

2005

Community Benefits Report

Dedicated to Our Community

Table of Contents

Dedicated to Our Community	1
About Rush	3
Providing Valuable Health Information and Preventive Care	7
Educating the Next Generation of Health Care Providers	9
Advancing Medical Care Through Research	11
Rush Collaborations Serve the Community	15
Mentors in the Community	19
Transforming Our Neighborhood and Beyond	23

Dedicated to Our Community

With patient care at the heart of everything we do, it's not surprising that Rush's commitment to the community is a vital and long-standing part of our mission. Since our founding in 1837, we have never wavered in our dedication to Chicago, and particularly to the West Side.

A key component of our "patients first" mission is serving the health care needs of all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. This commitment was recognized in 2005 by the University HealthSystem Consortium, an alliance of nearly all U.S. academic medical centers, which conducted a special quality and safety benchmarking study of its member institutions and awarded Rush the highest score given — 100 percent — for "equity" of care. According to their research, patients at Rush receive the same quality of treatment and have the same outcomes regardless of their gender, ethnicity or socioeconomic status. This is just one of the reasons the consortium identified Rush University Medical Center as one of the nation's "top-performing hospitals."

As further evidence of our commitment to the community, Rush University Medical Center and Rush Oak Park Hospital, which we manage, provided more than \$126 million in community benefits in fiscal year 2005 — more than 12 percent of our annual operating expenses — to the West Side and to the people of Chicago. Part of that was \$79.2 million in unreimbursed, but much needed, care that Rush provided to its patients.

How could Rush afford this? As a nonprofit hospital, any revenue that is left after paying expenses is reinvested in our institution and our programs and services. A significant part of this goes into services that benefit patients: free care for patients who cannot pay and care to patients whose government insurance does not pay all of our costs and to critical medical services that operate at a financial loss but are necessary for the community's health.

As an academic medical center, Rush also subsidizes health and medical research that focuses on improving patient care today, not years from now, by covering expenses not funded by private or government grants. We use revenue to subsidize the education of the next generation of health care providers — nurses, physicians, allied health professionals — whose tuition and grants do not cover the actual costs to Rush of educating and training these individuals. We also fund a variety of vital programs to meet the specific health needs of our community.

And to further meet community demands, over the next decade, Rush is recommitting itself to the West Side and to Chicago with an ambitious plan to transform our entire campus — its facilities and technology infrastructure — to create an entirely new kind of hospital to ensure that we are here to care for future generations.

This report details the enormous breadth of benefits that the people in the surrounding communities receive thanks to the students, faculty and staff at Rush. These activities include numerous health outreach projects in which Rush works with neighborhood clinics, churches and other centers to provide health screenings and give health information to youths and adults.

For Rush, the West Side and Chicago are more than just where we happen to find ourselves located. Fifty-five percent of Rush's 8,200 employees live in Chicago, and we believe a hospital should give back to the place that the majority of us are proud to call home. That's why in all our endeavors, we take seriously our role as a pillar of our community — an institution that provides stability, comfort and care when the community needs us most.



The mission of Rush University Medical Center is to provide the very best care for our patients. Our education and research endeavors, community service programs and relationships with other hospitals are dedicated to enhancing excellence in patient care for the diverse communities of the Chicago area, now and in the future.

About Rush

From physicians to students to secretaries to nurses, everyone at Rush University Medical Center has one common purpose: to provide the very best care to patients. Guided by our shared values and mission, Rush is dedicated to enhancing patient care through research, education and community service.



Rush University Medical Center is a nonprofit, acute care academic medical center located on the West Side of Chicago. Rush encompasses a 613-bed hospital serving adults and children; the 61-bed Johnston R. Bowman Health Center, which provides medical and rehabilitative care to older adults and people with short- and long-term disabilities; the 176-bed Rush Oak Park Hospital and Rush University. Rush University is home to one of the first medical colleges in the Midwest and one of the nation's top-ranked nursing colleges, as well as graduate programs in allied health, health systems management and biomedical research. The Medical Center also offers more than 70 highly selective residency and fellowship programs for physicians in medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties.

Together, these entities support Rush's mission: to provide the very best care for our patients. Our education and research endeavors, community service programs and relationships with other hospitals are dedicated to enhancing excellence in patient care for the diverse communities of the Chicago area now and in the future.

