



Jefferson

HOME OF SIDNEY KIMMEL MEDICAL COLLEGE



Community Impact Report 2024:

BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY IMPACT + BELONGING



A strong sense of community underscores everything we do at Jefferson. Our mission to **improve lives** begins and ends with people — caring for our patients, students, and members, engaging with our neighbors, and cultivating healthy workplaces for our colleagues.

It All Comes Down to People.

Our focus on people allows us to foster connection and create meaningful community.

In 2024, as we celebrated our bicentennial, we honored the individuals and organizations who built Jefferson into what it is today: an anchor institution, major employer of 65,000 team members, a world-class health system, a national doctoral research university, and a not-for-profit insurer.

We also welcomed Lehigh Valley Health Network to the Jefferson family and began building a shared culture founded on three guiding principles: **Put People First. Do What’s Right. Pursue Excellence.**

This year’s community impact is not just about what we achieved — it is about how we did it. From volunteers to community partners, every success story is a testament to the power of collective action.

Through our Healthy Communities Framework, we are advancing access to healthcare, food security, safe environments, and advocacy while promoting mental, physical, and social well-being.

Every day, in every community we serve, lives are healthier because of the work we do together.

Join us as we celebrate these stories of impact and honor the people who make it possible.

Sincerely,



Joseph G. Cacchione, MD
CEO | Jefferson



Keith Leaphart, DO, MBA
EVP | Humana Chief Health Equity
and Community Impact Officer

WE IMPROVE LIVES, TOGETHER

In 2024, Jefferson grew to **65,000 colleagues strong** with the addition of Lehigh Valley Health Network. Together, we served communities from the Lehigh Valley to Philadelphia to South Jersey through innovative programs, partnerships, and a shared commitment to well-being.

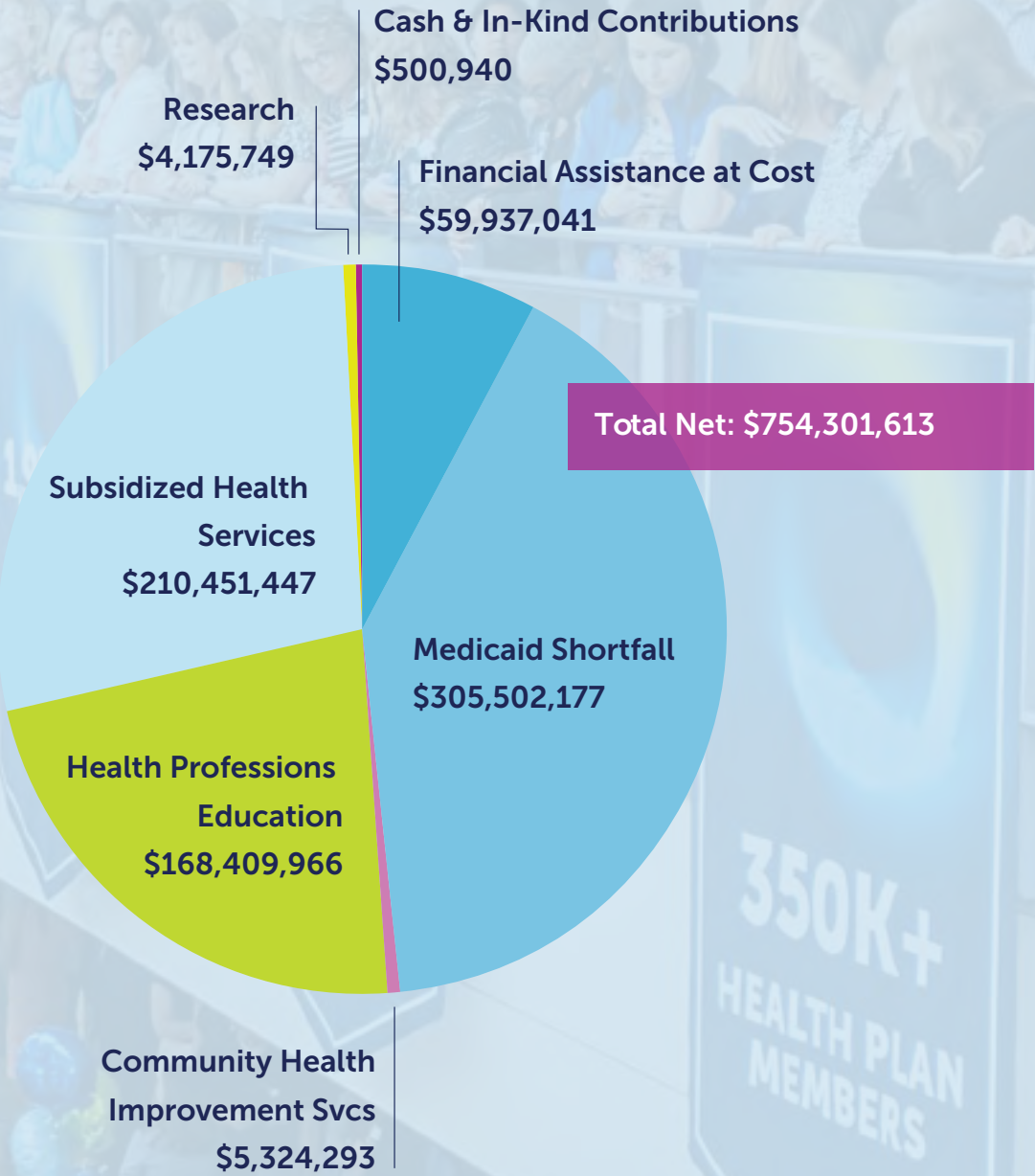
Key Highlights:

