

A low-angle photograph of a modern, multi-story medical building with a curved facade and a glass-walled section. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The building's architecture features horizontal bands of windows and a prominent curved section that tapers towards the top.

# Partnering to Improve Our Community's Future

2012 Community Benefits

Rush University Medical Center



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# Leadership Message

A spirit of collaboration is present in everything we do at Rush University Medical Center. It can be seen in the way our specialists pool their expertise to provide the highest quality of care and how our physician-researchers team up to seek answers to medical mysteries. It's in the classrooms of Rush University, where teacher-practitioners train tomorrow's health care providers, and in Chicago's neighborhoods, where our staff and students volunteer through local organizations to fill unmet needs. And it is at the heart of the Rush Transformation, which has brought together thousands of people to plan, shape and construct the Tower, a leading-edge new hospital building that opened in January 2012.

Rush's relationships with others who are equally committed to improving the well-being of the community have led to new technologies and facilities. Rush is the largest private employer on the West Side, and the new hospital construction has allowed us to provide even more opportunities to local vendors and community members. To strengthen our ties within the community, Rush has worked with nearby Malcolm X College to provide clinical training opportunities for students there. Rush also hosts an annual job fair at the college, where it identifies and often hires talented individuals from the neighborhood, some of whom helped build the new hospital.

Delivering quality health care consistently is truly a team effort. This is why we seek partnering opportunities throughout the city of Chicago. For instance, this year, the Rush University College of Nursing opened its third school-based health center at the Chicago Public Schools' Simpson Academy for Young Women, a school for pregnant women and young mothers (see Page 21).

In the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2011, the value of the community benefits provided by Rush was more than \$220 million. But that certainly doesn't reflect all of the contributions our faculty, staff and students have made to the community. We invite you to read this publication to learn more about our unwavering commitment to the West Side.



Larry Goodman, MD  
Chief Executive Officer



# Our Investment in the Community

At Rush University Medical Center, our mission is to provide the best possible care — whether it's on our campus or in the community — through collaboration with local institutions. Rush joins its neighbors in serving the greater Chicago area by providing health care, educating future health care providers, supporting research and sending volunteers throughout our community. In fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011), the cost to Rush to provide these community benefits to the West Side and the Chicago area was more than \$220 million.

**Unreimbursed Medical Care — \$143,411,665**

**Charity care and financial assistance — \$18,207,186**

This is the cost to provide services to patients who qualified for charity care or financial assistance under one of Rush's policies. Rush provides free or discounted care for those facing significant financial hardship.

**Costs not covered by reimbursements for Medicare and Medicaid — \$86,436,308**

Medicare and Medicaid payments do not cover all of Rush's costs to provide care to patients covered by these programs. This figure is the additional cost to Rush that is not reimbursed by government-sponsored health care. Rush had 128,330 Medicare patient encounters and 82,758 Medicaid encounters in fiscal year 2011.

**Expected payments not received — \$38,768,171**

These are expected payments that were not made 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."

**Support for Education Programs — \$42,932,847**

Rush is committed to providing programs to educate and train the health care workforce of the future, even though not all of the costs of this education are covered by tuition and grants. This is the cost to subsidize the education and training of future physicians, nurses and allied health professionals.

**Support for Research Programs — \$18,343,000**

In keeping with its mission to provide the best patient care, Rush subsidizes biomedical research that focuses on improving patient care both now and in the future. This is done in concert with private funding and federal grants, which do not cover all the costs of conducting research. This amount reflects what was subsidized solely by Rush.

**Other Community Benefits \$10,022,334**

Rush makes direct donations to various community and medical organizations throughout the Chicago area. In addition, Rush maintains a staff of interpreters that facilitate the accessibility of patient care to Chicago's diverse population. Rush also provides resources while volunteers at Rush provide time for various community service activities, including the Science and Math Excellence Network and the Rush Community Services Initiatives Program.

**Subsidized Health Services — \$6,068,126**

Rush provides services in response to community needs. Because some of these services operate at a financial loss, they must be subsidized from other revenue sources. These services include pediatric and primary care as well as palliative care, among others. 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 and help people before emergency department visits are required for crisis and medical treatments.



**Notes**

The information in this document is taken from the annual summary report of community benefits prepared for the Illinois attorney general's office, and it includes contributions from Rush Oak Park Hospital. Only a portion of Rush's financial assistance programs meet the definition of "charity care" as defined by the attorney general's office for the annual summary report.

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, are not reflected in any of the numbers above. Among the many Medical Center programs that provide such care is the Rush NeuroBehavioral Center (RNBC), which provided assistance for children with brain-based difficulties in four underserved Chicago schools in fiscal year 2011. RNBC's services are funded by a combination of grants, revenue from clinical services provided and an annual fundraiser.

### Providing Accessible Health Care

Rush believes quality health care should be accessible to everyone. When people come to Rush, they can rest assured that they will receive the same level of care regardless of their ability to pay. Though the provision of these medical services is frequently at a financial loss to the institution, this is part of the greater community benefit that Rush is proud to offer.

