



# Community Benefit Report 2022

Committed to strengthening relationships  
and embracing diversity



# Acknowledgment

All of our work in the community is possible because of the support and effort of our community partners. We truly value the opportunity to continue to build relationships with them, and would like to thank them for all that they do for the community, and for their collaborative experience.

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# Greetings

Being resilient through uncertainty taught us that achieving health equity through deeper impact requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond traditional healthcare interventions to meet the needs of patients and the community. With the new community health needs assessment (CHNA) cycle, Beacon Health System is uniquely positioned to create meaningful health improvements that will last and close the health disparities gap. In 2022, with updated priorities, we approached how we achieved health outcomes with a refined lens to accomplish the following:

- Address social determinants of health such as poverty, education, housing, and access to healthy food and safe environments in order to influence health outcomes.
- Engage and empower entire communities, particularly marginalized and underrepresented groups, in designing and implementing health interventions. This can involve building trust, involving community members in decision-making, and incorporating their perspectives into interventions.
- Develop culturally tailored interventions that consider the unique needs and perspectives of diverse populations on health outcomes.
- Increase access to quality health services, particularly in underserved and under-resourced communities. This involves expanding health insurance coverage and improving health literacy.

This work is made possible with the steadfast approach of capitalizing on our strengths, addressing the gaps, and staying the course, which is based on best practices and evidence-based approaches. We also relied on strong partnerships with community organizations that are passionate about providing services and resources to improve health outcomes over a three-year period; resulting in consistent program delivery over time.

Achieving and demonstrating a deeper impact at the conclusion of this CHNA cycle requires a systemic approach. Reviewing this report, you will see that last year we took time to understand what was needed, align with essential partners, and equip ourselves with the knowledge and tools to be effective. We also focused on fewer metrics for the next three years, to be more intentional. This approach is seen this year.

We express our deepest gratitude to our community and our partners for the exceptional contributions in 2022 and look forward to our future together where we continue to deliver outstanding care, inspire health, and connect with heart.



Kimberly Green Reeves, MPA  
*Executive Director*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly G. Reeves". The script is fluid and cursive.

Beacon Health  
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positioned to create  
meaningful health  
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# Beacon Health System, Community Impact

Beacon Health System provides exceptional care that is easily accessible and close to home. With over 160 locations in Indiana and Michigan, we offer a comprehensive range of services to cater to the diverse needs of our community. We are the only non-profit healthcare system in the region that is locally owned, governed, and operated, which allows us to extend our care to every member of the community, regardless of their ability to pay.

We chose the name “Beacon” for our health system as it reflects our mission to “light the way to wellness.” Unlike traditional hospitals, Beacon is more than just brick and mortar building – it’s a dedicated system that prioritizes wellness above all else.

As a part of the Beacon Health System family, Beacon Community Impact shares the commitment to improve the health of our community by addressing the most pressing health needs. We work collaboratively with multiple organizations in a health network using data-driven, evidence-based, and transparent practices to chart progress and measure health impact as it relates to the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).

Our commitment to building strong partnerships with community organizations and residents ensures that we are

able to address the unique health needs of each community we serve in Indiana (St. Joseph, Elkhart and Marshall counties) and Michigan (St. Joseph County). Through these partnerships, we can work together to provide the best possible care and support to those who need it most.

We have a steadfast commitment to making our community one of the healthiest in the nation. To achieve this, we offer a range of services and programs to help people stay well, including:

- Providing prevention education on important health topics.
- Offering tools and resources to adopt healthier lifestyle choices.
- Removing barriers to adequate healthcare access.

**At Beacon Community Impact, we accomplish this through three main approaches:**

- Providing funding for nonprofit organizations that help create change in a CHNA priority area.
- Working with organizations, businesses, and other groups to build the capacity of our community to respond to its health needs.
- Directly delivering educational and clinical programming to address community health needs in our service area.

## Mission Statement

We deliver  
outstanding care,  
inspire health and  
connect with heart.

## Our Values

- TRUST
- RESPECT
- INTEGRITY
- COMPASSION





# Our Community Benefit Approach

Beacon Health System's 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment identified two top health priorities: Mental Health and Healthcare Access. These were common across all three counties where Beacon operates a hospital. Our approach to Community Benefit includes addressing these health needs from three angles. With each approach, both internal programs and externally funded partners are required to report on common metrics. This allows Beacon to focus its resources to achieve and demonstrate a deeper impact in our priority health areas.

First, recognizing the importance of partnering with other organizations who are experts in what they do, Beacon funds community non-profits who have boots on the ground in the most vulnerable neighborhoods in our service area, and with more diverse populations. Each of our funded partners who are addressing one of the tactics outlined on the Implementation Strategy are responsible for reporting both the number of participants they serve and one or more outcome metric in the priority areas of Mental Health or Healthcare Access. In addition, in 2022, Beacon Health System funded three partners to help them build capacity to serve more people or develop an infrastructure to make their service more effective or collect data that demonstrate their impact.

