



2016 COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT

Strengthening Families and Communities
to Foster Children's Optimal Healthy Development



**Connecticut
Children's**
MEDICAL CENTER



A MESSAGE FROM

JAMES E. SHMERLING, DHA, FACHE

Chief Executive Officer

Connecticut Children's Medical Center

At Connecticut Children's Medical Center, we are widely known for providing state-of-the-art medical and surgical care for our young patients. In addition, we are committed to researching and discovering the next great advances in medical care. But what truly sets us apart is our pioneering approach to strengthening children, families and communities. We do this to promote the optimal healthy development of children with the hope that they never need the medical or surgical care we provide.

To that end, we created Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health (the Office) in 2012, which has since grown to be a role model for other children's hospitals. Led by Paul Dworkin, MD, a nationally renowned developmental pediatrician, the Office oversees a variety of programs that push traditional boundaries by bringing together all of the sectors that impact child health. Office programs improve outcomes not only for children with identified delays and disorders, but also for those who are at-risk of developing such concerns due to poverty and other social factors.

Our 2016 Community Benefit Report details our strong commitment to our community through uncompensated medical care, research and education. It also highlights the unique work the Office is embracing to catapult children's optimal healthy development to a level unmatched by that of any other children's hospital.

Sincerely,



James E. Shmerling, DHA, FACHE

Chief Executive Officer

Connecticut Children's Medical Center

How Do We Define Our Community Benefit?

At Connecticut Children's Medical Center, we report our community benefit in terms of traditional expectations in accordance with federal requirements such as uncompensated care, research and education. However, as part of our commitment to improving our community, we go a step beyond those federal guidelines to also include our community building activities that address the social determinants of health, which are conditions in which people live and work. Such activities include improving housing conditions, enhancing injury prevention, and advancing early detection and intervention for children who either have, or are at risk of developing, delays and disorders. We feel embracing a broader definition of community benefit, beyond simply what is required, is crucial to promoting children's optimal development.

Our Total Community Benefit:

\$85.7 million *in FY2016*



Our Total Community Benefit by Category:

\$64.6 million

Services for Uninsured or Underinsured Patients

We are committed to providing care for children on Medicaid, even though reimbursements for such care fall short of the cost.

We offer discounted or free services to uninsured patients who are unable to afford the cost of medical care. We also incur expenses contracting with outside clinicians to provide services, such as mental health care, that fall outside what our clinicians offer.

\$12.1 million

Education for Health Professionals

A core part of Connecticut Children's mission is to educate future healthcare professionals including physicians, nurses, and additional clinical specialists.

\$5.9 million

Research Operating Expenses

We embrace the opportunity to discover the latest advances in medical and surgical care. The operating expenses we incur related to maintaining our research infrastructure are part of our community benefit.

\$3.1 million

Community Building and Health Improvement Efforts

Connecticut Children's has a number of programs and services that address the social determinants of health. They include, but are not limited to, the work of Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health to promote optimal healthy development; and the work of Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance to enhance supports for local neighborhoods.

Our Community Benefit: *Services for Uninsured or Underinsured Patients*

At Connecticut Children's, about 55 percent of our patients are on HUSKY, which is the state's Medicaid program for low-income residents. HUSKY provides crucial access to medical care for underserved families, however it does not fully cover the cost of providing medical services to children. In addition to serving families who are underinsured, we also provide a significant amount of services to those who have no health insurance and cannot afford to pay the cost of medical care. In some cases, we must contract with outside clinicians to cover the cost of care we do not provide ourselves, such as mental health care needed by patients who rely on our emergency department for mental health crisis care.

Total Unreimbursed Expenses for Patient Care:
\$64.6 million



Total Unreimbursed Expenses for Patient Care by Category:

\$62.3 million

Underinsured Patients

Medicaid Shortfall

\$0.8 million

Uninsured Patients

Charity Care

\$1.5 million

Subsidized Health Services

Contracted Clinical Care

Our Community Benefit: *Education for Health Professionals*

Medical Education Programs:

Connecticut Children's Medical Center serves as the primary pediatric teaching hospital for the UConn School of Medicine and also has a teaching partnership with the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. We offer undergraduate medical education; graduate medical residency and fellowship programs; and post-graduate continuing medical education programs, which include a lecture series and weekly Grand Rounds sessions for community child health providers.