### Among the Top Hospital Providers of Medicaid Days in the State

#### Inpatient Days for Patients Eligible for Medicaid

1. Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital Center and Saint Elizabeth	95,677
2. Advocate Christ Medical Center	64,171
3. Kindred Hospital	62,663
4. University of Illinois Medical Center	60,119
<b>5. Rush University Medical Center</b>	<b>58,521</b>
6. Sinai Health System	56,921
7. The University of Chicago Hospitals	55,674
8. Northwestern Memorial Hospital	53,946
9. Saint Francis Medical Center	53,277
10. John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County	52,748

#### Inpatient Admissions for Patients Eligible for Medicaid

1. Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital Center and Saint Elizabeth	18,264
2. Sinai Health System	14,584
3. Advocate Christ and Hope Children's Hospitals	11,728
4. Mercy Hospital Medical Center	11,468
5. Northwestern Memorial Hospital	10,705
6. Saint Francis Medical Center	9,891
7. University of Illinois Medical Center	9,799
<b>8. Rush University Medical Center</b>	<b>9,443</b>
9. Swedish Covenant Hospital	8,822
10. John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County	8,709

Source:

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, state fiscal year 2010. Includes short-term acute care hospitals.

### Financial assistance and eligibility services

The largest part of Rush's total community benefits was nearly \$143,411,665 in unreimbursed, but much needed, care that Rush provided to its patients. That amount includes free care for patients who notify Rush ahead of time that they cannot pay for services (which is called charity care), care for patients who receive services at Rush but later cannot pay their bills (which is called bad debt) and care for patients whose government insurance does not cover all the costs to Rush to provide those services.

Rush has many financial assistance programs to help patients. For example, Rush provides free care for patients with income levels at or under 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, a 70 percent discount to patients whose income is up to four times the federal poverty level, and interest-free payment plans. We also offer a catastrophic policy for patients with large medical bills who would not otherwise qualify for financial assistance. Those patients receive discounts up to 70 percent.

In addition, 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. This service also assists patients with obtaining other benefits they may qualify for, such as social security and disability, which help patients well beyond their visits to Rush.

# Collaborations at Rush Make Treatment Possible, Restore Hope

When Trent Blanchette was laid off from his job as an industrial electrician in 2009, he lost more than a salary. He lost his health insurance, and, with it, his hope of finding relief from the epileptic seizures that had taken over his life. But although he still lacks insurance because the seizures have rendered him unable to work, Trent is now receiving the care he needs thanks to the charity care program at Rush University Medical Center and the Rush Epilepsy Center.

Trent, 23, learned he had epilepsy after a frightening incident on Jan. 1, 2009. He suffered a generalized tonic-clonic seizure, during which the entire body goes into a convulsion. His sister found him in bed, dazed and unresponsive, his mouth bleeding profusely. “I had chewed through my tongue,” he says. “But I don’t remember doing it.”

Once a neurologist confirmed the diagnosis, Trent began taking antiepileptic medications. But they failed to control his seizures, and if a patient’s condition doesn’t improve after two to three medications, there’s a less than 5 percent chance that additional medications will be effective. At that point, surgery to remove the area of the brain causing the seizures is often the best option. But it’s also an expensive one: The extensive testing needed to determine whether a

person is even a candidate for surgery costs tens of thousands of dollars, and two ensuing surgical procedures — the first to place electrodes to guide the surgeon; the second to actually remove the abnormal area of the brain — bring the total cost of care well into six figures.

## A Helping Hand in a Time of Need

In the middle of his presurgical testing, Trent got devastating news: He’d been laid off. Suddenly without insurance, he could no longer afford to continue seeing his neurologist and complete the testing. “My heart just sank,” he says. “I was having 10 to 15 complex partial seizures (brief staring spells) every day, plus grand mal seizures. I was losing entire days out of my life. It seemed hopeless.”

Then, an Internet search led Trent to Andres Kanner, MD, a neurologist with the Rush Epilepsy Center, who put Trent’s fears about his financial situation to rest. “At my first appointment, he said ‘We’ll take care of this,’” Trent recalls.

“There was never a question we were going to treat him,” Kanner says. “Patients should get the exact same evaluation and treatment whether they have a PPO or Medicare, or no insurance. Our goal is to help patients get better, period.”

## Restoring Hope for a Cure

Fortunately, Trent met the eligibility requirements of Rush’s charity care program. Financial counselors in Rush’s patient access department often help patients — including those with epilepsy — apply for charity care and other types of financial assistance. It’s a collaboration that has helped many patients through tough financial times. “When I learned I was eligible for charity care, I almost started crying,” Trent says. “After all the ups and downs, I finally felt I was getting somewhere.”

Trent completed the exhaustive presurgical evaluation, and Kanner is currently evaluating the results with the multidisciplinary team of neurologists, neurosurgeons, radiologists and neuropsychologists who are caring for Trent at Rush.

Trent is hopeful he’ll be able to have surgery, which offers him the best chance of becoming seizure free. But even if he can’t, he’s now confident that one day his epilepsy will be controlled — because both the Rush Epilepsy Center and Rush’s financial counselors are committed to helping him for as long as it takes.

*“When I learned I was eligible for charity care, I almost started crying. After all the ups and downs, I finally felt I was getting somewhere.”*

# Translating Research Into Better Patient Care

At Rush, we're finding new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat illnesses. Many of these discoveries arise from the relationships we have built, whether it's with federal agencies, neighborhood groups or other medical centers. Sharing information and resources with those organizations is helping Rush shape the future of medicine.



# \$18 million

amount in unreimbursed expenses to promote research

**C**ollaborations with other institutions have helped researchers at Rush make significant advances in medicine throughout the years, such as a trial that is showing potential for the treatment of advanced melanoma.

