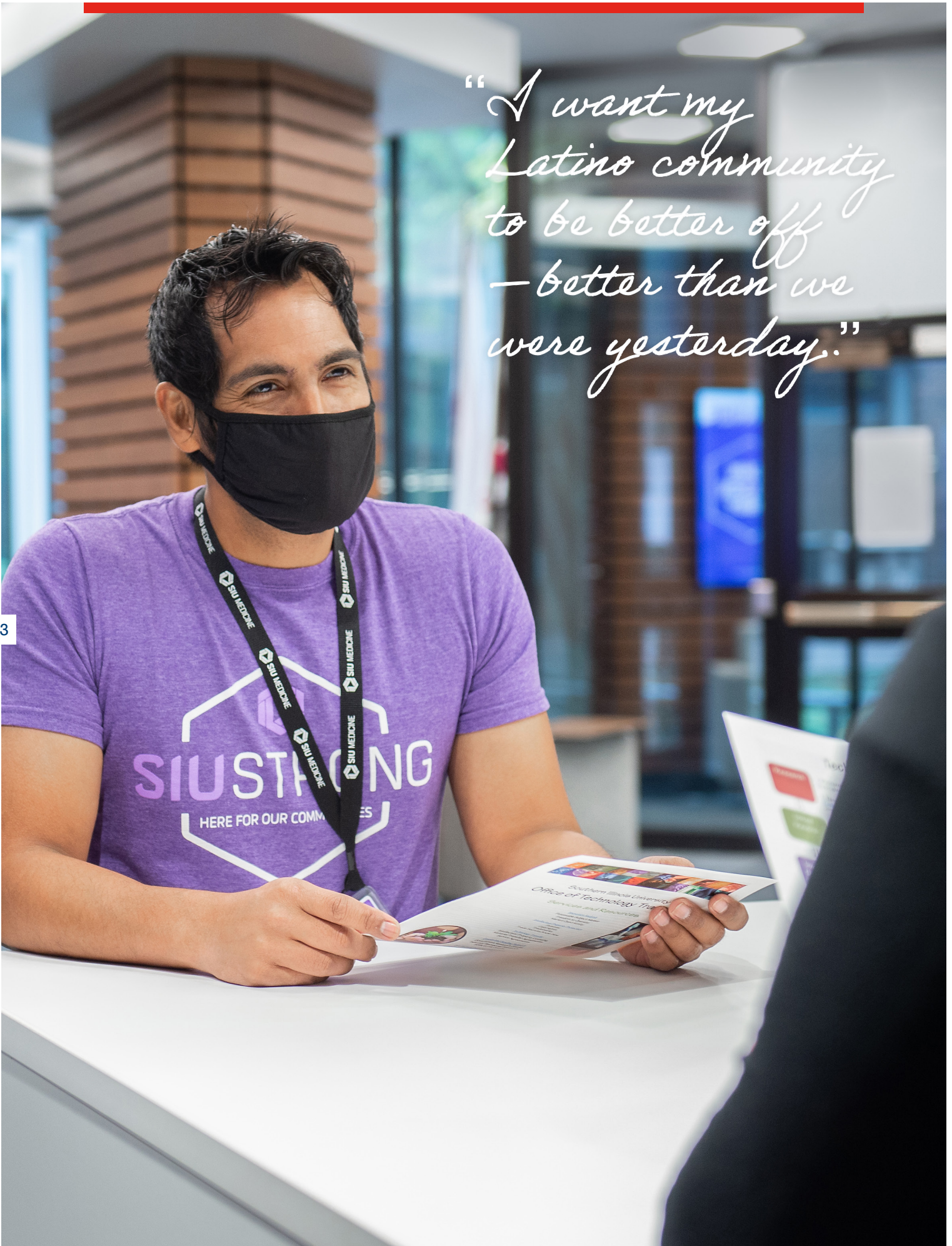
Community benefit total of **\$10,000**

**Additional community benefit totaling**

**\$9,220,000** came from the health system's other three affiliates and additional business lines. Community benefit provided by each was:

- Memorial Physician Services  
\$8,284,000
- Memorial Behavioral Health  
\$400,000
- Memorial Home Services  
\$172,000
- Passavant Physician Association  
\$364,000

*“I want my Latino community to be better off — better than we were yesterday.”*



## Connections for Healing

The Access to Health Collaborative, a partnership between SIU Medicine, Memorial Medical Center and HSHS St. John's Hospital, began in 2015 as a way to increase access to healthcare in the Enos Park neighborhood of Springfield. The success of that effort led the program to expand to address the needs of other marginalized populations—including, most recently, local immigrant communities.

