

# For All Children Everywhere

## COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT



**Children's Mercy**  
KANSAS CITY

**FY 22**



# Mission

Children's Mercy is a leading independent children's health organization dedicated to holistic care, translational research, breakthrough innovation, and educating the next generation of caregivers.

Together, we transform the health, wellbeing and potential of children, with unwavering compassion for those most vulnerable.

# Vision

To create a world of wellbeing for all children

# Values



### Inclusion

Respect for our differences, with celebration of our uniqueness



### Team

Stronger together, with a commitment to one Children's Mercy



### Curiosity

Quest for knowledge, with a passion to find answers



### Kindness

Love and compassion, with empathy



### Integrity

Honesty, with accountability and transparency

## A NOTE FROM CEO Paul Kempinski

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

At Children's Mercy Kansas City, we are proud of our commitment to creating healthy futures for all children. For 125 years, Children's Mercy has provided loving and compassionate care to children across the Kansas City region. Caring for children and families extends beyond the walls of our hospitals and clinics as we strive to develop healthy and safe communities for children to learn and grow.

The FY 2022 Community Benefit Report demonstrates our commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of children in the community. In 2022, our community investments totaled more than \$202 million or \$555,459 per day to support programs and services that address community-identified needs. This investment helps us strive to create healthier and thriving communities for all children.

This report provides a snapshot of our efforts to improve access to care, to support the education of providers, to better address mental and behavioral needs of children and to address social determinants of health. Much of this work would not happen without community partners and we greatly value those partnerships.

So much has been accomplished and we look forward to continuing this work in the year ahead!

Sincerely,

Paul Kempinski, MS, FACHE  
President and CEO





## Community Investment<sup>1</sup>

Fiscal Year 2022<sup>2</sup>

<b>Uncompensated Care</b>	<b>\$109,128,697</b>
Charity Care at Cost .....	\$46,191,491
Unreimbursed Medicaid .....	\$62,937,207
<b>Subsidized Health Services</b>	<b>\$39,847,121</b>
<b>Health Professions Education</b>	<b>\$19,193,413</b>
<b>Research</b>	<b>\$16,571,082</b>
<b>Community Health Programs and Partnerships</b>	<b>\$17,073,840</b>
Community Health Improvement Services .....	\$13,220,688
Partnerships, Services, Support <sup>3</sup> .....	\$1,979,016
Community Benefit Operations .....	\$1,874,136
<b>Community Building Activities<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>\$928,627</b>

## What is Community Benefit?

Children’s Mercy engages in meaningful programs and activities that improve the lives of children beyond the walls of our hospital. These initiatives help support the hospital’s mission to improve the health and wellbeing of children and are part of the annual community benefit we provide. To be considered community benefit, a program or service must meet an identified community need and at least one of four objectives:

- Improve access to health care
- Enhance the health of the community
- Advance medical or health knowledge
- Relieve or reduce a governmental burden or other community efforts

Community benefit activities are classified by the Internal Revenue Service in the categories of uncompensated care, subsidized health services, health professions education, research, community health improvement, community benefit operations and community building.

For more information about our work in the community see: [childrensmercy.org/in-the-community/community-benefit/](https://childrensmercy.org/in-the-community/community-benefit/)

<sup>1</sup>Expenses rounded up

<sup>2</sup>Fiscal Year 2022: July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022.

<sup>3</sup>This category per IRS guidelines is named Cash and In-Kind Donations

<sup>4</sup>Community building activities are reported on an annual basis to the IRS separate from the other Community Benefit categories. For the purpose of this report, we incorporate community building in the total Community Benefit.



## Easing The Financial Burden Of Health Care Costs On Families

Uncompensated Medical Care: \$109,128,697

For 125 years, Children's Mercy has provided care without regard to a patient's or family's ability to pay. In Fiscal Year 2022, the total uncompensated medical care provided by Children's Mercy included:



**105,823**

individuals receiving free or discounted inpatient and outpatient care when the recipient could not afford services or lacked adequate health insurance coverage totaling \$46,191,491.



**\$62,937,207**

in unreimbursed cost, or shortfalls that occur when providers are reimbursed below the cost of providing services for Medicaid. The Medicaid program is extremely important to Children's Mercy as approximately 50% of our patient population is covered by Medicaid.

Children's Mercy provides staff to assist families who cannot afford services or lack health insurance. 4,293 individuals received enrollment assistance in Medicaid in Fiscal Year 2022. For more information about our Financial Assistance Policy, visit [childrensmercy.org/financialcounseling](https://childrensmercy.org/financialcounseling)

**FOR MORE THAN 125 YEARS,  
CHILDREN'S MERCY HAS CONTINUED  
TO TREAT EVERY CHILD WHO PASSES  
THROUGH ITS DOORS.**

## Meeting The Health Needs Of The Region's Children

Subsidized Health Services:  
**\$39,847,121**

Children's Mercy takes a thoughtful, strategic approach in offering a set of clinical services that meet the needs of the region's children. Often, this means the services are provided at a financial loss. Programs and services that were included in this category in 2022 reached over 115,000 children across the region.

