

WEST MI COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELL BEING NEWS




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OUR MISSION

We, Trinity Health, serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities.

Community Health Needs Assessments Focus in on Social Influencers of Health

West Michigan hospitals have a long tradition of conducting Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) every three years to discover community health issues, produce a data report, prioritize health issues, and provide resources to help make improvements to the prioritized areas. For Trinity Health hospitals, the most recent CHNAs have helped solidify shifts in internal opportunities on which to focus as well as alignment with community initiatives and emerging partnerships. The CHNAs also helped uncover how the pandemic exacerbated significant racial and socioeconomic inequities people faced throughout their communities.

"We are proud of working with our community on our CHNA in identifying issues that lead to solutions," said Dr. Matt Biersack, President of Trinity Health Grand Rapids. "Our community's collective prosperity, health, and quality of life is greatly impacted when we work collaboratively on these issues."

In Kent County, a joint hospital CHNA was conducted by the Kent County Health Department who engaged multiple organizations and volunteers in the effort. Published in early 2021, the four priority areas include Access to Care, Racism and Discrimination, Social Economic, and Behavioral Health.

CHNA Priority Areas

Kent County Priority Areas

- Access to Health Care
- Discrimination & Racial Inequity
- Mental Health
- Economic Security

Muskegon Priority Areas

- Education
- Employment & Income
- Racism & Discrimination
- Disparities in Housing
- Healthy Behaviors
- Alcohol, Tobacco, Sexual Health, Nutrition & Exercise

Oceana Priority Areas

- Education
- Access to Care
- Housing and Transit
- Employment
- Diet & Exercise

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West Michigan CHNA Plans focus in on Social Influencers of Health



Several working teams continue to meet in Kent County to develop a broader community plan called the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

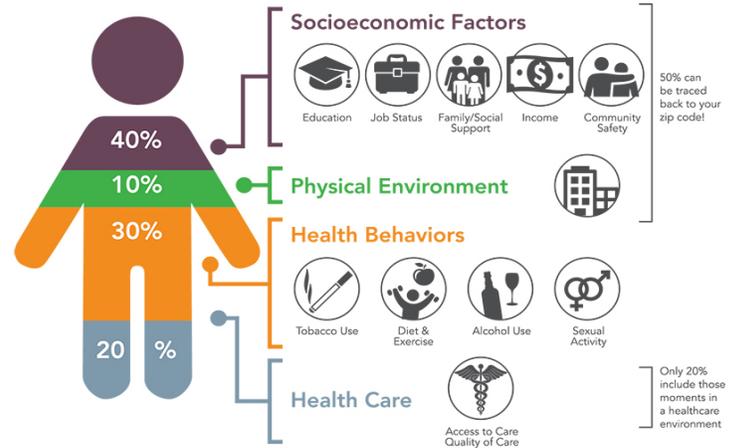
The Trinity Health Muskegon CHNA process also had a robust community engagement with over 65 key stakeholders involved in the planning, a community survey, and focus groups. Planning teams also separated in each county, with Muskegon and Oceana identifying their own priority areas and implementation plans. Although the two counties share education as the number one priority area, access to care, transportation, and housing are the focus as well.

Both hospitals developed three-year implementation plans that include enhancements to programs and services currently offered, additional grants and investments in community, as well as in-kind time and talent of leaders who can help in emerging issues. While Trinity Health Muskegon and Saint Mary's published their Community Improvement Plans in November of 2021, they continue to be involved in additional planning with community on the priority issues.

"The CHNA process helped us collectively understand the issues residents in our rural communities are facing and leaders are regularly connecting for a greater impact," said John Foss, VP of Lakeshore Campus, and senior leader for Oceana County's CHNA.

Almost six months into the implementation plan, additional changes to the Trinity Health Muskegon's CHNA process include ramped up storytelling of the partnerships, programs, and services of Trinity Health in West Michigan and ongoing tracking to see if the plans and strategies are having an impact.

"We truly wanted to have our CHNA process have more engagement and explore how to measure impact on a regular basis," said Jim Fisher, Chair of the CHNA Advisory Committee and Health Project Advisory Board



In addition to health care access and quality, a person's health is impacted by multiple factors including education, job status, income, physical environment, and health behaviors.

member. "We've aligned our efforts to support and uplift West Michigan with our community grants, mobilization efforts, and ongoing community programs and we want to know if we are making a difference."