Spotlight on our Pediatric Residency Program

We educate 63 pediatric residents every year, which include 20 in each academic class and three chief residents. All of our residents are required to complete a community service activity and also have the option to focus their individual curriculum on community advocacy. These experiences are designed to make all residents effective child and family advocates who contribute to community child health at the population level throughout their careers.

Other Clinical Education Programs:

Connecticut Children's commitment to education goes beyond our medical and surgical disciplines. We also offer education programs for nursing, social work, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and respiratory therapy among other clinical areas of focus.

Total Education Expenses for Health Professionals:

\$12.1 million



Total Expenses for Education by Category:

\$11.47 million

Medical Education Programs

\$0.63 million

Other Clinical Education Programs



The Hayley Petit Injury and Violence Prevention Fellowship

Connecticut Children's Medical Center is also committed to providing additional opportunities to educate future standouts in the medical field. One example is The Hayley Petit Injury and Violence Prevention Fellowship, which is hosted each summer by Connecticut Children's Injury Prevention Center. In the summer of 2016, six college students spent six weeks studying injury and violence prevention with the Center's nationally recognized experts. In addition, they shadowed staff members in various clinical settings at Connecticut Children's.

Our Community Benefit: Research Operating Expenses

Discovery is a core value at Connecticut Children's. We look for new ways of doing things and invest heavily in research to develop the latest advances in medical and surgical care. We are proud to be a research partner of The Jackson Laboratory, a genomics research center on the campus of the UConn Health Center. Our physicians regularly present findings from their research studies at regional, national and international venues; publish their work in peer-reviewed journals; and author books and chapters of books. The expenses detailed in this category reflect the institution's operating costs for maintaining our research infrastructure. The total value of our research is higher but is not detailed in this report due to federal limitations on including the value of grant-funded initiatives. Select examples of our 2016 research projects are detailed below.

Ovarian Cryopreservation

Research at Connecticut Children's and elsewhere around the country is preserving fertility for girls who must undergo chemotherapy that will damage their ovaries. Under the leadership of surgeons Christine Finck, MD and Christine Rader, MD, and hematologist/oncologist Eileen Gillan, MD, Connecticut Children's is partnering with Northwestern University on a national study of ovarian cryopreservation in which the patient's ovary is harvested prior to chemotherapy, frozen and stored for later use. Earlier research has established that the preserved ovary can be re-implanted into the body years later and produce viable oocytes or the oocytes themselves can be harvested and implanted.

Study Documents Spike in Trampoline Injuries

Research at Connecticut Children's documenting a sharp increase in injuries at trampoline parks across the country made national headlines. Connecticut Children's emergency physicians Steven Rogers, MD and Jesse Sturm, MD, and pediatric emergency medicine fellow Kathryn Kasmire, MD co-authored a study published in the journal Pediatrics in 2016 that found injuries at trampoline parks grew from just under 600 in 2010 to almost 7,000 in 2014, which was the latest year represented in the study. The number of trampoline parks in the United States also increased during that timeframe from around 40 in 2011 to 280 in 2014.

Total Operating Expenses for Research:

\$5.9 million

Our Community Benefit: *Community Building and Health Improvement Efforts*

Connecticut Children's places a strong focus on building the capacity of our community to enhance the health outcomes of Hartford's children and their families. Our community building and health improvement efforts include the work of Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health (the Office) and the work of Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA). Specifically, our community benefit in this area includes the infrastructure support Connecticut Children's provides to the Office and its programs; the annual dues Connecticut Children's contributes to SINA; our legislative advocacy efforts; the financial counselors we employ to enroll families in HUSKY; the time employees spend serving on Boards of Directors for outside organizations; and the time employees put towards our annual Day of Caring and United Way campaigns.

Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health

Connecticut Children's is a national leader in promoting the optimal healthy development of children. Connecticut Children's commitment to the community is exemplified by the support it provides to the Office and its community-oriented programs. Formed in 2012, the Office is now nationally recognized as a pioneer in building stronger child-serving systems and strengthening families. Led by the vision of Paul Dworkin, MD, who previously served as Connecticut Children's physician-in-chief for 15 years, the Office helps to shape federal, state and local policy regarding early childhood initiatives and cultivates innovations to positively impact children and youth who are at risk for poor health and life outcomes. The Office's programs are now being implemented in more than 30 states.

