2022 Community Health Impact Report

Samaritan Health Services
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**Cover:** Program Coach Sara Escobedo spends one-on-one time with a student at Family Tree Relief Nursery’s therapeutic early childhood classroom program.
Improving community health is at the core of our mission

In 2021, Samaritan invested nearly $240 million in community health activities such as services for low-income individuals, free health screenings, health-related research, training for health professionals and grants to local nonprofits in support of health initiatives. Of particular note: this investment increased from 2020 even though the pandemic challenged our ability to host on-site student experiences and interact with community-based organizations to the degree we typically would.

These investments are designed to help address priorities and gaps as identified through hospital community health needs assessments and the resulting community benefit implementation plans. Our current areas of focus are:

- Healthy families.
- Greater access.
- Better networks.
- Healthy kids.
- Healthy teens.
- Healthy seniors.

As we complete these activities each year, we believe it’s important to report back to the community regarding progress that has been made in each goal area. On the following pages, you’ll find success stories as well as data that will help illustrate how we’re partnering with many others in our region to build healthier communities together. We are pleased to share these stories of hope and inspiration with you.

Sincerely,

Doug Boysen, JD, MHA
President & Chief Executive Officer
Samaritan Health Services
What are community benefits?

Community benefits are health care-related programs and services that Oregon’s nonprofit hospitals provide — often with little or no compensation — to address critical health needs in the community.
How Samaritan contributes to local communities

Learn more at MyOregonHospital.org

Charity care
Health care services provided to people who are unable to pay.

Community health improvement
Activities designed specifically to improve the health of the community, like education events, health screenings, clinics, hotlines and support groups.

Health research
Clinical and community health research, as well as studies on health care delivery, with results being shared outside the hospital.

Health professions education
Training future health care professionals by providing a clinical setting for training, internships, vocational training and residencies.

Cash and in-kind contributions
Funds and services — grants, scholarships, food, equipment, meeting space — to individuals or groups in the community.
Top left: Counselors such as Hezekiah Franklin assist clients at the Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center. Top right: A worker uses a speed square before cutting lumber during a repair job for Benton Habitat for Humanity. Bottom: Boxes of bananas await distribution at the Food Share of Lincoln County warehouse in Newport.
Goal one: Healthy families

Increase physical activity, fitness and access to healthy, nutritious foods for children, youth and families

Food Share of Lincoln County distributes staples to area food pantries, soup kitchens and even a mobile senior food pantry out of its warehouse in Newport.

“A good percentage of the people that use our program do not own their own homes, but some do,” said Nancy Mitchell, executive director. “A lot of them are in trailers, hotels, apartments or camping in tents.”

Samaritan Health Services has supported the food bank for more than two decades. This year Samaritan awarded a Social Accountability grant to provide staples, such as milk, soups, peanut butter, canned fish and meat that provide higher nutrition value to the underserved and unhoused in Lincoln County.

“The support we get from Samaritan is really important for us to be able to buy food for people that are either diabetic or are homeless,” said Pati D’Eliseo, development coordinator. “I’m not a doctor, but I would say that protein is really important for people that are unhoused and for people with diabetes. High protein foods are good for your body. So that’s the main reason why we’re trying to augment with healthier food choices through these grants.”

The food bank uses monies from Samaritan to purchase items not found in the weekly delivery of more than 15,000 pounds of food from the Oregon Food Bank. In 2021, Food Share of Lincoln County distributed more than one million pounds of food to the seven food pantries that they serve.

Below: A pallet of food is brought into the Food Share of Lincoln County distribution center.
Goal two: Greater access

Increase access to medical, dental and mental health support and services in the community

The Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center provides information, referral and direct services for individuals experiencing poverty and those who have co-occurring mental health conditions. The center, originally started in 2002, had a primary purpose to provide a safe place for people with psychiatric disabilities to socialize.

“Over time we’ve evolved to serve those most in need, including people who are chronically marginalized due to poverty, homelessness, mental health disabilities and substance use disorders,” said Allison Hobgood, executive director. “Today, we continue to expand on our legacy of providing high-quality services that promote equity, inclusion, community-building, activism and wellness.”

The center moved to its current location at 530 SW 4th St. in 2019. A primary goal of the center is to be a place for socialization to reduce the stigma and isolation that often come with homelessness and poverty.

