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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** – December 16, 2019

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## Hospitals, Health Systems Step Up for Their Communities

*WHA's 2019 Community Benefits Report highlights efforts from every corner of the state*

Wisconsin hospitals and health systems are integral parts of the communities they serve – both inside and outside the walls of hospitals and clinics. Wisconsin health care contributes more than **\$1.9 billion** in community benefits and charity care in all corners of the state, or more than \$5 million in community benefits every day.

WHA's 2019 Community Benefits Report describes just some of the incredible efforts in which Wisconsin's hospitals and health systems are deeply involved, including community health education, community-based clinical services, health care support services, and social and environmental improvement activities.

"Wisconsin's hospitals and health systems are much more than providers of nation-leading quality care," writes WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding in the report's opening message. "They're also vibrant members of the community, dedicated to ensuring overall health and well-being of the people they are privileged to serve."

Community benefits are a very important aspect of what hospitals and health systems do in Wisconsin and how integral they are to their communities.

"If it wasn't for hospitals, many of these services would not exist in the community," Borgerding said. "Government underfunding of social and safety net services remain significant challenges."

The report shares highlights from seven distinct areas of the state, describing the impressive range of services and programs hospitals and health systems provide for their communities. The wide variety of these efforts show how they are tailored to the needs of each community, including helping patients who otherwise could not afford opioid addiction treatment, providing school-based therapy for our children to help them maximize their education potential and numerous programs aimed at helping our friends and neighbors get access to healthy food.

The report is available on [WHA's website](http://www.wha.org).