“This effort got underway before the pandemic struck,” said Becky Gabany, system director of Community Engagement at Memorial Health System. “When COVID-19 hit, we were better prepared to help a population that has been disproportionately affected across the country.”

Those efforts are led by SIU Medicine community health worker Julio Barrenzuela. A native of Springfield, Barrenzuela has deep ties within the local Latino community. In his role with the Access to Health Collaborative, he works closely with three organizations that serve that community: Culturally Integrated Education for Latinos Organization (CIELO), which provides scholarships and other educational support for Latino/Hispanic students; Springfield Immigrant Advocacy Network (SIAN), which supports and advocates for immigrants in the area; and Hispanic Women of Springfield, which works to bring awareness of the culture and heritage of Central and South America to the Springfield community.

The Latino community in Springfield includes families like Barrenzuela's, who have called central Illinois home for many years, as well as more recent arrivals from Puerto Rico, Mexico and several Central American countries. The community includes individuals with many different immigration statuses, ranging from naturalized citizens to individuals who may be in the process of completing their immigration paperwork or those who are undocumented. This latter group often goes without healthcare because of concerns about jeopardizing their immigration status and/or their future prospects of petitioning for residency or citizenship. If immigrants use healthcare services funded by federal or state aid, they may risk being denied the opportunity to become legal residents.

As a result, many conditions go untreated, Barrenzuela said. “When I first start talking to them, they say, ‘I'm fine, I'm fine,’” he said, noting that Latino immigrants are often hesitant to share their health concerns with others. This aspect of their culture can mask more serious health issues. The most pressing needs he sees are dental care, diabetes care, mental healthcare and vision care.

Barrenzuela works with SIAN to connect his clients with healthcare resources that will not affect their immigration status. In some cases, payment is also an issue; among immigrants employed in low-wage jobs, being uninsured or under-insured is common. With these factors in mind, he helps clients consider their options for care and choose the right approach.

During the pandemic, Barrenzuela has worked with local organizations on food distribution to food-insecure families while helping coordinate testing and translation services. Sometimes, he said, progress can seem slow. But every step counts. “I want my Latino community to be better off—better than we were yesterday—whatever that looks like,” he said.

## Resources for Safe Gatherings

In April and May, as COVID-19 restrictions began to lift statewide, many restaurants, businesses and churches reopened for the first time since the pandemic began. Community benefit colleagues from Memorial Health System distributed signs and educational materials these organizations could use to encourage mask-wearing, handwashing, social distancing and other infection prevention practices.

In partnership with the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at SIU Medicine, MHS also distributed more than 2,500 signs to organizations that primarily serve people of color.

“When our local businesses and houses of worship began to reopen, it was important that they could do so safely,” said Becky Gabany, MHS system director of Community Engagement. “Providing the resources to help them with that felt like a natural extension of our mission.”

One of the churches using these materials is Jasper Street Church of Christ in Decatur, which reopened its doors for in-person services on July 19. Deacon Ervin Smith said that some members of the congregation were nervous about returning. But the precautions they instituted—including offering multiple services to allow for more social distancing—have helped provide reassurance, he said.

“I think it helped to ease their minds once they came and saw we have preventive measures in place,” he said.



## Mental Health First Aid

Mental health was identified as a leading concern in the 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment. In response, Memorial Health System began offering Mental Health First Aid training to the public. Mental Health First Aid is a nationwide program that teaches people to recognize the signs of mental health issues and connect those affected with the help they need. The program also aims to reduce the stigma and raise awareness of mental health concerns.

In response to mental health needs in Christian County, Taylorville Memorial Hospital hosted several Mental Health First Aid training sessions in 2020 before in-person training was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

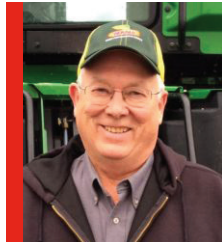


**19% of adults and 17% of children and teens in the U.S. report struggling with their mental health.**

In 2020, Taylorville Memorial Hospital hosted 3 Mental Health First Aid training sessions:  
2 youth | 1 adult

20 people were trained to recognize the signs of a mental health crisis in children and teens and 6 people were trained to help adults.

## Screening Kit Giveaway Saves Lives



Seventy-three-year-old John Werries put off getting a baseline colonoscopy for years. “I was just stubborn, I guess,” said John, a Morgan County corn and soybean producer who harvested his fifty-sixth crop this fall.

It was at the insistence of his wife, Ruthie, that John finally relented last year and completed a colorectal cancer screening kit obtained from a Passavant Area Hospital giveaway event. Passavant offers these screening kit giveaways annually as part of their effort to increase access to care for local residents. More than 300 kits were distributed during the 2020 giveaway.

