Dayton Children’s mission is the **relentless pursuit of optimal health for all children within our reach**. Optimal health for all children in our region requires the transformation of health care delivery beyond the traditional walls of the hospital.

This transformation also requires investment in programs and services that meet children in our region where they live, learn and play. It requires strong relationships with others who serve children and families to build a community where health can happen including neighborhoods, schools and parks. We quantify this work as our hospital’s “community benefit.”

Every three years, Dayton Children’s conducts a community health needs assessment (CHNA) to identify the critical health challenges children in our region face. Including a combination of community-based data collection and a secondary data scan, hundreds of parents and community partners are engaged in this process. Once health priorities are identified, an implementation plan is created to serve as a roadmap for community benefit and engagement investments so we can use our resources in a strategic and thoughtful way. In 2017, this process helped us identify three priority health issues for children: mental health and addiction, chronic disease (including obesity, food insecurity and asthma), and maternal and infant health. Many of the initiatives and partnership highlighted in this report specifically address these critical children’s health issues.

We are thankful to work with so many community partners who share our unwavering commitment to children, their families and our region’s future.

Deborah A. Feldman  
President and CEO
It’s one thing to identify community needs but addressing them comprehensively and strategically requires additional investment.

In 2017, Dayton Children’s created the Center for Community Health and Advocacy to realign clinical programs, providing a greater focus on primary and preventative care and with community engagement programs aimed at improving the health of children beyond the hospital walls. The Center for Community Health and Advocacy puts our children’s health agenda in focus, emphasizing our commitment to improving the health status of all children and underscoring our commitment to the most vulnerable populations and health disparities.

“We now know that at the majority of what contributes to a child’s wellness is related to the family with whom they live and the environment in which they are raised,” says Jonathan Thackeray, MD, chief medical community health officer at Dayton Children’s. “Consider a child with asthma who may receive medication and education from a pediatrician however lives in a home with mold, pests and secondhand smoke which cause his or her asthma to be uncontrolled. Social determinants of health such as poverty, lack of quality affordable housing, exposure to violence and neglect, and food insecurity detract from a child’s health and wellbeing. Clinical-community linkages are essential to address the whole child’s health.”

In spring 2019, the Center for Community Health and Advocacy found a new home in the Child Health Pavilion on the corner of Valley Street and Stanley Avenue. The co-location and integration of clinical and community services provides an innovative experience for patient families and community members.

Many of the programs highlighted in this report are led by the Center for Community Health and Advocacy and located at the Child Health Pavilion.
health issue: mental health

did you know...

1 in 5 families need help for mental or behavioral problem with a child

7.4 percent of high school students attempted suicide

Since 1975, 85,000 kids have died by suicide ages 10-19

13.6 percent of high school students made a suicide plan in the previous 12 months

In perspective of our four county region, that’s 4,440 teens who tried to kill themselves

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth (10 to 34 years of age)

...or that from July 2017 to June 2018, Dayton Children’s Hospital had:

10,044 referrals to social work
4,743 referrals to mental health resource connection
4,697 psychiatry visits
11,393 psychology visits
In an effort to better respond to the reality that one of every five children has a behavioral health disorder, Dayton Children's established the Center for Pediatric Mental Health Resources in 2014. The center continues to evolve its services to best meet the needs of a growing number of children needing mental health services.

In FY2017-2018, Dayton Children's begin renovating an area adjacent to the emergency department to house a behavioral crisis center which opened in July 2018. In the crisis center, trained behavioral health clinicians provide an assessment and connect children to the appropriate services. This allows the experts at mental and behavioral health to get a child help quicker, while allowing the experts in the emergency department to focus on the medical needs of children.

The hospital also planned for a new 24-bed inpatient mental health unit to provide needed stabilization care to children and then connect them to the appropriate follow-up care. The new inpatient unit opened in July 2019 specifically focusing on children 11-17 years old in need of a short inpatient stay to stabilize a mental or behavioral health crisis. In this innovative unit, families actively participate in therapy with their children. The 24-bed unit opened with 12 beds available, with the remainder opening as staffing and the need increase.