Since our founding in 1837 with a charter for Rush Medical College, Rush has been a national leader in academic medicine. Year after year, Rush is consistently ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top medical centers in the country. And Rush's nurses have twice been awarded Magnet status, the highest honor a hospital can receive for outstanding achievement in nursing services. Rush was the first medical center in Illinois caring for adults and children to receive this prestigious designation, and the first in Illinois to earn a second four-year designation.

Our Investment in the Community

Total community benefits and services **\$126,083,265**

Unreimbursed care	\$79,174,575
Charity care and financial assistance	\$2,520,552
Expected payments not paid	\$46,458,810
Costs not covered by reimbursements for Medicare and Medicaid	\$30,195,213
Support for education programs	\$31,225,824
Support for research programs	\$7,240,000
Subsidized health services	\$5,019,972
Language-assistance services	\$242,665
Donations	\$273,539
Volunteer services	\$1,378,824
Other community benefits	\$1,527,866

Beginning in 2005, Rush and all other hospitals are required to prepare an annual summary report of community benefits to the Illinois attorney general's office. The information in this document is taken from that report. Only a portion of Rush's financial assistance programs described on the next page meet the definition of charity care in the annual summary report provided to the attorney general's office; those that do not qualify are not included in the amount reported above. Further explanation of terms is available on the next page.

Note: Because participation in community service activities (such as providing free care at homeless shelters) by medical students, physicians and other staff is on a volunteer basis, and because these low-income and homeless populations do not receive “charity care” as defined by the Illinois attorney general, the cost of the time of physicians, students, residents and employees at Rush, and the cost of the care they provide, is not reflected in any of the numbers on page 4.

Charity care and financial assistance

This is the cost to provide services to patients who lack the means to pay and who were qualified for charity care or financial assistance under one of Rush’s policies. Rush provides free care to patients with income levels under 250 percent of the federal poverty guidelines who provide information that allows Rush to properly identify them. For example, in 2005, a single person earning just under \$24,000 would be eligible for this benefit. Discounts are provided to patients who make up to four times the federal poverty level, and interest-free payment plans are also available.

Expected payment not paid (also known as “bad debt”)

These are expected payments that were not paid for health services that Rush provided. Expected payments are those due to Rush after our discounts to insurers, government payers and patients who are responsible for their own bills. Payments that cannot be collected from patients who fail to provide required information to identify them for financial assistance must be categorized as “bad debt.”

Costs not covered by reimbursements for Medicare and Medicaid

These are the costs for government-sponsored health care (Medicare and Medicaid) that are greater than the amount for which we receive reimbursement.

Subsidized health services

Rush provides services in response to community needs that, because they operate at a financial loss, must be subsidized from other revenue sources. These services include emergency services, pediatrics, primary care clinics and palliative care, among others.

Rush provides primary and preventive care to uninsured individuals and families. Through this approach, which draws upon the services provided within physician clinics maintained at Rush as well as our community service projects, Rush hopes to reach patients before emergency department visits are required for crisis medical treatment.

Donations

Included in this figure are donations of goods and services, such as meeting space and equipment, to assist other community health care efforts and providers.

Among the Top Hospital Providers of Medicaid Days in the State

As noted earlier, Rush is proud of the recognition by University HealthSystem Consortium of what we’ve always known — that Rush provides superior care to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. Achieving the 100 percent score in equity of care involves the provision of medical services that are frequently at a financial loss to the institution. However, this is part of the greater community benefit that Rush is proud to offer.

Total Medicaid Patient Days

1. University of Chicago Hospitals 70,285
2. John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County 57,395
3. St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital Center 56,728
4. University of Illinois Medical Center 55,761
- 5. Rush University Medical Center 48,103**
6. Northwestern Memorial Hospital 47,224
7. Mount Sinai Hospital 40,824
8. St. Elizabeth Medical Center 38,837
9. Swedish Covenant Hospital 38,388
10. Advocate Christ Hospital and Medical Center 36,310
11. Advocate Northside (Illinois Masonic) 33,946
12. Children’s Memorial Hospital 32,117

Total Medicaid Patient Admissions

1. University of Chicago Hospitals 11,417
2. Mount Sinai Hospital 10,702
3. St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital Center 10,430
4. University of Illinois Medical Center 9,513
5. John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County 8,962
6. Norwegian American Hospital 8,348
7. St. Elizabeth Medical Center 8,297
8. Northwestern Memorial Hospital 8,065
9. Swedish Covenant Hospital 7,833
- 10. Rush University Medical Center 7,527**
11. Mercy Hospital and Medical Center 7,439
12. Advocate Christ Hospital and Medical Center 7,105

Source: Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, for the state fiscal year ending 2004.

