

PRESS RELEASE

Community Benefit Report
Delaware's Hospitals: The State's Health Safety Net
and Economic Engine

Over \$79,000,000 Spent on Care for Those Unable to Pay

Contributed Healthcare and Healthy Living Initiatives Valued at Over \$280 Million

Leading Industry: Over 20,000 Jobs at an Average Salary of Over \$50,000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 30th, 2009
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Delaware's Hospitals have a tremendous impact on the healthcare and economy of the state. These contributions to Delaware's quality of life were quantified in a report issued by the Delaware Healthcare Association titled *Community Benefit of Delaware Hospitals and Health Systems*. The report details financial and programmatic data for 2007.

Delaware's not-for-profit hospitals contributed a total of \$282,148,046 in fiscal year 2007 toward free and subsidized healthcare and community benefit programs aimed at fostering a healthier citizenry. Of that total, the amount of free health care provided to those unable to pay was \$79,465,044 while the subsidy representing the unpaid cost of government sponsored healthcare totaled \$142,977,759. In addition, Delaware's Hospitals spent \$59,705,243 on community benefit programs designed to create healthier lives among the state's residents. Delaware Healthcare Association President Wayne A. Smith said the spending level "represents a tremendous financial contribution to ensuring the basic healthcare needs of Delawareans are met regardless of ability to pay."

He further noted Delaware, unlike the typical situation found in other states, has no state or local government financed general hospital. "Delaware State and local governments save tens of millions of dollars by having our State's not-for-profit hospitals provide the safety net care that would otherwise be provided at taxpayer expense through a county general or State hospital as it is in other states. Unlike in other state where there is a government healthcare safety net, our private Delaware hospitals are the healthcare safety net," he stated.

The First State's hospitals also represent a tremendous employment base and key economic bulwark for the state's economy. With total 2007 expenditures of \$2,012,277,588, Delaware's hospitals are a leading industry. A total of 20,772 people were employed in well paying jobs in the hospital industry at an average salary of \$50,376 per year. 2007 represented the first year the average salary in Delaware exceeded \$50,000.

"Delawareans of all income levels not only receive great healthcare at our fine hospitals and healthcare facilities, but hospitals also provide a very stable employment and economic base which has never been more important than in our current battered economy," Smith observed.

All of Delaware's general acute care hospitals are members of the Delaware Healthcare Association. All of Delaware's hospitals are non-profit organizations.