Trinity CHNAs and Community Health Implementation Plans

Trinity Health Saint Mary's
[Mercy Health Saint Mary's CHNA](#)
[Mercy Health Saint Mary's CHIP](#)

Trinity Health Muskegon
[Mercy Health Muskegon & Oceana CHNA](#)
[Mercy Health Muskegon CHIP](#)

For more information on the CHNAs contact Laura Fitzpatrick at fitzpal@mercyhealth.com

Health Disparities Coalition offers Vaccinate the Movie



www.MuskegonHealthDisparities.org

New CTRU Sessions Offered

The Health Disparities Coalition offered several rounds of the *Coming Together for Racial Understanding (CTRU)* sessions. Developed by MSU Extension, these two-hour long sessions are offered over six weeks. CTRU features opportunities to engage in a process and content focused on race and racism. These can be used in community-based programming, to enhance facilitation skills useful in engaging in dialogues, and to learn how to navigate complex conversations related to power, privilege, and differences.

In the Fall of 2021, eleven Muskegon area leaders attended CTRU Master Training with MSU and one is now Nationally Certified. CTRU has been offered for three years by the MHDC with over **120** participants already taking advantage of the program, and it continues to be open to the public.

The CTRU sessions feature extensive training utilizing the materials *Facing Racism in a Diverse Nation* developed by Everyday Democracy a national organization that helps local communities find ways for all kinds of people to think, talk, and work together to solve problems.

HDC plans to offer additional classes later in 2022.

In the fall of 2021, several CTRU master trainers were interviewed for a video produced by MSU extension to explain about the program.

For more information check out the video at: [CTRU Final - MSU MediaSpace](#)

To learn more about MHDC contact Catalina Burillo at Catalina.Burillo@mercyhealth.com



In an effort to increase vaccinations among minority communities, the Muskegon Health Disparities Coalition produced "Vaccinate, The Movie" featuring several community members who answered the question, "Why did you receive the vaccination, and what are you looking forward to being able to do again?"

"The 'A' Team" interviews included Muskegon Heights Mayor Walter Watt, Chief of Police Maurice Sain, several Muskegon Public School leaders including Chauncy Williams, Keith and Kiesha Guy and their son Cameron Martinez, Angelita Valdez, CEO of Services of Hope, Sonia Hernandez, Jason Walker, and one high school senior from Muskegon Heights who had just recovered from Covid.

The 30 second commercial featured at Cinema Carousel's movie as well as local internet streaming with the campaign running from January 7th through February 17th, 2022. The streaming ad garnered 56,711 impressions or viewings by people on their own personal digital devices.

Funding for this was provided by the Community Foundation for Muskegon County with generous donations of time and talent of HDC members.

Community Impact Grants help nonprofits to serve West Michigan



Trinity Health Muskegon in West Michigan has been investing funds within Muskegon and Oceana Counties beginning with the Sister Simone Courtade fund over 20 years ago. Additionally, the Community Benefit Board Initiative funds have been a part of the local community investments for the past five years. These funds are administered by the Health Project along with the leadership of the Health Project Community Advisory Board and have been a key grant process that invests these funds into the community.

During the FY 22 Grant rounds, the Community Health & Well-being Grants Committee and former Health Project Staff, Tressa Liba, worked diligently to provide technological updates and a streamlined online application process.

"Our goal is to have a mechanism to invest in local community-based organizations who are working to address priorities identified in our CHNA's in West Michigan," said Stevi Riel, Director of CHWB for Mercy Health "We don't do this work alone and we're proud to invest in our collaboration by way of our community grants programs."

These recipients were chosen based on their focus and/or alignment with data-informed efforts aimed at increasing access to clinical, behavioral health, and community resource services.

Community Benefit Board Initiative

The Community Benefit Board Initiative was created to facilitate the investment of community benefit funds by the Health Project's Advisory Board of Directors. This fund supports initiatives that address health needs identified in Trinity Health Muskegon's most recent Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This year's grantees, eight diverse organizations, have received a total of \$150,000 to support achieving outcomes that address gaps in services and lessen barriers to access in Western Michigan.

