Our Impact on the Economy and Our Community 2020
May 2021
HOW FHN CONTRIBUTES TO OUR ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES

FHN invests in the health of our communities in many ways. We provide essential medical services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and we offer a variety of innovative, preventive and community services that improve the health of citizens.

An increasingly important way FHN keeps the communities in which we serve healthy is by supporting local and state economies. FHN is a vigorous economic engine for our communities and for Illinois.

This report, prepared with assistance from the Illinois Hospital Association, highlights the significant role FHN plays in our communities. It identifies and measures the direct involvement of our hospital in the local and state economy and demonstrates the “ripple” effect of the dollars the healthcare sector brings into the community, along with the jobs it helps create. It also illustrates the ways we provide for a safe, stable, and healthy region.

FHN IS AN ECONOMIC ANCHOR FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

As with any major employer, FHN’s economic impact goes beyond its payroll. First, that payroll stimulates other payrolls as FHN employees live and shop in the region. Second, while we try to obtain as many goods and services as we can locally, purchases of goods and services bolster not only the regional economy but the national economy as well, since many of our supplies and equipment are not manufactured locally. Third, we create shorter-term jobs and make different kinds of purchases when we build or remodel our facilities.

EMPLOYMENT STABILITY

FHN’s total payroll for approximately 1,243 team members – from FHN Memorial Hospital to the employees of our regional offices in communities throughout northern Illinois – is approximately $85.9 million. These dollars serve as an important economic stimulus for the communities in which we operate, creating and supporting jobs throughout the local and state economies.

The Illinois Hospital Association has calculated that each healthcare job in the state creates an additional 1.4 jobs in other sectors.

When the two employment figures are combined, 1,243 FHN jobs and 1,740 other jobs created as a result, FHN can be credited with securing at least 2,983 jobs in northwest Illinois and southwest Wisconsin.*

STIMULATING THE ECONOMY WITH PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES

FHN spends more than $68 million each year on the goods and services it needs to provide healthcare – including expenditures on things like medical supplies, electricity for its buildings and food for its patients. These purchases flow from FHN to vendors and businesses and then ripple throughout the economy. Not all FHN purchases can be made from local suppliers, but whenever possible, we are proud to patronize businesses in the communities where we live and work.

BUILDING FOR A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

In 2020, FHN spent $4.8 million on enhancing and updating buildings and major medical equipment. This investment, which represents an average year of capital spending, generates an economic impact of approximately $6,270,000 for our region every year.*

*Formulas provided by the Illinois Hospital Association
A GOOD NEIGHBOR

FHN is proud to have a positive impact on the communities in which we serve. We contribute to civic and cultural programs, make space available to community groups, and improve the environment.

FHN is one of the leaders of the Connect the D.O.T.S. (Doors of Team Support) region-wide effort to help address the needs of individuals with significant health and wellness challenges. Our partners include first responders, transportation providers, and various agencies whose missions include the type of expanded assistance these patients need.

The community-wide goals of Connect the D.O.T.S. are to promote well-being – and being well – by helping individuals meet their basic physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs, and to work together as partners to optimize processes that connect us while fostering communication that can help all of us succeed in our respective missions.

One way we’re enabling that communication is by sharing the collective capabilities of all organizations that could be a resource for these individuals – and those working to help them – in a common database accessible 24/7 to all. You can read more about Connect the D.O.T.S. and view the most current database at www.fhn.org/dots.asp.

Each year, FHN is proud to offer families in the area many chances to get out and enjoy some fun together, which we believe is an essential element in good mental and emotional health and in overall wellness. The COVID-19 pandemic presented a new challenge in reaching out and connecting with the people in our communities in 2020.

While some of the services we offer were cut short, FHN reached out via virtual and socially distanced events when possible.

The Mobile Rx Pantry Program, a partnership between FHN and the Northern Illinois Food Bank, helped to feed 3,450 families in northwest Illinois. Pandemic-safe distribution events continue to be scheduled every two weeks.

When the pandemic hit the area, FHN updated the public 24 times with bi-weekly COVID-19 videos featuring FHN experts in addition to dozens of articles, social media posts, radio interviews, and other public messages so far – this effort continues into 2021.

For each healthcare job created in Illinois, nearly 1.4 additional jobs are created.

Each $1 spent by FHN and other healthcare organizations generates an additional $1.40 in spending to state and local economies.

