

The pandemic created a challenging situation with potentially negative consequences to the health and well-being of our community. **University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center** rose to the occasion to meet their needs in safe and effective ways. The Community Health budget repurposed \$50,000 and the UM St. Joseph Foundation contributed \$25,000 to support COVID-19 relief activities including a massive food security project, virtual classes, phone contact for educational support and increased blood drives. UM St. Joseph was in a unique position thanks to its strong partnerships and expertise in infection prevention which enabled staff to quickly implement programs with the safety protocols required during COVID-19.



Activities

Focus on Food Security

UM St. Joseph played a major role in weekend food distribution in conjunction with the Baltimore Hunger Project, Student Support Network, Firehouse Subs, Hungry Harvest and the Y of Central Maryland from March 20 through June 19. Staff members from Towson Sports Medicine, UM St. Joseph's Population Health department and across the medical center contributed 300 hours organizing and distributing 11,410 sub sandwiches, 1,350 produce boxes totaling 13.5 tons, non-perishables, grocery gift cards, pediatric masks and hand sanitizer. University of Maryland Medical System, UM St. Joseph and the UM St. Joseph Foundation donated \$103,758 for the project. Distribution took place at six Baltimore County schools.



Virtual Outreach - Together and Apart with Community Health

Unable to gather in person, UM St. Joseph instructors held weekly chair yoga classes, a monthly stroke support group and the National Diabetes Prevention Program via Zoom. Family Education utilized virtual tours and personal phone consultations for education. UMMS created an ongoing webinar called "Community Conversations" to address important health topics affecting our community. The St. Clare Medical Outreach Program implemented telemedicine to continue their mission of providing free primary care to those with no access to health care.



Increased Blood Drives to Save Lives

Across the US, nearly 2,700 Red Cross blood drives were cancelled due to the pandemic. To address a severe blood shortage, Community Health held 13 blood drives in partnership with The Orokawa Y in Towson and University of Maryland Urgent Care, collecting 404 units of blood, which could potentially save up to 1,212 lives.



Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)

In 2019, UM SJMC conducted a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to learn more about the health needs of individuals living in Baltimore County. The purpose was to gather information from many different sources to create a complete picture of current local health issues. The completed report provides direction for hospital priorities and programs for the next several years.

With the help of Holleran, an independent research and consulting firm, a variety of health and household metrics were compiled from existing national, state, and county sources. More local insight was gained from the 779 Baltimore County residents who completed a survey on their health and community concerns. UM SJMC also gathered input from 56 community stakeholders including public health and health care professionals, social service providers, non-profit leaders, faith-based

organizations, and other community leaders. Three focus groups provided additional feedback from community members on barriers to accessing health care services and achieving wellness.

Following the completion of the CHNA, the health issues identified were prioritized and initiatives were developed with partners for the following: access to care, mental health and substance abuse, chronic disease, cancer, and fall prevention.

For the full report and implementation plan, please visit www.umstjoseph.org/chna.



Financials