(Continued on page 4)

Trinity Health Muskegon Community Benefit Board Initiative (CBBI)	
Organization	Project
United Way of the Lakeshore	Childcare Action Team / Community Childcare Co-op
Muskegon YMCA	Caring for the Community through Child Care
Community Foundation for Oceana County	Oceana College Access Network
Read Muskegon	Read Muskegon Literacy Collaborative
Volunteer for Dental	Volunteer For Dental (VFD) Oral Health Campaign
Access Health, Inc.	Muskegon Heights Economic Innovation Hub
Boys & Girls Club of Muskegon	Power Hour: Making Minutes Count
Community Foundation for Muskegon County	County-wide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Office of Diversity
Sister Simone Courtade Grants	
AgeWell Services of West Michigan	Senior Transportation Program
Pathfinders of Muskegon	Pathfinders Cafe & Family Center
Alternatives in Motion	No Barriers to Mobility
Muskegon Rescue Mission	Health Screening and Referral Program
Coalition for Community Development	Muskegon Heights Storytelling Project
Read Muskegon	HEAL: Health Education And Literacy
Migrant Legal Aid	Improving Migrant Health in West MI
Volunteer for Dental	Volunteer for Dental Oral Health Campaign
New Era Christian Reformed Church	Farmers Market - Senior Power of Produce and Kids Power of Produce Club
Trinity Lutheran Church, New Era, Michigan	Trinity Lutheran Church Baby Pantry & Reading Room
Mission for Area People	Healthy Hygiene

Saint Mary's Foundation Supports Better Access to Breast Care

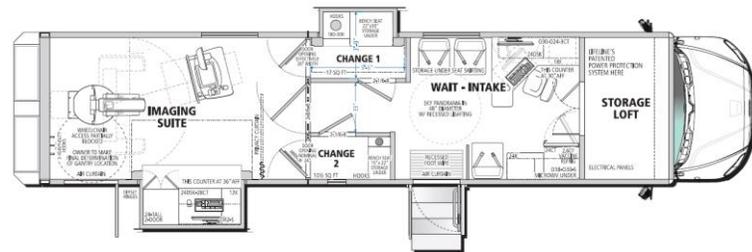


Trinity Health Saint Mary's plans to purchase, staff and operate a Mobile Mammography vehicle to serve the medically underserved in Grand Rapids and offer easy access to preventative breast care services. This easy access will enhance early detection promote equity and decrease mortality. The goal is to increase the number of eligible women who have a mammogram by 20%.

Early screening reduces the number of breast cancer deaths by 20% and early detection can result in better treatment options, like less extensive surgery and eliminating the need for radiation and chemotherapy. The comprehensive mobile mammography program will expand the reach of the health clinics like Clinica Santa Maria and Sparta Health that serve diverse populations

Trinity Health Saint Mary's data from 2020 showed that nearly 8,000 patients eligible for a mammogram or more than half (59%) did not receive one. In 2020, nearly half of eligible women in Grand Rapids racially and ethnically diverse neighborhoods had no mammogram, for many, barriers were lack of transportation and not having insurance. Research shows that women would get screened at a curbside mobile unit if one were available.

The mobile mammography vehicle will be made possible through philanthropic support made to Saint Mary's Foundation.



A bird's eye view of the Mobile Mammography Van.

Community Grants Help Orgs Serve

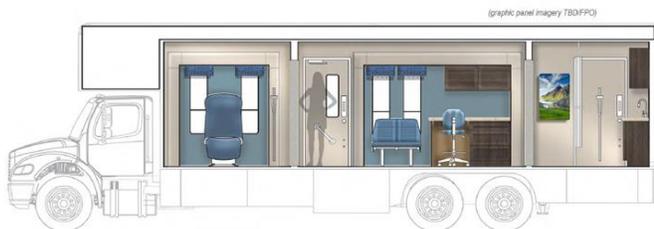
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The Sr. Simone Courtade Fund was created by the Sisters of Mercy to support, strengthen and sustain Trinity Health Muskegon's organizational mission in the community. This fund supports initiatives that promote optimal health for poor and vulnerable populations and communities by addressing social needs, connecting social and clinical care, and reducing health inequities. This year's grantees, 11 in total across both tiers of funding, are utilizing a combined \$75,000 to focus on recognizing community needs through the building of relationships and meaningful engagement.