Dayton Children’s also partners with 22 agencies in the Mental Health Advisory Alliance to improve communication and coordination of services. With support from Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services as well as Developmental Disabilities Services, the hospital has enhanced programs to better serve children and families.
Critical to addressing childhood obesity is a family's access to healthy food and the ability to properly prepare that food. Over the past several years, Dayton Children's has been screening families for food insecurity and referring families to community food resources including food pantries, SNAP and WIC. Through a partnership with The Foodbank, Dayton Children's was able to offer specially-made, child-friendly food boxes to families identifying a food need. When the Child Health Pavilion opened, families were able to pick up the box of food right after their clinic visit in the “Food Pharm” removing a common barrier to food access, transportation. The Child Health Pavilion is also home to a community teaching kitchen where families can learn and practice preparing nutritious and tasty recipes. Monthly classes are held for all community members.

Dayton Children's convenes the Healthy Way Collaborative which serves as a forum to address health and safety issues in the Greater Old North Dayton neighborhood. This collaborative helps the neighborhood develop grassroots solutions to various issues impacting health, ranging from food access to promotion of active transportation. One of these solutions was funding a bike lock loaner program for the local library. Johnathon Kline, the manager at the E.C. Doren Branch said, “We haven’t had one bike stolen since the collaboration started and Dayton Children’s helped provide the resources to start a bike lock loaner program at our branch.”

One way the collaborative addresses childhood obesity is through the Healthy Way Program, which provides nutrition education, healthy meals and healthy lifestyle lessons for children and their families. This program is a collaboration between The Ohio State Extension Service, the Salvation Army Kroc Center, Kiser Neighborhood Schools Center and neighborhood leaders.
Dayton Asthma Alliance

Over the past several years there has been a greater emphasis on how one’s environment impacts his or her health. For certain chronic conditions, such as asthma, the environment in which a child lives, learns and plays needs to be free from asthma triggers for that child to achieve optimal health.

Creating a healthy environment requires collaboration among a broad variety of organizations outside of health care, such as education, business and community development. Comprehensive programs involving partnerships between health care and community groups have become more common nationwide to assist children and caregivers in managing chronic conditions successfully. The Dayton Asthma Alliance is one such initiative that was formed to positively impact the health and wellness of children with asthma in the Dayton area, by focusing on the most at-risk populations.

Ultimately, the alliance aims to reduce hospital admission rates and emergency department visits triggered by uncontrolled asthma and to reduce school absences related to asthma.

To meet these goals the alliance is implementing multiple projects focusing on improved education of children and families around asthma triggers and management, enhanced education of school personnel around asthma triggers and management, greater community resources provided to children and families to help manage asthma, improved primary health care of children and decreased environmental triggers.

The Alliance continues the American Lung Association’s Open Airways self-management program. In this program, children in Dayton Public Schools with asthma receive training during the school day. Those children and their caregivers then come to a clinical education session at the school where they receive education from the Dayton Children’s asthma educator. Finally, the families are offered home visits by a community health worker employed by Dayton Children’s. This community health worker works directly with families impacted by asthma to identify the non-medical barriers to optimal health including housing, food insecurity and educational support.

The community health worker often conducts home visits to identify asthma triggers and offers remediation and other social support.

Navigating a Challenging System

Recognizing that a significant portion of a child’s health is determined by non-clinical factors, Dayton Children’s began employing community health workers to support some of our most vulnerable populations. Through a grant from the Montgomery County of Job and Family Services, Dayton Children’s employs two kinship navigators who help families who are caring for a young relative to navigate safety net systems, connect to resources and complete benefit forms for county, state, and local agencies. Any kinship caregiver in our community can access the kinship navigators however the navigators work closely with our new foster/kinship clinic as well.

In addition to the kinship navigators, Dayton Children’s hired a community health worker assigned to the Dayton Asthma Alliance and the pulmonary clinic.
infant mortality

Dayton Children’s is invested in education for parents about safe sleep practices for infants. The hospital continues to educate families with children younger than 12 months of age by modeling safe sleep practices within the hospital and by having one-on-one conversations on safe sleep to screen for babies who may not be sleeping in a safe environment in the home.