Beacon's second angle of evaluating Community Benefit is to provide client programming through the Community Impact department – services are provided by the Early Childhood Services team. Programs include the St. Joseph County WIC program, two Sickle Cells programs, and our Family & Infants Support Program (formerly Perinatal Care Coordination (PNCC) program). Overall, the focus of these groups is to improve the health

status of women, infants, and young families, particularly those who are underserved. Our Community Health Services team focuses on preventive services through community health educators with school curricula delivered throughout the three-county area in middle and high schools. Summer programming shifts to health-related day camps and participation at community health fairs. Though it may not be their primary focus, these community health teams screen for and provide referrals for clients experiencing mental health challenges. Likewise, they emphasize the importance of trusted adults as protective factors for youth.

Finally, Beacon administers state and federal grants as the fiscal agent and to deliver direct programming funded by the grants. In 2022, we were involved with grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the U. S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. These grants funded two programs to provide education about COVID vaccines and provide the vaccines themselves. 2022 was also the second year of administering Project HOPE, and the first year for Supported and Safe, also funded by HRSA, which established a coalition of organizations to address opioid use in Marshall County. Similarly, Beacon Community Impact provides services and collaborates with outside organizations with funding from a State of Indiana Safety Pin grant. Finally, Beacon functions as the fiscal agent for programming run by Oaklawn, the local outpatient mental health provider, to build crisis response teams.

# 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)



Beginning in January 2021, Beacon Health System undertook completing a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This assessment focused on creating a better understanding of the health needs of the Beacon Community (Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall, and St. Joseph counties) and the response necessary to address the need. Data was gathered through secondary data collection, a key informant survey, and community focus groups on a variety of topics centered on health indicators and social determinants of health.

The goal of the CHNA is to provide Beacon Health System with a clear picture of Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall, and St. Joseph counties, which constitutes the service areas of Elkhart General Hospital, Memorial Hospital of South Bend, and Community Hospital of Bremen. Beacon Health System will use the assessment findings to prioritize health issues in the Beacon Community.

The project took the following approach to gain a better understanding of community health needs:

- **Key Informant Survey** – A survey went to community leaders and those knowledgeable about the communities' health issues. The key informants list was developed by Beacon Community Impact staff along with input from a variety of key stakeholders. Responses totaling 207 were collected and analyzed.
- **Secondary Data Research** – Information related to the current state of the communities' economic, social and health status published by established sources. Data, when possible, was collected for a three-year period in order to establish a trend. Over 1,000 data points were collected and analyzed, encompassing more than 80 best practice indicators. Data from Beacon Health System's electronic health record (EHR) were also used as a secondary data source.
- **Community Focus Groups** – Groups of 3 - 18 individuals were engaged in conversations about the current health needs of the community. Beacon Community Impact used Stanford's Focus Group Guide and conducted

three focus groups per county (Elkhart, Marshall, and St. Joseph). Staff conducted at least two English and one Spanish focus group per county, with each group being recorded for continuity. Focus group recordings were transcribed and de-identified using a professional transcription service and qualitative research software tools were used to analyze the transcripts for common themes. Staff then engaged in an interrater reliability check to ensure accuracy of identified themes.

The top Community Health Needs as identified by key informants, secondary data, and focus groups are:

- 1. Mental Health**
- 2. Chronic Disease**
- 3. Healthcare Access**

Substance Use was also identified as a key health issue, particularly by community members in focus groups and in open-ended responses in the key informant survey. More specifically, substance use disorder rates have increased because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beacon Health System's Executive Leadership Team, comprised of executives from Beacon Health System, and the Presidents of Community Hospital of Bremen, Elkhart General Hospital, and Memorial Hospital of South Bend, reviewed a summary of the CHNA Report and approved Mental Health and Healthcare Access as the top priority areas on Oct. 6, 2021. A final version of the CHNA report was approved by each of Beacon's hospital boards:

<b>Elkhart General Hospital</b>	Nov. 9, 2021
<b>Memorial Hospital of South Bend</b>	Nov. 30, 2021
<b>Community Hospital of Bremen</b>	Dec. 16, 2021



# Implementation Strategy



We are leveraging our resources, focusing on prevention and mitigation, collaborating with Beacon departments and community-based organizations, and involving community members directly.

## Mental Health Strategy

- Provide wrap-around mental health support with a multidisciplinary team from various referral sources.
- Partner on the development of a Self-Healing Community to build resilience and relieve stress on the traditional mental health care system.
- Drive the rollout of Trauma-Informed Care throughout Beacon and the community.
- Health and Wellness Team – provide evidence-based community and school education.
- Community Health Workers (CHWs) on the Early Childhood Services and Community Health Services teams provide peer-led education to address mental wellness and resilience.