“We are a place where people can enjoy fellowship, a cup of coffee and be seen and loved in their full humanity,” said Hobgood.

Samaritan Health Services has partnered with the center for more than a decade assisting its services for those struggling with crisis events to get back on their feet. Now Samaritan is joining the center with a Social Accountability grant to support the center’s flexible counseling presence.

“We are very grateful to Samaritan,” said Hobgood. “Over the years, this key partnership has enabled us to increase inclusive health equity for unhoused people through nontraditional mental health direct supports.”

One service the center offers is street outreach to people living in encampments around Corvallis. The Street Outreach & Response Team (SORT) connects directly with the homeless addressing their immediate needs and offering resources for harm.

Above: Frontline community wellness support staff member Hezekiah Franklin, right, counsels Michael Tryon at the Corvallis Daytime Drop-In Center.
Goal three: Better networks

Increase social supports for families

Since 1991 Benton Habitat for Humanity has constructed nearly 40 homes and repaired more than 80 others for low-income families in Benton County. Their repair program, which started in 2012, has been part of an intentional shift for Habitat affiliates as costs for new home construction have increased.

Much of the program’s work is with households of aging individuals and people with disabilities. A high percentage of these clients live in older manufactured homes.

“Common issues we see in older homes are the presence of lead and asbestos, mold and mildew, plumbing problems, roof failure, inefficient windows and out-of-date code requirements,” said Daniel Sidder, development manager. “Low-income households with aging and/or disabled residents can struggle to deal with these issues.”

Samaritan has supported the home repair initiative with Social Accountability grants. This initiative provides critical interior and exterior home repairs for low-income homeowners. The program focus is on individual and families who need additional support due to constraints such as limited income, mobility and aging.

“Knowing that we are helping people live comfortably in their homes is fulfilling for us,” said Sidder. “It’s also a lot of responsibility; partners such as Samaritan invest their time and resources into our relationship. We’re proud of the work we do and are excited to keep offering this program to low-income homeowners in Benton County.”

Restrictions around COVID-19 kept Benton Habitat crews from assisting with repairs early in the pandemic, which caused a growing backlog of projects. Once restrictions loosened Benton Habitat used the donations to hire contractors to resolve more pressing repairs directly impacting safety such as installing ramps and safety bars and repairing roofs.

“Providing safe, decent and affordable housing is at the core of our mission,” said Sidder. “Our staff does this work because we want to help people gain strength and stability in their living situations.”

Below: Habitat for Humanity volunteer Rich Kaestner cuts a two-by-four piece of wood while making a repair to a Benton County home.
Goal four: Healthy kids
Increase services and supports for children

Since its inception in 2004, the Family Tree Relief Nursery has helped thousands of Linn County children stay with their families by providing outreach, home visitations, alcohol and drug recovery support, parent education and a therapeutic early childhood classroom program.

This childhood program is the centerpiece of this nursery system which originated in Eugene in 1976. Since then, relief nurseries have sprouted up throughout Oregon. The nursery, which shares space at Albany’s Faith Lutheran Church, serves children from 2 to 5 years old providing a therapeutic classroom that has a ratio of 11 children to three adult teachers. This allows the children one-on-one time with the staff along with supportive play times, snacks, lunch and activity time.

“It really helps with the social and emotional aspect in the classroom,” said Development Program Manager Morgan Sartin. “A lot of kids struggle to build those fundamentals at home with their parents. We really work with these kids to prepare them for the future and especially for public education, where they could be left behind.”

Samaritan Health Services has partnered with Family Tree Relief Nursery for several years. In 2021, Samaritan awarded a Social Accountability grant to the Therapeutic Early Childhood Program to provide funding for one staff member. This person supports 11 preschoolers and their families in Lebanon and Albany both in the classroom and monthly home visits.

“Throughout the last year of COVID, we offered activity bags and home activity ideas for the whole family as well as games to play outside and at the park,” said Executive Director Renee Smith.

The program also helped families with diapers, personal hygiene products and supplemental food boxes.

“I know that’s a mission that we share with Samaritan in building a healthier and thriving community,” said Sartin. “Having the support of Samaritan Health Services means everything to us. We wouldn’t have been able to fund several positions in our classroom without them.”