- \$1.8 billion in total community benefit
- 10 million patient visits across inpatient, ED, outpatient, and telehealth
- Expanded programs in food access, volunteerism, workforce development, and mobile care

Our work ensures everyone — regardless of background — can access the care, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive.



TOTAL NET COMMUNITY BENEFIT | FY24 (NOT INCLUDING LVHN)



COMMUNITY BENEFIT NET TOTALS:

LEGACY JEFFERSON:

\$754,301,613

LEGACY LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK:

\$1,049,830,871*

*Legacy Lehigh Valley Health Network numbers were calculated with pre-merger methodology, which differed slightly from Jefferson's. Future reports will reflect combined numbers.

Our community impact work focuses on six pillars:

- Access to Healthcare
- Community Engagement
- Healthy Food Access
- Policy and Advocacy
- Safe, Accessible Environments
- Social Support

In 2024, we deepened partnerships, expanded services, and introduced new initiatives aligned with these priorities — reflecting our unwavering belief that healthcare is local, personal, and a shared responsibility.



Access to Healthcare

Through partnerships and programs, Jefferson collaborates with a broad network of community organizations—such as faith-based groups, businesses, advocates, and more—to improve health outcomes by providing high-quality, accessible, patient-centered care.

In 2024, we:

- Expanded our Mobile Health Unit program, delivering screenings, vaccinations, and wellness visits directly to underserved neighborhoods
- Enhanced language access services across our **32** hospital campuses and **700+** outpatient sites, ensuring culturally competent care for diverse populations
- Increased telehealth visits improving access for rural and homebound patients

Through education, health services, and wellness resources, we remain committed to meeting patients where they are, breaking down barriers, and promoting equity in healthcare access.



Community Engagement

At Jefferson, we believe meaningful change happens through partnership, volunteerism, and direct involvement.

In 2024, we:

- Launched Jefferson 200, a year-long bicentennial celebration, including the Bicentennial Service Initiative, rallying the community to complete 200,000 volunteer hours. Over 4,000 community projects strengthened our local impact
- Invested \$869,000 in community sponsorships, supporting more than 150 organizations dedicated to advancing health, education, and equity across our region
- Students and faculty engaged in research and service programs addressing social determinants of health



Healthy Food Access

Access to nutritious food is essential to community health and well-being. Food insecurity contributes to chronic health issues, including diabetes and heart disease.

Jefferson mobilized volunteers and partners to tackle this challenge.

- We expanded the Ramilly Market on-campus food pantries to support students facing food insecurity. Partnering with Philabundance, we hosted Fresh for All weekly markets, offering free nutritious food to local families

- Collaborations with Share Food Program, Meals on Wheels, MANNA, and others helped provide medically tailored meals and essential nutrition resources to patients and families across our communities

- Jefferson Health Plans also enhanced outreach to connect members with services addressing food, housing, and transportation needs



Policy and Advocacy

Public policy shapes sustainable, community-wide health improvements.