Providing Valuable Health Information and Preventive Care

With our free community wellness classes, health information newsletter and dedication to helping patients receive needed benefits, Rush is committed to helping patients get the preventive care and information they need to avoid crisis medical services and enhance their well-being.

Each quarter, Rush delivers preventive health care information directly to the Chicago community's doorsteps — or, more specifically, their mailboxes with the health newsletter, *Discover Rush*. And along with health information, readers can learn about Rush's ongoing wellness events to educate people about various health topics, both for preventive care and for additional information about existing illnesses. In fiscal year 2005, Rush offered 26 free programs, with more than 1,200 people attending, and sponsored three health events, which incorporated free health screenings and other health information.

To better support our growing elderly population and the people who help care for them, Rush offers two programs specifically to help older adults with their aging processes: RUSH Generations (through Rush University Medical Center) and AGE-WISE (through Rush Oak Park Hospital). Both programs are free and supply valuable health information to the aging community to keep them vital for years to come. RUSH Generations also maintains the Anne Byron Waud Patient and Family Resource Center. This free community resource helps older adults and caregivers of older adults get answers to questions about health information, the aging process, home health care, finding a qualified facility or caregiver, funding for care and more.

Securing the Benefits People Need

Rush maintains a patient eligibility service that focuses on ensuring that patients who do not have insurance receive the coverage they may be entitled to under various federal and state programs to help them pay their medical and hospital bills. During fiscal year 2005, this service obtained coverage for 353 initially uninsured patients, representing more than \$23 million in health care bills.

In addition to helping to secure insurance coverage for these patients' medical bills, this service also assists patients with obtaining other benefits they may qualify for, such as social security and disability (SSI), which helps patients well beyond their visit to Rush. During fiscal year 2005, Rush was able to qualify 25 patients for such benefits.



To meet the needs of our Spanish-speaking patients and their families, Rush maintains a staff of four full-time employees who act as Spanish-language interpreters. Rush invests \$168,000 in costs for this service and another \$75,000 in costs to maintain a staff of non-Spanish-language and sign-language interpreters.

Summer 2005

DISCOVER RUSH

INSIDE:

- All eyes on baby: Clinic helps diagnose and treat high-risk pregnancy
- My aching back: RUSH specialists team up to bring you relief
- RUSH Generations: Learn about our health and aging program

A season for action EXERCISE TIPS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

THE FRAGRANT SMELL of flowers in bloom, the roar of crowds celebrating (or cursing) their favorite Chicago football team. Both are signs that good weather has hit Chicago, and it's time to put away the winter coat and get outside to enjoy your favorite physical activities.

The start to an active lifestyle — or the beginning of one — requires special attention to your body's needs. "Preparation is key to getting the most out of your exercise program and avoiding injuries," says Kathleen Weber, MD, a sports medicine specialist at RUSH University Medical Center. "This is true whether you're someone who just takes a walk or if you're a professional athlete," adds Brian Cole, MD, also a sports medicine physician at RUSH.

Cole and Weber should know. They and their colleagues at Midwest Orthopedics at RUSH, along with internists at RUSH, are the team physicians of the Chicago White Sox and the Chicago Bulls, and RUSH is the preferred hospital for both of these major league teams.

To help you and your family get your training program started on the right foot, Cole and Weber have provided the following tips:

- Stay hydrated. Drinking adequate fluid before, during and after exercise helps prevent dehydration and overheating that ultimately lead to poor performance. Don't rely on thirst as an indicator of hydration. If your urine is dark yellow and there's not much of it, you're dehydrated and should increase your fluid intake.
- When starting an exercise program, start with low-intensity exercise such as walking and slowly increase the intensity. A well-rounded program should include cardiovascular (such as running or cycling), strength (e.g., weight training) and flexibility (e.g., yoga and stretching) training.
- Use footwear that is appropriate for the sport you are playing. Shoes should be changed at regular intervals. For example, running shoes should be changed approximately every 600 miles.
- To prevent stress fractures — a break in the bone caused by repetitive stress — slowly increase any new sports activity.
- Take care of that rotator cuff — the group of muscles that surround the shoulder joint and help to stabilize and move the shoulder — by using lightweight exercises to strengthen the shoulder muscles. When carrying or lifting heavy objects, always keep your elbows bent.

