GETTING TO KNOW OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH A NEW LENS

Have you ever been curious about who lives in your neighborhood? Or have you ever made a mental note that the demographics of your community are changing and wondered how the personality of your neighborhood has changed in the last 20 years? As a nonprofit hospital, we have the opportunity to ask those questions and explore the makeup of our local communities every three years as part of our Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This year, we are going to embark on an incredible effort to conduct this needs assessment with other nonprofit hospitals in the San Gabriel Valley — a task that has not happened here before. Those hospitals include: Huntington Memorial, Arcadia Methodist, Citrus Valley/Queen of the Valley, Kaiser Permanente – Baldwin Park and Pomona Valley. We are also collaborating with two local health departments, Los Angeles County Health Department (SPA3) and Pasadena Department of Public Health. Together, we are going to take a deeper look at not only the leading causes of death and disability in our region, but also the social disparities of health and how they drive a person’s risk for different types of disease.

This collaboration is going to benefit our own CHNA in multiple ways. First, we have the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with our local hospitals through this collaboration. We do not ordinarily have the time to meet...
and discuss areas of mutual interest. This shared effort is providing us with the time and venue to learn more about other hospitals’ priority areas and build partnerships where we can support each other in addressing community benefit focus areas. Next, we will be able to be more strategic in our delivery of focus groups in communities throughout the San Gabriel Valley. By communicating and planning together, we can take closer looks into our most vulnerable communities, paying special attention to diversity by way of cultural and linguistic groups. More important, we can avoid duplication and the triggering of focus group fatigue in our communities. This will demonstrate a mindful attention to our community stakeholders and level of respect that is required when working with especially vulnerable and at-risk residents. Finally, we will share data. Together, we can discuss the findings and look for the gaps within the services in our region, and focus our community benefit dollars on addressing issues of great concern to the people living and working in the San Gabriel Valley.

Initial CHNA planning began this August, facilitated by the Health Consortium of San Gabriel and funded in part by the UniHealth Foundation. The dive into the data begins in November and we will complete the report in December 2019.

Once we complete the CHNA report the next phase will be sharing the findings with our local community and enlisting stakeholders in prioritizing issues so that we can develop hospital specific implementation strategies. These strategies will provide the framework to guide our Community Benefit priorities for the following three years.

If you got this far in the story, you might be asking, “Well what does this all have to do with me?” Imagine being able to access a report to that provides an accurate and detailed account of your community that you might need when you write your next National Institutes of Health grant application. Or perhaps you want to plan an intervention in the community but aren’t sure where you should start. You could use the data in the report to you help you target your efforts. The CHNA from the last round is currently posted on the Community Benefit website. Go there and explore all of our previous efforts and yearly updates on our progress in addressing our own priority areas. As always, you can contact the experts in our Department of Community Benefit for more information.
In the last round of Kindness Grants released in August, the Connecting People of African American Descent (CPAD) group were funded to deliver an event that focuses on African-American hair care and cancer prevention. This is an important topic to be shared with our community because of the equivocal findings that demonstrate a link between hair care products and breast cancer (Llanos AAM, Rabkin A, Bandera EV, et al. Hair product use and breast cancer risk among African American and White women. Carcinogenesis. 2017;38(9):883-892.) In partnership with SET for LIFE, a faith-based community outreach program of Second Baptist Church Inc., CPAD will deliver a half-day seminar on Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018, from 2-6 p.m. The first two hours will be filled with incredible speakers and panels, discussing the issues related to the unregulated hair care industry. The last two hours will be devoted to a rich vendor fair that represents a variety health care and beauty products, as well as community health resources. Be sure to save the date and look for announcements in the near future.

Kindness Grants are an internal funding source to help City of Hope employees do good in their community. If you have a great idea and a local community partner, you should consider applying for a Kindness Grant. There will be two funding cycles this fiscal year. To learn more, go to our website.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have the time, we have got a deal for you. We currently host two ongoing volunteer opportunities that can contribute to your overall sense of well-being and feeling like you are giving back to our City of Hope community. The first one is the monthly food distribution at the Duarte Senior Center. On the fourth Thursday of each month, we help the senior center and the LA Regional Food Bank dispense food to needy seniors. In September, we served more than in August. Your help would be greatly appreciated. To learn more, contact Nancy Clifton-Hawkins. The second opportunity is to join our Garden Club. Yes, if you haven’t already been mesmerized by the lettuce, spinach and kale in our Garden of Hope, this is your chance. We meet every Friday at 8 a.m., rain or shine. Bring your hat and gloves and we will provide the rest. Contact Angela Wan or visit our Garden Club Chatter Group to get involved.