

Through Children's Hospital Boston's mission of providing high quality clinical care, conducting innovative research, training the next generation of pediatric providers and improving the health of our community, the hospital invested \$92.8 million in community benefits in FY08. Children's takes a four-pronged approach to improving the health of our community:

## Serving as the safety net

**For Children's, serving as a safety net hospital means that we provide care for all children in Massachusetts regardless of their family's ability to pay and subsidize services that may be in limited supply.**

- Children's is the largest provider of medical care to low-income children in the state. Approximately 30% of our patients are insured by Medicaid/CHIP.
- More than 90% of the sickest children in Massachusetts are hospitalized at Children's, and many of the services they need are available only at our hospital.

## Focusing on community health

**Children's focuses on the most pressing community health needs for Boston families to help reduce health disparities.**

- The **Community Asthma Initiative** improves the quality of life for children with asthma by *reducing asthma-related Emergency Department visits by 67% and hospital admissions by 85% for children enrolled in the program.*
- Through the **Fitness in the City** program, Children's supports 11 Boston community health centers to reach more than 800 children who *spend less time watching TV, consume fewer sugar-sweetened beverages, and exercise more.*
- **Children's Hospital Neighborhood Partnerships (CHNP)** delivered mental health services to 259 children in schools and 556 children in health centers, and more than 3,000 youth and 600 parents participated in prevention activities. *Eleven Boston schools participating in CHNP have shown an increased ability to address students' mental health needs.*
- Our **Martha Eliot Health Center (MEHC)** provides not only health-related services, but also programs to improve children's school performance, teach families how to prepare nutritious foods and support victims of trauma and violence. MEHC has played a key role in the development of the **Jamaica Plain Violence Prevention and Intervention Collaborative** *now being used as a model for responding to violence by the Boston Public Health Commission.*

## Partnering with the community

**Children's approach to partnerships has been to develop solid, effective and enduring relationships with local organizations to help make Boston a healthy and vibrant city for families.**

- Children's has affiliations and partners on treatment, prevention, health and wellness programs with 10 Boston community health centers.
- Children's works extensively with the City of Boston, the Boston Public Health Commission and the Boston Public Schools to address the issues of mental health, asthma, injury prevention and early childhood development.
- Children's recognizes its role in supporting the health of the community through workforce development efforts. Through our own summer job program and support for other partners, 95 Boston high school students had paid, full-time jobs funded by the hospital last year.

## Advocating for policy change

**Children's is a steadfast advocate for the unique needs of children and families served by the hospital, as well as throughout Massachusetts and beyond.**

- Children's works with community leaders, organizations and policymakers at the city, state and national levels to bring attention to children's health issues. The hospital advocates for policies that keep children healthy and safe, ensure their access to high quality health care, and foster innovation in pediatric research and clinical care.
- Children's has been a lead partner in a state-wide, 130-member coalition which filed and advocated for legislation to reform the state's mental health care system. Passage of the bill last year represented a major milestone in improving mental health care for children in Massachusetts.
- Since 1993, Children's has been at the forefront in improving access to high quality health care and services for children and families, as well as helping to drive efforts to expand health insurance coverage for children throughout the state and country. Massachusetts has the lowest rate of uninsured children in the nation.

For more information on Children's Community Benefits, visit [childrenshospital.org/taxexempt](http://childrenshospital.org/taxexempt).

