2005

Annual Report (2005): Greater Hazleton Health Alliance; Community Report

Lehigh Valley Health Network

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The Greater Hazleton Health Alliance (GHHA) was formed as a means of bringing the highest quality healthcare and the best possible technology to the people of Greater Hazleton. In 1996, Hazleton General Hospital and Hazleton – Saint Joseph Medical Center joined together to form the Alliance, a non-profit organization which manages both hospitals. Together we serve more than 100,000 people. In 2005, our facilities increased inpatient services, providing 150 inpatient beds which include 16 acute rehabilitation unit beds, 15 nursery beds and a 21 bed step-down unit. Our medical staff consists of more than 100 physicians in a wide variety of specialties. We are equipped for and dedicated to providing emergency, diagnostic, and therapeutic medical services. Some of our services include accessible aero-medical services, state-of-the-art MRI center, fitness and rehabilitation center, step-down unit, and a family birthing center.
HAZLETON GENERAL HOSPITAL (Hospital)

The history of Hazleton General Hospital began over 100 years ago. In 1884, due to the rising incidence of mining accidents and the unavailability of adequate nearby facilities, the need for the construction of a hospital in the Hazleton area was reported to the governor. The 700 East Broad Street site was selected because the location was within a five-minute walk or drive of any of the area collieries. On February 16, 1891, Hazleton General opened as The State Hospital for Injured Miners of the Middle Coal Fields of Pennsylvania, and in 1909 the admission policies changed to include all patients except those suffering from contagious diseases. The Hospital later became known as Hazleton State Hospital. The groundbreaking for a new facility took place in 1972 and the new Hospital opened in 1975. Hazleton State General Hospital School of Nursing opened in 1894 with 5 students in the first class. When the School of Nursing graduated its final class in 1982, over 1,570 nurses had received their degrees. The Hazleton Mt. City Lions Club Heliport was constructed in 1979 to provide aero service to tertiary care facilities. A most significant change in the Hazleton General Hospital's history occurred in September 1986, when the former Hazleton State General Hospital divested from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and became a not-for-profit community hospital now known as Hazleton General Hospital. Many changes, enhancements and advancements in medical technology and services have taken place at Hazleton General Hospital since it first opened its doors in 1891, and as we continue to serve our community during the year 2005, our focus will remain to provide quality healthcare and to strive for excellence in patient care.

Acute Care Hospital Services

Hazleton General Hospital provides hospital inpatient, outpatient, rehabilitation care, maternity care and emergency room services to the residents of Greater Hazleton regardless of race, religion, or economic status. The Hospital provides a full range of medical care to inpatients and outpatients including therapeutic, diagnostic and rehabilitation services. There were a total of 6,465 routine inpatient admissions and our Emergency Room treated 21,469 patients in 2005. There were a total of 611 births in the maternity unit in 2005. In addition, a total of 421 inpatients were admitted to the Rehabilitation Unit in 2005. Hazleton General Hospital provides free care to any patient who meets the charity care income guidelines based on federally established poverty guidelines. The Hospital provided total uncompensated care of $5,425,922, which included $233,247 in charity care to the community in 2005.
It was the vision of the Bernardine Sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis from Reading, Pennsylvania to expand their ministry to the sick and infirmed during the early 1940's. The Sisters selected a small maternity hospital in Hazleton to institute their dream. On September 8, 1946, groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted for a new 200-bed facility, which would be the most modern Hospital in Northeastern Pennsylvania. More than three years later on October 30, 1949, the new facility was dedicated and began its service to the total human person and the community of Hazleton. The mission of the Bernardine Sisters and the employees of the Hospital has continued for almost fifty years, providing quality healthcare and community service to individuals, regardless of race, religion or economic status.

Acute Care Hospital Services

Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center provided hospital inpatient, outpatient, primary care, home care and emergency room services to the residents of the Greater Hazleton Area regardless of race, religion, or economic status. January through September 2005, the Medical Center provided a full range of medical care to inpatients and outpatients including therapeutic, diagnostic and rehabilitation services. There were a total of 901 inpatient admissions at the Medical Center during 2005. Our Emergency Room treated 9,157 patients. Hazleton-Saint Joseph Medical Center provided free care to any patient who met the charity care income guidelines based on federally established poverty guidelines. The Medical Center provided total uncompensated care of $2,577,449, which included $188,657 in charity care to the community in 2005.