Most important, if an injury does occur and you're unable to handle the pain or swelling, call a doctor. To get more tips from sports medicine specialists at RUSH and to find out about RUSH's upcoming "Training With the Sox, Bulls" event at U.S. Cellular Field, call 800-342-RUSH (7874).

RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

IT'S HOW MEDICINE SHOULD BE

Educating the Next Generation of Health Care Providers

Since opening in 1972, Rush University has awarded degrees to more than 10,000 doctors, nurses, researchers and allied health professionals. That piece of paper speaks volumes about the knowledge, skill and compassion that these men and women take to their communities.

Rush students train with world-renowned teacher-practitioners — men and women who practice what they teach — in a learning environment where knowledge is continually being advanced and collaboration and openness are valued. Rush students are taught to seek out and share knowledge. But most of all, they learn to touch the lives of patients with great respect and understanding.

Every health profession — medicine, nursing, allied health — faces alarming shortages of well-educated, dedicated people at a time when aging Baby Boomers are creating a burgeoning demand for health care workers. Rush is committed to providing programs to educate the health care workforce of the future. To help meet this need, in fiscal year 2005, Rush provided \$31.2 million in unreimbursed costs to educate and train future physicians, nurses and allied health professionals.

Rush is committed to continuing to subsidize education programs to provide highly trained physicians, nurses and allied health professionals, not only to Rush, but to the larger health care community.

Rush Community Service Initiatives Program

Rush has developed programs to expose students to the myriad public health disparities in the Chicago area, while also providing valuable services to disadvantaged communities. The Rush Community Service Initiatives Program (RCSIP) is a network of ongoing community service programs (some of which are detailed later in this report) in which Rush medical students volunteer with attending physicians from Rush. Student participation in RCSIP is strictly voluntary, and students do not receive academic credit for their involvement. Still, more than 85 percent of Rush Medical College students volunteer in one or more activities. Rush believes that students exposed to such diverse populations and settings will become more culturally competent as providers, which will serve them well as future physicians.

Interdisciplinary Student Program

In May 2005, students participating in Rush University's interdisciplinary student program, RU Caring, showed their commitment to the community when they volunteered their energy and unique talents in a large-scale effort to bring better health care to West Side residents. At a health fair, more than 400 children and adults from the near West Side received free health screenings at the United Center thanks to a partnership with the United Center, the Salvation Army and RU Caring. Modeled after the Rush Community Services Initiatives Program in Rush Medical College, RU Caring brings together students from all disciplines (including medical, nursing, audiology and occupational therapy students), providing them the opportunity to develop and hone clinical, interpersonal and leadership skills while learning to work with colleagues from other health disciplines.

At the health fair, students worked under the supervision of attending physicians, nurses and faculty from Rush to provide basic health screenings for chronic diseases such as hypertension, asthma and diabetes. They also presented health education on nutrition and lifestyle habits, interactive events for children focusing on childhood obesity, and workshops on topics such as domestic violence. Services at the event included school physicals, immunizations, bone scans, audiology screenings, ophthalmologic care (including glaucoma screenings), a memory clinic for older adults, developmental counseling, body mass index measurement, rapid HIV testing and mammograms.



Rush University includes Rush Medical College, the College of Nursing, the College of Health Sciences and the Graduate College.

Nearly 15 percent of Rush Medical College graduates practice in the Chicago area. This statistic reflects the importance of Rush in the community. Additionally, nearly 20 percent of Rush College of Nursing graduates play an active nursing role in the Chicago area.

Advancing Medical Care Through Research

Because Rush is an academic medical center, physicians at Rush University Medical Center are at the same time exceptional caregivers, dedicated researchers, scientists and educators. Research at Rush is designed to benefit the patient today — instead of years from now.



Known as “translational research,” research projects at Rush have led to significant breakthroughs in patient care throughout the years. Just two examples are the development of genetic testing for women with breast cancer to predict whether a particular woman will benefit from chemotherapy and procedures that allow a person receiving a knee or hip replacement to walk home the next day — and sometimes even the same day.