## Healthcare Access Strategy

- Embed in Beacon Medical Group (BMG) practices to work with pregnant women with adverse childhood experiences and social determinants of health needs.
- Have a community health worker at Community Hospital of Bremen.
- Grow and standardize the use of community health workers for scaling out in the future.
- Implement experts in navigating the healthcare system.
- Educate patients to optimize their use of the health system.
- Refer to insurance navigators for insurance enrollment.
- Build organizational health literacy between Beacon and Community Impact departments.

## What to Measure

### Mental Health Metrics

- % of population with frequent mental health distress
- % of population with two or more trusted support people

### Healthcare Access Metrics

- % of population with health insurance (adults < 65 and children)
- % of adults who reported their healthcare providers always involved them in decisions about their care, as much as they wanted.

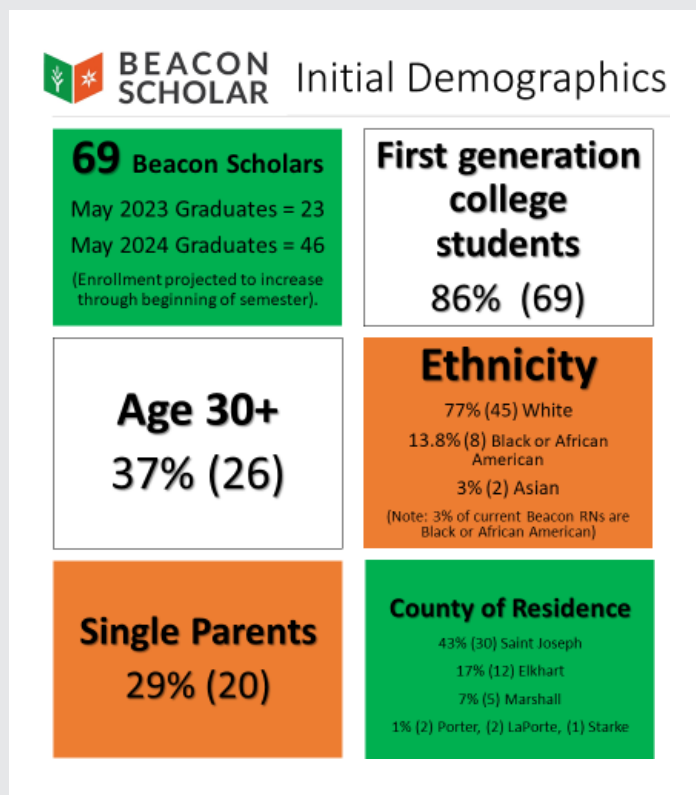


# Highlights from 2022

## Beacon Scholar Program

In 2022 Beacon Health System and Ivy Tech Community College South Bend-Elkhart, partnered to create the Beacon School of Nursing. Joining forces with Ivy Tech provides the opportunity to address the nursing shortage our community is facing. Through this, we also support equitable economic prosperity in underrepresented communities and minorities.

The Beacon Scholar program and partnership with Ivy Tech is two-tiered. First, Beacon supports nursing education by helping Ivy Tech cover the cost of faculty to assist in maintaining state-required faculty to student ratios and expand the program's capacity by 60% over the next 5 years. Second, Beacon covers the cost of students' tuition, fees and books as well as provides them with a living stipend. Students graduate from the program with their Registered Nursing license and have a job awaiting them at one of Beacon's hospitals. The aim of this program is to increase access to education for lower-income, underrepresented groups to ensure our workforce is reflective of the communities we serve. Below is a visual breakdown of achievements to date.



## WIC

The Women Infant Children (WIC) program is a federally funded program aiming to ensure that pregnant women, moms, infants and children under the age of five are receiving the proper nutrition in order to live healthy lives. Beacon Community Impact serves as the fiscal agent for the WIC programs serving St. Joseph County with six strategically placed sites including the communities newest South East Neighborhood Center (SENC) under United Way of St. Joseph County's 1Roof project. The program as a whole serves over 15,000 individuals in our community and the newest site at the SENC is near its goal of serving 600 participants by September of 2023. WIC provides healthy foods for the families, nutrition and health screenings and assessments, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding support, and referrals to other resources.





## Street Medicine South Bend

The Beacon Memorial Family Medicine Residency program launched its Street Medicine South Bend (SMSB) program in December 2022. This program is based on an emerging field of medicine that began in 1992 in Pittsburgh, PA, and has now reached over 85 communities who have established their own street medicine programs. This “reality-based health care” aims to understand the health needs of homeless populations and meet them where they are to provide care.