Clinical teams at Rush partner with their colleagues and the surrounding population to use their studies to directly help patients. Researchers at Rush understand that significant improvements in public health will require ways of identifying more diseases before people show symptoms. Therefore, clinicians at Rush are studying large, distinct populations over long periods of time to identify patterns among the groups that give us a better understanding of the causes of health conditions and ways to alleviate them. Among those research endeavors is the new Center for Urban Health Equity, which is partnering with the National Institutes of Health and underserved black and Latino communities in Chicago to conduct research trials of interventions aimed at reducing the disproportionately high rates of heart and lung disease within these communities.

In recognition of the importance of research to the health and well-being of the community, Rush provided \$18,343,000 during fiscal year 2011 in unreimbursed expenses to promote these activities. The following is just a small sampling of research conducted at Rush throughout the fiscal year.

## Vaccine Shows Benefit in Treating Advanced Melanoma

Rush was part of a large-scale clinical trial that has shown that a vaccine combined with the immune-boosting drug interleukin-2 can improve both response rate and progression-free survival in patients with advanced melanoma, the most lethal type of skin cancer.

Therapeutic cancer vaccines, unlike typical vaccines that prevent infections, are meant to jump-start the immune system to help it battle existing tumors. This is the first vaccine study for melanoma — in fact, one of the first for any type of cancer — to show a clinical benefit.

The study findings, which were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in June 2011, potentially represent a significant step forward for the treatment of melanoma, as well as other cancers, according to study co-investigator Howard Kaufman, MD, director of the Rush University Cancer Center.

“This trial is an early example of success with a cancer vaccine,” Kaufman says. “If we can use the body’s own defense system to attack tumor cells, we provide a mechanism for ridding the body of cancer without destroying healthy tissue.”





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— Howard Kaufman, MD, director of the Rush University Cancer Center

The potent vaccine and interleukin-2 combination yielded a more positive response than interleukin-2 alone. About 16 percent of study participants saw tumors shrink by 50 percent or more, compared to 6 percent given interleukin-2 alone. Those in the combination group also had slightly longer progression-free survival rates of 2.2 months compared to 1.6 months, which means those participants had more time in which the tumor did not grow. They also lived an average of nearly seven months longer than those given only interleukin-2.

Researchers will use these study results as a jumping-off point. The next step is to improve the vaccine’s effectiveness by combining it with other agents that stimulate the body’s immune system.

### **Treating Social Withdrawal in Fragile X**

Children and adults with social withdrawal due to fragile X syndrome, the most common known genetic cause of autism, may benefit from an experimental drug being studied by a pediatric neurologist at Rush.

Rush is the only site in Illinois and one of 21 hospitals in the U.S. participating in the clinical trial testing the effectiveness, safety and tolerability of the drug arbaclofen. A small trial previously conducted on arbaclofen in children and adults with fragile X showed evidence of improving social withdrawal symptoms.

Fragile X can cause autism, but not everyone with fragile X will develop autism. Fragile X is the cause of between 2 and 6 percent of autism cases, according to the National Fragile X Foundation.

People with fragile X or autism often display social impairment, including social withdrawal and anxiety, and have difficulty communicating and interacting with others. Though there are behavioral and psychological interventions for such patients, there are no approved medications for the treatment of their social or communication difficulties.

“The condition can be severely debilitating, and this medication has the potential to play a much-needed role in improving the symptoms of fragile X syndrome, as well as helping patients and their families achieve an improved quality of life,” says lead study investigator Elizabeth Berry-Kravis, MD, PhD, a pediatric neurologist at Rush.

Arbaclofen is already being used as part of a mixture in a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved drug called racemic baclofen, which is used to treat spasticity and stiff muscles due to cerebral palsy, and other forms of brain or spinal cord injury. Arbaclofen alone, however, is not FDA-approved.

### **Discovery Opens Up New Target for Drug Therapies for HIV**

Natural killer cells are important weapons in the body’s immune system. They keep the body healthy by knocking off tumors and cells infected with viruses. But natural killer cells are powerless against HIV, a fact that has bedeviled scientists for over 20 years.

Now, researchers at Rush have discovered the reason why.

A protein called NTB-A (natural killer T-cell and B-cell antigen) has virtually disappeared from the surface of the infected cell. Without NTB-A, the natural killer cells don’t work as they should.

“With this information, we now have a major new target for drug therapies that could potentially stop HIV and allow the body’s natural killer cells to do what they are designed to do — protect the body from this lethal virus.”

— Edward Barker, PhD, associate professor of immunology and microbiology at Rush

The culprit behind this disappearance, the researchers found, is a protein made by HIV called viral protein U (Vpu), which holds NTB-A inside the cell and prevents NTB-A from reaching the cell surface. Edward Barker, PhD, associate professor of immunology and microbiology at Rush University and lead author of the study, said that the finding is exciting not only because it resolves a long-standing questions about how HIV is able to evade the body’s innate immune response but also because it opens up new possibilities for combating HIV.

“With this information, we now have a major new target for drug therapies that could potentially stop HIV and allow the body’s natural killer cells to do what they are designed to do — protect the body from this lethal virus,” says Barker, whose study appeared in the peer-reviewed journal *Cell Host & Microbe*.

### **Study Examines Cinnamon as a Potential Treatment for Multiple Sclerosis**

A neurological scientist at Rush has received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to evaluate whether cinnamon may be effective against multiple sclerosis (MS), an autoimmune disease that attacks the central nervous system. Initial lab studies found the common spice to be helpful in combating MS, though it is still unclear if cinnamon will benefit humans with MS.

