Minnesota hospitals’ 2009 community contributions total $3.2 billion

Minnesota hospitals are going above and beyond to provide community benefits beyond traditional healthcare services. And this year’s community benefit report shows that our state’s hospitals are reliably and consistently not only just carrying out their missions to care for the sick and injured, but constantly demonstrating a spirit of caring that goes far beyond the hospitals’ walls.

Through countless medical research projects, physician training initiatives, and programs to care for those who cannot pay, Minnesota’s hospitals continued to aid their communities with compassion and commitment. This financially uncompensated work remains a key method for ensuring that Minnesotan’s get the medical care and other critical services that make our communities healthy and vibrant.

This report covers community benefit contributions made by Minnesota’s hospitals in 2009 — the most recent year for which data is available.

The community benefit categories are:

**Uncompensated care — $477.2 million**

Minnesota hospitals provided $477.2 million to patients who didn’t have health insurance or the means to pay for their care.

**Services responding to specific community needs — $344.6 million**

Health screenings, immunization clinics, subsidized health services and other community outreach programs fall under this category, which totaled $344.6 million in 2009.

**Education and work-force development — $303.8 million**

Minnesota hospitals help train doctors, nurses and a myriad of other highly skilled health care professionals. In 2009, those efforts cost hospitals a combined $303.8 million.

**Research — $465.7 million**

Because of the research done at Minnesota hospitals, new treatments and cures for diseases are constantly being developed. Hospitals spent $465.7 million on such efforts in 2009.
Government underfunding — $1.3 billion

When hospitals treat patients on Medicare or Medicaid, hospitals lose money. That’s because those government health care programs do not reimburse hospitals the full amount it costs the hospitals to provide the care. In 2009, such government underfunding to Minnesota hospitals exceeded $1.3 billion, or nearly 7 percent of the hospitals’ operating expenses.

Clearly, we must continue to financially support our hospitals so they can continue to serve the public good.

— Minnesota Hospital Association
President and Chief Executive Officer
Lawrence J. Massa
## Minnesota hospitals’ community contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charity care</td>
<td>$177,830,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs in excess of Medicaid payments</td>
<td>$442,237,444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid surcharge</td>
<td>$116,168,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MinnesotaCare tax</td>
<td>$220,541,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other costs in excess of public program payments</td>
<td>$17,639,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community services</td>
<td>$41,215,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidized health services</td>
<td>$299,481,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and work-force development</td>
<td>$303,752,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>$465,682,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and in-kind donations</td>
<td>$12,815,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community building</td>
<td>$3,869,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other community benefit costs</td>
<td>$7,365,543</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total cost of community benefits *(as defined by CHA/VHA guidelines)* $ 2,108,599,338

Percent of total operating expenses ................................................. 11.4%

Costs in excess of Medicare payments ............................................ $ 840,664,009
Other care provided without compensation *(bad debt)* ....................... $ 299,406,317

**Total value of community contributions** ........................................ $ 3,248,669,664
Friends make a difference through hospital’s mentoring program

*Wyoming initiative, started in one elementary school, now serves more than 200 at-risk students per year*

In 1998, staff at Fairview Lakes Medical Center in Wyoming, Minnesota wanted to find a way to reach out to the community, specifically youth, so they set up monthly lunches with at-risk students from a local elementary school.

The program quickly gained support throughout the community and, as a result, it now has 13 mentoring sites and a board of professionals overseeing the initiative. In the 2009-10 school year, 215 mentors/students were paired up. And more than 1,000 students have received mentors since the beginning of the “Friends Make a Difference” program.

The project’s goal is to facilitate healthy development of at-risk youth by providing adult mentors who can act as friends, providing personal and professional advice and lending an ear to their mentees. Research indicates that, if given the opportunity to engage in a trusting and caring relationship, youth will benefit in multiple areas of their lives. The Friends program views youth as individuals filled with promise and potential.

Roxanne Cielieski, right, mentored Tyler Reding at Chisago Lakes schools for several years under the “Friends Make a Difference” program. At one point, the boy returned to attend the school again after a family move, and he requested that Cielieski be his mentor again.

