



Illinois Hospital Association

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## **ILLINOIS HOSPITALS CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN \$4 BILLION IN BENEFITS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES**

### **Report highlights human side of health care**

Naperville, Ill. – Illinois hospitals contributed community benefits of nearly \$4.3 billion in programs and services in their 2006-07 fiscal years, according to a new report issued by the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA). *Illinois Hospitals Serving Their Communities: It's More Than Just A Job... It's a Way of Life* also highlights the human side of hospital community benefits by sharing compelling stories that illustrate how hospital staff go the extra mile.

“As this report shows, our hospitals’ programs and services go far beyond medical care to keep their communities strong and stable,” said IHA President Kenneth C. Robbins. “Illinois hospitals make a dramatic difference in the lives of the people they serve. In today’s environment of heightened concern about the nation’s health care system, this report shows the often unnoticed ways Illinois hospitals help real people and solve human problems.” The two dozen stories in the report range from hospitals’ disaster response to the NIU tragedy and recent flooding to partnerships with schools that help keep children healthy.

Illinois hospitals reporting under the state’s Community Benefits Act provided nearly \$4.3 billion in community benefits, including:

- \$1.88 billion to make up the shortfall in government-sponsored programs such as Medicare and Medicaid;
- \$1.13 billion in health care services for patients unable or unwilling to pay;
- \$383 million in free and discounted care;
- \$346 million to educate future physicians, nurses, and other critical health workers;
- \$271 million to subsidize money-losing services such as trauma and ER, neonatal ICU and burn units;
- \$124 million for donations, language assistance services and volunteer services; and
- \$85 million in research on new, life-saving treatments and cures.

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Despite the challenges of difficult political and economic environments, the state's hospitals contributed not only services and programs to benefit their communities but very tangible economic benefits as employers and purchasers of goods and services. Illinois hospitals' impact on the state economy is more than \$63 billion a year. Hospitals in Illinois spent more than \$12.5 billion in 2006 in salaries and benefits to employ nearly 240,000 people.

*Illinois Hospitals Serving Their Communities: It's More Than Just A Job... It's A Way of Life* demonstrates the variety and diversity of the services the state's hospitals provide to their communities. ([Click here to view a PDF of the report.](#))

The Illinois Hospital Association, with offices in Naperville and Springfield, is an advocate for 200 Illinois hospitals and the patients and communities they serve. For more information, see IHA's web site, [www.ihatoday.org](http://www.ihatoday.org).

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