

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

As a not-for-profit hospital, Transylvania Regional Hospital is committed to giving back to the community to help those who are uninsured or underinsured as well as providing health education and benefits for the well being of the entire community. **2009 was an especially tough year for our community as we experienced the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. This left many in our community struggling to make ends meet. Despite challenging financial times, TRH increased its total contributions to this community by 20 percent in 2009 to help those in need.**



WE ARE PROUD TO SAY THAT OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY ARE WORTH \$6 MILLION ANNUALLY—A \$1 MILLION INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR!

These benefits come in many forms—\$1.5 million in charity care for 2,415 people; another \$2.4 million in care for 4,283 people through non-collectible services. An additional \$1.5 million is provided for government sponsored healthcare including indigent care programs, and \$600,000 is provided for community benefit programs.

Here are just a few of the services supported:



More than **1,500** contacts were made with community members in 2009 through wellness screenings and health events. **Free and low-cost blood screenings and blood pressure checks** were offered monthly at various locations including the hospital.

TRH offers healthcare services that are needed by this community, **regardless of whether or not a profit is achieved** by providing care. Examples include: emergency services, birthing center and wellness.

TRH offers **free or low-cost educational programs** for the community each month. Programs feature timely health topics, and are presented by physicians, nurses, nurse educators, dietitians and other clinical professionals. **More than 1,000 members of the community annually take advantage of these educational opportunities** – held at the hospital.

TRH donates **staff time, meeting space, supplies, equipment and advertising for community groups.** Some groups who benefit from in-kind donations are: March of Dimes, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Relay for Life, the Transylvania County School System, Brevard College, The Free Clinic and others.

TRH contributed considerable staff time and resources in 2009 to **help educate the community about the pandemic H1N1 Flu including prevention strategies,** treatment and the importance of vaccination for vulnerable populations.

A new Cancer & Infusion Center has been added to the hospital to support the needs of the community and provide expanded local treatment for patients with cancer and blood disorders.

TRH recruited several new physicians to the community to expand access to healthcare for our residents, including a new general surgeon, several family practitioners, a new hospitalist, an anesthesiologist and a pain specialist.

TRH continues a new Health Resources Navigation Program that uses targeted case management to help low income/uninsured patients who frequently use emergency services find more appropriate primary care treatment. Placement of patients into a primary care “medical home” results in better overall health for these patients and fewer

inappropriate emergency room visits. **Limited resources are being used more prudently, with better overall outcomes for patients.**

TRH continues a three-year effort to implement the local use of electronic medical records in area physician offices. This local network will allow the hospital and its physicians to rapidly and securely share patient information with area physicians across the region. The exchange of patient data through the network will reduce medical costs and improve patient care.

TOUCHING LIVES...EVERY DAY.

Uninsured, out of work and suffering debilitating pain, Tina Sprouse was unable to even hold her newborn son to nurse him because of the pain in her right shoulder. Transylvania Regional Hospital provided the desperately needed surgery to repair Tina’s damaged shoulder in December at no cost to her. Tina is just one of the nearly 7,000 people in this community helped by TRH in 2009 through the hospital’s charity care and financial assistance programs.

“I can’t say enough good things about TRH and Dr. Mark Lemel—he’s my hero! The hospital donated the surgery to fix my bad shoulder and now I’m able to work again. More important, I can pick up my son, Nate, play with him, and do all the things a healthy mom is supposed to do!”



Tina Sprouse— Rosman, N.C.



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