**Continued on next page**
Survey data has indicated a change in student perception and behavior as a result of the mentoring. Fully 83 percent of students said they felt that there were adults who cared about them, and 66 percent indicated they were better able to express their feelings due to the program. In addition, 81 percent of parents felt that the mentoring program increased their child's self esteem, and 64 percent responded that their child felt that they have more options for the future.

Lastly, school staff members said they noticed improved peer relationships, increased self esteem and more positive attitudes because of the initiative.

Chisago Lakes High School Principal Dave Ertl, at a recent mentor gathering said, "The benefit of the time spent with the students is long-term and may surface with the graduation and wedding invitations. Perhaps years from now, the benefits will continue to surface." For the 2010-2011 school year, there are 14 seniors at the Chisago Lakes High School who have been with a mentor since sixth grade.
Minnesota hospitals help raise number of registered organ, tissue donors

Promotional campaign with LifeSource helps yield nearly 85,000 Minnesota registrants

Minnesota hospital employees have been working this year to register themselves and their colleagues, neighbors and others as potential organ and tissue donors.

The move, part of a promotional campaign by the Minnesota Hospital Association and St. Paul-based organ and tissue donation organization LifeSource, has been at least partially responsible for the addition of nearly 85,000 new registered potential donors to the donor lists.

“The ‘Donate Life Minnesota’ hospital campaign has played a pivotal role in helping ensure that more Minnesotans’ lives can be saved in the event of medical need,” said LifeSource Chief Executive Officer Susan Gunderson. “Minnesota hospitals’ enthusiastic work has made a world of difference for patients in our state.”

Under the campaign, hospitals have used a wide range of tools to educate employees and others about the importance of deciding to be a donor. Webinars, template employee newsletter articles and public service announcements, for example, provide education about specific elements of donation. The tools also allowed each hospital to tailor messages to their own audiences. In addition, the hospital association published feature stories focusing on hospital professionals whose dedication to donation and transplantation has made a difference in Minnesota.

St. Joseph’s Area Health Services of Park Rapids was eager to implement a host of tools offered by the effort, said President and Chief Executive Officer Ben Koppelman.

“I thought the campaign was very well-organized, it was very easy to get the word out, and it was a great thing for us and for all hospitals to participate in,” he said. “We just felt it was the right thing to do. We’ve got such a great opportunity in our business to make an impact.”

Continued on next page
As part of its work, St. Joseph’s:

- created articles, flyers and posters about donation for employee and community newsletters and e-mails (visit www.sjahs.org/newsletters/HLnov10.pdf to view the hospital’s November community newsletter (pictured below) devoted partially to donation);
- sent similar information to organizations like the local chamber of commerce, the motor vehicle registration bureau — where most people signal their intent to donate — and to parish nurses for distribution to area churches;
- helped organize presentations about the issue, including donors and recipients who told their personal stories, to hospital auxiliary members and the public;
- worked with the local newspaper on stories about donation;
- manned booths on the subject at the hospital every Tuesday and linked to donation resources on its Web site;
- presented details about the subject at the local high school; and
- raised the “Donate Life” flag.

Jill Kamrath, a Nevis-area resident and a housekeeper at St. Joseph’s, was spurred into registering after seeing so many messages about Donate Life Minnesota at the hospital.

“I guess over the years I had thought off and on about being a donor — who hasn’t?” she said. “Maybe because of working in the hospital, working with people, and seeing the pamphlets and everything, it just made me really think about it. And I just decided, I’m going to do it.

“I think I appreciate it more the older I get — how precious life is and how fast things can happen,” she added.

Kamrath also told her husband and mother about her decision. Donation professionals say communicating and documenting such wishes for family members is key to ensuring that the choice is honored.

In October, six Minnesota hospitals and the LifeSource organization were honored with a Medal of Honor for Organ Donation for their overall donation work by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. The work by St. Joseph’s was also mentioned at the national conference.

Hospital association President and Chief Executive Officer Lawrence Massa said MHA is proud of those six hospitals as well as of all the Minnesota hospitals that have boosted registration this year.

“To learn more, go to http://bit.ly/eW0q6G.”
## Community contributions by region

### Region 1 (Northwest)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charity care</td>
<td>$1,052,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid (costs in excess of payments + surcharge)</td>
<td>$10,519,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Other community benefit programs and activities</em></td>
<td>$19,678,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost of community benefits (as defined by CHA/VHA guidelines)</td>
<td>$31,250,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of total operating expenses</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs in excess of Medicare payments</td>
<td>$15,535,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other care provided without compensation (bad debt)</td>
<td>$9,019,431</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total value of community contributions** $55,805,269

* "Other community benefit programs and activities" comprises the following: MinnesotaCare provider tax; other public programs below cost; community services; subsidized health services; education and workforce development; research; cash and in-kind donations; community buildings; and other community benefit costs.

