In 2017, 98 bed hospital facility 3 outpatient medical plazas: Brighton, Fort Lupton and Reunion 563 community members received flu shots at free or discounted prices

In 2017, Platte Valley Medical Center addressed these social determinants through investments in education, food security, poverty reduction and access to health services.

Community Benefit 2017
Investing in the Social Determinants of Health

Improving the health of our communities is a call to action embedded in our mission. We realize that wrapped within this call to action is a need to address the number of factors that impact overall health beyond access to healthcare. These social determinants of health include: economic stability, education, social support network, work environment, housing, access to healthcare and lifestyle. In 2017, Platte Valley Medical Center addressed these social determinants through investments in education, food security, poverty reduction and access to health services.
In 2017, SCL Health made strides to address mental health needs in the communities it serves by offering a variety of mental health trainings to community members. As a system, SCL Health was able to provide mental health education to over 1,600 individuals across 3 states and 17 counties.

SCL Health trained 4 new Mental Health First Aid instructors to continue educating their communities and sustain the initiative well beyond the grant year.

Platte Valley Medical Center Initiatives

ACCESS TO CARE – HEALTH FAIR
This annual event offers a variety of healthcare screenings such as diabetes, diagnostic blood chemistry panel, breast exams and more to members of the rural community.

840 community members served
203 volunteers
19 different free health screenings

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY HEALTH
Platte Valley Medical Center generously supports a variety of non-profit community organizations through grant funding. These donations support diverse efforts related to child, senior and mental health services, as well as social determinants of health including housing security, food stability and transportation.

$188,947 total contribution across 17 organizations

TRAINING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS FOR THE FUTURE
Local high school and college students with interest in healthcare careers are placed in clinical rotations throughout various departments of the hospital. Placement duration varies from one to two months.

134 students participated in clinical education or observations
Students performed clinical education in areas of: Nursing, Physical Therapy, Ambulatory Services, Nutrition and Medical Imaging

$256,852 toward program budget

Suicide is often associated with symptoms of mental illness.

Mental illnesses are among the most common health conditions in the United States.

Just over 20% of children have had a seriously debilitating mental disorder.

1 in 5 Americans will experience a mental illness in a given year.

10th leading cause of death in the U.S.
2nd leading cause of death among people aged 15-34.
Fort Lupton Food Bank

The Fort Lupton Ministerial Alliance led the effort to start the Fort Lupton Food and Clothing Bank, opening their doors in 1984. In 2017, 8.7% of the population in Fort Lupton was at the federal poverty level, with 11.8% of all households in Fort Lupton receiving food stamps and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Platte Valley Medical Center has donated funds to help support the Fort Lupton Food Bank, with a total contribution of over $60,000 since 2005.

One resident, a newly single mother of five, counted on the Fort Lupton Food and Clothing Bank to keep her family afloat. The food and clothing bank provided this mother’s family with daily necessities so she could begin her job search. She was able to go back to school and graduate with a nursing degree. She now has full-time employment and her children couldn’t be more proud of her.

Court Appointed Special Advocates

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are volunteers paired with children who have been abused or neglected and become involved in the court system through no fault of their own. CASA volunteers spend time with the children, getting to know the people who are important in their lives and problems they might be experiencing. The volunteers are able to develop supportive relationships with the children, serve as an advocates for the children and make recommendations to the court on their behalf.

Platte Valley Medical Center has supported CASA since its inception through its grant program, donating over $150,000 to this valuable organization.

In June 2017, a case opened in Adams County for three children due to domestic violence, substance abuse and neglect. The children’s bilingual CASA volunteer was the only member of the professional team (including the children’s attorney, caseworkers and therapists) who spoke Spanish, accommodating the family’s primary language. The volunteer noticed school personnel and case professionals had often given documents such as legal waivers to the oldest child rather than to the caregiver. This was causing undue stress for the child and CASA volunteer, prompting the judge to forbid this practice. To assist the caregiver with court and school documents, translation services were also made available. The volunteer was able to form a strong relationship with the children and family, advocate for the children’s best interests, and support the family in their efforts to ensure the children were safe and thriving.
Girls’ Night Out

Last year, 775 women of all ages participated in one of the most highly anticipated events hosted at Platte Valley Medical Center: Girls’ Night Out (GNO), an interactive and activities-focused event held throughout the hospital. Participants were free to wander through 35 vendor booths and get to know local businesses and the hospital’s staff. The keynote speaker, Jennifer Tracy, shared her personal story of overcoming tragedy and thoughts of suicide. To complement the speaker’s story and theme of the event, mental health providers were available to attendees for on-site counseling. Most of the hospital departments hosted booths offering participants the chance to speak to specialists or receive free screenings. Some of the screenings available included: blood pressure and pulse, bone density, peripheral arterial disease, stroke and cardiac.

Platte Valley Medical Center sent out an after-event survey, receiving valuable feedback from participants. When asked how Girls’ Night Out helped their health journey, a common response was that GNO is a reminder and great motivation to take better care of themselves. In fact, survey results showed that after attending the event, participants were 64% more likely to make a healthy lifestyle change. One attendee said, “I’ve needed to see a few doctors for several years now. This event gives me an opportunity to research health information without having to sit frustrated behind a phone, but in a fun and social way with friends, listening to others who are going through similar situations.”

Additional feedback from individuals participating in Girls’ Night Out included:

“It was nice to get information regarding different aspects of women’s health in a fun, ‘no pressure’ environment.”

“My view of the have-to’s is less daunting as a result of attending Girls’ Night Out. I know I have to get a full physical and a mammogram.”

“GNO has opened my eyes to how you need to start with small steps to exercise – you aren’t expected to run a marathon your first year of exercise!”

“I am quite elderly and have made those changes, now I look many years younger and have the stamina of a much younger person.”

Please visit the Platte Valley Medical Center website to access the full Community Health Needs Assessment: 
https://www.sclhealth.org/locations/platte-valley-medical-center/about/community-benefit/