Below: A student works on hand painting during a supportive activity at the Family Tree Relief Nursery.
Goal five: Healthy teens

Increase services and supports for adolescents

For 20 years Jackson Street Youth Services has helped local teens by offering youth a safe place to live and resources to work through crises and towards a brighter, more stable future. The agency, which was founded on the idea of filling a gap in housing for homeless youth, relies on donations and partnerships.

In April 2022, Jackson Street opened their remodeled 16-bed shelter near Eleanor Hackleman Park in Albany. In turn, the organization will temporarily close the Corvallis location for a “brief refresh.” Once completed, the organization will have nearly 30 beds to house area youth between the ages of 10 and 17 who are experiencing homelessness.

Samaritan has supported the Jackson Street Youth Services since 2007 with Social Accountability grants. These funds assist in providing the beds and basic needs for the youth as well as supporting 18 full-time staff. Each resident receives three full meals a day, along with the care and services needed to give the youth a chance to succeed after exiting the program.

“We also make sure that they get into an education program of their choice and support for extracurricular activities as well as employment,” said Program Director Kendra Phillips-Neal.

The agency maintains a clothing and basic needs closet at the intake side of the shelter so youth can enter the shelter with dignity.

“Samaritan Health Services support has helped Jackson Street provide emergency shelter to youth in Corvallis and Albany as well as outreach and support groups in schools across Benton, Lincoln and Linn County,” said Executive Director Ann Craig. “Community contributions allow us to provide a full continuum of services designed to end youth homelessness.”

Above from left: Jackson Street Youth Services Development Director Hannah Miller and Program Director Kendra Phillips-Neal opened a remodeled 16-bed shelter in Albany in April of 2022.
Goal six: Healthy seniors

Increase social supports for seniors residing in the community

Volunteer Caregivers have been providing help for senior citizens throughout Linn County since 1983. Their assistance has helped countless elderly residents maintain their independence in their own homes.

Currently the staff, made up mostly of volunteers, transport patients to their appointments, help with errands and even make daily reassurance calls to their elderly patrons.

“This part of our service is to make sure that our seniors 55 and over can feel comfortable and safe in their own living environment,” said Suzanne Driver, executive director.

Inspired by their work, Samaritan has awarded Volunteer Caregivers Social Accountability grants for the past eight years. This year the grant focuses on the transportation services. With this funding, the organization provided rides to doctor appointments, banks and even grocery shopping.

“The funding that Samaritan gave us is just absolutely awesome,” said Driver. “The grocery and shopping assistance that we were able to provide to people with this last funding was great.”

Samaritan funds also helped with items for many homebound seniors including incontinent supplies.

“We get the supplies,” said Driver. “It’s just that we have to have the people that are willing and able to deliver to these seniors because many of them are literally housebound.”

Besides providing transportations for seniors, the caregivers also assist the elderly with home repairs, yard work and check ins that they refer to as reassurance calls. Upon request the volunteers make calls to check in on clients, sometimes these calls are daily and sometimes a few times a week.

Above from left: Volunteer driver Linda Townsend helps with transportation needs for Vicki McTaggart.
Top left: Family Support Specialist Julie Gonzalez helps a student build a tower. Top right: Jackson Street Youth Services Development Director Hannah Miller, left, and Program Director Kendra Phillips-Neal check out one of the remodeled bedrooms in the Albany shelter. Bottom: Volunteer Caregiver driver Linda Townsend assists Vicki McTaggart of Albany. The volunteer staff helps with errands and transports clients to and from appointments.
Financial overview

1. Charity care is the estimated cost of providing discounted or free services to patients that qualify for financial assistance.

2. Public programs include Medicare, Medicaid and other programs sponsored by the government. Unpaid costs are the estimated costs of care in excess of reimbursement from these government programs.

3. Community health improvement services are free services offered to the community, such as classes, clinics and workshops.

4. Health professions education includes the cost of training programs for students pursuing health care careers.

5. Subsidized health services are the estimated cost of providing certain clinical services despite a financial loss, because the service meets a community need. Examples include emergency and trauma care, behavioral health services and hospice care.

6. Cash and in-kind contributions are grants given to individuals in need and charitable organizations in the community.

7. Research includes the costs associated with clinical trials whose results are made available to the public.

8. Community building activities include programs, such as the Samaritan Early Learning Center, designed to address the root causes of health problems.

9. Community benefit operations are costs required to conduct and coordinate community benefit activities.

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