“Cinnamon has an anti-inflammatory property to counteract and inhibit the activation that causes brain cell death,” says Kalipada Pahan, PhD, a neuroscientist at Rush and the principal investigator of the study.

In earlier published studies, Pahan has shown that sodium benzoate, which is produced when cinnamon is metabolized, can inhibit the expression of various pro-inflammatory molecules in brain cells and block the disease process of MS. Different doses of sodium benzoate were mixed into drinking water since it dissolves easily and is nontoxic. Results of the initial studies were published in past issues of the *Journal of Immunology*.

Current medications to treat symptoms of MS are expensive, have many side effects and are only 30 to 40 percent effective, according to Pahan. A potential cinnamon treatment, however, would be safe and has several other advantages over currently approved MS drugs: It’s less expensive and can be taken through the mouth rather than through an injection.

# Educating Our Future Health Care Providers

The training of physicians, nurses and allied health workers is an integral part of Rush's dedication to the advancement of health care. Collaboration with neighborhood organizations allows the health care providers of tomorrow to receive hands-on, community-based clinical experience while making a difference in the lives of others.

# \$43 million

cost to subsidize the education and training of future physicians, nurses and allied health professionals

# 90

percentage of Rush Medical College students who volunteer in at least one activity

# 400

number of Rush volunteers who worked the Back to School Health Fair

**R**ush's collaboration with community organizations gives students the opportunity to practice what they learn in the classroom. Roughly 90 percent of Rush Medical College students volunteer in at least one activity. It's valuable experience for the health care providers of tomorrow, whose services are much-needed.

Our nation faces alarming shortages of dedicated, well-educated health care professionals at a time when aging baby boomers are creating a rising demand for health care. Rush is committed to providing programs to educate the health care workforce of the future, even though not all of the costs of this education are covered by tuition and grants. In fiscal year 2011, Rush provided more than \$42,932,847 in costs to subsidize the education and training of future physicians, nurses and allied health professionals at Rush Medical College, the Rush University College of Nursing, the Graduate College at Rush University and the College of Health Sciences at Rush University.

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. As part of that commitment, Rush has helped create and advance the following programs that allow students to serve the community as they learn.

## **Rush Community Service Initiatives Program**

Rush has developed programs to expose students to the many public health disparities in the Chicago area, while also providing valuable health 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. RCSIP celebrated its 20th anniversary this past fiscal year. Twenty years ago at Rush University, Edward Eckenfels, PhD, now a professor emeritus, launched a then-radical idea: a community service program initiated and governed by students in health care. The hope is that students exposed to diverse populations will become more culturally competent as providers, which will serve them well as future physicians.

## **RU Caring**

RU Caring is a program that brings together students from all areas of Rush University, including medical, nursing, audiology and occupational therapy students. RU Caring provides them with the opportunity to develop and perfect their clinical, interpersonal and leadership skills while helping the community.



## RU Caring Initiatives

This past fiscal year, Rush University's voluntary and student-led RU Caring program hosted its sixth annual Back to School Health Fair at Fosco Park on Chicago's West Side. The scope of the program has roughly doubled since its inception, increasing from fewer than 200 volunteers to 400. Volunteers from Rush perform physical exams, administer electrocardiograms, and provide numerous immunizations and hearing screenings. Rush also partners with community groups such as Smile Illinois to offer dental services, including examinations, cleanings and fluoride for health fair attendees.

The event is held in partnership with Alderman Bob Fioretti of Chicago's 2nd Ward. "Public-private partnerships help the city of Chicago advance," Fioretti says. "Rush helps so many people who wouldn't have gotten health care otherwise. There was one family — the father had three kids and has been unemployed for three years. He said if it weren't for the Back to School Health Fair, his kids wouldn't have gotten immunizations, physicals and hearing tests. He did not know where to turn at the time. He gave me a huge hug and was crying that day."

Sharon Gates, director for multicultural affairs and community outreach for Rush University, cites the collaboration between students and physicians from different disciplines as a reason for the program's success. People come together and work in a cohesive, focused manner to help kids in need.

"We had a family come to the fair from Midway on bicycles in the rain," Gates says. "They came so far, and we were able to refer them to a pediatrician near Midway so they could have access to care."

"We're proud of what we've done. We have grown from this small program that provided about 100 physicals to now providing close to 350."

The annual Spring Into Health and Fitness Fair is another example of RU Caring's commitment to provide better access to health care for underserved communities across Chicago. The event offers underserved Chicagoans free health screenings, physical exams, school physicals, nutrition counseling services, immunizations, and HIV testing and counseling.

Approximately 75 Rush students from a wide range of disciplines participated this past fiscal year, including students from medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, audiology, health systems management and clinical laboratory sciences. They worked under the supervision of Rush attending physicians, nurse practitioners, and professional nursing staff and faculty from Rush to provide health services to roughly 300 underserved Chicagoans.





*“We had a family come to the Back to School Fair from Midway on bicycles in the rain. They came so far, and we were able to refer them to a pediatrician near Midway so they could have access to care.”*

— Sharon Gates, director for multicultural affairs  
and community outreach for Rush University

# Mentoring in the Community

At Rush, we believe in strengthening the community by helping its youngest members reach their potential.