Another focus of research at Rush is on the health of large, distinct populations or communities, such as the Women’s Health Initiative study described on page 13. Joint research projects in basic science, clinical science services and epidemiology look for new ways to improve the health of vulnerable communities and bridge the widening gaps in the health care system. In this way, research at Rush is an incubator for exciting advances in medicine.

In recognition of this important mission and its value to the health and well-being of the community, during fiscal year 2005 Rush spent \$7.2 million to support unreimbursed expenses to maintain these research activities. The following is just a small sampling of research conducted at Rush in the fiscal year that advances medicine, thereby improving patient care.

Is Forgetfulness a Normal Part of Aging?

Mild cognitive impairment in older people is not a normal part of growing old. Instead, it appears to be an indicator of Alzheimer’s disease or cerebral vascular disease, according to a study by the Rush Alzheimer’s Disease Center. “The study shows that mild cognitive impairment is often the earliest clinical manifestation of one or both of two common age-related neurologic diseases,” says David A. Bennett, MD, Alzheimer’s researcher and the principal author of the paper.

This is the first study involving a large number of people who were followed until they developed mild cognitive impairment or dementia, and then died. The study involved examining brain tissue from 180 people, including 37 with mild cognitive impairment, 60 without cognitive impairment and the rest with dementia. “From a public health perspective, the number of people with cognitive loss due to Alzheimer’s disease and cerebral vascular disease is probably much larger than current estimates,” says Bennett. Researchers hope that these data provide additional impetus for research efforts that develop treatments and, ultimately, prevention for these common diseases of aging.

A Simple Screening for Pregnant Women Could Pay Off for Their Children

Instituting a universal screening may prevent or help decrease the risk of serious health complications from toxoplasmosis, according to a study co-authored by Kenneth Boyer, MD, chairperson of the Department of Pediatrics at Rush. Toxoplasmosis is an infection that can develop when a pregnant woman is exposed to a parasite sometimes found in cat litter, undercooked meat and garden soil. Transmission of the parasite to newborn babies can lead to serious eye disease or brain damage later in childhood. Fortunately, treating infected women can prevent congenital infection, and treatment of an infected infant can improve future outcomes.

Can Community Health Workers Improve Outcomes?

Diabetes is a growing problem, and Hispanics, particularly Mexican Americans, are especially hard hit by this illness. As many as 24 percent of Mexican Americans in the United States between the ages of 45 and 74 have diabetes. Mexican Americans are more likely to die and suffer from diabetes complications, such as kidney failure, heart disease and blindness than non-Hispanic whites. Researchers at Rush are studying ways to help Mexican Americans with diabetes by investigating whether community health workers recruited from the community and trained to provide culturally appropriate diabetes education can promote greater proactive self-management. The study is charting the progress of community health workers from two predominantly Mexican-American neighborhoods on the Southwest Side of Chicago.



Women's Health Initiative

Rush isn't just serving as a leader in women's care today. Rush continues to play a lead role in developing women's health care for the future — and is getting help from thousands of Chicago women to do so. Rush is currently one of 40 U.S. centers involved in the 15-year Women's Health Initiative study, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. The study explores ways to prevent the most common causes of death, disability and frailty in postmenopausal women — heart disease, breast and colorectal cancers and osteoporosis.

Comprising some 3,400 Chicago women — many of them part of the study since it began in 1991 — the Rush arm of the study stands out as one of just seven sites, and the only site in Chicago, focusing on minority women, with nearly 60 percent of enrollees minorities. Minority participation in these prevention studies has given investigators data from women with a variety of lifestyles, allowing them to apply the results to all women.

The initiative has already made important findings about postmenopausal hormone therapy: Not only does it not protect women from developing heart disease, it may increase their risk for stroke. “The staff and women participating in this study are changing the way we provide care by at times

In recognition of our mission and research's value to the health and well-being of the community, during fiscal year 2005 Rush spent \$7.2 million to support unreimbursed expenses to maintain research activities.



overturning what we had thought was wisdom in disease prevention,” says Henry Black, MD, a preventive medicine specialist at Rush. “They're making a difference for their daughters and granddaughters, for future generations of Chicago women.”

