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**“Wisconsin Hospitals Connecting With Our Communities”**

Every day, more than 40,000 patients receive care in a Wisconsin hospital--every day of the week, every hour of the day and night. Of those patients, nearly 700 receive their care free of charge. In 2006, Wisconsin hospitals provided more than \$200 million in charity care to more than 250,000 individuals.

The depth of giving, the breadth of caring and the lengths that hospitals will go to increase access to health care can only be explained by one word: Mission. It is the driving force behind hospitals’ efforts to improve the health status of the communities they serve.

The commitment to improve the health status of the communities they serve is a promise that Wisconsin hospitals keep. Hospitals use the Wisconsin State Health Plan “Healthy Wisconsin 2010,” as one of their guidelines in determining their community’s specific health priorities. Once the priority needs are identified, hospitals mobilize their resources and reach outside the boundaries of the hospital campus. Hospitals assist public health departments, community health centers, local advocacy groups, and shelters by providing services and programs that address social and health issues.

Wisconsin hospitals participate in or operate nearly 60 free clinics across the state. Many are operated jointly among several sponsors that often include the public health department, a medical clinic, and other social service agencies or religious organizations.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Benefits</u>
Charity Care (at cost)	\$182,509,895
Medicaid Shortfalls	\$566,411,595
Losses on Other Public Programs	\$27,466,553
Subsidized Health Services	\$96,841,759
Nursing Home Losses	\$16,979,466
Community Outreach/Clinics	\$63,787,791
Educating Medical Providers	\$134,114,499
All Other	\$50,064,341
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,138,175,899</b>

While the financial resources are impressive that hospitals devote to living out their mission of service and care, what is truly remarkable is the impact that these services have on the lives of the people they touch, change or save. It might be as simple as a cholesterol screening at the local shopping center, or as complex as opening and running a free clinic. It is impossible to quantify the affect these small deeds and sometimes not-so-minor miracles have on people. Dollars and cents are inadequate measures of the value that these programs, services and acts of kindness have in a community.