Students at Rush embrace that cause, investing their time in community-based programs to help children and adolescents. The following are examples of the programs that are designed to help motivate kids to reach their academic potential, introduce them to new skills, and get them on the right path for a lifetime of good health and emotional well-being



250

number of children who took part in workshops as part of the Healthifying the Refugee Transition program

360

number of women who attended health education seminars from the Marah's Place Health Education Program

285

number of homeless in Chicago who were given foot examinations from Heart to Soles program volunteers

**BUDDIES Program**

On the Rush campus

The BUDDIES program matches Rush medical student volunteers with chronically ill pediatric patients. The Rush medical students do not administer any medical care or advice but rather act as mentors, advocates and, most important, friends. In the last fiscal year, 216 pediatric patients at the Medical Center were helped by this program.

**Healthifying the Refugee Transition**

4753 N. Broadway St.

This program was created to provide health- and medicine-based workshops that focus on such topics as hygiene, nutrition and learning English to help educate refugee children and help them transition to life in the U.S. In fiscal year 2011, Rush volunteers affected the lives of 250 children.

**Heart to Soles**

2715 W. Harrison St.

Students at Rush, in collaboration with Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush, examine the ankles and feet of people at the Franciscan House of Mary & Joseph, which provides meals, showers and a safe place to sleep for many of Chicago's homeless. It is one of the largest overnight shelters in Chicago. In fiscal year 2011, Rush volunteers examined 285 people.



**Marah's Place Health Education Program**

1456 W. Oakdale Ave.

A housing program affiliated with Deborah's Place (an organization that provides housing for women), Marah's is an organization similarly dedicated to moving women out of homelessness and into permanent housing. Students involved in the Marah's Health Education Program help women who use the organization's services through a range of health education seminars, including seminars on diabetes and mental, cardiovascular, breast, pelvic and gastrointestinal health. In fiscal year 2011, 360 women benefited from this initiative.

**Red Ribbon Friends**

Various locations throughout the city

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/AIDS. Students provide support for the children through various social activities, such as trips to the movies and walks in the park. In fiscal year 2011, 50 pediatric patients participated in Red Ribbon Friends.

**Sankofa Initiative**

Various locations throughout the West Side

Rush students visit partner sites, including schools, not-for-profit organizations and after-school programs, to tutor children



# 1,125

number of students who received tutoring from the Sankofa Initiative

# 803

number of preschool students who were provided science labs and other materials by the Science and Math Excellence Network to develop science, math and literacy skills

# 216

number of pediatric patients who benefited from the BUDDIES Program

and teenagers, encouraging interest in math and science while assisting with homework. The Sankofa Initiative assisted 1,125 students during fiscal year 2011.

### **Science and Math Excellence (SAME) Network West and Southwest Sides of Chicago**

Operated through Rush's Department of Community Affairs, the SAME Network is a community service enterprise that was developed in response to the low science, math and reading test scores in public schools surrounding Rush on the West and Southwest Sides of Chicago. Formed in 1990, the SAME Network was designed to create interest and improve proficiency in science and math. By providing scientific equipment, teacher training and a variety of hands-on experiences, the SAME Network offers these students the same opportunities to learn math and science as students from more affluent areas have.

Since its launch, the SAME Network has grown to a collaboration between Rush and 34 elementary schools, 11 high schools, many local businesses and several other educational organizations. During fiscal year 2011, 1,330 children, teens and educators benefited from the SAME Network's services.

The following are just a few of the SAME Network programs:

The **Educator Program** provides professional development workshops for teachers, giving them an opportunity to gain new skills in science, math and technology. SAME Network teachers also receive coaching and mentoring.

The **High School Internship Program** offers a variety of hands-on internship experiences at Rush to high school students interested in pursuing education in math, science and technology fields. Upon graduation from high school, these students are eligible to transition into the SAME Network's College Internship Program. In fiscal year 2011, 15 students participated in this program.

The **Preschool Program** provides science labs and materials appropriate for young children, creating a stimulating environment for guiding children in the development of science, math and literacy skills. The program currently operates in 28 public and private schools. The SAME Network also offers workshops to the parents of children participating in the Preschool Program to encourage early parental involvement, which is crucial for children to be successful in school. During fiscal year 2011, the program reached 1,981 parents and teachers, and 803 preschool children.





*“Public-private partnerships help the city of Chicago advance. Rush helps so many people who wouldn’t have gotten health care otherwise.”*

— Bob Fioretti, alderman, Chicago’s 2nd Ward

# Joining Forces to Help the Community

Rush is dedicated to addressing the numerous health care needs of Chicago's underserved populations. Our relationship with the community provides an outlet for the spirit of service and philanthropy that resonates throughout the Medical Center. That spirit reaches everyone at Rush, from students to physicians to support staff. In fact, students often select Rush University specifically for the opportunity to bring their clinical training directly to the community. The following programs are just some examples of how students team up with faculty and other employees at Rush to offer their services.

# 2,000

number of homeless individuals who received medical care at the Franciscan House of Mary & Joseph

# 700

number of patients who received preventive and primary care through the Community Health Clinic

# 300

number of people recovering from chemical dependency who benefited from clinical services at the Haymarket Center

### **Chicago City Church** 153 W. Garfield Blvd.

At this Washington Park mission, Rush medical students provide free medical care to local residents and the homeless. Students work with an attending physician to address urgent needs and dispense medication. In fiscal year 2011, the program served 405 people.