Degradation Characteristics of Total Joint Replacement

Physicians and scientists involved in joint replacement research are increasingly recognizing that, over the long-term, total joint replacement may be associated with adverse local and remote tissue responses caused by the degradation over time of the prosthetic materials that are used to make joint implants. Researchers are particularly interested in the metallic degradation products of total joint replacement because of the known toxicities of the metallic elements that make up implant alloys. Researchers at Rush, who have long been leaders in joint replacement techniques, are currently studying the long-term effects of total joint replacements, following patients 10 to 15 years after surgery. The ultimate goal of this research is to learn how to predict, prevent and repair damage caused by this degradation process.

Rush Collaborations Serve the Community

Rush's dedication to improving the community extends beyond its campus and involves everyone from students to physicians to support staff. In fact, many medical students pick Rush University as their medical school because of Rush's strong emphasis on community service.

Their commitment is evident — although they do not receive academic credit for their time and expertise, more than 85 percent of Rush Medical College students volunteer in one or more community service activities.

Perhaps this is because Rush faculty and other employees are such strong role models, with physicians, nurses and other health care providers and support staff eagerly volunteering in the community.

The Community Health Clinic

At this nonprofit volunteer organization located 10 minutes north of the Medical Center, members of the community who cannot afford or are ineligible for medical insurance receive free preventive and primary health care services. One evening each week, students and physicians from Rush provide services ranging from routine physicals and immunizations to a full laboratory and pharmacy. In addition, an otolaryngologist from Rush provides services on a monthly basis. In fiscal year 2005, the medical students at Community Health Clinic evaluated 624 patients.

The Franciscan House of Mary & Joseph homeless shelter

Located on Chicago's near Northwest Side, this shelter provides a meal, a shower and a safe place to sleep for up to 235 men and 35 women each

night, making it one of the larger overnight shelters in Chicago. Staffed weekly by Rush students and physicians, the clinic at Franciscan House of Mary & Joseph is the major source of medical care for many of the shelter's residents. In fiscal year 2005, 1,932 patients were seen at the clinic at Franciscan House of Mary & Joseph.

Kids-Shelter Health Improvement Project

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless estimates that 26,000 children and adolescents are homeless in Illinois over the course of a year. The majority of these children and adolescents have no primary care physician and do not receive routine childhood immunizations. They typically receive medical care on an intermittent basis, and treatment is sought only when medical problems become severe.

A medical outreach team provides initial free health care services to homeless children and adolescents. The team includes an attending pediatrician from Rush, medical students from Rush and pediatric residents from multiple teaching institutions, including Rush Medical College, Stroger Hospital and the University of Chicago. Follow-up care is provided as needed at Rush. The medical outreach team travels to more than a dozen homeless facilities on the West Side to provide on-site medical services to children and adolescents.

MammoVan

Working with the Stroger Hospital "Mammogram Van," the MammoVan program at Rush offers a mobile mammography department that travels within Cook County, providing free mammograms to underserved women. Students from Rush also volunteer to work at local community centers, such as John H. Stroger's Fantus Health Center. Between July 2004 and June 2005, 75 women received services through this program.

Medical Outreach Van

This program offers the opportunity to work with underserved populations directly on the streets of Chicago. The medical outreach van is a mobile



Rush is the primary academic affiliate of the John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County. Stroger Hospital is one of the busiest and most venerable public hospitals in the nation, and provides a valuable training ground for Rush medical students and residents. Each year, more than 400 Rush students and postgraduate resident physicians receive training at Stroger Hospital, in areas ranging from vascular surgery to breast cancer. In addition, the vulnerable patient population at Stroger Hospital benefits from access to Rush specialists.



health care delivery unit that provides free medical care to people who are homeless or low-income. As part of this program, students visit two principal locations: 16th and Cicero and Lower Wacker Drive. At 16th and Cicero, the majority of patients are former or active drug users. The residents of Lower Wacker Drive are homeless. Through the experience of observing and interacting with these populations, students gain a better understanding of some of the social and health care challenges faced by these groups. In fiscal year 2005, 416 people benefited from this program.

Pilsen Homeless Health

Rush medical students, led by an attending physician from Rush, provide free health care for men, women and children in the Pilsen community. Co-founded by one of Rush's primary care physicians, this free clinic opened in 1994 to serve the unmet health care needs of the predominantly Mexican immigrant community. Since then, the clinic has earned the trust of the community and now serves a wider range of people. In fiscal year 2005, 260 people received services at Pilsen Homeless Health Services.