### Spotlight: Community

The Developmental and Behavioral Health Division at Children's Mercy cares for children and teens who need extra support with developmental, psychiatric, or psychological concerns. In the Robert and Karissa Alumbaugh Family Developmental and Behavioral Health program, our specialists in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychology and Developmental Pediatrics offers outpatient clinic visits, parent training programs, individual and group telehealth visits, multidisciplinary team care, and consultation services.

Children's Mercy is committed to transforming the mental health care continuum and focused on reducing barriers to service, addressing social determinants, expanding treatment options for acute care and conducting research to find better answers to resolve the child and adolescent mental health crisis facing our communities.

### FY22 Subsidized Clinics, Programs, and Services

- Adolescent Medicine
- Burn Unit
- COVID-19 Pandemic Response Services
- Developmental and Behavioral Health
- Safety Care and Nurturing Clinic (SCAN)
- Genetics Program
- Hematology and Oncology
- Home Care Division
- Neonatology Follow-Up Clinics
- Ophthalmology
- Pain Management
- Palliative Care Outpatient Services
- Primary Care including the Teen Clinic, Operation Breakthrough Clinic, Synergy Services Clinic and University Academy Wellness Center
- Sexual Assault Nursing Education (SANE) Program
- Transport Division
- Weight Management Clinic

# Educating the Next Generation of Health Care Professionals

Health Professions Education: \$19,193,413

Training the next generation of pediatric health professionals increases access to care and enhances children's health outcomes. Supporting continuing education opportunities and training programs is essential to improving care for children across the community. Programs and activities included in health professions education are:

- Trainings and rotations for fellows, residents and medical students
- Pediatric advocacy and global health rotations
- Nursing student clinical rotations
- Allied health students in practicums, internships, and clinical rotations
- Continuing education events and consultation services for practicing health professionals

## Highlights:

- 206 school nurses participated in the Children's Mercy 43rd Annual School Health Conference
- 129 advanced practice nursing students participated in clinical rotations
- 173 allied health students participated in practicums, internships, or rotations
- 60 clinical fellows trained in 27 subspecialties
- 116 residents enrolled in pediatric residency program



## A Research Center for Children

\$16,571,082

Children's Mercy believes breakthroughs happen when the walls between research and medicine are eliminated, allowing researchers and physicians to work side by side. Opened in February 2021, the Children's Mercy Research Institute (CMRI) integrates research and clinical care with multidisciplinary teams at the point of care while bringing together nationally recognized expertise in genomic medicine, precision therapeutics, population health and health care innovation.

As a result, we accelerate the development of groundbreaking individualized therapies and treatments that transform the potential of all children, one child at a time.

- \$16.5 million in research funding that met the criteria for Community Benefit
- 477 active sponsored research projects
- 410,000 square feet dedicated to research

For more information on the Children's Mercy Research Institute, visit [childrensmercy.org/research](https://childrensmercy.org/research).

## Commitment to Community Engaged Research

We are committed to designing and implementing research studies that are responsive to the priorities of the communities we serve. We are committed to partnering with patients, families and community members to ensure transparency in research activities from study inception to dissemination. We do this by supporting engagement of diverse patients, families and communities in the design, implementation and dissemination of research through the CMRI Patient, Family and Community Advisory Board.





**In Fiscal Year 2022, some of this work included:**



**4,058**

car seats, booster seats, or consultations provided by the Center for Childhood Safety



**\$1.9**

million invested in partnerships with community-based nonprofits and health agencies



**4,355**

employee hours invested to local and state boards and advisory committees



**10,395**

families referred to community resources by the Center for Family and Community Connections



**351**

environmental health assessments or consultations provided

**Commitment To Community Health Programs And Partnerships:**

**\$17,037,840**

Children's Mercy establishes programs and initiatives to address the identified health needs of children in the community. In collaboration with other community organizations, we strive to address the root causes of health problems through a variety of health education, outreach and prevention services.

In addition, Children's Mercy partners with several community organizations by investing in their programs and through service on community boards. This involvement allows us to expand our reach in improving child and community health.

Participation in **61** community outreach events reaching over **9,000** individuals



**500+** families benefited from **2,300+** encounters in the TIES and Healthy Families America home visiting program



**2,179** individuals received transportation assistance



**109,886** phone calls to the 24/7 Nurse Advice Line



**2,487** children received free lunches during the summer at multiple Children's Mercy locations



## Spotlight:

### Prepped & Ready

Prepped and Ready: Experts Edition is an easy-to-access online video series available to the public. It's focused on equipping parents to prevent crises as they transition into parenting teenagers. Each video is presented by an expert in their field and is intended to empower parents through education about steps to make homes safer.