The SMSB’s goal is to improve the healthcare of individuals experiencing homelessness by understanding their realities, building trust, minimizing barriers to accessing medical care, and reducing these individuals’ cost of care (as well as the overall cost of healthcare delivery in the South Bend community). In collaboration with the Beacon Health System Foundation, the SMSB travels to Knights Inn in South Bend where Motels4Now is providing shelter to those experiencing homelessness. The SMSB provides on-site evaluation, diagnostic testing, and treatment, and connects patients to long-term primary care through one of the local federally qualified health centers, HealthLinc. Though the program is in its inaugural year, the program hopes to track potential Emergency Room visits that were prevented. So far, they have reached 50 unique patients and more than 15% of whom have received care multiple times in the program’s first three and a half months.

## Beacon Community Service

Beacon recognizes that participating in volunteerism enriches the lives of the workforce as well as the community. Community Service through “Beacon’s Helping Hands” encourages Beacon associates to participate in community activities aligned with Beacon’s Mission and Values. To support community involvement, Associates who volunteer with a 501(c)(3) charitable organization whose activities align with the Mission and Values of Beacon Health System may be compensated for their Community Service. Full-time associates are compensated for up to 4 hours a year and part-time associates are compensated up to 2 hours per year. In 2022, Beacon associates collectively logged 430.9 hours of helping charitable organization in their community and living the Beacon mission of connecting with heart. As we continue to adjust from meeting emergent needs brought on by COVID, we look forward to uplifting the community through individual volunteer service.

## Grand Rounds

Beacon Health System’s Medical Education Committee looks to provide the system’s medical professionals with timely and relevant education sessions to ensure providers are receiving ongoing education. Beacon is accredited by the Indiana State Medical Association and is able to provide these ongoing education sessions free of charge. Beacon also designates continuing education credits for the sessions.

Memorial Hospital of South Bend and Elkhart General Hospital each host two educational sessions every month where attendance is free and open to the public. Topics range from management of diseases or conditions, diversity, equity, and inclusion considerations for patient care, updates on new studies, social determinants of health discussions and more. The Medical Education Committee has existing partnerships within the community. Through the partnerships with the St. Joseph and Elkhart County Health Departments, Grand Round discussions include education around the opioid crisis and gun violence, with the goal to improve community wellness. Additionally, Beacon actively participates in helping educate doctors in training at both the Indiana University School of Medicine and Marian University, Indianapolis, College of Osteopathic Medicine. These efforts help recruit future physicians to the area and ultimately to become part of Beacon. Having more providers in the area benefits the community by improving access to care.

The Grand Rounds sessions are led by subject matter experts. They can be attended in-person, online, or watched asynchronously as recordings are made available. Since 2020, there have consistently been over 1,000 individuals who have benefitted from these sessions each year.



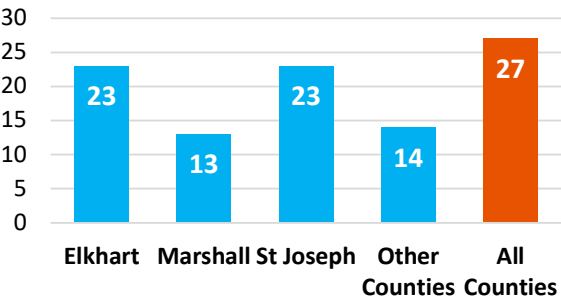
# Our Reach

## Counties and associated hospitals

Community Hospital of Bremen • Elkhart General Hospital • Memorial Hospital of South Bend

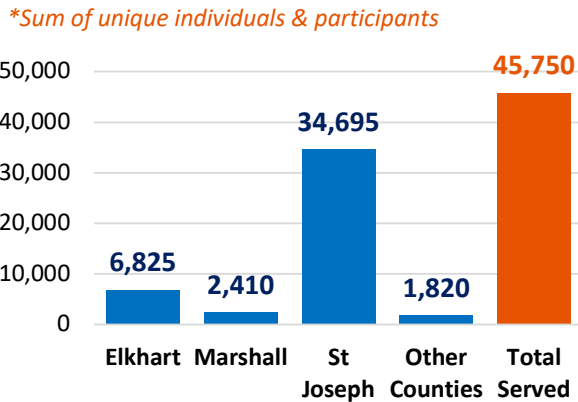


2022 Program Count by County



*\*WIC is currently only in St. Joseph County. Of the 34,695 served, WIC accounts for 47.4%.*