### **The Clinic at Franciscan House of Mary & Joseph** 2715 W. Harrison St.

Located on Chicago's West 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 students and physicians from Rush, 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 2011, 419 volunteers provided triage and physical exams, obtained medical histories and distributed medications to 2,000 patients at the clinic.

### **The CommunityHealth Clinic** 2611 W. Chicago Ave.

At this not-for-profit volunteer organization located 10 minutes north of the Medical Center, members of the community who cannot afford to pay for care or are ineligible for medical

insurance receive free preventive and primary health care services. One evening each week, students and physicians from Rush volunteer to provide services ranging from routine physical exams and immunizations to a full laboratory and pharmacy. In fiscal year 2011, medical students and physician volunteers from Rush evaluated 700 patients.

### **Freedom Center** 1515 W. Monroe St.

Rush medical students, led by an attending physician from Rush, provide free health care for men, women and children in the near West Side community. Co-founded by a primary care physician at Rush, this free clinic opened in 1994 to serve the homeless in Pilsen, a predominantly Mexican immigrant community. The clinic now serves a wider range of people. In fiscal year 2011, 775 people received health services at the Freedom Center.

### **Haymarket Center** 932 W. Washington Blvd.

Rush has partnered with the Haymarket Center — a not-for-profit organization that aids people in their recovery from chemical dependency — to provide clinical services, including physical examinations. In fiscal year 2011, volunteers from Rush assisted 300 people.



# 450

number of homeless children who were provided health care by the Kids-Shelter Health Improvement Project

# 2,272

number of clinic visits provided to sexually active teens and young adults at the Rush Adolescent Family Center

# 1,350

number of people who benefited from vision screening through the 20/20 program

### **Kids-Shelter Health Improvement Project**

Nine homeless facilities on the West and South Sides

A medical team travels to nine homeless facilities on the West and South Sides of Chicago to provide free health care services to homeless children and adolescents. The team includes an attending pediatrician from Rush, medical students from Rush and pediatric resident physicians from Rush and John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County. Follow-up care is provided as needed at Rush. In fiscal year 2011, more than 450 patients were seen through the program.

### **Rush Adolescent Clinic**

Evergreen Park, Ill.

The Rush Adolescent Clinic provides gynecologic care, contraception, family planning counseling, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, sexually transmitted disease and HIV risk assessment, pregnancy testing, counseling and referrals, and community outreach education. The clinic primarily serves southwestern Chicago and its neighboring suburbs. The Rush Adolescent Clinic provided 1,591 medical care visits to teens and young adults in fiscal year 2011. During the year, 558 of these patients received free care through the program, with more than 95 percent of the patients reporting incomes at or below the federal poverty level.

### **Rush Adolescent Family Center**

1645 W. Jackson Blvd.

The Rush Adolescent Family Center provides prenatal care, gynecologic care, contraceptive services, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, and community education to Chicago-area teens and young adults. All services are provided regardless of ability to pay for care. Staff regularly travel off-site to Chicago-area high schools and middle schools to provide these services. They also enroll pregnant uninsured patients into the state's AllKids program, which provides Medicaid coverage for their prenatal care, while uninsured patients who are not pregnant have their services completely funded through the clinic. The majority of patients served reside on Chicago's West Side. Program staff also provide free prenatal education classes to pregnant teens.

In fiscal year 2011, the center provided medical clinic visits to 1,265 patients, including to 276 pregnant teens and young adults in need of prenatal care. The center also provided 2,272 clinic visits to 989 sexually active teens and young adults who were in need of gynecologic and contraceptive services. Of the 2,272 contraceptive services visits, 42 percent were free and 58 percent were funded through Medicaid. In addition, program staff conducted 303 free community education presentations involving 9,330 teens in 16 Chicago-area high schools, middle schools and community service programs.

### **The Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center**

2020 W. Harrison St.

Rush collaborated with the Cook County Bureau of Health Services to create this facility in 1998 — the nation's first freestanding, specialized outpatient health care facility addressing the medical and social needs of people with HIV/AIDS and other chronic infectious diseases. In fiscal year 2011, Rush provided \$150,000 in operational support to the CORE Center, and Rush leadership continues to serve on its board.

### **School-Based Health Centers**

2245 W. Jackson Blvd. (Crane); 730 N. Pulaski Rd. (Orr); 1321 S. Paulina St. (Simpson)

The Rush University College of Nursing operates school-based health centers through the Chicago Public Schools at Richard T. Crane Technical Preparatory Common School, the Rezin Orr Community Academy High School and the Simpson Academy for Young Women. The 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. More than 95 percent of Crane, Orr and Simpson students are enrolled in the health centers, which provide comprehensive services, including risk assessments, health education, acute and chronic care, family planning, school and sports physicals, laboratory services and immunization services. During fiscal year 2011, nurses and students from Rush provided services during 2,168 clinic visits at Crane, more than 1,000 visits at Orr and more than 500 at Simpson.

### **20/20**

Various locations throughout the city

20/20's mission is to provide free vision services to underserved populations. Student volunteers from Rush screen adults and children for eye diseases, such as glaucoma, cataracts, amblyopia and strabismus. In fiscal year 2011, 1,350 people benefited from this program.