Rush Adolescent Family Center

Established in 1973 through a partnership between the Medical Center and the Chicago Foundling Home Foundation, the Rush Adolescent Family Center was one of the first clinic-based programs in the country to address the growing problem of pregnancies among unwed teens. Since its opening, the center has provided prenatal care to more than 5,000 pregnant patients, contraceptive services to more than 19,000 patients and community-based pregnancy prevention education to more than 60,000 teens. In addition to these services, the center offers walk-in pregnancy testing, gynecological care, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, counseling services and prenatal education. The center's patient population is overwhelmingly low income, with more than 70 percent of patients receiving free care. In fiscal year 2005, the Rush Adolescent Family Center provided family planning services to 804 patients and prenatal care to 196 patients. The center also provided offsite reproductive educational services to more than 5,400 Chicago teenagers.

The Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center

Rush collaborated with the Cook County Bureau of Health Services to create this facility, which is dedicated to providing a comprehensive range

of outpatient care to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. In fiscal year 2005, Rush provided \$200,000 in operational support to the CORE Center, and Rush leaders continue to serve on its board.

School-Based Health Centers

The College of Nursing at Rush operates school-based health centers through the Chicago Public Schools at Richard T. Crane Technical Preparatory Common School and at Rezin Orr Community Academy High School. The Crane and Orr health centers increase adolescents' access to quality health care and provide medical services on school grounds, thereby helping students spend more time in school and less time out sick. The health centers provide comprehensive health care services, including risk assessments, health education, acute and chronic care, family planning, school and sports physicals, laboratory services and immunization services. The centers also provide assistance with benefits enrollment in programs such as Kidcare and the Women, Infants and Children program. During fiscal year 2005, nurses had 1,825 encounters at the Crane center and 1,134 encounters at the Orr center.

Rush provides a full range of medical services to the community, including a 24/7 emergency department open to everyone, regardless of the ability to pay. Typically the emergency department is where many patients receive "charity care" provided in a hospital setting.



Mentors in the Community

Many Rush University medical students and other staff from Rush participate in community service that extends beyond clinical care, focusing on providing guidance and nurturing the community's health and well-being.



BUDDIES Program

The BUDDIES program matches Rush medical student volunteers with chronically ill children. Students do not administer any medical care or advice but rather act as mentors, advocates and, most important, friends. In the last fiscal year, 20 pediatric patients were helped by this program.

Casa Juan Diego Tutoring

Casa Juan Diego is a youth center located in the nearby Pilsen neighborhood. Sponsored by St. Pius Catholic church, the center provides Latino youth from the ages of 5 to 17 years with academic, recreational and religious activities. Rush students volunteer to perform interactive, hands-on science experiments with groups of young children to encourage their interest in science. In addition, medical students assist older students with their homework or English language skills. During fiscal year 2005, 30 students received tutoring or other assistance services.

A Day in the Life of Rush University

Rush Medical College held an event that invited high school students from throughout Chicago to experience an interdisciplinary approach to medicine. This program exposed 52 students to the many facets of being a physician at an academic medical center. Participants “managed” fictitious patients throughout the hospital including the anatomy lab, emergency department, operating room and recovery area.

Health Educators

Medical student volunteers visit elementary and middle schools in nearby Chicago communities to teach kids about sexual and reproductive health, nutrition, hygiene, puberty and substance abuse. Volunteers teach at least one session each academic year. Each one-hour session covers age-appropriate topics for students who range from third to eighth grade. This program reached 425 children over the course of the last fiscal year.

Henry Horner Tutoring Program

The Major Adams Academy serves children who live in the Henry Horner housing development, close to the United Center and Rush. Rush medical students assist first through ninth grade children who attend Major Adams with homework and other academic activities. In fiscal year 2005, 40 students received tutoring through this program.

Marah's Place Volunteers

A shelter affiliated with Deborah's Place (an organization that provides housing for women), Marah's Place is an organization similarly dedicated to moving women out of homelessness and into housing. Students involved in the Marah's Place Health Education Program present health education seminars to women who use the shelter's services, including seminars on diabetes and mental, cardiovascular, breast, pelvic and gastrointestinal health. In fiscal year 2005, 125 women benefited from this initiative.

