

Our Mission in Action

A commitment to community benefit

Highlights:

1. **As a not-for-profit Catholic health care ministry, Providence embraces its responsibility to provide for the needs of the communities we serve.**
2. **Providence provided more than \$145 million in total community benefit during 2007, including \$63 million in free and discounted health care to our patients in need.**
3. **Community benefits include not only free health care, but many other contributions tailored to meet needs in the communities we serve.**
4. **Providence seeks the knowledge of our community partners in determining the greatest community needs.**
5. **Our strategic plan is based on our Mission and includes community benefit planning.**

Our Mission

As people of Providence, we reveal God's love for all, especially the poor and vulnerable, through our compassionate service.

Our Mission has been our commitment for more than 150 years, and it is our steadfast commitment today. That is why in 2007 we provided \$63 million in free care to our patients in need, as part of our total community benefit of more than \$145 million.

A not-for-profit health care ministry

As a not-for-profit Catholic health care ministry, Providence embraces its responsibility to provide for the needs of the communities we serve. Our not-for-profit status and our careful stewardship of financial resources allow us to deliver quality care and also to donate many subsidies, services and grants to meet local needs.

Special concern for the poor and vulnerable

Providence's foundress of its Northwest ministries, Mother Joseph, once said, "the poor are always our concern." That was true for her in the mid-1800s, and it is true for us today. Our hospitals and clinics are open to everyone, regardless of ability to pay. We offer a financial assistance program that is one of the best in the country with generous discounts and free care for those who cannot afford to pay.

What are community benefits?

Community benefits are the many ways Providence gives back. We tailor our programs to respond to regional, area and neighborhood needs. In addition to free care for our patients in need, our contributions include:

- **Medicaid subsidies** – we make up the difference between the cost of providing services to people insured by the state and the amount the state pays for this care.
- **Graduate medical education and medical research** – we heavily subsidize our graduate medical education programs and help pay for nursing education and medical research.
- **Non-billed services** – these include free services such as patient education, health screenings, immunizations and support groups.

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- **Negative margin programs and services** – for example, our seven safety net clinics are designed to care for underserved and uninsured people, most often at a planned loss.
- **Community grants and donations** – these are cash donations and grants given to community partners, and other gifts such as medical supplies and child safety seats.

Reaching out to our communities

Every three years we conduct a formal ministry assessment to determine whether our Mission is fully realized in our operations and planning. Part of that work includes intensive outreach: 125 Providence employees were part of the 2007 Community Assets and Needs Assessment (CANA), visiting and interviewing 160 organizations.

Through the community assessment, we reach out to nonprofits and service agencies. We ask them about the most pressing needs they see among those they serve and we seek ideas for partnering to meet those needs. Findings from the assessment are integrated into our strategic planning and form the priorities for our giving over the next three years.

Giving back to our communities

Two key groups manage our grants. Both groups consider applications based on identified needs from the CANA and both have an established set of criteria and measurements.

- **Providence Community Grants Council** includes Providence Health Plans, our hospitals, elder care, physicians, and other members of our integrated health care system. The council accepts grant applications for amounts up to \$25,000. Some 2007 grantees include: Volunteers of America, Coalition of Community Health Clinics, and Housecall Providers.
- **Providence Partners in Health** is a partnership with community and state advisors. This group makes grants of between \$50,000 and \$400,000, and in 2007 invited 70 Oregon agencies and nonprofits to submit applications. 2007 grantees include: Essential Health Clinic, Outside In, and Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center.

Our strategic plan recognizes our Mission and includes community benefit planning.