In 2004, an effort was begun to consolidate and relocate many services to Hazleton General Hospital. The cost of providing healthcare - which had been rising steadily across the country - had also affected our local hospitals and duplication of services at both facilities was no longer feasible. Work began on consolidating inpatient and emergency services to Hazleton General Hospital, while outpatient services were moved to the Hazleton-Saint Joseph campus which had surrendered its acute care hospital license on September 15, 2005 and now operates as a service of Hazleton General Hospital. The Medical Center remains open as an Urgent Care and Outpatient Center. Beginning September 15, 2005 and for the remainder of the year, the Urgent Care Center treated 2,656 patients under the Hazleton General Hospital license.
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Advanced/Basic Life Support

The Greater Hazleton Health Alliance remains an American Heart Association Community Training Center for Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support. The GHHA currently maintains one Regional Faculty – Michele Cassic, RN, for ACLS. Seven BLS Instructor-Trainees and 22 BLS Instructors are affiliated with the GHHA Training Center. BLS Renewal Courses continue to be provided monthly at both campuses. BLS for Healthcare Provider Courses, HeartSaver Courses, Friends and Family Courses, HeartSaver AED, and HeartSaver First Aid were offered for in-house employees and the community. In total, the GHHA Training Center trained employees and community members in all disciplines. As of August 2005, Frank Kislan, CRNP, a regional Faculty Member for ACLS, PALS and BCLS joined our training center and will be working for the ED group in the fast track area.

Alzheimer's Disease

Pat Paterick, of GHHA's Pastoral Outreach program, continues to educate the community on Alzheimer's Disease. In 2005, she made presentations to community members on the signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's and therapies available. This year, Pat did a community awareness presentation on local television channel WYLN. Pat also was the Alzheimer's Disease Support Facilitator at Heritage Hill. In addition to the education of the community, we also entertained 100 Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers with a day of bowling at Bowl Arena over a 4-week period. This year a Alzheimer's Fund Raiser Dance was held in conjunction with the UNICO club in October.

In May 2005, Dr. Mark Lobitz gave a three-hour presentation to increase the awareness of the difficulties one may encounter with Alzheimer's patients and their special needs. He explained how assessment of these patients may differ and discussed the current recommended treatment methods. The current treatment and therapies for Alzheimer's care were discussed as well as the proper transport of these patients.

Baby Fair

GHHA partnered with Babies R Us in a Baby Fair held at Babies R Us in the Wilkes-Barre Commons shopping center. GHHA was represented by members of our Family Birthing Center who had displays, healthcare handouts and one on one discussions. We recently partnered with Babies R Us to offer our services to their customers and to receive information from the store for our patients.

Basics of Breast Cancer

This program in conjunction with the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute featured guest speaker Beth Taylor, RN, OCN who addressed the importance of early detection and treatment of breast cancer. The program provided valuable information to the women of the community about the importance of mammography and monthly self-breast exams.

Blood Drives

Five blood drives with the Miller Keystone Blood Center were sponsored by the Alliance in 2005. Employees and visitors alike donated a total of 77 pints of blood. At the December blood drive, the Alliance gave each donor a poinsettia plant.
Blue CHIP Program

(Children's Health Insurance Program) This program was established by the Caring Foundation of Northeastern Pennsylvania in coordination with Blue Cross and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This program provides health care benefits to needy children who are not covered under other insurance plans. The Blue CHIP Program helps families who earn too much to qualify for Medical Assistance, but not enough to buy health insurance on their own. Families must meet income eligibility requirements; children must be under the age of 15 and not covered under any other insurance plan. Benefits include: routine checkups, immunizations, doctor's visits, emergency medical care, surgery, hospitalization, regular dental exams and preventative care, eye exams and eye glasses, hearing services, mental health services, prescriptions with a $5 co-pay, and the choice of your own doctor. The GHHA Insurance Coordinator highly endorses this insurance program and has been very instrumental in informing many families and enrolling approximately 70 children in 2005.

Breast Feeding Support Group

This support group was formed to provide information on dietary requirements, pumping and returning to work and other topics of interest. Carol Searfoss, RN of the Maternity Unit answers questions and helps in solving breastfeeding problems. Breastfeeding mothers and babies as well as mothers-to-be who are interested in breastfeeding are welcome to attend these monthly meetings. Breastfeeding classes are also offered to help prepare mothers who are interested in breastfeeding. Preparing for breastfeeding, the first few days, what to expect from the experience, and how-to issues are addressed.