Illinois hospitals play a critical and irreplaceable role in building healthy communities and a strong state economy.
CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

FHN Memorial Hospital provides vital healthcare services to our community.

In 2020 we had:
- 3,347 inpatient visits
- 158,003 outpatient visits and procedures
- more than 270 births, and
- 20,138 emergency department visits.

FHN Memorial Hospital is one of just five satellite centers for the Illinois Poison Control Center. In 2020, we educated more than 415 people on poison prevention, in-person through March and virtually after pandemic precautions began.

Throughout FHN, an average of 1,500 people visit healthcare providers every day at 18 locations spread across northwest Illinois. FHN’s more than 100 healthcare providers includes more than 30 primary care providers as well as physicians practicing in 39 specialties.

FHN is proud to help the residents of our communities lead healthy lives. We call programs and services designed to meet this objective our Community Benefit.

Our Community Benefit objectives are to:
- Provide access to healthcare to people in our service area, regardless of their ability to pay
- Encourage the youth in our communities to make healthy choices
- Provide resources and experiences to promote the physical, emotional, and mental health of individuals and families
- Increase the availability of healthcare workers in our service area
- Support efforts to create healthy and viable communities
- Prepare for future community needs

Here’s how we achieved those goals last year:
- FHN’s Certified Application Counselors (CAC) provided education and advocacy to more than 70 individuals during the 2020 Marketplace open enrollment period, November and December 2020. Through the ongoing education and advocacy provided by FHN’s CACs, they were able to enroll more than 30 individuals and/or their families in a Marketplace or Medicaid Expansion insurance health plan.
- FHN’s Certified Application Counselors spent more than 140 hours assisting our consumers by answering questions and/or helping them enroll in a Financial Assistance Program, Marketplace or Medicaid Expansion insurance health plan.
- FHN’s Financial Assistance Programs wrote off more than $3.6 million in care when serving uninsured or underinsured individuals in our community.
- People received care at more than 3,600 visits to the FHN Community Healthcare Center, a joint program of FHN and the Stephenson County Health Department.
- FHN employees helped mentor and train students in programs including nursing, rehabilitation, radiology, laboratory science, medical school, and high school (through the HOYA program) in 2020. FHN is also part of the Northwest Illinois Collaborative, which seeks to increase the number and quality of nursing graduates.

The Illinois healthcare sector is a consistent creator of jobs that bolster the middle class.

Between January 2000 and January 2019, Illinois healthcare jobs rose 32.1%.

In the same time frame, total Illinois employment rose just 2.8%.

Illinois healthcare employment is projected to grow by 13.5% by 2026.
ENCOURAGING, EDUCATING ABOUT, AND PROMOTING HEALTH IN 2020

One of the best ways to improve the health of our communities is to reach out with programs and events to encourage and promote good health. In 2020, FHN:

• Promoted good health and gave back to area schools with our free community summer exercise competition, Miles And Minutes. In 2020, 1,178 participants logged a total of 2,072,550 minutes of exercise and $8,200 was donated to nine area schools
• Through March, administered more than 1,528 health screenings at no charge, including blood pressure, height/weight/BMI, blood sugar/glucose, cholesterol screening, counseling, and education
• Educated more than 415 people on poison prevention
• Offered health information through provider-led seminars to more than 168 people at three events through March
• Presented school programs focused on health to 2,767 students
• Donated $7,980 to eight area schools through sports physical clinics – a total of nine pandemic-safe clinics were held, serving 399 students
• Brought people together 11 times – most virtually – for a variety of family-focused area events, including Festival of Trees, Get Fit, Family Bingo, and other fun, healthy activities

In Illinois, 1 in 10 jobs is in healthcare. Illinois health systems employ more than a 285,000 people, generating nearly 495,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Illinois health systems pumped $101.3 billion into the state’s economy in 2020.
IN CONCLUSION ...

Healthcare organizations are a key ingredient to Illinois’ quality of life and to keeping communities healthy and vibrant. FHN is a major contributor to both the local and state economies and to keeping families healthy and secure by providing needed healthcare services.

The data and information contained in this report provide strong evidence that the economic benefit of FHN on the local and state economies is significant. To continue to attract jobs to and maintain families in Illinois, it is critical that the state have high-quality healthcare providers and services.

We’re proud to be a part of the community!


Some photos taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.