Clearwater Health Services, Bagley • Community Behavioral Health Hospital – Bemidji • Essentia Health Ada • Essentia Health Fosston • Essentia Health St. Mary’s Hospital – Detroit Lakes • Kittson Memorial Healthcare Center, Hallock • LakeWood Health Center, Baudette • LifeCare Medical Center, Roseau • Mahnomen Health Center • North Country Health Services, Bemidji • North Valley Health Center, Warren • RiverView Health, Crookston • Sanford Medical Center Thief River Falls
Region 2 (Northeast)

Charity care $10,819,733
Medicaid (costs in excess of payments + surcharge) $69,730,693
*Other community benefit programs and activities $63,446,969
Total cost of community benefits (as defined by CHA/VHA guidelines) $143,997,395
Percent of total operating expenses 6.7%
Costs in excess of Medicare payments $143,018,447
Other care provided without compensation (bad debt) $41,340,606
Total value of community contributions $328,356,448

* "Other community benefit programs and activities" comprises the following: MinnesotaCare provider tax; other public programs below cost; community services; subsidized health services; education and workforce development; research; cash and in-kind donations; community buildings; and other community benefit costs.
Community contributions by region

### Region 3 (Central)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charity care</td>
<td>$22,772,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid (costs in excess of payments + surcharge)</td>
<td>$46,567,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Other community benefit programs and activities</em></td>
<td>$54,607,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost of community benefits (as defined by CHA/VHA guidelines)</td>
<td>$123,947,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of total operating expenses</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs in excess of Medicare payments</td>
<td>$117,982,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other care provided without compensation (bad debt)</td>
<td>$33,843,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total value of community contributions</td>
<td>$275,772,556</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* "Other community benefit programs and activities" comprises the following: MinnesotaCare provider tax; other public programs below cost; community services; subsidized health services; education and workforce development; research; cash and in-kind donations; community buildings; and other community benefit costs.

Albany Area Hospital and Medical Center • Buffalo Hospital • Cambridge Medical Center • CentraCare Health System – Long Prairie • CentraCare Health System – Melrose • CentraCare Health System, Saint Cloud • Community Behavioral Health Hospital – Alexandria • Community Behavioral Health Hospital – Annandale • Community Behavioral Health Hospital – Baxter • Community Behavioral Health Hospital – Fergus Falls • Community Behavioral Health Hospital – Wadena • Cuyuna Regional Medical Center, Crosby • Douglas County Hospital, Alexandria • Essentia Health St. Joseph’s Medical Center, Brainerd • Fairview Lakes Medical Center, Wyoming • Fairview Northland Medical Center, Princeton • Glacial Ridge Health System, Glenwood • Kanabec Hospital, Mora • Lake Region Healthcare, Fergus Falls • Lakewood Health System, Staples • Meeker Memorial Hospital, Litchfield • Mille Lacs Health System, Onamia • New River Medical Center, Monticello • Paynesville Area Health Care System • Perham Memorial Hospital and Home • Prairie Ridge Hospital and Health Services, Elbow Lake • St. Cloud Hospital • St. Francis Healthcare Campus, Breckenridge • St. Gabriel’s Hospital, Little Falls • St. Joseph’s Area Health Services Inc., Park Rapids • St. Michael’s Hospital & Nursing Home, Sauk Centre • Stevens Community Medical Center, Morris • Tri-County Health Care, Wadena • Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Saint Cloud • Wheaton Community Hospital
### Region 4 (Metro)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charity care</td>
<td>$105,769,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid (costs in excess of payments + surcharge)</td>
<td>$307,455,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Other community benefit programs and activities</em></td>
<td>$334,150,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost of community benefits (as defined by CHA/VHA guidelines)</td>
<td>$747,374,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of total operating expenses</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs in excess of Medicare payments</td>
<td>$363,701,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other care provided without compensation (bad debt)</td>
<td>$155,058,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total value of community contributions</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,266,135,049</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* "Other community benefit programs and activities" comprises the following: MinnesotaCare provider tax; other public programs below cost; community services; subsidized health services; education and workforce development; research; cash and in-kind donations; community buildings; and other community benefit costs.

Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis • Allina Hospitals & Clinics, Minneapolis • Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center • Bethesda Hospital, Saint Paul • Catholic Health Initiatives, Minneapolis • Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, Minneapolis • Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, Saint Paul • Fairview Health Services, Minneapolis • Fairview Ridges Hospital, Burnsville • Fairview Southdale Hospital, Edina • Gillette Children’s Specialty Healthcare, Saint Paul • HealthEast Care System, St. Paul • HealthPartners, Bloomington • Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis • Hennepin Healthcare System Inc., Minneapolis • Lakeview Hospital, Stillwater • Maple Grove Hospital, Minneapolis • Mercy Hospital, Coon Rapids • North Memorial Health Care, Robbinsdale • North Memorial Medical Center, Robbinsdale • Park Nicollet Health Services, Saint Louis Park • Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital, Saint Louis Park • Phillips Eye Institute, Minneapolis • Regency Hospital of Minneapolis • Regina Medical Center, Hastings • Regions Hospital, Saint Paul • Ridgeview Medical Center, Waconia • Shriners Hospitals for Children, Minneapolis • St. Francis Regional Medical Center, Shakopee • St. John’s Hospital, Maplewood • St. Joseph’s Hospital, Saint Paul • United Hospital, Saint Paul • Unity Hospital, Fridley • University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview, Minneapolis • Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Minneapolis • Woodwinds Health Campus, Woodbury
## Community contributions by region

### Region 5 (Southwest)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charity care</td>
<td>$4,270,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid (costs in excess of payments + surcharge)</td>
<td>$19,781,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Other community benefit programs and activities</td>
<td>$19,330,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost of community benefits (as defined by CHA/VHA guidelines)</td>
<td>$43,382,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of total operating expenses</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs in excess of Medicare payments</td>
<td>$31,993,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other care provided without compensation (bad debt)</td>
<td>$10,473,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total value of community contributions</strong></td>
<td><strong>$85,849,966</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* "Other community benefit programs and activities" comprises the following: MinnesotaCare provider tax; other public programs below cost; community services; subsidized health services; education and workforce development; research; cash and in-kind donations; community buildings; and other community benefit costs.

---

Appleton Area Health Services • Avera, Sioux Falls, S.D. • Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center • Chippewa County-Montevideo Hospital, Montevideo • Community Behavioral Health Hospital – Willmar • Glencoe Regional Health Services • Graceville Health Center • Granite Falls Municipal Hospital & Manor • Hendricks Community Hospital Association • Hutchinson Area Health Care • Johnson Memorial Health Services, Dawson • Madelia Community Hospital • Madison Hospital • Murray County Medical Center, Slayton • Ortonville Area Health Services • Pipestone County Medical Center • RC Hospital & Clinics, Olivia • Redwood Area Hospital, Redwood Falls • Rice Memorial Hospital, Willmar • Sanford Health, Sioux Falls, S.D. • Sanford Canby Medical Center • Sanford Hospital Luverne • Sanford Jackson Medical Center • Sanford Medical Center Worthington • Sanford Tracy Medical Center • Sanford Westbrook Medical Center • Sleepy Eye Medical Center • Springfield Medical Center – Mayo Health System • Swift County-Benson Hospital • Tyler Healthcare Center/Avera • Windom Area Hospital
Community contributions by region

**Region 6 (Southeast)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charity care</td>
<td>$33,146,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid (costs in excess of payments + surcharge)</td>
<td>$104,352,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Other community benefit programs and activities</em></td>
<td>$881,147,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total cost of community benefits</strong> (as defined by CHA/VHA guidelines)</td>
<td>$1,018,647,041</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Percent of total operating expenses:** 20.8%
- **Costs in excess of Medicare payments:** $168,432,776
- **Other care provided without compensation (bad debt):** $49,670,557

**Total value of community contributions:** $1,236,750,374

*"Other community benefit programs and activities" comprises the following: MinnesotaCare provider tax; other public programs below cost; community services; subsidized health services; education and workforce development; research; cash and in-kind donations; community buildings; and other community benefit costs.*