Car Seat Safety Check Women’s & Children’s Wellness Day

The Alliance held a car seat safety check in the HGH parking lot. Experienced car seat safety technicians examined existing car seats and helped make sure seats were installed properly to protect children from injury.

In addition, to the car seat check, the Family Birthing Center staff hosted a Women’s & Children’s Wellness Day. The event featured an open house and tours of the Center on the 2nd floor of the hospital as well as free education information on subjects including osteoporosis, skin cancer, bicycle safety, birth defects and the Safe Haven program.

Children/Student Hospital Tours

In 2005, 195 pre-school children from Head Start, Pixie Paradise, clients of Northeast Counseling and the McAdoo Cub Scouts were given the opportunity to tour Hazleton General Hospital. The ten tours, conducted by the Pastoral Outreach Coordinator, are to familiarize the children and clients with the hospital setting and personnel so they will not be fearful of hospitalization. The children were given a choice to wear a doctor’s or nurse’s cap while touring the hospital. The tour consisted of the Nursery, Chapel, Library, Pharmacy and X-ray departments.

Community Service

Many of the Greater Hazleton Health Alliance’s employees serve as volunteers or board members on such service clubs as Kiwanis, Lions, Jay-Cees, Rotary, YMCA/YWCA, United Way, Meals-on-Wheels of Greater Hazleton, The American Cancer Society, The American Red Cross, Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, Hospice-Saint John, The Salvation Army, Rails to Trails, Occupational
Advisory Committee, Jr./Leadership Hazleton, Serento Gardens Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Program, C.H.I.P.P.S., the White Haven Center, March of Dimes, Luzerne County Special Olympics and many others.

A number of dedicated employees donated their time and energy through fun events to help raise money for several charitable causes such as Helping Hands Foundation, United Way, American Cancer Society, MDA, The Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Hazleton, and others. And still others are involved in task forces to promote the education of AIDS and Domestic Violence through the Wyoming Valley and Hazleton Chapters of the Coalition of AIDS Awareness and the Coalition for Women's Rights, respectively.

In addition, employees assisted the community in other projects. There were nutritional programs held for the community. Employees are involved in Partners in Education and attend Career Awareness Days and Read Across America as well as attend other Job Fairs and Nutritional Fairs.

Diabetic Support Group and Ostomy Support Group Meetings, held monthly, are sponsored and facilitated by GHHA employees. The Occupational Health Department continues to provide services to Hazleton City police officers, firefighters and animal shelter employees by performing physicals and administering necessary injections. Displays and information were made available in the Hospital lobby throughout the year on various topics.

**Continuing Education Classes**

In recognition of National Emergency Medical Services Week, GHHA offered Emergency Medical Service technicians free continuing education programs in recognizing the need for EMS professionals to continue to perform their duties. The programs were: “Should the Overweight Wait,” “Pediatric Assessments,” “Trauma Assessments,” and “Current Burn Therapy.” The programs were to increase the awareness of difficulties one may encounter with patients and their needs in each area, as well as how to assess patients, recommended treatment and therapy methods and proper transport of the patients.

**Cooking for a Cure**

As a part of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Nutrition Services Department of GHHA hosted the healthy cooking class in the HGH cafeteria. Twenty (20) community members attended this program, presented by Nancy Matyas, Registered Dietitian through lecture, demonstration and handouts. Healthy recipes were sampled by the participants. Discussion was held on how to cut the fat, not the flavor in your favorite foods.

**Day of Caring**

GHHA was the sponsor for the 2005 United Way of Hazleton Day of Caring. Day of Caring links community volunteers with non-profit organizations to offer hands-on experience and have a major impact on the community. This is not only a way to connect volunteer services to community needs, but also serves as a reminder of the purpose for raising funds for the United Way annual campaign. GHHA donated $3,045 to cover the cost of the t-shirts given to the volunteers to wear on the event day. Forty-five volunteers worked on 24 projects in 2005 such as delivering Meals on Wheels, painting at United Rehabilitation Services and the Hazleton YMCA/YWCA, assembling wardrobes at Catholic Social Services and cleaning and organizing the offices at Project A.B.L.E.
Donations

In addition to the United Way Day of Caring t-shirts, the Alliance gave donations totaling $3,775 to the Standard Speaker for the Newspapers for Education Foundation, Hazleton Quarterback Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Miller Keystone Blood Center, USA Deaf Sports Federation, Diakon, American Cancer Society, Hazleton YMCA, Funfest and First Night Hazleton.