Dayton Children’s participates in a variety of coalitions and community groups to address infant mortality in our community including the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership, Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality, Montgomery County Everyone Reach One Committee and the Ohio chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dayton Children’s is a designated Cribs for Kids® site. Through this Ohio Department of Health supported program, parents and caregivers need a safe place for their baby to sleep. At the end of the class, parents and caregivers are provided with a Graco Pack ‘n Play portable crib.

As part of the hospital’s Infant Mortality Awareness and Prevention Committee, Janet Wasylyshen-Velasco, MD, MPH, IBCLC, hospital medicine specialist, worked to increase resident’s knowledge, confidence and attitudes of breastfeeding in order to further breastfeeding adoption within the community.

“We want to make sure medical residents are talking with parents about the importance of breastfeeding,” says Dr. Velasco. “The goal of the project is to improve resident’s knowledge by providing lectures about breastfeeding throughout their curriculum and surveying the longitudinally. The results are showing improved knowledge and confidence.”

improving safe behaviors through injury prevention

top injury trends

Dayton Children’s continues our work to prevent childhood injuries as unintentional injury is a leading cause of death and disability for children across the county and regionally. Dayton Children’s works with partners such as the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership, Ohio Occupant Protection Regional Coordinator Program and the Montgomery County Child Fatality Review Board to address some of the key unintentional injuries to children in our community, such as motor vehicle accidents, pedestrian accidents and unsafe sleep practices.

Dayton Children’s is the lead agency of the Safe Kids Greater Dayton coalition which addresses key pediatric safety issues with community programming including child passenger safety, pedestrian safety, home/fire safety, medication poisoning prevention, water safety and bicycle helmet education. In October, Safe Kids Greater Dayton partnered with area Safe Routes to Schools programs to host International Walk to School Day to teach children about walking to school safely. Later in October, Safe Kids worked to promote “be safe, be seen on Halloween” at schools throughout the Dayton region.

Bike to School Day was held at Fairview Neighborhood Schools Center in Dayton, Ohio. Since the school is located near two busy streets, the students learned how to safely cross the intersections nearest their school. Safe Kids Greater Dayton also supported a Bike to School Day event in Sugar Creek Township at Bell Creek Intermediate School.

Dayton Children’s Hospital has other outreach programs to prevent injury by educating professionals to understand the unique physiology of children. These programs include EMS outreach and education, the nursing liaison program and sports medicine. Dayton Children’s EMS outreach coordinators trained the staff at fire departments on specific pediatric trauma cases as well as children with specific health care needs ranging from seizures to respiratory conditions, to hidden hazards, such as poison.
family resource connection

The Family Resource Connection uses a patient’s visit to the doctor as an opportunity to address the non-medical issues that have an impact on health. This program screens patient families for social needs. Identified families are then referred to an advocate for connection to resources and follow-up. The greatest needs identified in the Family Resource Connection are commodities including diapers, cribs and beds, school supplies and clothing.

In addition to providing positive outcomes for families, the Family Resource Connection helps to train the next generation of the health care workforce. Student advocates from multiple colleges and universities in a variety of programs and majors engage with the program and learn critical skills which will help them in their future careers. The students have ranged from certificate programs, associate, bachelor and master's degrees within a variety of programs and majors, including pre-medical, social work, health care administration, public health, social services and health care navigators.

“Young advocates are able to grow in their professional and interpersonal skills. Advocates not only learn to adapt to styles of leadership portrayed in a professional environment, but also learn to effectively interview patient families from a variety of backgrounds and build rapport with them. I’m really grateful for this opportunity!”