John’s test came back positive for blood in the stool. Ruthie immediately scheduled a colonoscopy, which led to the removal of a polyp and a cancer diagnosis. Only five days later—coincidentally, on his birthday—John underwent surgery to remove a section of his large intestine. “Most people said, ‘Oh, what an awful birthday present,’ but on the other hand, it was a great birthday present because on my birthday I was cancer-free,” he said.

Now, John is sharing his story in the hope it will convince more people to schedule recommended colonoscopies or at least pick up a colorectal cancer screening kit. “For a variety of reasons, some people are reluctant to undergo a traditional colonoscopy,” said Lori Hartz, director of Community Benefit and Relations at Passavant. “Although the screening kits don’t replace a colonoscopy entirely, they can be a crucial tool in detecting the symptoms of cancer early. We’re pleased our efforts to distribute these kits in the community have been so successful over the years.”

John’s cancer was caught early, and that made a significant difference in how quickly he was able to complete treatment and return to his active life. “Dr. [Daniel] Hallam told me it would be about six to eight weeks—no lifting and all that—and I told him I’d have to be on the combine when we started harvesting corn,” John said. “And I was. That was good incentive for my recovery.”

## Decatur-Area Health Data Now Available Online

Based on priorities identified in the 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment, Decatur Memorial Hospital is working to increase access to primary care, prevent and address substance use and improve access to mental health services in Macon County and the surrounding area.

“The needs assessment showed us that access to high-quality care is a concern for people in our area,” said Julie Bilbrey, executive director, Decatur Memorial Foundation. “We’re working with partners within our communities to make crucial services available to everyone.”

Community health data for the counties served by DMH has also been added to the Healthy Communities Institute database accessible at [ChooseMemorial.org/Community-Health-Needs-Assessment](https://ChooseMemorial.org/Community-Health-Needs-Assessment). The public is encouraged to browse this data, which includes crucial information about health needs and disparities across central Illinois.

*“It will help  
create healthy  
habits that last  
a lifetime.”*





## Healthy Food for Learning

School lunches don't typically include locally sourced, from-scratch foods. But students at Lincoln Elementary School District 27 (LESD 27) enjoy delicious meals they helped choose thanks to inspiration from the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital Community Health Collaborative and funding from generous donors to the ALMH Foundation.

"As we address obesity in our county, our goal is for children to enjoy and crave nutrient-dense foods," said Angela Stoltzenburg, director of the Community Health Collaborative (CHC). "If they develop that palate when they're young, it will help them create healthy habits that last a lifetime."

Obesity was identified as an area of concern in Logan County's 2018 Community Health Needs Assessment. The CHC already had a successful partnership with LESD 27 through the CATCH program, which emphasizes a school environment that makes the healthy choice the easy choice. "Improving school breakfasts and lunches was a natural next step," Stoltzenburg said. "It was important to move away from the frozen and processed foods that are commonly served in school cafeterias so students could experience a variety of healthy foods."

After meeting with the LESD 27 food service director and administration, it was decided that Beyond Green Sustainable Partners would be the right fit to bring the knowledge and support required to move the cafeteria towards from-scratch cooking. Beyond Green has successfully helped many schools and other large institutions provide healthier, more sustainable food options, and their work in Lincoln was funded by a grant from the ALMH Foundation. In summer 2019, they began working with LESD 27 cafeteria staff.

Their goals were to increase the number of from-scratch recipes and ingredients purchased locally. At the same time, they wanted to make sure kids actually ate and enjoyed the new menu offerings. Between September 2019 and March 2020, the number of from-scratch menu items offered at breakfast and lunch more than doubled. But the new meals weren't unfamiliar or "scary"—instead, they were fresher, more nutritious takes on foods the kids already enjoyed. Students participated in taste tests to provide feedback on favorites like tacos and chicken strips with dipping sauces.

The CHC and district leaders were determined to make these changes without increasing food costs by finding dollars in the existing budget. The efforts were successful, largely because of increased monitoring of how much food was prepared and how much food students were throwing away uneaten. In addition, buying unprocessed produce like whole melons and raw meat proved less expensive than buying the same foods processed. Working with local food producers also provides a boost to the county's economy.

The school year came to an unforeseen end in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But work resumed as the 2020–21 school year got underway, with students continuing to enjoy fresh meals with ingredients provided by local vendors. "Teaching kids to make healthy choices is more important now than ever," Stoltzenburg said. "We're proud of the hard work that LESD 27 continues to do to offer food that is fresh, local and rich in nutrients to students."

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HEALTH SYSTEM



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