### **Wellness Program With the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services**

2102 W. Ogden Ave.; 1767 E. 79th St.; 6117 S. Kedzie Ave.

The Wellness Program With the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services has primarily served minority older adults since 1985. Advanced-practice nurses, dietitians and pharmacists from Rush provide health information and care for older adults at three Chicago senior centers, one of which is only four blocks from Rush. These clinicians conduct tests of blood pressure, bone density, glucose, diabetes and prostate-specific antigen, or PSA, levels. During fiscal year 2011, 3,223 older adults received health screenings.

# Rush Teams Up With Local School to Help Teenage Mothers

Nineteen-year-old Tierra Posey not only wants to graduate from high school; she dreams of a career as a nurse practitioner. But as a teenager mother, she knows that getting even a high school diploma can be tough: Only 60 percent of Illinois teens who have babies during high school graduate or receive a GED.

## Improving the Odds

Tierra's chances of completing high school, however, may be better than those of other young women in her situation. She attends Chicago's Simpson Academy for Young Women, a school that specifically serves parenting and pregnant teens. Dedicated to removing barriers that can prevent these girls from graduating, Simpson has partnered with Rush University Medical Center to address a common problem among these girls: attendance. By providing on-site health and educational services, nurse practitioners from Rush and students from the Rush University College of Nursing hope to keep these teens in school and focused on their schoolwork.

"So many of the girls miss school because of prenatal visits or physical complaints related to their pregnancies," says Sally Lemke, MS, RN, WHNP-BC, a nurse practitioner at Rush and the lead health care provider at the clinic. "This special health service provides an additional type of support to keep these girls on a solid academic track."

## Health Services Plus Academics: An Equation for Success

The health services at the clinic encompass primary care, prenatal care, school and sports physicals and contraceptive services. Rush provides one-on-one and group mental health sessions for students, and students can participate in weekly educational programs such as prenatal and parenting support classes.

And at the school's new day care center, which is geared to children ages 2 and under, a Rush family nurse practitioner provides well-child care, urgent care and immunizations, among other services.

"With the combination of strong instructional practices and clinical and related services, we believe that we'll have the supports in place to assist

students in being successful," says Richard G. Smith, EdD, chief officer for the Office of Special Education and Supports at Chicago Public Schools.

As for Tierra, a visit to Lemke in Simpson's clinic not only spared her a trip to the doctor's office on a school day, it gave her inspiration. "Sally introduced me to the whole idea of nurse practitioners and what they do," Tierra says. "Now, I want to pursue a career in nursing. It's a job that will really help me take care of my son."

And it's a dream that Rush and her school can help her realize.

*"With the combination of strong instructional practices and clinical and related services, we believe that we'll have the supports in place to assist students in being successful."*

# A New Foundation for Patient Care

The completion of the new hospital at Rush marks a milestone in the Medical Center's transformation, a 10-year, \$1 billion investment that is focused on one goal: providing the best quality of care for our patients. But the transformation also deepens Rush's commitment to our surrounding community by providing jobs, job training and other economic opportunities to the residents of Chicago's West Side.



# 304

individual adult and critical care beds in the new Tower

# 3 million

gallons of water saved per year by recycling the condensed moisture from our air conditioners

# 56

treatment bays in the new emergency department, doubling the size of the old one

**A**s the cornerstone of the transformation, the new Tower's design and the planning behind that design make it one of the country's most advanced health care facilities. Attention to details large and small resulted in an innovative blueprint that focuses on patient health as well as environmental health. The space was designed to facilitate the delivery of patient care and promote patient safety, and patient and family comfort.

The new hospital has 304 individual adult and critical care beds in the top five floors. Three consecutive floors at the base of the building are devoted to the interventional platform, where diagnostic testing, treatment and recovery are a short distance from each other, resulting in enhanced collaboration between medical specialists while making services more convenient for patients and families. It includes 40 procedure rooms with enlarged operating areas to accommodate new technology. Rush is one of a small number of medical centers in the country to incorporate the interventional platform concept.

### Advanced Emergency Service at a Time of Need

On the ground floor, the McCormick Foundation Center for Advanced Emergency Response provides a new level of readiness for large-scale health emergencies, such as a mass outbreak

of an infectious disease, a bioterrorist attack or an accident that spills hazardous materials. With 56 treatment bays, Rush's emergency department has roughly doubled in size, providing expanded service to the growing near West Side at a time when the number of emergency rooms in urban and suburban areas across the country are falling at a troubling rate.

### Environmentally Friendly

The new hospital was built with a keen awareness of our responsibility to the environment in mind. Environmental innovations in the Tower put Rush on track for a gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Examples of the new hospital's environmentally friendly design include the following:

- Recycled concrete, steel and wallboard were used during construction, and materials came from manufacturers within 500 miles of Chicago to reduce fuel and emissions.
- Condensed moisture from the air conditioners will be used for both watering campus vegetation and for the cooling towers of Rush's energy plan, saving an estimated 3 million gallons of water a year.



- Recycled concrete, steel and wallboard were used during construction, and materials came from manufacturers within 500 miles of Chicago to reduce fuel and emissions.
- Condensed moisture from the air conditioners are used for both watering campus vegetation and for replacing water at the cooling towers, which evaporate water as they cool the building, saving an estimated 1.3 million gallons of water a year.
- The hospital's butterfly shape and other design features allow a large amount of natural light into the building, reducing the need for electric lighting.

### Designed by Clinicians

The unique shape of the Tower was inspired by input from groups of nurses and other caregivers who were intent on designing patient care floors that would facilitate the delivery of patient care.