In addition, GHHA matched $10,909 in donations made by employees for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Employees also made donations to the Tsunami victims.

Fitness & Rehabilitation Member Appreciation Day

The GHHA Fitness & Rehabilitation Center staff hosted their Annual Member Appreciation Day and Community Health Fair. The day included free breakfast, lunch and dinner, raffles for tricky trays and chances to win fitness memberships. Tours were also available of the fitness facility. Attendees were able to take advantage of cholesterol, blood pressure, bone densitometry, stroke and body fat analysis screenings. Valuable health and nutrition information was also made available.

Flu Shots

In 2005, the GHHA Employee Health Nurse administered 380 Influenza inoculations to employees of the Greater Hazleton Health Alliance at no cost to the employee. All costs were incurred by the Hospitals. In addition, she administered the inoculations to 110 miners.

Gastric Bypass Support Group

The Gastric Bypass Support Group, directed by Dr. Michael Bono and sponsored by GHHA, was initiated through the education department. Monthly support group meetings, featuring programs and speakers, are managed by the education department and Dr. Bono/Jane Lashock, RN. By year's end, the support group had 60 members who demonstrated enthusiasm for the group and offered positive feedback on programs.

Walk from Obesity

Dr. Michael Bono, MD, facilitated the program on Walk from Obesity. Approximately 70 people of all ages participated in the third annual Walk from Obesity held at Hazle Township Community Park. The event is held to raise money for obesity awareness and research. Hazleton is one of only two communities in the state that holds a Walk from Obesity. The local walk received recognition for the local program, which is now called the Northeast Bariatric Center. A discussion was also held regarding issues related to Gastric Bypass Surgery in a question/answer format. As with all regular sessions, there was introduction of the new and old members in attendance. Discussions were held regarding the member's current stage in the process.

Weight Loss Seminar

Dr. Bono presented a free seminar on bariatric surgery. Explanation of the actual surgery and the health benefits to the surgical approach of weight loss. Dr. Bono discussed how the significant weight loss can make medical problems such as diabetes, hypertension and coronary artery disease easier to treat or possibly eliminate the problem. Discussions were held to help people decide if surgery was an option they would like to explore.
Health Infoline

Since 1993, GHHA's Health Infoline has provided residents with the information they need confidentially and conveniently via mail to their homes. In 2005, hundreds of residents requested medical information sent to their homes. The GHHA Medical Library houses more than 500 consumer health care books, as well as videocassettes, newsletters, journals and pamphlets. Many materials are available in both English and Spanish and cover a wide range of topics from educational about diseases and medical conditions to information on wellness and prevention. In addition, the library subscribes to the web version of Health Reference Academic Center, a comprehensive consumer health database that is updated monthly with the latest medical articles, research and references. The Infoline is available through a phone call and through our website.

Healthy Beginnings Plus Program

This program is Pennsylvania’s effort to assist low-income, pregnant women who are eligible for Medical Assistance with their pre and post-natal maternal health. It is designed to minimize the risks of complications associated with pregnancy and birth. In addition to medical care, counseling on the subjects of smoking cessation, parenting classes and nutrition are provided, along with social services and home assessments. Care is provided to women of the Hazleton Area by local physicians and a qualified hospital-based obstetrical nursing staff. 300 women had been enrolled in this program by the end of 2005.

Heart Disease Awareness

The Alliance participated in the National Wear Red Day to raise awareness of the number one silent killer in women – heart disease. The nutrition services department held a Healthy Heart Strategies seminar providing information on eating strategies to prevent heart disease and healthy snacks. The Alliance also offered free blood pressure screenings in the lobbies of both HGH and HSJMC. Red dress pins – the American Heart Association symbol for women and heart disease were also available for anyone attending the events.

Insurance Hotline

Our Insurance Coordinator is available to answer any questions concerning insurance. This qualified individual has helped hundreds of area residents with insurance problems, directed them to the proper insurance for their needs, explained what and what is not covered under their present insurance, and has directed many individuals to insurance programs for which they qualified but were unaware they had met the qualifications. This service is available to the entire community at no charge whether or not they use our services.

