

# Fast Facts

Community  
Benefit

TEAM  
MEDICINE<sup>®</sup>  
VIRGINIA  
MASON

(206) 223-6600 • [VirginiaMason.org/connectingwithourcommunities](http://VirginiaMason.org/connectingwithourcommunities)

*Virginia Mason believes in contributing to the communities where patients and staff work and live. We act on this belief by contributing time, energy and money to efforts that benefit the community in the areas of improving health, providing free and subsidized care, and supporting health professionals' education and research.*

## Community Health Needs Assessment

Virginia Mason conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years. In 2012, we partnered with The Center for Community Health and Evaluation (CCHE) to conduct our CHNA. We gathered secondary data from a variety of local, state, and federal agencies, including Public Health—Seattle & King County and conducted key informant interviews with individuals representing public health, city government, the healthcare safety net, cultural communities, schools, and health advocacy.

Our CHNA drives our community work and serves as a guideline to help us achieve three basic goals:

- Improve the community's health status and overall quality of life
- Reduce health disparities within the community
- Increase access to preventive services



BBH offers an inpatient and an outpatient program. When open beds are available, it provides end-of-life care for patients who don't have AIDS.

## Subsidized Health Services

Every community needs certain health care services that typically cost more to deliver than the provider of the services receives. These "subsidized health services" are part of Virginia Mason's mission because they are needed in the community and otherwise would not be available to meet patient needs. They include:

- Emergency Department open to all
- Bailey-Boushay House (BBH), an inpatient and outpatient center for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Partnership with Public Health – Seattle & King County Health Care for the Homeless Network and other area hospitals to provide a respite care program for homeless adults in King County.
- Tender Loving Care, a daycare program for mildly ill children.

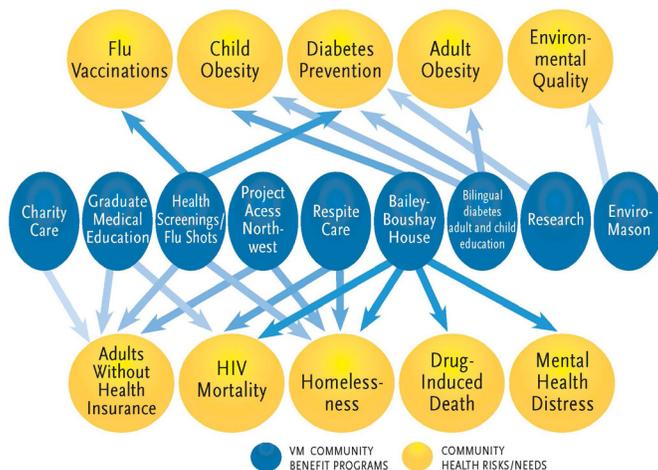
## Community Health Improvement Services

Improving health and quality of life extends beyond diagnosis and treatment. It also requires community health education and outreach services. Health improvement and outreach services provided by Virginia Mason include the following:

- Community health education, such as our bilingual community diabetes prevention program, Nutrition and Fitness for Life program and classes in the Buse Diabetes Teaching Center.
- Free health screenings and health fair sponsorships in the community.

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VIRGINIA MASON'S COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAMS  
ADDRESS AREAS OF NEED IDENTIFIED IN ITS COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT



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*“Too many children watch video games when they should be moving their bodies,” says Beth Olenchek, VM Health Educator and member of the diabetes prevention team. Beth participates in our Mexican Consulate Ventanilla de Salud program and community health fairs.”*

- Free flu shots and health screenings for the homeless in conjunction with United Way of King County’s Community Resource Exchange.
- Sponsorship of many professionally facilitated support groups, including brain tumor, Parkinson’s disease, breast cancer, gastric bypass surgery and prostate cancer groups. Bereavement support through our Separation and Loss Services.
- Leadership roles in several community organizations, which focus on health care.

## Education

Virginia Mason strongly supports medical education to ensure our patients and the community benefit from advances in medical care:

- Virginia Mason is a premier teaching hospital that offers postgraduate education programs through its Graduate Medical Education Department (GME). All GME postgraduate training programs are fully approved by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Virginia Mason trains more than 100 residents and fellows annually.
- Numerous medical center physicians have faculty appointments at the University of Washington.
- Virginia Mason serves as an internship site for students in a variety of other health programs, such as nursing, pharmacy, respiratory therapy and laboratory technology.
- VM’s GME program partners with Public Health – Seattle & King County Health Services Division, providing 12 residents for the Eastgate Public Health Center.
- VM provides a 0.5 FTE faculty member every fall, winter and spring quarter for undergraduate clinical nursing instruction for the University of Washington School of Nursing.

*The GME program partners with Public Health - Seattle & King County. “We are the frontline medical care for these patients and they’re very grateful because they have no other health care, no insurance,” says Niki Higa, MD, VM resident.*



## Uncompensated Care

As a nonprofit organization, Virginia Mason is committed to serving patients who are uninsured, underinsured or otherwise unable to pay for their medical care. In 2012, Virginia Mason provided charity care to 5,124 patients.

## Research

Virginia Mason conducts medical research through its affiliate, Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason (BRI). BRI is a nonprofit biomedical research institute that works to unlock the mysteries of the immune system. Its team of world-renowned scientists is focused on identifying causes and cures for devastating diseases including diabetes, arthritis, heart disease and cancer. The research institute houses 200 researchers and staff, and Virginia Mason provided BRI with more than \$4.8 million in direct cash support in 2012.



*“Our participation in El Rey 1360 AM is helping inform the Latino community and encourages them to be proactive with their health and hopefully prevent costly and serious complications to their health,” says Maria del Carmen Carillo, RN, diabetes prevention team member.*

## Strong Partnerships

Our Community Benefit work has also assisted other organizations that increase access to care through strong partnerships and sponsorships, including:

- **Project Access Northwest (PANW)** – Providing specialty care to community clinic patients.
- **Edward Thomas Respite Program** – Providing recuperative care for homeless men and women.
- **SeaMar, YWCA, Mexican Consulate Ventanilla de Salud program, El Rey 1360 radio** – Providing sponsorships and diabetes prevention education at the consulate, on the radio and at community health fairs.
- **WSHA Community Health Needs Assessment Collaborative** – Participating in the collaborative and advisory group to provide leadership with our hospital partners for collaborative community benefit work.
- **United Way** – Participating in Day of Caring and providing free flu shots during the Community Resource Exchange. Medical Teams International: Providing supplies for local and global programs.