Albert Lea Medical Center – Mayo Health System • Austin Medical Center – Mayo Health System • Cannon Falls Medical Center – Mayo Health System • Community Behavioral Health Hospital – Rochester • Community Behavioral Health Hospital – St. Peter • District One Hospital, Faribault • Fairmont Medical Center – Mayo Health System • Fairview Red Wing Medical Center • Immanuel St. Joseph’s – Mayo Health System, Mankato • Lake City Medical Center – Mayo Health System • Mayo Clinic, Rochester • Mayo Psychiatry & Psychology Treatment Center, Rochester • Minnesota Valley Health Center, Le Sueur • New Ulm Medical Center • Northfield Hospital • Olmsted Medical Center, Rochester • Owatonna Hospital • Queen of Peace Hospital, New Prague • River’s Edge Hospital & Clinic, Saint Peter • Rochester Methodist Hospital • Saint Elizabeth’s Medical Center, Wabasha • Saint Marys Hospital, Rochester • Sibley Medical Center, Arlington • St. James Medical Center – Mayo Health System • United Hospital District, Blue Earth • Waseca Medical Center – Mayo Health System • Winona Health Services
Longtime rivals in everything from high school sports to medical facilities, neighboring northern Minnesota towns Aitkin and Crosby put aside their differences this year to improve breast health.

The Cuyuna Riverwood Breast Health Alliance (www.breasthealthalliance.org/) offers coordinated programs and services such as digital mammography and sophisticated breast imaging and biopsy technology. All are designed to better serve local patients so they can obtain treatment closer to home.

Since May, partners Cuyuna Regional Medical Center (CRMC) in Crosby and Riverwood Healthcare Center (RHCC) in Aitkin have also:
- invested a combined $4,500 in community gatherings to raise awareness about breast cancer;
- raised a total of nearly $13,000 for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure;
- provided nearly $20,000 in free mammograms to 52 area women; and
- invested $8,000 in an educational music video about breast cancer and about the collaborative.

The video plays up the neighboring towns’ friendly rivalry with help from hundreds of community members — from kids to cops to farmers. In the piece, they and hospital employees sport pink surgical scrubs (hot pink for Crosby, light pink for Aitkin) as they smile, dance, and go about daily activities like jamming on musical instruments and playing softball.

County employees dot the Aitkin County Courthouse steps, playfully flexing their biceps to show their “strong” support for breast cancer awareness and their community’s new treatment services.

Continued on next page
On-screen messages caution viewers about the importance of annual breast cancer screenings and early detection while the song “This Town” by O.A.R. plays.

The montage’s playful but respectful look at a difficult subject quickly became a new and old media sensation after its release in mid-October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Attention from local and Twin Cities newspapers and television and radio stations joined the YouTube buzz. By Nov. 15, the piece had been accessed nearly 14,000 times (http://bit.ly/9QmOqí).

The communities’ cooperative attitude about addressing breast cancer, too, was evident under additional, less splashy initiatives. For example, Crosby High School athletic teams wore breast cancer awareness bracelets, stickers or T-shirts during October.

Organizers are confident that, all told, the Breast Health Alliance’s work to help keep women healthy will make a difference for their communities.

“It’s not simply the right thing to do for our institutions, it’s the right thing to do for the women of our region,” said Theresa Sullivan, chief operating officer of CRMC. “Both Cuyuna and Riverwood are glad we can be a part of something that’s so important to so many.”

The work was “sort of a fun way to be informative about a pretty serious subject,” Mike Delfs, chief operating officer at Riverwood, told the Star Tribune in an Oct. 14 story. “It just seemed like a great way of kicking off a partnership.”
Cycling toward safety

_Mankato hospital, other Mayo organizations perform free bike checks as they offer neighbors discounted helmets_

Every year since 1992, several thousand people attend the Immanuel St. Joseph’s (ISJ’s) – Mayo Health System Bicycle Safety Rally the first week in May. The Mankato event offers free mechanical safety checks and new bike helmets at up to 85 percent off retail prices for both kids and adults, as well as a free bicycle training course for little ones.

A bike helmet is the single most effective way to prevent head injury resulting from a bicycle crash, said ISJ emergency room physician Dr. Dan Dockham.