Meals on Wheels

The Greater Hazleton Health Alliance, in conjunction with the Greater Hazleton Meals on Wheels, delivered 35,658 meals to qualified recipients in the community during 2005.
Million Pound Meltdown

In conjunction with Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, WBRE-TV and WYOU-TV, GHHA held a mini walk and hosted a motivational speaker. Healthy snacks, free body fat analyses and a GHHA pedometer was given to each person who registered for the Million Pound Meltdown. The purpose was to help people take control of their lives and get healthier by losing weight. Approximately 50 people registered at the event held at HGH.

Parenting Classes

A group discussion on the challenges of being a parent. Topics discussed included: Understanding Your Child’s Misbehaving, Developing Mutual Respect, Logical Consequences for Misbehavior, and How to Listen to Your Child. Classes are free for those enrolled in the Labor & Delivery Classes and available to others for a nominal fee.

Pastoral Care

The Bernardine Sisters are always present for spiritual counseling and pastoral care to any patient, visitor or employee of the Medical Center, regardless of religion. Holy Communion was available upon request on a daily basis. Five of the Sisters, in addition to their duties, have donated more than 2,000 hours in Pastoral Care.

Pastoral Outreach Program

In 2005, 2,975 hours were logged by the 7 Alliance Volunteers and 50 other Pastoral Outreach Volunteers logged over 5,000 hours. The hours logged included home, hospital and nursing home visits, as well as telephone reassurance calls during the course of the year and sending greeting cards, i.e. Sympathy, Get Well, Birthday and Thinking of You, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Through monies provided by fund raisers throughout the year, the Pastoral Outreach Program was able to extend a helping hand to needy families of the Hazleton Area by providing meals at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. They also donated $1,000 in gift certificates at Christmas.

Pastoral Outreach Training Program

The Pastoral Outreach Coordinator, an employee of the Alliance, has trained employees of the Alliance, as well as members of the community to administer Pastoral Care to the patients of the hospital, nursing homes and home bound community of Hazleton. Volunteers are trained to show friendship by listening, to share by responding to the joys and concerns of the elderly and sick, to provide some spiritual presence, and to comfort in times of loneliness, illness and loss.

Twenty-three (23) area faith bodies were involved with the outreach training. Three new volunteers were trained in 2005. There are currently over 200 specially trained volunteers of which 15 are actively involved.

Patient Shuttle Service

This service provides rides for Greater Hazleton Area residents from their house to the Hospital, Outpatient Center, the MRI Center, the Rehab Center or any physician’s office and back home again, free of charge. There were 3,778 citizens that used the two shuttle vans in 2005. 2,470 went to Dr.’s offices and 1,308 went to one of our facilities (HGH, HSJMC, Fitness Center, MRI, Healthy Beginnings).
Prenatal Classes

Six (6) prenatal programs were offered during the year consisting of six, two-hour classes each. For a nominal fee, expectant couples were furnished with information on pregnancy, labor and birth. Women who were enrolled in the "Healthy Beginnings Plus Program" attended the classes free of charge. The Alliance's dietary staff and an area physician presented lectures on proper nutrition and infant safety. Tours of the Labor and Delivery Room, Nursery and Obstetrics units, as well as introduction to the obstetric nursing staff were presented by a certified nurse educator. One hundred fifty couples attended the sessions in 2005.

In addition, one of the classes is a two-hour session for the participants to become certified to perform CPR on infants and children up to age 8 and learn many other safety tips and first aid techniques. This class is also open and recommended for grandparents, babysitters and child care providers for a nominal fee.

Safe Sitter Program

The Safe Sitter Course is a one-day training program designed for 11 to 13-year-olds to increase their ability to provide safe, nurturing care for children, and to enhance the lives of young adolescents by providing them with the opportunity to acquire competencies in rescue skills, basic first aid, procedures to use if a child chokes and safe child care. The program includes information about the business of babysitting, child development facts about various age groups, tips on safety for the sitter, injury management, and behavior management. In 2005, 19 adolescents participated in the program and received certificates verifying completion of the course. This course continues to be met with much enthusiasm and positive feedback.