- Christine Marlow, family resource connection advocate and pre-medicine major at Case Western Reserve University

encouraging teens to choose health careers

Health Professionals Affinity Community

Originally developed by the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), the Health Professions Affinity Community (HPAC) continued to engage high school and college students to look at health disparities within their community and design grassroots projects centered on impacting those issues. Locally sponsored by Dayton Children’s, the Boonshoft School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics, and Rocking Horse Federally Qualified Health Center in Springfield, HPAC is a grant-funded AmeriCorps program. Student groups participating in this program have completed projects addressing key issues including teen homelessness, mental health, diabetes, nutrition, immigrant inclusion and more. The goal of HPAC is to not only give these students an opportunity to make a change in their community, but to encourage them to think about choosing a career in health care, which in turn creates a more diverse workforce.
Dayton Children’s partnered with The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, The Dayton Ballet and The Victoria Theatre Association to provide the support needed to bring sensory-friendly programming to life. Sensory-friendly days provide a reduction of loud or jarring sounds, the absence of flashing or strobe lighting or loud equipment, and a judgment-free environment where all patrons are free to vocalize or move around. On these days no one will be asked to leave due to sound, movement or behaviors related to cognitive/developmental abilities.

The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery with the support and expertise of Dayton Children’s staff hosted several Sensory Sunday events, opening the museum to families outside their normal business hours with lower lighting, lower volume and plenty of volunteers to support families. Both the Dayton Ballet and The Victoria Theatre Association offered sensory-friendly performances of The Nutcracker, Go Dog, Go and Journey to Oz. Before children attended the museum and the theater, Dayton Children’s staff ensured all potential overstimulating elements were addressed.

Leah Thomas, director of education and engagement at the Victoria Theatre Association said “Providing sensory-friendly opportunities allows families to feel comfortable attending performances without fear of judgement. Expert support including usher training and volunteers help us make the arts accessible for more families.”

As one of the largest employers in the City of Dayton, Dayton Children’s understands the importance of being an anchor institution within Greater Old North Dayton, the neighborhood we have called home for more than 50 years. Dayton Children’s leads the DaVinci project, a comprehensive strategy for neighborhood revitalization supported in the Old North Dayton and McCook Field neighborhoods and the business community around it – including Dayton Children’s.

Our partners include the City of Dayton, Greater Old North Dayton Business Association, the Salvation Army KROC Center, the University of Dayton Fitz Center of Leadership in Community, St. Mary’s Community Development Corp. and CityWide Development. The DaVinci project is working on efforts to demolish nuisance buildings, realign streets, revitalize bus stops, improve wayfinding and beautify the neighborhood so it continues to be attractive to families and businesses.

Dayton and McCook Field neighborhoods School Centers bring partners together to offer a range of opportunities to children, families and communities.

To aid in this partnership, Dayton Children’s employs a site coordinator to remove the non-academic barriers to success that the students may have. Dayton Children’s offered various services to children at Kiser including child passenger safety classes, booster seats and reading to children for Read Across America Day.

“I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to partner with Dayton Children’s Hospital. The partnership is essential in helping our students achieve at their maximum potential. While community involvement is vital to public education, this collaboration opens up a multitude of possibilities and access for our students and families,” says Alex Robertson, principal, Kiser Neighborhood Schools Center.
community benefit financial summary

investing in kids...investing in our community
In fiscal year 2017-18, Dayton Children's reported $85,393,998 in community benefit activities and $271,813 in community building activities. These programs illustrate our investment in children and families in our region.

financial assistance
We report the unreimbursed costs from providing care to patients enrolled in Medicaid and other government programs reflecting payment shortfalls versus our actual costs to provide the care.

community health improvement
Dayton Children’s commitment to making the lives of children better is a key part of our mission. Community health improvement programs allow us to prevent injuries, improve health literacy and engage the community in wellness.

health professionals education
Educating the next generation of health professionals is a job Dayton Children’s takes seriously. We report support for graduate medical education for residents, nursing students and other health professionals who train at Dayton Children’s.

cash and in-kind
Dayton Children’s contributes cash and in-kind gifts to not-for-profit organizations that share our mission and improve the quality of life for children and families in our community.

subsidized health services
Dayton Children’s supports several clinical programs despite financial loss because they meet an identified community need.

community building activities
Reported separately from community benefit, community-building activities include environmental improvements, workforce development and community health improvement advocacy efforts.

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**total community benefit**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>community building activities</td>
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*Financial data is for year 2017-2018. Note: This report includes amounts expended by Dayton Children’s Hospital as reported on Schedule H of the IRS Form 990.*