Maternal Advocates Program

This program pairs medical students with expectant teen mothers involved with the Rush Adolescent Family Center. The volunteer serves as an advocate and source of support to the mother throughout the course of her pregnancy and sometimes following her delivery. Staff from the Adolescent Health and Family Clinic refer expectant teen mothers to the program when they feel that the teen would benefit from a stable source of social support and mentorship. During the last fiscal year, three mothers received the attention and comfort of the Maternal Advocates Program.

Pediatrics AIDS – Big Sib Program

In conjunction with Children’s Memorial Hospital, this program matches medical students as big brothers and sisters with children affected directly or indirectly by HIV. Rather than focusing on learning technical skills, this program concentrates on helping students learn the “people skills” needed to be a good doctor. In fiscal year 2005, 23 pediatric patients participated in the Big Sib Program.

Partnership With Chicago Bulls’ Read to Achieve Program

Rush University Medical Center is a proud partner of the Chicago Bulls and their Read to Achieve program. Initially launched in the fall of 2001,

the National Basketball Association’s Read to Achieve program is a year-round campaign to help young people develop a lifelong love for reading and encourage adults to read regularly to children. To assist them in executing the Read to Achieve program, the Bulls enlist the support of players, coaches, front office management team, broadcasters, local media members, Chicago dignitaries, education professionals and business leaders. Members of the Bulls’ All-Star Reading Team volunteer their time to assist with all aspects of the program. Two physicians from Rush participated in the 2004-05 All-Star Reading Team: Brian Cole, MD, MBA, head team physician for the Bulls, and Larry Goodman, MD, president and chief executive officer.

Science and Math Excellence Network (SAME Network)

Operated through the Department of Community Affairs at Rush, the SAME Network is a large-scale community service enterprise that was developed in response to the science, math and reading test scores in Chicago public schools surrounding Rush’s West and Southwest Side neighborhoods. Formed in 1990, the SAME Network was designed to create interest and improve proficiency in science and math. By building state-of-the-art science laboratories in local schools that lack these facilities, the SAME Network provides these students with the same opportunities to learn math and science as are available to students in more affluent areas. Since its launch in 1990, the SAME Network has grown to a collaboration between Rush and 45 elementary schools, six high schools and many local businesses. In fiscal year 2005, 3,992 children and teens benefited from the SAME Network’s services.



Church-Based Science and Math Clubs

The SAME Network created the Church-Based Science and Math Clubs in 1997 to provide students with a place within the community to receive additional math and reading assistance. In the process of implementing SAME Network programs, Rush staff observed that many parents were more responsive and accountable when the request for their involvement in their child’s education came from a church leader instead of a school representative. The SAME Network used this as an opportunity to further the educational goals of students and facilitate positive interaction between parents and schools. The program relies on collaboration among the West and Southwest Side church community, the Chicago Public Schools and parents. Currently, 14 churches participate in the Church-Based Science and Math Clubs and provide a weeknight resource to children of all ages who are in need of math or science tutoring. Between July 2004 and June 2005, 882 students benefited from this initiative.

Transforming Our Neighborhood and Beyond

As Chicago's West Side continues its energetic rebirth, Rush will continue to play a part in its changing landscape. We are renewing our commitment to the West Side that began in 1837 by investing more than \$800 million over the coming years in our West Side community, and indeed, in the whole city and beyond.



This investment includes a new hospital building, an outpatient center, renovations to some existing hospital and outpatient facilities, improved parking and a new power plant.

Designated a Bioterrorism Preparedness Center of Excellence by the City of Chicago, Rush will expand and completely redesign our emergency department as part of the campus transformation. Thanks to a gift from the McCormick Tribune Foundation, the new facility will include a sophisticated, flexible new emergency department that will include a large triage area designed to expand swiftly into a facility able to handle mass casualties resulting from biological, chemical and other catastrophes.

We will also further our commitment to being a good neighbor and a community resource: With redevelopment plans that call for pedestrian walkways, green spaces and shade trees, Rush will create a welcoming campus within the Illinois Medical District — encouraging patients, employees and students alike to enjoy a health care setting that is comfortable, comforting and even inspiring.

We are proud that our campus transformation plans will continue our tradition of being a good neighbor and community resource. The new Rush University Medical Center campus will continue its historic role as a pillar on Chicago's West Side and allow us to become an even greater resource for our community, city and region.

For more information about Rush programs and services and for an electronic version of this report, visit www.rush.edu.





© Copyright Rush University Medical Center 2006