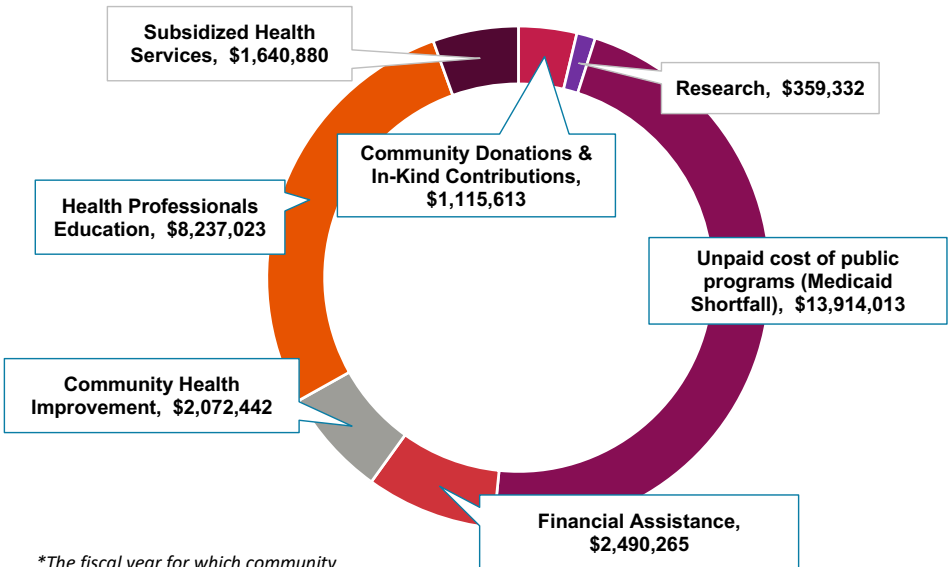
2022 Total Served by County



# Community Benefit Numbers

## Changing lives in our communities

Our community benefit flows from our mission. In fiscal year 2021\*, Beacon Health System provided \$29,829,568 in community benefit.



*\*The fiscal year for which community benefit is most readily available.*



# Healthcare Access

Increasing health care access, quality and equity implies addressing all major social, economic, environmental and behavioral factors that enable individuals and communities to make healthy choices and enjoy a long, healthy life. Beacon Health System will leverage its Community Benefit programs to close health gaps, through increased awareness, knowledge and referral of underserved/underinsured residents to insurance providers. We also align with Healthy People 2030 in recognizing that health literacy is an essential component of health care access. We work to develop both personal and organizational health literacy, thereby increasing capacities at individual, family, community and organizational levels to manage poor health and access to care.

**People served = 11,356**

People served is sum of unique individuals and participants

## Participating Organizations

### *Community Partners*

- Center for Healing and Hope
- Healthy Beginnings (Elkhart County Health Department)
- United Health Services

### *Beacon Community Impact Programs*

- COVID Outreach
- COVID Vaccinations
- Elkhart Health Navigator Program
- Sickie Cell Broad Scope
- Sickie Cell – Infant Screening

## Program Highlight

**Elkhart County Health Navigator** – “A family came into our area from Venezuela, because of the economic collapse. The mother was 6 months pregnant and had not been able to receive prenatal care for her pregnancy. What made a difference was our interpreter line. I was able to communicate with the woman and get the information I needed for health insurance enrollment. From health insurance enrollment, I was able to get her on WIC assistance, enroll her in a BABE program and connect her with community agencies. She was very thankful for our programs as they do not have these programs in Venezuela. Prior to our contact, she said her plan was to go to the emergency room, once she knew she was going into labor. Our program opened the door for a healthy pregnancy and healthy outcome for baby.”



# Mental Health

In the Community Health Needs Assessment, key informants, secondary data sources and participants in community focus groups all identified mental health, suicide rates and adverse childhood events (ACEs) as well as trauma in general, as the top health concern in Beacon's service area. Beacon seeks to address these issues not only by directly serving clients to reduce or resolve mental health challenges, but also to reduce the stigma related to seeking services. More broadly, we seek to create a Self-Healing Community with an emphasis on a trauma-informed approach to care, and building the community's capacity to reduce the incidence of trauma and the long-term effects of chronic stress.

## People served = 16,630

People served is sum of unique individuals and participants

## Participating Organizations

### *Community Partners*

- Horizon Education Alliance
- Gentlemen and Scholars Inc.
- Imani Unidad
- Oaklawn
- Ribbon of Hope, Inc
- RiverBend Cancer Services
- Self-Healing Community of Greater Michiana
- SPA Women's Ministry Homes
- The LGBTQ Center
- Transformation Ministries

### *Beacon Community Impact Programs*

- ACE Interface Presentations
- BABE Store
- Health & Wellness Programs
- Project HOPE
- Trauma-Informed Care Workshops

## Program Highlight:

### **Transformation Ministries – Iron Sharpens Iron (ISI)**

Growing up in a single parent household, "C," now a senior in high school, and his two brothers had a challenging childhood -- money was always tight and they didn't have their dad around to teach them or be a role model.