The grant committee review team continues to improve the process and the impact that can be made within community.

The next round of these community impact grants will have a similar timeframe as this year with the application process launched in early summer and will include an informational session, links to the online application, with a fall start to the funding.

If you have questions about Mercy Health Community Grants or other topics associated with this work, please reach out to Michael at Michael.ramsey@mercyhealth.com



Artist Rendering of the Mobile Mammography Van.

Saint Mary's Partners with Heartside Gleaning on the Good Food Box Program



Beginning as a partnership with several organizations during the pandemic, Trinity Health Saint Mary's supported the Heartside Gleaning Initiative's Good Food Box Program. The program provides nutritious fruits, vegetables, and other produce to Hispanic families in the Grand Rapids Roosevelt Park neighborhood who have been deeply impacted by hunger, especially since the Covid 19 Pandemic.

In 2021, Heartside Gleaning packed 2,180 boxes of fresh produce, of which 1,769 (81%) were picked up by families signed up for nutrition programs through either the Hispanic Center of West Michigan or the National Kidney Foundation. The average size of the households being served is 5 persons with 100 families receiving the produce box that weights an average 23 pounds and distributed every other week.

Many participants have used the program to stretch food budgets adversely impacted by unemployment, high-risk for Covid exposure, or required quarantine. More recently, inflation has impacted many people, hindering their ability to purchase healthy foods.



Heartside Gleaning staff prepare boxes for distribution to residents in Grand Rapids.

"The avocados are always so good! It is hard to buy those now as one avocado cost more than a dollar and up to \$2.00 at some stores," said a recent Good Food Box participant. Heartside Gleaning has a Spanish-speaking person helping out with distribution every week, either from the Hispanic Center or the National Kidney Foundation. Additionally, several Food Box recipients have asked how they can help out, so we now have neighborhood volunteers assisting with distribution.

"This has been very successful in improving our communication with recipients and being able to answer questions during distribution." said Lisa Sisson, Director of the Heartside Gleaning Initiative. " We now use a Hispanic produce vendor to purchase more culturally acceptable food. We also recently reviewed the foods we purchase for nutritional value to ensure we are providing the food with the highest nutritional value and that best mitigates hunger. The need remains great, and we appreciate the support from Trinity Health Saint Mary's."



Averaging 23 pounds, the boxes are packed with produce, beans, and recipes to try out.

Medication Take Back Events Provide Safe Disposal In Muskegon



The Muskegon Area Medication Disposal Program (MAMDP) hosted its 28th medication take back event in Muskegon on Saturday, October 23rd. The City of Muskegon Fire Department hosted the fall event which is one of two annual events hosted in Muskegon County

During the fall event, 1,722 pounds of medications were collected and safely incinerated, and 1,406 pounds of sharps were collected. That brought the group's total to 3,526 pounds of medication collected between both events in 2021. These events are hosted twice a year in Muskegon County to ensure that members of our community have a place to safely dispose of medication and sharps.

"Disposing of medication properly helps ensure the safety of our families, community members, and natural resources," said Muskegon County Sheriff Michael Poulin, longtime member and MAMDP Chair. "These events help us continue to raise awareness about the dangers of improper medication disposal and misuse, including accidental poisoning, environmental contamination, and drug diversion."

MAMDP has been participating in Take Back Days since 2010 and has grown to be one of the largest event hosts in the state according to Michigan DEA reports. These events are hosted in coordination with the DEA's federal Take Back Day events that occur across the nation. To date, MAMDP has collected more than 22 tons of medication, hosted 613 volunteers, 277 companies, and 4,635 participants. Residents can also utilize the permanent locations all area police stations and several partner pharmacy locations.

For more information check out the website at: dfcmuskegon.com/MAMDP or contact DFC Coordinator Kaitlin Hermanson at Kaitlin.hermanson@mercyhealth.com.



MAMDP's volunteers at fall event at City of Muskegon Fire Department.



