We reveal and foster God’s healing love by improving the health of the people and communities we serve, especially those who are poor and vulnerable.

Advocating for Mental Health

In 2019, St. James Healthcare continued its efforts to address mental health and substance use concerns in the Butte community. Behavioral health was identified as a top priority on the Community Health Needs Assessment. In response to this prevalent issue, St. James Healthcare has built on past momentum and explored new opportunities to support its community in the most meaningful ways.

To increase community capacity to respond to behavioral health needs, the hospital offered nine QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer) suicide prevention trainings to 348 individuals. This one-hour training helps members of the community learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to support someone in need. Course participants provided positive feedback, sharing they found the training informative and engaging. Cindy Sorich, Wise River Ambulance Service Manager, emphasized the importance of the training, “As volunteers in a small community, it’s sometimes challenging to approach our friends and neighbors to talk about these sensitive issues. We are so grateful for St. James Healthcare’s expertise and commitment to providing mental health training for the surrounding communities.”

In addition to providing educational opportunities, St. James Healthcare provides integrated behavioral health services in the primary care clinics to reduce barriers to accessing services and decrease stigma.

As we work to maintain our physical health, we must also prioritize taking care of our mental health. St. James Healthcare supports the mental well-being of families and individuals in its community. Activities in 2020 will focus on training for community members and collaborative community partnerships to provide educational opportunities and address stigma reduction.

HAPPENING NOW: Preparing Community to Respond in a Crisis

When an emergency arises, community preparedness is key. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, St. James Healthcare collaborates with Southwest Community Health Center and Butte-Silver Bow Public Health to prepare, plan and respond to community crises. Through this partnership:

- Free COVID-19 asymptomatic nasal swab testing
- Launch of “#MaskUpMCChallenge” encouraging community members to wear a mask
- Community partnerships for essential supplies

Please visit the St. James Healthcare website to access the full Community Health Needs Assessment: https://www.sclhealth.org/locations/st-james-healthcare/about/community-benefit/

In 2019, 26 St. James Healthcare leaders performed 770 hours of service, benefiting 42 organizations.

SCL Health
ST. JAMES

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Healthy and Affordable Food

Food insecurity is a significant challenge across the country, with one in nine Americans struggling with hunger.

SCL Health invests energy and resources into making healthy and affordable food accessible to its most vulnerable community members. Initiatives include:

- Food donations
- Nutrition education
- Support for organizations addressing hunger

11.4% of Montanans struggle with food insecurity

1 in 6 children in Montana fight hunger

30 of Montana’s 56 counties are considered food deserts

St. James Healthcare Initiatives

INJURY PREVENTION

St. James Healthcare's Trauma Team offered a distracted driving program to high school students to eliminate one of the most alarming distractions: texting while driving.

80 students participated

27% of unintentional injury deaths in Butte-Silver Bow County from 2016-2018 caused by motor vehicle accidents

5 seconds – the amount of time sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

St. James Healthcare is committed to addressing the underlying factors that influence health in its community, such as education, housing, job skills and food access.

9,034 meals for individuals experiencing homelessness

6 homeless individuals housed

CANCER SCREENING

To address the 7.4% prevalence rate of cancer in Butte-Silver Bow County, St. James Healthcare worked to improve rates of screening for breast cancer and provide former smokers screenings to detect lung cancer at an earlier stage.

2,137 mammography screenings

98 low-dose lung screenings

1.4% of Butte-Silver Bow County adults are uninsured

Breaking the Cycle of Addiction

When Lacey Salminen found out she was eleven weeks pregnant, she knew it was the moment she needed to turn her life around. As an expecting mother with an addiction who had never held a steady job or a permanent place to stay, she had a tough road ahead. Describing the challenges she experienced, Salminen states, “I grew up without a mom. My mom died by suicide when I was 14. My dad was in prison. I knew I didn’t want that life for my baby.”

Women like Lacey are why social worker Joslin Hubbard and physician George Mulcaire-Jones started the “First 1,000 Days of Life” program at St. James Healthcare in 2018. Dr. Mulcaire-Jones notes, “Things are very generational. How do we break that cycle and help moms and families address issues? They need social support and resources and we help connect them.”

This approach is showing success with higher rates of adequate prenatal care and lower rates of child protective services involvement. 92.2% of program participants had adequate prenatal care, compared to only 64% of women who sought care elsewhere or had no care. Newborns whose mothers were in the program were almost four times less likely to be removed by child protective services (5.1% versus 18.2%). In just one year, over 100 women were referred to community-based services like WIC and the home visiting program.

A child’s experience during the first 1,000 days of life sets the trajectory for their life-long physical, emotional and relational health. “Pregnancy helps women take another look at life because there is a life inside of you,” Hubbard said. “But people still need a lot of support. We are hopeful that support will help families get in a better place to parent and end cycles of sadness and trauma.” Each pregnant mom is screened to determine needs such as food insecurity, mental health and substance use. Hubbard meets with each woman to go through screening questions and provide non-judgmental help.

With the proper support, resources and education, women and families can ensure their babies will be less likely to endure the same challenges they faced in their childhood. Salminen notes, “Joslin checked up on me every day. I never had anyone do that my entire life. She’s probably one of the biggest reasons I turned my life around. I want other people to know there are people that recover.”

Can Do! Supporting Re-entry Efforts in Butte

One obstacle toward successful re-entry from incarceration is lack of employment or under-employment. The Montana Department of Corrections notes that success for offenders means having stable housing and employment, effective treatment, positive personal relationships, family support and appropriate supervision that allows them to build productive, law-abiding lives. Phil Keating, Director of Community Solutions, a non-profit organization assisting individuals involved in the judicial system by helping with integration and advocacy, noted a 60% recidivism rate when he first started the organization which helps individuals reintegrate into the community. Since that time, only approximately two out of nearly 60 program participants were sent back to the penitentiary. As people come out of prison into society, they have three basic needs: food, shelter and clothing. Once those needs have been met, employment becomes an important part of their reintroduction into society.

St. James Healthcare recently donated a Polaris Razor with snow removal equipment to the Community Solutions Group of Butte. The Razor will be utilized by the group’s “Can Do Guy” program, a business employing individuals re-entering the community, including offering snow removal and lawn care services. Initially, sidewalks were cleared by hand, but with this equipment donation, individuals employed by Community Solutions will be able to provide even more services to the Butte community.

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