Children's Mercy psychiatrist Shayla Sullivant, MD, developed the presentation based on her experience with parents whose children are experiencing behavioral health crises. The series includes overviews on eating disorder prevention; home safety (including storage of firearms, medications, etc.); screen time; self-care; substance use (including vaping); and suicide prevention.

The Prepped and Ready team has partnered with community behavioral health organizations and participated in community events to promote the program.

**“Our program falls in line with the goal of improving public health capacity of residents in Kansas City, Mo. It also supports efforts towards reducing violence in our community. Limiting access to firearms for youth can prevent suicides, homicides and the preventable deaths of young children who find a gun,”** Dr. Sullivant said. **“Many of the health disparities we're looking to address are related to racism that is structural in nature, that impacts how youth receive mental health treatment and diagnosis, for example. Reaching parents before a mental health diagnosis has been documented as critical, given most who die by suicide are not in mental health treatment when they die.”**



For more information on Prepped and Ready: Experts Edition, visit [childrensmercy.org/PreppedAndReady](https://childrensmercy.org/PreppedAndReady)



**Children's Mercy**  
KANSAS CITY

**LIFT UP KC**<sup>SM</sup>

**Connecting your family with trusted community resources**

## Lift Up KC

For more than a year, Children's Mercy team members have been using a new tool, Lift Up KC, to address social determinants of health (SDOH) in a streamlined way. Lift Up KC – our branded version of the FindHelp social care referral platform – helps connect patients and families with more than 3,000 community-based organizations (CBOs) that can provide food, housing assistance and more. Community-based organizations can accept referrals directly through the site and notify the referrer (Children's Mercy) that assistance was delivered.

“Children's Mercy has been connecting families with resources for a long time,” said Michelle Manaskie, Assistant Director of Operations and Population Health Management, Integrated Care Solutions (ICS). “But Lift Up KC allows us to be more efficient, and we get that feedback loop. Our care teams can now know if families got the help they needed.”

“The income level of a family isn't always the only indicator of how well the family is doing financially,” said Jeffrey Colvin, MD, JD, who works closely with the Lift Up KC team on SDOH concerns. “A family may be high income, but affected by credit card debt, payday loans, drug and alcohol use, mental illness or medical debt. Those experiences can undermine a family's stability and lead them to food insecurity or delinquency on rent or utilities payment. And we, as clinical staff, need to consider, ‘How can we lift this family back up?’”

“What really has caused our referrals to take off is our five community partnerships,” said Nikita Sharma, Program Manager of Operations and Population Health Management. These partner CBOs agree to accept referrals directly on the Lift Up KC platform and let the referrer know if assistance was given. Current partners include the Bishop Sullivan Center, El Centro, Mero Lutheran Ministry, Community Services League and the Community Assistance Council. Together, these CBOs have helped Children's Mercy families with food insecurity, rent, utilities, employment and more social services.

“These CBOs can help families become stable once again,” said Dr. Colvin. “Families may have multiple needs and may need a ‘full-service’ approach. These organizations may follow up with the families they serve for years, or they can serve a one-time need. It all depends on the needs and capabilities of the family.”

For more information on Lift Up KC, visit [liftupkc.org/](https://liftupkc.org/)



## Addressing the Root Causes of Health Problems:

\$928,627

Children's Mercy participates in a variety of community-building activities addressing the root causes of health problems such as poverty, homelessness, environmental hazards and underemployment. These activities include programs and/or resources intended to make physical improvements to the environment, provide community support, advocate for community health improvements and address community-wide workforce issues through numerous workforce development outreach initiatives.

In Fiscal Year 2022:

- 800+ individuals participated in mock interviews or explored future opportunities in health care
- 1,100+ staff hours advocating for community health improvement and safety
- \$81,000 invested in the maintenance and improvement of the Children's Mercy Community Garden

## Spotlight: Summer Training in Academic Research (STAR 2.0) Program



The STAR 2.0 Program provides a hands-on, high-quality research experience during the summer academic break for high school students and educators. In Fiscal Year 2022, 10 students and two middle school teachers participated in this program and got the chance to:

- Work with a Children's Mercy faculty member on an original research project
- Develop a research publication for submission to a peer-reviewed journal
- Learn about clinical and translational research methodology, writing, statistics, medical ethics and career development
- Network and learn with other students and educators



## 340B Drug Discount Program Summary

Utilization of savings from the 340B Drug Pricing Program administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) offsets health care costs for vulnerable populations. During this year we saved an estimated \$90,546,753 by participating in the 340B program.





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For more information about our work in the community visit:  
[childrensmercy.org/imagine](https://childrensmercy.org/imagine)