Mercy Health Pharmacy staff ready to classify meds returned to better inform the provider community about what is not used.



State Representative Terry Sabo with MAMDP leader Carrie Uthe honored several members of the MAMDP team at the April 30th event.

Community Health Workers on the Frontline to Help Community



CHW Carla Needing and Dan Stevens meet to discuss available services at his home.

For over 25 years, the Trinity Health West Michigan has deployed Community Health Workers (CHWs) in its efforts to increase access to health care, enroll community members in multiple programs, and to help transform the lives of people who have challenges in navigating health and human services.

Trusted members of the community, CHWs serve as a liaison between health and social services and the community to facilitate access to services and to improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. The CHW workforce is diverse, growing, and drawing attention to its ability to address determinants of poor health.

"CHWs are instrumental in helping our patients connect with area resources that can help them lead healthier lives", said Ron Rademacher, Regional Manager of Pharmaceutical Access Programs for West Michigan CHWB. "By listening and recognizing the individual's needs, they can help secure insurance, pharmacy access programs, diabetes prevention programs, vision services, and a variety of other programs that make a difference in their quality of life."

For more information or to connect with the enrollment or the care coordination program in Muskegon contact the (231)672-3201 and in Grand Rapids (616) 685-3350

Judy Kell Announces Retirement

Judy Kell, West Michigan CHWB's Hub Manager announced her retirement effective July 1, 2022. Judy has been with CHWB since 2013 developing one of the first nationally certified community HUBS for Community Health Workers.



Under her design, the Hub helps clients with complex or urgent medical needs by pairing them with a Community Health Worker to assist them in navigating the medical system as well as helping to provide for their social, emotional, and spiritual needs. The HUB Program encompasses a variety of target populations, including but not limited to at risk pregnant women, senior citizens, students in schools with high-risk behaviors, parolees, people with chronic diseases and the dual eligible population.

"Our CHW program is one of the most comprehensive programs in the country because of Judy's leadership and we are truly grateful for her outstanding years of service." said Stevi Riel, Regional Director for CHWB.

Judy has also managed a five-year CDC Diabetes Prevention Grant and the implementation of West Michigan MiOUD opioid grant for West Michigan Trinity Health hospitals. She also manages the senior navigator, Strong Beginnings and First Step Kent programs. For over 15 years, Judy has also served as the Homeless Continuum of Care Coordinator for the Muskegon County.

Prior to joining CHWB, Judy had a distinguished career in various leadership positions with Muskegon County, Heritage Homes, and the Michigan Hospital Association. Congratulations Judy!

Ride With Pride Initiative Supports Positive Student Choices



www.drugfreemuskegon.org

The Ride with Pride Coalition was excited to receive participation from several schools including Mona Shores, Orchard View, Fruitport, Western Michigan Christian, Holton, Oakridge, North Muskegon, Montague, and Reeths-Puffer. Through these schools, the RWP Coalition is able to promote positive behavior and safe choices to over 11,600 kids this school year.

Just in time for winter break, NSPD School Resource Officers were able to obtain a donation of over 600 toys from the First Responder's Children Foundation. The toys were distributed as part of Ride with Pride to thank Mona Shores elementary students for their positive choices during the first half of the school year and encourage continued success as the year goes on. The Coalition is excited to see increased participation at the middle and elementary school levels.

School Resource Officers and other partners regularly visit classrooms in participating schools to interact with kids and teach them about important topics related to drug abuse, safe driving, and the importance of adhering to the school's behavior matrix. RWP school leaders find it essential to continuously support students in promotion of positive and safe choices. These interventions include free luncheons, classroom presentations, and parking spot giveaways. Each month at Mona Shores High School, Officer Dave Wypa gives away a pair of reserved front row parking spaces to students who have followed their Ride With Pride Pledge.

The months of April and May are active times for the RWP Coalition, which involve end of the year assemblies where cars, mopeds, and other prizes are given away to area students. Fruitport High School and their donor, Johnson Auto Sales, is excited to hold their year-end assembly at their brand-new performing arts center this spring.



Norton Shores RWP leaders and students supporting Toys for Tots.