Senior Choice

The Hazleton area's sizable senior population has made this program one of GHHA's most popular programs with an enrollment of over 600. The enrollment for 2005 included over 75 new members. Members must be age 62 or older to qualify for this free program. Benefits include rapid registration, free monthly educational programs, a quarterly newsletter, free screenings, insurance hotline, and discounted rates at the Fitness Center. Bus trips to Atlantic City are offered to Senior Choice members at a discounted price. Bus trips and other social gatherings sponsored by the Medical Center's senior Choice Program encourage members to socialize and meet new friends. All refreshments are provided free of charge through the GHHA.

Senior Citizen Health Fairs

A Community Healthcare Awareness Program was held at the Greater Hazleton Senior Citizens Center in which approximately 39 senior citizens participated, and the Todd Eacius Senior Expo was held at the Laurel Mall. The health fairs provided the following various screenings and health related information: blood pressure screening, glucose monitoring for diabetes, nutritional counseling, glucose and cholesterol screening and anxiety screening. A lecture was presented by Jack Digwood, Physical Therapist, of the Gunderson Rehabilitation Unit concerning "Home Safety and Reducing the Risks of Falls." Information on GHHA, Hi-Tech Home Care – "Taking Healthcare Home with You" and "You and Your Blood Pressure," Wound, Ostomy & Continence Services – Skin Care & Aging, Urinary Incontinence, and Ostomy Care, Nutritional information on diabetes, lipids, weight management and sodium - "Health Nutrition for Seniors," Radiology Modalities, "Keeping You and Your Medicine
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Cabinet Healthy," Senior Choice Program, Health Insurance Tips, Rehab Care, Stroke Awareness and Arthritis Care, Advanced Directives, Living Wills, Alzheimer's Disease and Home Safety, Cardiac and Rehab Fitness.

Other Community Health Fairs were held at Providence Place, Hazleton Pumps and St. Lukes Manor at which educational information was available and glucose and blood pressure screenings were done on over 200 community members.

Sibling Classes

Free Big Brother/Big Sister Sibling classes are furnished to the older child of pregnant couples of the Hazleton area. This program is designed to ease the transition of a new infant into the family unit from an older sibling's point of view. The information provided to the children is geared toward their age group, ages three- to eight-years-old. Topics including "Mom's Hospital Stay," and "The Advantages and Disadvantages of Being the Older Child" are discussed between the children and a qualified instructor. Six programs were offered in 2005. A tour of Hazleton General Hospital, stickers, doctors and nurses caps and a snack are provided to the children free of charge.

Stroke Risk Assessment

The Stroke Risk Assessment was provided by the GHHA for 40 area community members. The purpose of this program is to provide stroke risk assessment and information for community members to help evaluate their stroke risk and raise awareness of measures that can help prevent strokes. Assessments were completed on the participants’ medical history, blood pressure, pulses and carotid doppler studies and were screened by healthcare professionals. Dr. Terrence Duffy provided carotid bruits screening. Individual’s assessment results were explained and questions answered. Participants were referred to their personal physician if assessment results indicated follow-up evaluation. Educational stroke literature was available and tours of the Gunderson Rehabilitation Unit were given.

Training Site

The Greater Hazleton Health Alliance is a training site to numerous schools and colleges:

Hazleton Area Career Center health career students come and observe throughout various departments within the hospital. The LPN and students from the nursing assistant program do their clinical time in our facilities and the LPN’s get their training at the Alliance.

Wilkes College nursing students do clinical rotations in various departments. We also have their bridge program to advance our own staff as well as others from LPN to BSN, from RN to BSN and from BSN to MSN.

Luzerne County Community College nursing students rotate in various departments and their paramedic students are in our Emergency Room.

In addition, we have had students from Miserecordia come and do clinical rotations with our own staff acting as their preceptors in clinical areas. We have also had student observers from other colleges in Social Services and Pharmacy.
Wound Therapy Seminar

GHHA hosted a wound therapy seminar for health professionals at the HSJ campus. The seminar, presented by Anita Coymen, Wound Ostomy and Continence Services, and Michele Cassic, Education Director, updated nursing and other health care professionals on strategies for promoting optimal skin integrity and provided information on new wound management therapies.

Additional Expenses

In addition to Charity Care and Donations as mentioned in the report, the Alliance incurred expenses exceeding $77,000.00 for Community Service events.