"I have a lot of good memories growing up," C said, "but I also recognize that the environment I grew up in was very dangerous and not a good example for who I want to be. Because that's all I knew it was easy to become a product of my environment, because I had no model of what something different could look like."

As a teenager C continued to face hardships – he was getting bullied for his disability and had no friends. He found himself encountering lots of problems and going down a dark road, frequently angry, getting into lots of trouble and eventually getting expelled from school. "I was at the lowest point in my life and that's when ISI came into the picture. I applied to get into the program and got accepted! I can honestly say that ISI has changed my life."

In our ISI program, C has experienced being a part of a community of belonging and having positive adult role models for the first time in his life. This community and support was life changing. "Before ISI, I had no friends and no dad, but ISI gave me real friends who cared about me and many father figures that could teach me and correct me," C said. "The people at ISI truly care about you and you can be transparent with them about anything. I don't have any other spaces where I can truly be myself."



# Healthcare Access & Mental Health Combined

Some organizations are able to address both top priorities of Healthcare Access and Mental Health. They do this through a combination of providing direct service, with the ability to screen and refer out for other needs. This is an excellent example of partners working together in a network of services and responding to the needs of the client overall.

**People served = 17,764**

People served is sum of unique individuals and participants

## Participating Organizations

### *Community Partners*

- Child and Parent Services, Inc. (CAPS)
- MHAM (Mental Health Awareness of Michiana)

### *Beacon Community Impact Programs*

- St. Joseph County WIC
- Family & Infants Support Program (formerly Perinatal Care Coordination (PNCC) program)

## Program Highlight:

**CAPS** – The Healthy Families program in Elkhart County offered by CAPS is a partner of Beacon Community Impact. Here is a story of a woman who was looking for resources and found Healthy Families after she had her baby boy who is now 7 months old. Mom knew that she was struggling with depression and suicidal thoughts and wanted something different for her and her kids, so she reached out to Healthy Families.

Mom was in a relationship where there was domestic violence. She shared on multiple occasions how alone and trapped she felt. The positive was that this family has been fairly consistent with visits and communication from their Healthy Families coordinator. Despite the support, she shared that she wanted to leave this world and take her kids with her. This resulted in Healthy Families reporting this to the Department of Child Services (DCS), then more extensive services were put into place to support this mom. Several months later, this mom continues to work hard and receive support from the Healthy Families program, now is working to achieve her High School Equivalency and shares she is proud to be working towards something for herself, and for her kids. Mom is now getting out more and makes it a point to leave her house on a weekly basis, and she has participated in the most recent Parent Cafe at CAPS. Mom has shared that she was moved by how she sees others going through hard times, but pushes through because there are better days ahead.



# Capacity Building

In addition to funding community partners to address the priority health needs as identified in the CHNA, in 2022, Beacon Health System was proud to fund three community partners to build their capacity to serve our community in priority areas or to address a social determinant of health.

## *Community Partners for Capacity Building*

- Cultivate Food Rescue
- Michiana Athletics and Recreation Association
- University of Notre Dame William J. Shaw Center for Children and Families

## **Program Highlight:**

**Cultivate Food Rescue** – This testimonial from a local food pantry highlights the importance of Beacon's funding, which helped Cultivate develop their online ordering system.

"Because of Cultivate Culinary food network's unique online ordering options we are able to order and provide specific items for our guests, whether it be for allergies, culturally appropriate foods, etc. We know our guests and what they may want and check every week to see what we have to offer. The number of guests visiting our pantry has more than doubled from this time last year, and resources from Cultivate help keep our doors open so that we can feed more people."





# Project Hope

Beacon Community Impact was awarded one million dollars from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to work on providing a coordinated approach to accessing resources for prevention, treatment and recovery services from Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in Marshall County. Our mission is to provide a continuum of services that establishes SUD prevention as the cornerstone of a healthy society, creates a robust safety net of easily accessed treatment options and supports successful recovery for any individual and family in need. We do this in collaboration with multiple organizations including but not limited to Otis R. Bowen Center, Community Hospital of Bremen, David's Courage, Marshall County Prosecutor's Office, Plymouth Community School Corporation, Purdue Extension-Marshall County, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center-Plymouth Medical Center and EnFocus.

We created several new positions to facilitate this desired coordination, which are housed at Bowen Center and David's Courage, a local recovery home. One of the positions, Recovery Coordinator-Navigator (RCN), specifically works with Substance Use Disorder clients leaving facilities (e.g., hospitals, residential treatment centers, criminal justice) to provide wraparound services and support (e.g., employment, housing, recovery) for 30-60 days after the release date. This helps clients become stabilized and more likely to attain long-term health and productivity as community members.