School Resource Officer Stephanie Alm speaks with students at West Michigan Christian School about Ride with Pride program.



Car winner and leaders at Oakridge School RWP Assembly in

Straight Talk About Tough Stuff Coalition Takes Off with DFC Grant & Community Events



Since 1998, the Straight Talk About Tough Stuff (STATS) youth leadership program in partnership with Mercy Health and Reeths Puffer School District has been providing peer education program promoting freedom from drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and vaping. They significantly expanded their efforts in 2018 and established a coalition of that includes students, educators, community leaders, the Health Project of Trinity Health Muskegon, and Muskegon Township Police. This coalition puts data-informed plans into action to raise awareness of the risks, dangers, legal and social consequences of tobacco, marijuana, vaping and other kinds of drugs.

Receiving a Drug Free Communities grant in 2021 from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and the CDC, the coalition can dramatically expand their efforts within the community. STATS Coordinator Jennifer LaChapelle of the Health Project said this grant is unique because it gives youth a voice.

“STATS has always focused on peer leadership. This focus became even stronger as youth are given more opportunities to engage in activities and learning and some were able to participate in a national conference,” said LaChapelle.

In September, STATS hosted their first “Rocket City Safety Bash: It’s all about the Kids!” event with youth leaders organizing several engaging stations to get families talking about the tough topics and participating in education stations for youth and their families. They also are utilizing Cartoonversations, a multi-media platform to discuss tough issues.

Eight students and four adults went to the national Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America conference in Washington, D.C. to learn, strategize and make a change. Students sat down with Rep. Bill Huizenga to discuss the problems facing the youth and ask for his help on passing bills that will tackle this problem.



STATS members hosted the Rocket City Safety Bash at Reeths Puffer earlier this year.



STATS and DFC leaders at Cartoonversation in October.

Efforts to expand Broad Band Internet in Oceana County



According to the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for Muskegon and Oceana Counties, broadband access in Oceana homes remains well below Muskegon, the state and federal percentages. Only 75.62% of Oceana County's population has access to high-speed internet. This issue was raised numerous times throughout the CHNA '21 process by Oceana stakeholders, focus group participants and community-survey participants.

As witnessed during the previous two years, the Covid-19 pandemic has put Americans into overdrive when it comes to relying on broadband connection. Broadband has proven to be a necessary tool for persons working from home, for virtual learning and even for telehealth.

"In total, I would say awareness of the need is significantly raised and multiple providers are contributing towards greater access and change. There's been more progress in the last year than I've ever seen," according to Tammy Carey, Chief Executive Officer for the Community Foundation of Oceana County.

There are some major expansion programs happening in Oceana County. The Oceana County Economic Alliance (OCEA) [Oceana County Economic Alliance - Oceana County Michigan](#) or: [The Right Place | Oceana County, Michigan](#), the nonprofit organization involved in broadband expansion for the county, conducted a broadband survey earlier in 2021 through Connect Michigan. Three separate providers including Charter Spectrum, Point Broadband (formerly CAsAir) and TrueStream are all working on broadband expansion in Oceana. Charter Spectrum is one provider that will be expanding in the county's rural areas with fiber cables within the next year serving close to 3,000 homes.

According to Scott Beal, Executive Director for the Silver Lake Sand Dunes-Hart Visitors Bureau, "Spectrum Business is in the process of adding businesses who were previously served by Golden Communications along with new clients such as 2 campgrounds."

On March 30, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed the Building Michigan Together Plan. Part of this plan includes \$250 million in funding to provide 100% access to high-speed internet and 95% adoption by Michigan households during the next five years.

For people looking to increase access the federal government also developed the [Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#) is a U.S. government program run by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program to help low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices like a laptop or tablet.

People are likely eligible if their household's income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line, or if they or someone they live with currently receives a government benefit like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Price Lunch.

IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS ELIGIBLE, YOU CAN RECEIVE:

- **Monthly Benefit:** Up to a \$30/month discount on your internet service and associated equipment rentals
- **Enhanced Tribal Benefit:** Up to a \$75/month discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal lands
- **One-time Device Discount:** Up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50) where available

Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per household. The program rules recognize there may be more than one eligible household at the same address.



