



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.

Community Benefit 2020

Inspired by our faith, SCL Health addresses the most critical needs of the communities we serve; especially of those who are poor and vulnerable. In 2020, SCL Health Montana Region provided **\$44.7 million*** in community benefit, supporting areas such as community health improvement services, health professions education programs, community building activities and subsidized health services.


In 2020, **78** St. Vincent Healthcare leaders performed **1,264** hours of service, benefiting **90** community coalitions and organizations.



* These numbers reflect clinic contributions not included on 990 Schedule H

2020 Community Benefit Highlights

Across the health system, SCL Health supported the mental health of its community members and associates through one of the most trying years by engaging with community collaboratives and offering virtual mental health and well-being training. The trainings focused on suicide prevention, stigma reduction, compassion fatigue and trauma-informed practices.




30% increase
in depression and anxiety symptoms since 2020



2 mental health first aid instructors
trained in Montana and Grand Junction



50 trainings,
reaching nearly 1,000 individuals



88.4% of communities
did not have enough mental health providers to serve residents in 2020



Provided \$410,666
in Mission Fund grant awards to 6 behavioral health organizations



Access to Healthcare: SCL Health Medical Group is increasing access to healthcare for residents in Yellowstone County with a new walk-in clinic in Billings Heights and a walk-in and primary care clinic in Lockwood:



32% of adults 18+ had difficulty or delay in obtaining needed healthcare services

78% of adults report a specific source of ongoing care

67% of adults visited a physician for a checkup in the past year



The Foster Grandparent Program makes an impact on seniors and high-risk students. Data from the pre-COVID 2018/2019 school year indicates that Foster Grandparents served:

28 children
with an incarcerated parent

26 children
in foster care

26 children
experiencing homelessness

79% of students
served measured academic improvement



Supporting Moms and Babies Integrated behavioral health was added to the Midwifery Clinic in January 2020. The Healthy SPARK (Support, Prevention, Awareness, Resilience, Knowledge) program launched in May 2021 and has been well received. As of September 2021:

108 women enrolled in the Healthy SPARK program

136 integrated behavioral health visits were provided in the Midwifery Clinic

Supporting Moms and Babies

St. Vincent Healthcare partnered with the Substance Abuse Connect Coalition, RiverStone Health, and Rimrock to create a free text messaging program to support pregnant and new moms: Healthy SPARK (Support, Prevention, Awareness, Resilience, Knowledge). The free text messages include topics related to growth and developmental milestones, community resources, emotional support, coping strategies, and assistance with housing, finances, and food. For parents with substance use, tailored messaging can include trigger management, support groups and programs, and recovery pathways and relapse prevention.

The Healthy SPARK program provides links to resources and in the moment support by use of keywords. The secure GoMo Chat allows texting with the Healthy SPARK team to exchange information with women about pregnancy, new motherhood, and life with a child. Women with substance use are partnered with a member of the team from Rimrock while women with needs related to finances, housing or food might be partnered with a member from RiverStone. St. Vincent Healthcare encourages new moms to sign up for the program and helps with enrollment.

Women's behavioral health needs are also supported



in pregnancy and during their child's first years through integrated behavioral health in the midwifery clinic. Depression, anxiety, substance use and other needs can be addressed by mental health professionals as an integrated part of prenatal and postnatal care.

Increasing Access to Primary and Walk-in Care

Primary care helps an individual manage day to day health needs. From preventing disease by identifying risk factors, to coordinating and managing chronic disease care for a better quality of life, primary care access is a critical element for health. For some residents, appointment availability can make accessing vital primary care services a challenge. Walk-in care offers convenient increased access to services including on weekends and in the evenings.



Walk-in clinics provide care for common, non-life threatening ailments such as allergies, skin conditions, cold and flu, strep throat, earaches, painful urination, sprains and strains, minor cuts and burns,

and more. In May 2021, SCL Health Medical Group opened a new walk-in clinic in Billings Heights to provide access 7 days a week to services without an appointment for the 35,000 residents in the area.

Transportation barriers can also restrict access to healthcare. For residents in Lockwood, primary care was located in Billings without public transportation options. These 8,000 residents living in the Lockwood area will soon have access to a permanent primary care and walk-in clinic. Slated for completion in 2022 and located on the campus of Lockwood Schools, the clinic will provide primary care services five days a week and walk-in services every day from 7am to 7pm. The clinic will meet a growing need for local healthcare services for the community. Lockwood Schools Superintendent Tobin Novasio noted, "For a community our size to not have a primary care facility is almost unheard of. One of the goals of the school board has been to develop projects that are value-added for our community."

50 Years of Helping Youth and Low Income Seniors with the Foster Grandparent Program

For the past 50 years, the St. Vincent Healthcare Foster Grandparent Program has matched low-income adults aged 55 years and older with children needing to improve their academic, social, or emotional development. The grant-funded national program was established in 1965 for the purpose of pairing senior citizens with at-risk children. Shortly after the program’s creation, St. Vincent Healthcare became a program sponsor.

The St. Vincent Healthcare Foster Grandparent Program spans five counties and includes three reservations. Foster Grandparents serve at least 12 hours a week as classroom tutors/mentors in schools, HeadStart, preschools, afterschool programs, and non-profit daycare centers. A stipend is provided to Foster Grandparent volunteers with



a limited retirement income of below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Barb Brady, Program Director states, “This program provides a safe, and impactful way for our seniors

to serve. For many, it’s a reason to get up in the morning, knowing that they are needed.”

Health disparities were noted in the 2020 Community Health Needs Assessment for multiple health factors with lower income residents experiencing worse health outcomes. National research findings show that after two years of service, first time Senior Corps volunteers in the Foster Grandparent Program report improvements in health, decreased depression, and less social isolation. After two years of service, 84% of Senior Corps volunteers reported stable health and 88% of volunteers who first

described a lack of companionship reported a decrease in feelings of isolation.

One Foster Grandparent noted, “I had no idea when I started this program how rewarding it would be. It’s nice to know that I make a difference. I feel wanted and appreciated.” Another Foster Grandparent echoed this sense of fulfillment, stating, “This program gives me a purpose to get up in the morning. I can use my skills and knowledge to help others.”

The program also has remarkable benefits for the students being tutored and mentored. Recent studies have shown that individuals with less than a high school education in the US are twice as likely to report poor health than high school graduates and four times more likely than college graduates to rate their health as poor. The classroom teachers with Foster Grandparents attest to the impact they make, “Two of my students that have difficulty staying on task would not be getting their work completed. With the help of my Foster Grandparent, they have been able to improve and work at grade level.”

The COVID-19 pandemic created an inability to serve in the classrooms for most of 2020, but that didn’t stop the Foster Grandparents from making a difference. In a commitment to limit the transmission of the virus to students and themselves, these volunteers found a new way to assist students in need, remotely. Although they received only a few project requests from local schools, the Foster Grandparents created their own creative projects to deliver to students. Since October 2020, 23 Foster Grandparents prepared student packets, which helped 230 students throughout 23 classrooms, including two that were virtual. These projects were created to help advance students’ knowledge for STEM and aid in literacy support.

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



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