



# 2021 Community Benefit Annual Report

12/2021



## Introduction

Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana (RHI) is an acute care rehabilitation hospital for inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation. RHI specializes in brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke, and comprehensive medical rehabilitation for injuries or illnesses resulting in loss of function. RHI is a community collaboration between Indiana University Health and St. Vincent Health.

RHI follows federal guidelines for reporting community benefit – programs designed to improve health and increase access to healthcare services – and other community investments. As defined by these guidelines, community benefit includes charity care, unreimbursed costs of government-sponsored programs and support for medical research and other healthcare services that provide care to promote health and wellness in response to identified community needs.

The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, declared a national and state public health emergency, continues to impact individuals on both personal and professional levels. From a community benefit perspective, RHI has had to cancel or postpone several of our outreach initiatives for 2021. Indiana state and RHI coronavirus response requirements have limited or completely prohibited certain interactions between individuals for safety reasons. A number of our community initiatives were forced to be placed on temporary hold because program success is built on in-person interactions. These initiatives include:

- Volunteer reading programs
- Drug Takeback for expired medications
- Education on safe medicine best practices
- Community fitness program

The past two years have altered the way we strive to impact our community. We look forward to resuming implementation of our targeted initiatives when safe and appropriate or planning other initiatives that both meet significant health needs in the community and follow coronavirus response requirements.

## *“Positively Impacting Our Community”*

The following highlights programs and activities implemented by RHI this past year to impact the priority needs identified by the most recent Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA):

### **Obesity and Diabetes**

**IPS Sports Physicals** - RHI's Community Benefit program is focused on carrying our mission outside the walls of our hospital to serve our community and the top needs that have been identified in the most recent Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). As part of this focus, on Tuesday, May 25th at Shortridge High School, RHI team members partnered with our colleagues at IU Health to provide free sports physicals for IPS students from local schools. Volunteer roles included greeting, screening for vision and measuring the height, weight and blood pressure of student athletes. Because of these collaborative efforts, we have helped 105 Marion County high school students stay active by passing their physicals that will allow them to participate in sports activities. Thank you to our volunteers for their amazing efforts to positively impact the health needs of our community. Together we truly make a difference!



### **Social Determinants of Health**

**Sunday Night Reading Session** - As part of RHI's continued commitment on supporting various reading and educational programs that encourage academic achievement in Marion County, we participated in a virtual Sunday Night Reading Session with Jonathan Jennings Elementary School 109 on the evening of February 21st. The focus of the event was to engage the students in reading and discussion around identified topics of interest, encouraging youth attitudes toward reading and promoting positive home literacy environments.

**Junior Achievement JobSparks** - RHI enjoyed participating in the 2021 JobSpark Virtual event on September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. This two-day initiative focuses on a coalition of educators and industry leaders coming together to offer students the opportunity to learn about careers from industry representatives in time to begin planning for their high school course work and better prepare them for life after high school graduation. Research shows that students who have a greater understanding of what career options they might be interested in are much more likely to stay in school and graduate. As was the case in 2020, the COVID pandemic again forced this year's event to be conducted virtually. 10,726 Indianapolis 8th graders registered, logged on and tuned in to over 400 virtual experiences that included viewing Q&A panels with professionals, pre-recorded videos and interactive activities, opening their eyes to the thousands of jobs and career paths out there that align with their individual interests and unique skills. RHI enjoyed the opportunity to partner with other local hospitals and organizations to sponsor and support the Health and Life Sciences Job Cluster. Our participation included sharing interactive, educational videos highlighting the fields of occupational and speech therapy and "sparking" an interest for a number of students potentially interested in future careers in rehabilitation.



**Habitat for Humanity** - On Friday, October 8th, Team RHI members partnered with Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity to support a build day on the West side of Indianapolis. Our volunteers did an incredible sharing their time and talents painting and putting on the finishing interior touches for three new houses on West 19th Street. RHI continues to welcome the opportunity to serve our community. As a result of these collaborative efforts, several families will soon be owning their first Habitat home. In addition to stable housing, research shows that homeownership leads to many additional benefits including improved mental health, decreased reliance on social services, and improved academic achievement of children.



**Student Book Gifting Program** - On Thursday, December 16th, RHI employees had the wonderful opportunity to spend the morning at Jonathan Jennings Elementary School 109 meeting with and providing new, age-appropriate books to each student in K-6th grade as part of our Book Gifting Program. This is the second year RHI has supported this initiative with the focus on providing students high quality reading resources. Research shows that children from lower-income homes have limited access to books. The sad truth is that the vast majority of children who start behind, stay behind, leading to an increase in our nation's dropout rate among low-income and minority students. Each homeroom teacher at School 109 assisted by providing the names of 2 books for every student in their respective grade to receive and call their own. RHI provided funding for a total of 606 books for the 303 students that comprise the K-6th grades at Jonathan Jennings. RHI looks forward to future opportunities to support programs and initiatives that facilitate educational successes in Marion County.



**Blessings in Back Sacks** - Indiana's overall food insecurity rate is significantly higher than the national rate and has continued to increase over the past decade. RHI team members continue their relationship with Jonathan Jennings Elementary School to fight food insecurity in our local community by providing the students with backpacks of ready to eat and easy to prepare food. A total of 110 backpacks were delivered to the school for distribution over the extended Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks.



***“Thank you so much for your generosity and amazing support – we have so much appreciation for our friends at RHI!”***

–Kevin McMahan Principal, Jonathan Jennings School #109