To learn about eligibility and application options, visit [ACPbenefit.org](https://www.acpbenefit.org)

Vaccination Coordination in Muskegon County Has Huge Impact on Black Community

HEALTH PROJECT

A COMMUNITY BENEFIT MINISTRY OF  MERCY HEALTH

As the pandemic took hold in West Michigan, multiple community partners responded to the call for help reduce the impact of Covid 19. Data from Public Health Muskegon County showed climbing illness rates and dramatic disparities with minority community residents' illness and deaths. Health Project staff have navigated hundreds of people to testing clinics since the beginning of the pandemic and worked with initiatives such as Mask Up Muskegon, managed by Health West. Their comprehensive website includes community safety issues such as masking, knowing the symptoms, and general Covid-19 information.

As the first vaccinations started rolling out in Muskegon County, many residents were hesitant to get vaccinated. Longtime Health Project Outreach Coordinator Mimi Rankin quickly stepped into help connect Black community members to the clinics. Working with Public Health Muskegon County, the NAACP, and area organizations, Mimi helped establish clinics and began outreaching to community members to get vaccinated.

According to Public Health Muskegon County this outreach to community and subsequent connection to the clinics dramatically improved. Now Muskegon rates of vaccinations among African Americans over 50 years old are higher than the state average.

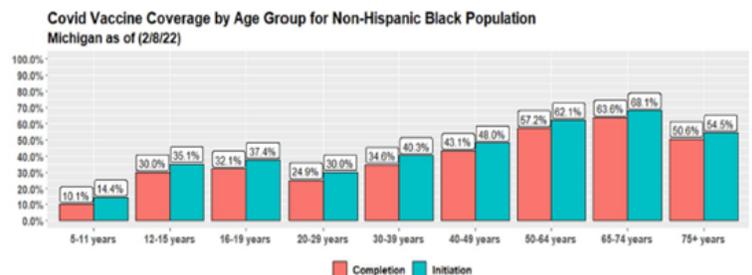
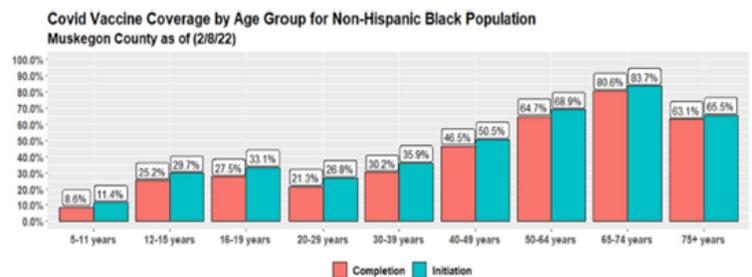
"These rates speak for themselves," said Kathy Moore, Director of Public Health Muskegon County. "I know Mimi personally impacted our vaccination rates in Muskegon and I am so grateful for her leadership. We know that this Covid pandemic is not over, and we will need continued emphasis on vaccinations, especially for our young adults."

An APRA grant coordinated through Spectrum Health, Public Health, the NAACP, and the Health Project will continue to enhance vaccination efforts within the minority community, next reaching out to unvaccinated people who are aged 18-35 years old.

"People shouldn't be surprised if I ask if they've been vaccinated yet, and then I immediately sign them up for a shot," said Mimi Rankin. "We need our young adults to stay alive and thrive, and if I can help protect one person at a time to make big impact, I will."



Mimi Rankin of Mercy Health's Health Project receives a Covid 19 vaccination.



According to MDHHS, Vaccination rates among Black Muskegon residents are higher than Michigan rates.

For more information on the Health Project's outreach contact Mimi Rankin at rankiner@mercyhealth.com.

West Michigan CHWB Colleague News



Moving on toward Retirement!

Cyndi Powers, the Lakeshore Lung Program coordinator announced her retirement effective April 28th. Cyndi has been working as the Lung Health Coordinator since 2003, educating thousands of adults and children on the dangers of smoking and vaping. Cyndi lead or helped lead multiple health education campaigns and



Smokefree bars and restaurants, the Zombie Walk, Smokefree Air, and the most recent Vaping Awareness Campaign implemented in Muskegon area schools. She also sits on the Board of Tobacco Free Michigan and helped advocate in Lansing and D.C. on health policy. Congratulations Cyndi!

