Downtown Campus Health Fair

In October 2014, the University of Louisville Hospital Diversity Committee organized a health fair at the Louisville Central Community Center for more than 400 attendees. The team provided a host of screenings, including hearing, vision, dental, blood pressure, stroke, blood glucose, DermaScan and cholesterol, as well as free flu shots, health education and mammograms provided by the James Graham Brown Cancer Center’s Mobile Mammography Unit.

In order to encourage participation in these life-saving screenings and important educational opportunities, departments across the hospital raised money to purchase bicycles and helmets, and participants who attended more than ten screenings or information booths were entered into a lottery to win them.

The Diversity Committee was initially founded in 2007 by University of Louisville Hospital staff, committed to working proactively in the community to address the underlying inequities that lead to the health disparities among diverse communities. Last year, the work of this committee expanded to include staff from Jewish Hospital and others from the extended KentuckyOne Health family.

Healthy Connections: From the Hospital to the Community

A commitment to providing wellness, healing and hope to all, including the underserved, means that the reach of those engaged in the work of healing must extend well beyond the walls of the hospital and into the community. For employees of Jewish Hospital and Sts. Mary and Elizabeth Hospital, this means thinking creatively to support patients whose poor health outcomes and complicated social situations impact their ability to care for themselves.

Every day, team members at Jewish Hospital and Sts. Mary and Elizabeth hospital meet with patients that are at a high risk of readmission. Hospital staff provide education on management of medical conditions, focusing on the too often unaddressed barriers to good health such as problems with transportation. The staff inside the hospital play a vital role in connecting patients that are at a high-risk of readmission with an innovative grant-funded program, The Health Connections Initiative, that is provided to patients free of charge.

Funded by Catholic Health Initiative’s Mission and Ministry Fund, this program employs a multidisciplinary team to transition patients from their hospital stay to wellness, ensuring that patients gain the skills that they need to manage their health, reducing their risk of complications and readmission. This partnership between the hospital and the broader community addresses the many underlying causes of poor health outcomes, such as poverty, housing, transportation, food insecurity, low health literacy and low literacy as well as depression and complex social issues.
Our Lady of Peace

A Shared Vision: Our Lady of Peace Hospital & NAMI Louisville

Mental illness affects one in four Americans. Despite years of awareness campaigns and multiple treatment options, the reality is that mental illness can be scary, not only for those diagnosed but for their families, too.

“You are not alone,” says Clarence Rode, board president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Louisville). “We know first-hand how scary it can be when a family member is diagnosed with a mental illness. It is overwhelming. Families anxiously await answers.”

Our Lady of Peace Hospital supports NAMI Louisville’s annual “Step Forward for Mental Health” walk each summer through sponsorship and employee participation.

“Supporting NAMI Louisville is one of the many ways we pursue our mission of bringing wellness, healing, and hope to all,” says Martha Mather, chief operating officer at Our Lady of Peace Hospital.

NAMI Louisville’s vision is to make recovery possible for everyone affected by mental illness and, according to Mr. Rode, it is a shared vision. “Combined with the skilled medical resources of Our Lady of Peace Hospital, sustained long term recovery is made possible, benefiting families, individuals and the entire community.”

Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital

Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Leaders

Across the Commonwealth, demand for health care services is outpacing the supply of professionals trained to deliver needed care.

That is one of the reasons Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital partners with Valley High School to promote “Health Care Career Day.”

For the past six years, Valley High School juniors interested in health care have been coming to Sts. Mary & Elizabeth Hospital for a hands-on experience. Hospital staff from departments such as surgery, nursing, emergency, laboratory, rehabilitation and pharmacy get the students involved in the ins and outs of a health care career. Whether it is wearing personal protective equipment for the first time or cauterizing a piece of fruit, students are encouraged to experience health care up close.

The goal of the program is to expose students to the rewarding and diverse aspects of health care. Savannah Smith, now a senior, found the experience both fun and rewarding.

“The hands-on experience was awesome,” Savannah said. “I loved getting to use the cool tools and I got to see what health care workers actually do each day.”

Next year Savannah will be working as a phlebotomist while going to college to pursue her dream of becoming a neonatal nurse. When asked what she would say to a student who was unsure about whether or not to pursue Health Care Career Day at Sts. Mary & Elizabeth, she said, “Just experience it!”