“I see the results first-hand when people are injured on their bikes and are not wearing a helmet,” Dockham said.

Helmet sales vary from 1,000 to 2,000 each year. This spring, the hospital sized, fitted and sold about 1,200 helmets in six hours — about 200 helmets an hour. Because the event has been such a success in Mankato, other Mayo organizations in the ISJ system — Springfield, St. James and Waseca — followed suit. This spring, those three towns sold a total of 332 helmets.

Immanuel St. Joseph’s sells the helmets at a loss of between 50 cents and $1.50 each. The facility’s total financial investment in the event, including staff time, marketing costs and signage, is approximately $15,000.

About 90 staff members from ISJ pitch in. Employees are paid for the first two hours of their service.

Gail Norris, trauma program manager at Immanuel St. Joseph’s,
said the rally provides a light-hearted occasion for hospital and clinic employees to become better acquainted with community members at a time when no one is suffering from an illness or injury.

“It’s great to have this opportunity to help others in a relaxed, celebratory atmosphere,” Norris said.

Jenny Oachs of Eagle Lake said going to the bike rally is a yearly event for her family.

“With three children, we feel fortunate to buy helmets at such a discounted price,” Oachs says. “It’s an added bonus to have the helmets fitted right at the event. It’s a great way to kick off springtime and to make sure everyone is safe.”
Glossary

**Cash and in-kind donations:** Money, food, equipment, supplies or services donated by the hospital to individuals, other nonprofits or the community at large.

**Charitable organizations:** Organizations that help the poor or underprivileged, advance education or science, lessen the burdens of government, decrease neighborhood tensions, or combat community deterioration.

**Charity care:** The cost incurred by a hospital in providing free or discounted health care to low-income people who qualify according to the hospital’s policies.

**Community benefits:** Programs or activities that provide treatment and/or promote health and healing and tend to generate little profit or lose money; respond to needs of low income or underserved people; provide services that would not be provided or would need to be provided by the government or other nonprofits if the decision was based on financial terms; respond to public health needs; or involve education or research that furthers community health.

**Community building:** Costs that the hospital incurs to support programs or activities intended to improve the overall community’s strength and security. Typical activities include addressing homelessness and poverty, supporting economic development or environmental protection efforts, or improving public spaces through revitalization, art, streets or lighting, or graffiti removal.

**Community services:** Services such as community health education, support groups, transportation, smoking or weight-loss programs that are provided by a hospital for little or no fees to improve community health.

**Costs in excess of Medicaid payments:** The financial loss suffered by hospitals resulting from the difference between payments received from Medicaid and the cost of care provided to low-income and medically indigent Medicaid enrollees.

**Costs in excess of Medicare payments:** The financial loss suffered by hospitals resulting from the difference between payments received from Medicare and the cost of care provided to Medicare enrollees.

**Discounts offered to uninsured patients:** Discounts from charges for hospital services provided to uninsured Minnesota residents who earn less than $125,000 per year.

**Education and work force development:** Unpaid costs associated with providing clinical training, internships, residencies and scholarships for tomorrow’s health care work force.

**Medicaid surcharge:** A tax paid by hospitals to the State of Minnesota to help pay for Medicaid coverage for low income and medically indigent residents.

**MinnesotaCare tax:** A tax on all hospital services paid to the State of Minnesota to help pay for MinnesotaCare insurance coverage for low-income and medically indigent residents.

**Other care provided without compensation (bad debt):** Charges for care provided to patients who neither pay their share of the hospital bill nor complete the steps necessary to receive charity care or public insurance.

**Other community benefit costs:** Administrative costs, including staff, for implementing, managing and documenting community benefit activities and programs.

**Other costs in excess of public program payments:** The financial loss suffered by hospitals resulting from the difference between payments received from public programs for those in need of support and the cost of care provided to those enrollees.

**Research:** Unreimbursed costs associated with clinical and community health research, including reducing disparities in health care and preventing illness, which results in knowledge that is shared beyond the hospital.

**Subsidized health services:** Health care, such as emergency and trauma, behavioral health or renal dialysis services, provided at a financial loss because they meet community needs or, if not provided by the hospital, would be unavailable in the community or would become the responsibility of government or another nonprofit.

**Taxes and fees:** Property taxes, fees in lieu of taxes and other fees or surcharges paid by hospitals to local or state government.