Total Expenses for Community Building and Health Improvement Efforts:

\$3.1 million

Office for Community Child Health 2016 Impact at a Glance:

More than **42,500** children and **5,500** pediatric primary care providers reached by **Help Me Grow** systems nationwide

Launched **Advancing Kids Innovation Program** to support innovators addressing critical community child health needs

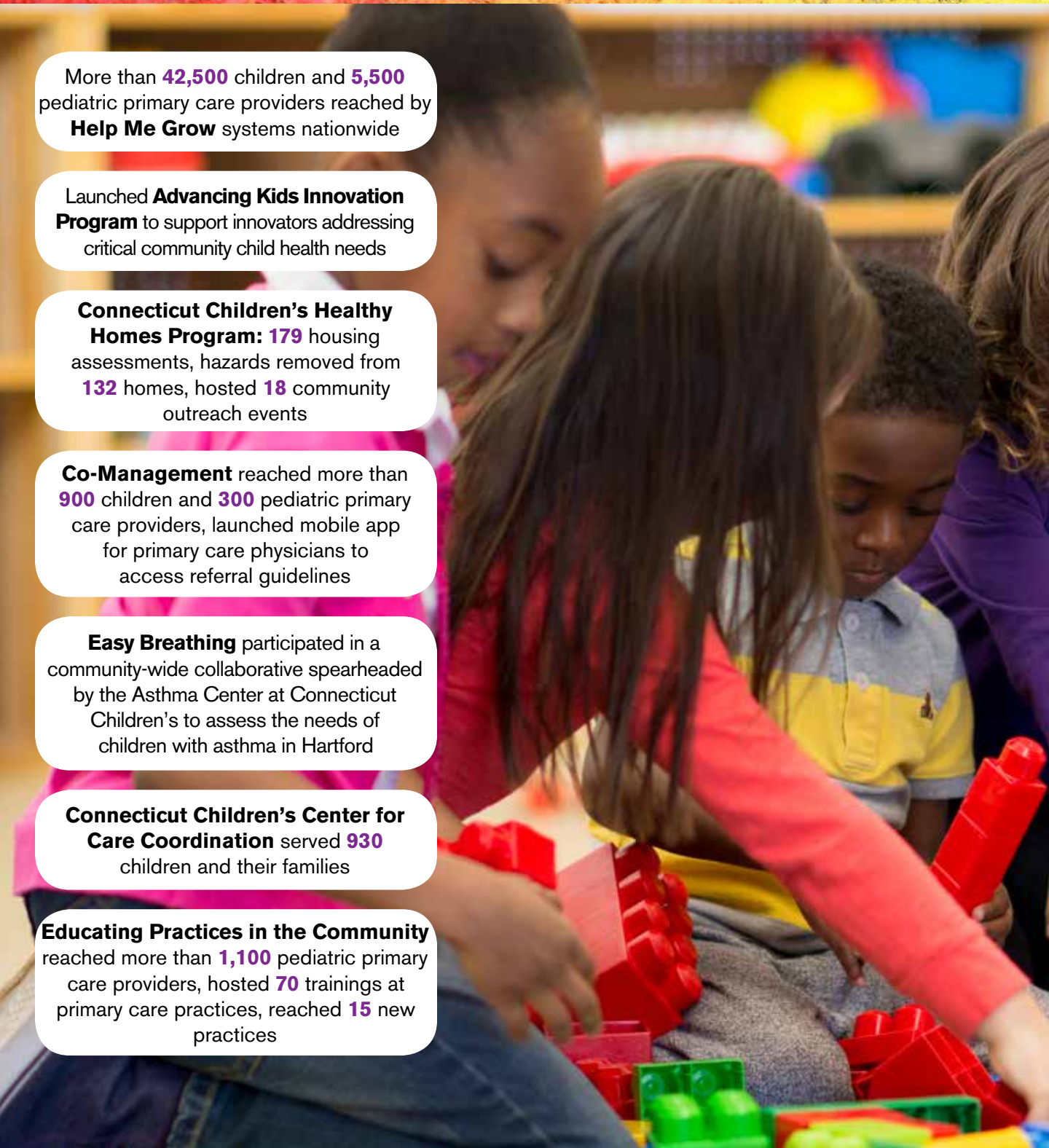
Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes Program: **179** housing assessments, hazards removed from **132** homes, hosted **18** community outreach events