The following story demonstrates how this system is working well to benefit residents in Marshall County: In 2022, we had a criminal justice consortium partner contact an RCN from Project Hope about a client who had recently overdosed, spent time in the Emergency Department of another consortium partner, was being released from the criminal justice system and needed an immediate Medication Assistance Treatment (MAT) evaluation. The RCN reached out to Bowen Center, but their only MAT prescriber didn't have an opening that afternoon and didn't work the following day. Bowen Center then contacted Beacon's Bremen BMG Clinic, and Dr. Kenya Martinez was able to schedule the client the next day. Thanks to the coordination across partners, the client was seen within 24 hours after being released and was able to continue to access the RCN's services. (In 2022, 87% of patients in Marshall County with a diagnosis of SUD were referred to treatment.)

# Building resilience to trauma and adversity

## ACE Interface Presentations

The ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Interface presentation remains a cornerstone of raising awareness about the prevalence and impact of childhood, historical, community, and climate-related trauma. Through four ACE Interface presentations, with nearly 100 participants, Beacon Community Impact broadened awareness and introduced methods to build resilience in Elkhart and St. Joseph counties. Beacon Health System also funded St. Joseph County (SJC) Cares to deliver bi-monthly virtual presentations, open to anyone. A Master Trainer in Marshall County prepared an additional 25 presenters to deliver a core presentation in the Marshall County community. Finally, we continue to train new Master Trainers. One Project Specialist from Beacon Community Impact attended training through the ACEs Indiana Coalition in December 2022.

## Trauma-Informed Care

In 2021 Beacon Community Impact, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame's program in Neuroscience and Behavior, received funding from the Indiana CTSI (Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute) to study a method of training change agents to implement a trauma-informed approach to care within their organizations. In 2022, we conducted four cohorts of 2-part workshops where 87 participants from 45 organizations, including multiple departments from Beacon Health System, learned the neuroscience behind the six principles of a trauma-informed approach, and created their own roadmap to implement trauma-informed care based on a theory of change specific to their organization. The workshops were very well received. One participant commented, "This was a powerful workshop that I am thrilled we participated in. [We] are fully committed to continue to share this information with our national community.



# Building resilience to trauma and adversity, *continued*

Thank you!" A local small non-profit commented, "We are continually talking about how to continue [to] learn and share this information with anyone involved with our organization from the staff, to the volunteers, guests, board and donors." Also, "Trauma-Informed Care is more like the science behind why we do things the way we do but it comes in as a support to what we are already doing, rather than feeling like a new operating system." Another non-profit commented that their participant attendance has increased noticeably since implementing a trauma-informed approach. Final data collection, analysis and presentation will continue into 2023.

This project is supported by the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, funded in part by grant # UL1TR002529 from the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. It is also supported by the Indiana State Department of Health.

## Program Highlight:

**Play Like a Champion Today** – "We often hear that the impact of trauma is the No. 1 chronic health problem. Attending Beacon Community Impact and Notre Dame's Department of Neuroscience and Behavior Train-the-Trainer workshops in how to take a Trauma-Informed Approach, empowered me to truly understand this challenge for today's humanity. With palpable energy, Dr. Nancy Michael explained the neuroscience of trauma in a vivid and compelling manner. She managed to take complex research and made it understandable and genuine. I am now not only educated on N.E.A.R. Science, but I feel empowered to take tangible action to increase resiliency in the young people we work to serve. Beacon's systematic "Theory of Change" provides a concrete tool to ensure we know a step-by-step procedure to becoming a Trauma-Informed organization. We have taken the knowledge, insight and practical tools from this training to our national community of coaches and athletic administrators so that collectively we can change athletic cultures locally and nationally, providing a safe, nurturing athletic space that helps youth heal from trauma and helps them to become whole individuals. Thank you Beacon Community Impact and Dr. Nancy Michael, 'the rock star neuroscientist.' "

## A Self-Healing Community in Michiana

The 2021 Implementation Strategy included building a self-healing community in the north central Indiana-area. This is in response to the on-going impact of adverse childhood experiences, community violence, and most recently the COVID-19 pandemic. Based upon three properties of a self-healing communities model, Beacon Health System has facilitated the effort in multiple ways. In addition to being a leader in educating about trauma-informed care throughout the year, speakers from Beacon Community Impact and Self-Healing Communities of Greater Michiana delivered the keynote address at the Mental Health Awareness of Michiana Summit in April 2022. Beacon Community Impact collaborated to plan and facilitate at the August PACEs (Protective and Adverse Childhood Experiences) Day to develop community-based solutions to reduce adverse childhood experiences, suicide and overdose. Beacon Health System is funding the newly formed Self-Healing Communities of Greater Michiana whose mission is to "nurture personal and community well-being through the neuroscience of human resilience and the celebration of our collective strengths." With United Way of St. Joseph County as their fiscal agent, they are building awareness of the importance of adults serving as protective factors for our youth, growing learning communities, and developing a portal for the neuroscience-based resources that provide the basis for community change. Through this shared-ownership model, we will drive down adversity and build resilience in our community.



