



Dear Community Partners and Supporters,

We are thrilled to bring you the latest edition of Children's in the Community! This quarterly newsletter is a celebration of our collective efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of children in our region. Your involvement has been crucial in making these achievements possible.

In 2024, Children's Community Health delivered 1,604 programs and activities, collaborating with over 250 school and community partner organizations. We also invested \$5.6 million to enhance community health. In this issue, we proudly share these highlights, focusing on our initiatives to address health-related social needs, integrate best practices into systems impacting child health, enhance access to care, and strengthen and support families. We also spotlight the incredible work of our community partners who help us promote health and prevention on a communitywide scale.

Your partnership has been the cornerstone of our success, and we are grateful for your continued commitment. Together, we are building a healthier future for all children. For more information, please reach out to [Anne Marie Kuchera](#).



Supporting and Strengthening Families

Through its six family centers, UPMC Children's Family Care Connection (FCC) offers early childhood development programs, parenting education, maternal and infant health support, and more. We also offer basic needs assistance with items such as diapers and infant formula. We connect families to food and utilities assistance, housing, early intervention for children, and more.

- 1,962 families and 2,229 children from babies to age 5 served by FCC programs.
- 910 group activities and programs, including parenting, early childhood development, and health and wellness.
- 19,115 basic needs items provided to families, including diapers, infant formula, car seats, education kits, and food resources.

"I appreciate everything you do. I cannot repay you enough for working with my children and getting them to the next level in life."

— Parent of child in Kindergarten Readiness at FCC



Increasing Access to Care

UPMC Children's Community Health increases access to care for children and families through a neighborhood-based health hub, mobile health care services, a school-based telehealth program, and transportation assistance to medical appointments.

- 1,109 children from 61 communities received care through the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile.
- 1,747 round-trip rides provided for patient families to UPMC Children's medical appointments.

"I wanted to personally thank you for providing such excellent services to our students. We are glad to have partnered with you and look forward to working with you in the future."

— School nurse

"Many of our patient families do not own cars. The availability of the transportation program has made it possible for families to get the care they need for their children."

- Clinical provider



Addressing Health-Related Social Needs

We work with clinical partners to identify families' basic needs and connect them to community-based resources for food, utilities, transportation, and more. We provide tangible assistance to patient families who have immediate food needs and increase families' access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

- 2,171 emergency food resources provided to patient families.
- 819 referrals made to nutrition assistance programs.
- 740 families enrolled in the Food Bucks Rx produce prescription program.



Promoting Community-wide Health and Prevention

UPMC Children's Community Health partners with more than 100 schools to promote communitywide health and prevention through the implementation of the Healthy Schools Program, health and

wellness education for students, and the administration of vaccinations.

- 87 schools participated in the Healthy Schools Program, impacting 47,404 students.
- 15 school partners recognized among America's Healthiest Schools.
- 238 staff from 57 schools participated in education to support youth behavioral health.

"One of the most significant benefits of the partnership with the Community Health Team from Children's Hospital is the ability to extend the reach of the school beyond its walls on Pittsburgh Perry High School's way to becoming one of America's Healthiest Schools. This proactive approach tackles health disparities and promotes health equity, ensuring that children from all backgrounds have the opportunity to thrive."

— School social worker



Advancing Best Practices in Systems that Impact Child Health

Through professional development and education, training for clinical providers and professionals, and an innovative school-clinical care coordination program, we advance best practices into systems that impact child health.

- 437 medical professionals trained to assess for and respond to patients' health-related social needs.

- 2,000 school and community-based professionals participated in educational webinars about best practices in treating pediatric health conditions.
- 273 school nurses, counselors, and social workers participated in professional development sessions.
- 100 health & physical education teachers trained in hands-only CPR.
- 39 pediatric medical residents actively engaged in community-partnered health programs as part of their residency training.

UPMC Children's Community Health extends special thanks to the school and community partners who work in collaboration to support children and families, and to our generous donors and the UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation for their continued partnership and support, which enable our efforts. Visit [UPMC Children's Community Health](#) to learn more. Contact [Anne Marie Kuchera](#) for more information.