

PHOEBE SUMTER MEDICAL CENTER, INC.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

July 31, 2021

---

Phoebe Sumter Medical Center, Inc. (PSMC), formerly Sumter Regional Hospital, is a not-for-profit health care organization that exists to serve the community. PSMC opened in 1953 to serve the community by caring for the sick regardless of their ability to pay. As a not-for-profit hospital, PSMC has no stockholders or owners. All revenue after expenses is reinvested in the mission to care for the citizens of the community – into clinical care, health programs, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, research, and teaching and training of medical professionals now and for the future.

PSMC operates as a charitable organization consistent with the requirements of Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and the “community benefit standard” of IRS Revenue Ruling 69-545. PSMC takes seriously its responsibility as the community’s safety net hospital and has a strong record of meeting and exceeding the charitable care and the organizational and operational standards required for federal tax-exempt status. PSMC demonstrates a continued and expanding commitment to meeting its mission and serving the citizens by providing community benefits. A community benefit is a planned, managed, organized, and measured approach to meeting identified community health needs, requiring a partnership between the healthcare organization and the community to benefit residents through programs and services that improve health status and quality of life.

PSMC improves the health and well being of Southwest Georgia through clinical services, education, research, and partnerships that build health capacity in the community. PSMC provides community benefits for all citizens, as well as for the medically underserved. PSMC conducts community needs assessments and pays close attention to the needs of low income and other vulnerable persons and the community at large. PSMC often works with community groups to identify needs, strengthen existing community programs, and plan newly needed services. It provides a wide-ranging array of community benefit services designed to improve community health and the health of individuals and to increase access to health care, in addition to providing free and discounted services to people who are uninsured and underinsured. Drawing on a dynamic and flexible structure, the community benefit programs are designed to respond to assessed needs and are focused on upstream prevention.

PSMC participates in the Medicare and Medicaid programs and is one of the leading providers of Medicaid services in Georgia.

The following table summarizes the amounts of charges foregone (i.e., contractual adjustments) and estimates the losses (computed by applying a total cost factor to charges foregone) incurred by PSMC due to inadequate payments by these programs and for indigent/charity services. This table does not include discounts offered by PSMC under managed care and other agreements:

	<u>Charges Foregone</u>	<u>Estimated Unreimbursed Cost</u>
Medicare	\$ 114,000,000	\$ 35,000,000
Medicaid	46,000,000	14,000,000
Indigent/Charity	<u>15,000,000</u>	<u>4,000,000</u>
	<u>\$ 175,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 53,000,000</u>

The following is a summary of the community benefit activities and health improvement services offered by PSMC and illustrates the activities and donations during fiscal year 2021.

**I. Community Health Improvement Services**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of PSMC’s annual community health education programs were cancelled. However, PSMC did host the following event:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number of Participants</u>
Back to School Mini Health Fair	7/24/2021	100

During 2020/2021, PSMC kicked off the Healthy Sumter Initiative. Healthy Sumter is health and wellness campaign that is a collaborative effort co-convened by PSMC and the One Sumter Economic Development Foundation. With more than 25 organizations and counting, Healthy Sumter is a simple brand, aligned with the Sumter County brand, under which efforts of many non-profits and agencies can be organized to raise public awareness.

Areas of focus fall under 3 categories: Healthy Minds (i.e. Mental Health Awareness, Literacy, etc.); Healthy Bodies (Colorectal Cancer Awareness, Overall Fitness, etc.); Healthy Community (Bike & Trail Access and other Transportation, Jobs Availability, Housing, Crime Prevention, etc.).

The Healthy Sumter initiative has created a number of activities and causes so far, including the Mask Up Sumter campaign and the food distribution campaign to communities in need. So far, more than 600 individuals have received a bag of fresh fruits and vegetables under this initiative, and there are more plans in the future.

The Wellable App is an opportunity for local community members to track their physical activities as well as learn about and engaging in behaviors associated with a new holistic wellness topic each month. Participants also have an opportunity to earn points that can be redeemed for Healthy Sumter swag such as water bottles, tumblers and t-shirts.

Sumter County has a high rate of Food Insecurity, which is associated with chronic health problems in adults including diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity and mental health issues including major depression. Also, Sumter County a high number of food deserts, meaning that residents in those respective areas have little or no access to fresh fruits and vegetables. With these facts in minds, the idea of creating community gardens in Sumter and surrounding areas came to pass.

## **I. Community Health Improvement Services, Continued**

On October 31, 2020, PSMC was able to hold a ribbon cutting for its first Healthy Sumter Community Garden, at Brookdale Park. The garden has produced a number of crops such as tomatoes, broccoli and collards, and many members of the communities around the garden have partaken in using the harvest. It is hard to quantify a number as the garden is open all the time but it is safe to say the number is in the hundreds.

In the future, PSMC's plan is to have additional gardens in Sumter County as well as gardens in neighboring counties.

The total cost of these projects for FY2021 was \$239,826.36.

## **II. Health Care Support Services**

PSMC will extend free or discounted care to eligible individuals for all urgent, emergent, or otherwise medically necessary services. Patients whose household income is at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines are eligible for free care. Patients whose household income is between 126% and 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines qualify for discounted charges based on a sliding fee schedule in the FAP. PSMC will not charge eligible individuals more for emergency or other medically necessary care than the Amount Generally Billed (AGB) to individuals who have insurance coverage, and is compliant with the requirements for a not-for-profit charitable corporation in accordance with Internal Revenue Service Regulation §1.501(r).

During fiscal year 2021, 349 patients were approved for financial assistance.

## **III. Community Benefit Operations**

PSMC incurred \$85,667 in support staff costs to support its community benefit efforts.