Co-Management reached more than **900** children and **300** pediatric primary care providers, launched mobile app for primary care physicians to access referral guidelines


Easy Breathing participated in a community-wide collaborative spearheaded by the Asthma Center at Connecticut Children's to assess the needs of children with asthma in Hartford

Connecticut Children's Center for Care Coordination served **930** children and their families

Educating Practices in the Community reached more than **1,100** pediatric primary care providers, hosted **70** trainings at primary care practices, reached **15** new practices



For more information on Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health, see insert.

A photograph of three children sitting on the floor, focused on playing with a large pile of colorful plastic blocks. A girl with long blonde hair is in the foreground, holding a red block. A boy in a blue shirt is in the middle, holding a yellow block. A girl with dark hair and a purple headband is on the left, looking down at the blocks. The background is a bright, colorful wall.

The **Hartford Youth HIV Identification and Linkage Consortium** reached more than **6,500** children and **200** pediatric primary care providers

Launched **The Children's Center on Family Violence** to raise awareness about the impact of domestic violence on children and to address the needs of children and families experiencing violence in their homes

Connecticut Children's Injury Prevention Center initiatives reached **3,800** children and **60** pediatric primary care providers

Mid-Level Developmental Assessment expanded beyond Hartford to three additional replication sites around the state

The **Practice Quality Improvement** program engaged **77** community-based and hospital-based physicians, developed nine additional projects

Our Community Benefit: *Community Building and Health Improvement Efforts*

Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance

Connecticut Children's partners with Hartford Hospital and Trinity College to support Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA), an organization that transforms the neighborhoods where our closely-located institutions are situated. In 2016, SINA completed construction on four homes, bringing the total number of blighted properties it has renovated to more than 60. In all, those efforts have added more than \$200,000 a year in property tax revenue for Hartford. The organization received grant funding from the Connecticut Department of Housing to build 10 new homes on blighted properties over the next three years. It also maintained and operated 83 rental units for low-income residents and awarded \$14,000 in scholarships to local students who displayed a commitment to their community.

In previous years, SINA developed the Learning Corridor at a cost of \$110 million. The Learning Corridor houses several magnet schools, academies and community-based organizations in Hartford. SINA also launched a homeownership incentive program for employees of the three partner institutions who buy and reside in area homes.

Redeveloped Property

These images show a property on Wolcott Street in Hartford that was redeveloped by SINA. Not only was it blighted, but it is also on the National Register of Historic Properties so all renovations were done to preserve the home's historic character.



Map of Properties Redeveloped by SINA





Connect with Connecticut Children's Medical Center

Website: www.connecticutchildrens.org

Twitter: [@ctchildrens](https://twitter.com/ctchildrens)

Blog: www.connecticutchildrens.org/blog

Connect with Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health

Website: www.connecticutchildrens.org/community-child-health

Twitter: [@advancingkids](https://twitter.com/advancingkids)

Blog: www.advancingkids.org



ABOUT CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

Connecticut Children's Medical Center is the only hospital in Connecticut dedicated exclusively to the care of children and is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the best children's hospitals in the nation. With a medical staff of more than 1,000, Connecticut Children's provides comprehensive, world-class health care in more than 30 pediatric specialties and subspecialties. Connecticut Children's Medical Center is a not-for-profit organization, which serves as the primary pediatric teaching hospital for the UConn School of Medicine, has a teaching partnership with the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University and is a research partner of The Jackson Laboratory. Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health is a national leader in community-based prevention and wellness programs.

Connecticut Children's Medical Center complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.
ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística.
Lláme al 1.800.234.0780 (TTY: 1.800.545.8330).

UWAGA: Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej.
Zadzwoń pod numer 1.800.234.0780 (TTY: 1.800.545.8330).