# COVID-19 Response in 2022

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded Beacon Community Impact nearly five million dollars for two complementary COVID-19 programs. The programs comprise three parts: an education/outreach, marketing, and clinical component. Beacon Community Impact focused on hiring individuals with a wide range of skills and backgrounds to represent and support as many community members as possible. Across the two grants, there were 12 community health workers, two project directors, one full-time nurse, and two part-time nurses. Of these staff, five were bilingual. Community health workers have visited 254 community centers, libraries, schools, churches, and many other locations to provide education/outreach tables for community members to ask questions and discuss the current information regarding COVID-19 safety and vaccine practices. For the clinical portion of the grant, to-date, there have been 3,691 vaccines administered to community members at 254 vaccine clinics in Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall, and St. Joseph counties in Indiana. These outreach and clinical initiatives aimed to reduce the disparities in vaccination rates, COVID cases, and fatality rates that are more dramatic in these counties than in the rest of Indiana.



The goals of the COVID-19 vaccine outreach media campaign were to build awareness among underserved communities about the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine and increase education about the vaccine's safety and efficacy. Three waves of marketing included advertising on Facebook/Instagram, Snapchat, broadcast TV, outdoor billboards, radio, and print. The website CovidSmart.org was launched and provided COVID-19 vaccine facts, vaccine educational materials in English and Spanish, and video stories from local residents who were vaccine-hesitant and had a change of heart. The site also offers a calendar of COVID vaccine clinics and current vaccine guidelines. The campaign generated 50,516,484 impressions across the advertising methods and drove 105,709 clicks to the campaign website from the digital media channels.

**Funded Partners:** St. Joseph Health System, Franciscan Beacon Hospital, EnFocus, Goodwill Industries, Center for Healing and Hope, La Casa de Amistad.

**Program Highlight:** While hosting a clinic at La Casa de Amistad, a Spanish-speaking client who had just arrived in the United States from Central America came into our COVID-19 vaccine clinic. Very nervously, he approached our community health workers and, in broken English, asked if he could receive the vaccine. He mentioned how he was worried he didn't have the proper documentation and wasn't sure if he would "qualify" for a vaccine due to the limited vaccines in his country. With the bilingual RN's help, the client could communicate in Spanish and successfully register for his second primary vaccine.

He mentioned how he had been to La Casa in the past to receive assistance and was thankful we were there, at a facility that he trusted and felt comfortable visiting. When asked why he hesitated/waited to receive his vaccine, he said that he felt uncomfortable going to a different location because of the language barrier, but that protecting himself and the people around him was important. When he completed the survey and realized he qualified for the \$50 gift card, he was ecstatic! We assured him we would return to La Casa to provide booster vaccines and reminded him to return when eligible. He thanked us a couple more times and ensured us he would spread the word to his friends and the few family members he had here.



# Grants awarded to Beacon

In 2022, Beacon Community Impact brought in over \$6 million in external grant funds. Beacon continues to seek out grant opportunities to fund other projects that align with our priorities or vision for the future.

Grant Name	Amount Awarded in 2022	Years of Award
<b>Federal Grants</b>		
HRSA Psychostimulant Grant / Safe and Supported	\$500,000	2022-2025
<b>Indiana State Grants</b>		
Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	\$1,991,419	2022-2022
Broadscope Sickle Cell	\$112,360	2022-2023
Sickle Cell	\$66,558	2022-2023
My Healthy Baby	\$15,029	2022-2023
Tobacco Cessation	\$14,300	2022-2023
FSSA DMHA Grant/Indiana State Opioid Response (Oaklawn)	\$551,860	2022-2023
<b>Private Grants</b>		
Michigan Public Health Institute	\$4,285	2022-2023
Memorial Hospital Physician Philanthropy Council: Health Navigator	\$20,000	2023
Elkhart General Physician Philanthropy Council: Health Navigator	\$20,000	2023
<b>Total Grant Awarded</b>	<b>\$3,295,811</b>	



# To the Future and Beyond!

**Now:** Identifying the priority areas and establishing the implementation strategy from the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment laid the foundation for the health impact we anticipate achieving for the next three years.

**Near:** Leverage the expertise, tools and resources of our Health System, as well as community to deliver a continuum of care with improved health outcomes, which includes responding to chronic toxic stress and multiple forms of trauma.

**Far:** Achieve health equity throughout Beacon's service area.

## Acknowledgement

All of our work in the community would not be possible without the support and effort of our community partners. We truly value the opportunity to continue to build relationships with them, and would like to thank them for all that they do – for the community and for their collaborative experience.





[beaconhealthsystem.org/community-impact](https://beaconhealthsystem.org/community-impact)