Rush formed these groups to ensure that all voices are heard as the Medical Center replaces buildings — some of which are more than 100 years old — that are becoming outdated. Physician and nursing leadership was vital to the project, as

these staff members received feedback from their colleagues throughout the planning process about ways to improve patient care. They conferred with the architects, who used the information to create a striking design for the Tower that focuses on improved health care — not on creating features that exist for their own sake.

Architects took the traditional hospital cross shape and expanded the inside corners outward, creating the butterfly shape. This unique shape features four identical wing tips, each of which includes a patient care triangle that allows nurses to spend most of their time in the immediate vicinity of the patient rooms, which are located along the outside edges of the building to take advantage of natural light.

In addition, every clinical work station and patient room is standardized, meaning everything is in the same place from one room to the next. This allows staff to find what they need as quickly possible, which is particularly important during emergencies when time is of the essence.

The Tower is not an architectural statement. It's a health care statement — and an example of Rush's commitment and dedication to the West Side.



# Part of the West Side's Past and Committed to Its Future

With a new, state-of-the-art hospital serving Chicago residents and new rooftop gardens in bloom, Rush University Medical Center embodies the rejuvenation of the city's West Side. That's no accident. Over the past few decades, Rush has played an important role in the West Side's steady emergence from years of economic struggle and physical decay.

As two other medical schools moved away from the struggling neighborhood in the late 1960s, Rush upheld its commitment to the area by investing in new facilities, including the Armour Academic Center, which opened in 1976, and the Atrium Building, which opened in 1982. Over the following years, the West Side began to flourish as other new and refurbished buildings, including offices and condos, appeared.

Then, in 2006, Rush reaffirmed its commitment to the community: It launched a 10-year redevelopment project, called the Rush Transformation, to redesign and reorient the campus and the way Rush provides medical care. The project entails new and renovated buildings designed to better support patient needs, as well as advanced technology that will improve the quality, safety and efficiency of patient care.

Another major part of this plan — less visible than the new construction but no less important — comprises the creation of opportunities for area residents.

## Working With Partners in the Community

With more than 8,000 employees, Rush is the largest private employer on the West Side. So from the beginning, Rush leadership conceived the transformation as a way to rejuvenate not only the campus but also the lives of people who live around it. To achieve this aim, the Medical Center has been collaborating with local leaders and institutions to ensure that residents have the skills to establish promising careers — and to help the West Side prosper.

For example, as part of an agreement between Rush and Malcolm X College, Rush University faculty members help the college develop its health sciences programs, and the Medical Center provides clinical training opportunities for students in those programs. "Rush has been a generous community and corporate partner to the City Colleges of Chicago by playing a key role in our effort to ensure our allied health programs equip students with relevant skills to succeed in this competitive and rapidly changing field," says Cheryl L. Hyman, chancellor of the City Colleges of Chicago.

Rush also hosts an annual job fair at Malcolm X, where it identifies, and often hires, neighborhood talent. These people work in a variety of clinical and nonclinical settings. For instance, to help build the new hospital tower, Rush recruited and helped provide training for construction workers from the area. Rush also encouraged each of the contractors working on the transformation to hire community residents.

## Investing in the Future

With work on the transformation project still on the horizon, Rush will keep calling on workers from the community to help drive the ongoing rejuvenation of the Medical Center and the surrounding neighborhoods.

"That's what will have the most lasting impact on the community," says Terry Peterson, vice president for corporate and external affairs at Rush. "The new hospital building is beautiful and will be an amazing resource. But if you can provide people with training and a stable career path with a steady income — something that can help them give their kids more opportunities or move from renting to home ownership — those things will ensure the West Side thrives for years to come."

*"Rush has been a generous community and corporate partner to the City Colleges of Chicago by playing a key role in our effort to ensure our allied health programs equip students with relevant skills to succeed in this competitive and rapidly changing field."*

## About Rush

Rush University Medical Center is a not-for-profit, health care, education and research institution on the West Side of Chicago. We are consistently ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top medical centers in the country. The University HealthSystem Consortium, an alliance of approximately 90 percent of the nation's not-for-profit academic medical centers, has consistently awarded Rush the highest possible score for "equity of care" in its annual quality and safety benchmarking study, which measures whether patients receive the same quality of treatment and have the same outcomes regardless of their gender, race or socioeconomic status. And Rush's nurses have been awarded Magnet status three times. Rush is the first hospital in Illinois serving adults and children to receive Magnet status — the highest honor of nursing excellence — and the first in Illinois to earn a third four-year designation.

Rush University is home to Rush Medical College and one of the nation's top-ranked nursing colleges, as well as graduate programs in allied health and health management. In recent years, the University has grown considerably, and it now comprises Rush Medical College, the Rush University College of Nursing, the Graduate College of Rush University and the College of Health Sciences at Rush University. The Medical Center offers more than 64 highly selective residency and fellowship programs in medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties.

For more information about programs and services at Rush, call (888) 352-RUSH (7874) or visit [www.rush.edu](http://www.rush.edu).

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1653 W. Congress Pkwy.  
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Rush is a not-for-profit health care, education and research enterprise comprising Rush University Medical Center, RushUniversity, Rush Oak Park Hospital and Rush Health.

PLEASE NOTE: All physicians featured in this publication are on the medical faculty of Rush University Medical Center. Some of the physicians featured are in private practice and, as independent practitioners, are not agents or employees of Rush University Medical Center.