Ann Dean, Lead CHW for the Health Project's HUB announced her retirement effective June 3rd. Anne has served as a CHW with Every Woman's Place and West Michigan Therapy for several years and joined Trinity Health Muskegon's team in 2017.

Ann has been a Lead CHW supervising several colleagues since 2018. Anne became a specialist in Social Security applications working on expedited homelessness and disability determination applications helping many people navigate the difficult process. Congratulations Ann!

Other Fond Farewell's

Salman Shafi, serving as a CHW for Trinity Health Saint Mary's for several years with the Hub started his new position with Saint Mary's Care Management team in April as a case manager for the McAuley program in Grand Rapids.

Corine Smelker, CHWB Saint Mary's Office Coordinator since 2018 and departed in March to work closer to family.

Former Trinity Health Muskegon Colleague is Tapped to Lead Michigan's Community Health Worker Alliance

Longtime Health Project staff member **Tressa Liba**, most recently a Community Health Improvement Coordinator and former Lead CHW with the Health Project Hub was hired as Executive Director of the Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance in October of 2021.



Tressa started her work with the Health Project in 2011 as the coordinator for the Lead Coalition helping to create awareness of the dangers of lead paint. She later worked as CHW Lead for 8 years of supervising a team of home visiting CHWs working with chronic disease, high risk pregnancy, geriatrics, infectious disease and school-based populations. Tressa joined the Community Health Improvement team in early 2021 working on Community Impact Grants and the Community Resource Directory prior to accepting her new position with MCHWA. Congratulations Tressa!

Joining the Team

In February, **Michael Ramsey** became the new CHI Coordinator in Muskegon focusing on SIOH and grant coordination. Michael returns to the CHWB after leading housing programs at Community Encompass. He also sits on city commission for the City of Muskegon.

Kaitlin Hermanson, the new Drug Free Muskegon Coordinator joined the team in the fall of 2021. Kaitlin coordinates all collaborative activities including several subcommittees, media, and event supervision. A Norton Shores native, Kaitlin graduated from University of Michigan in 2020 and is an active volleyball coach for Mona Shores.

Yes, Your Voice Matters Join Trinity Health in Urging Congress to Act



Help Advance Community Health and Address Health Disparities

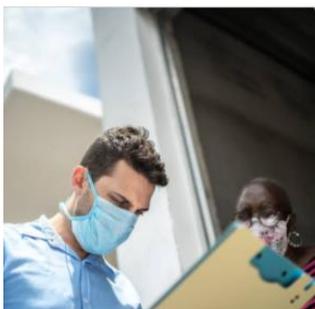
It's true, leaders and elected officials pay close attention to comments from people like you. Your call for change can impact the way legislators develop policy and vote.

After all, we elect our representatives. Our government functions at its best when we provide input on legislation and regulations that impact the communities where we live, serve and work. By making your voice heard, you are contributing to the change you want to see in the world.

Congress is in the unique position to remove [barriers that cause poor and varying health outcomes](#) across the nation. Work to ensure access to housing, healthy food, and maternal health services, especially for those who are most vulnerable, reflects a commitment to care for the common good.

You can help by urging your members of Congress to join the U.S. House of Representative's bipartisan Social Determinants of Health Caucus and support legislation that addresses social influencers that impact the health of all communities.

You can take action with two simple steps: include your home address and information in the form below and hit submit. You will then be routed to a letter that you can finalize and send to your elected leaders.



Trinity Health Action Center

Engage with legislators, policymakers, members of administration, and other national leaders.

Get Started >

CHWB LOCATIONS

Kent County

150 Jefferson SE Street, Suite 130
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
(616) 685-3350 – Main Office

Muskegon County

Hackley Professional Building, Suite 210 B
1675 Leahy Street,
Muskegon, Michigan 49442
(231) 672-3201 Main Office
(231) 672-3305 CHW Hub
* New office location in Muskegon opening soon! Please call us to check availability.

Oceana County

217 N. Michigan Avenue
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Please let us know if you would like more information about Trinity Health Community Health & Well Being Services or would like to get on our mailing list.

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