Jefferson's population health research supports policies that reduce barriers to healthcare and promote health equity. We work with policymakers, regional leaders, and community partners to ensure patient voices guide advocacy efforts.

Our focus includes developing sustainable care models, expanding clinical research access, and fostering collaboration between researchers and community organizations to inform health policies that address social determinants and improve outcomes for all.

Social Support

In addition to the physical health of our communities, Jefferson recognizes that social and emotional factors are integral to overall health and well-being, and we invested in supportive programs such as:

- Mental health and wellness programs
- Support networks and peer-led community programs
- Resources for seniors, caregivers, and vulnerable populations

Jefferson provided many of these critical services within our hospitals and sites of care, and we also supported organizations in communities that provide social support infrastructure with mentorship, training, and resources. Creating stronger connections among the members of our society creates a stronger overall community. At Jefferson, we are committed to support the entire well-being of those we serve.



Safe and Accessible Environment

Basic safety and a supportive social environment are essential to building healthy, thriving communities. Jefferson partners with local organizations to increase access to stable housing, transportation, and other services that connect people to care and opportunity.

We also work closely with groups addressing community violence, substance misuse, and other public health threats to help make neighborhoods safer and stronger. Beyond safety, we believe healthy communities should offer green

spaces, cultural opportunities, and recreational resources that promote overall well-being.

In 2024, Jefferson awarded Catalyst Grants and provided capacity-building support to grassroots organizations creating safer, more inclusive environments.

By investing in trusted, community-based partners, we're helping to strengthen social infrastructure and expand access to resources that support health, connection, and quality of life.



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Community Health Worker Collective

The Jefferson Community Health Worker (CHW) Collective is a cornerstone of our work to improve health and socioeconomic outcomes for individuals and families in Philadelphia and beyond.

The CHW Collective includes three core components: the CHW Academy, a training and workforce development program; the CHW Care Delivery team; and the CHW Community of Practice, our professional development and advocacy program. These efforts improve access to care, advance health outcomes, and train the next generation of CHWs in line with Jefferson's commitment to education.

The **CHW Academy** is a full-time, paid training program offering a career pathway for new healthcare workers while helping reduce health disparities in Philadelphia's most underserved neighborhoods.

Our **CHW Care Delivery and Community of Practice** teams are embedded within clinical teams, paired with patients experiencing social needs. They conduct home visits, support telehealth, advocate for patient needs, coordinate transportation, address mistrust in healthcare, conduct health-related social needs screenings, and more.

CHWs build patient relationships in ways doctors, nurses, and social workers often cannot — delivering an immediate, measurable impact. Their work has increased patient satisfaction, engagement, and faster access to specialist care.



In 2024, CHWs reached an average of nearly 300 people in-person and over 900 via telehealth monthly. They connected more than 200 people a month to healthcare appointments and processed over 400 referrals.

Crucial Catch

Jefferson Health served as the Philadelphia Eagles' Presenting Partner for the Crucial Catch Game — the NFL's nationwide initiative promoting cancer prevention, early detection, and risk education. Dr. Joe Cacchione and Oncology Nurse Bridget Trefz served as game captains, and six cancer survivors were honored on the field at halftime. Jefferson's Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center and Community Engagement teams hosted pregame and in-game activations, offering educational resources about cancer risk, screenings, and treatment options. In partnership with the Eagles, Jefferson also launched the "Every Catch Matters" campaign throughout October, featuring a PSA with Eagles Tight Ends Dallas Goedert, Grant Calcaterra, and Jack Stoll, encouraging fans to prioritize cancer screenings.

Grant-Funded Community Outreach

Since 2022, Jefferson’s Outreach team has connected with over **47,000** residents across South Jersey through pop-up vaccine clinics, screenings, and educational workshops. In 2024 alone, they hosted **279** events, including **95** vaccine clinics, **63** health screenings, and **20** multilingual workshops. Focused on underserved communities, the team also distributed over **4,000** health resource kits. Through more than **400** partnerships with local organizations, faith groups, and municipalities, the program delivers essential care, education, and trust-building health services directly where people live.



Mobile Screenings

Access begins with prevention. Our Health Plan partners with Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Mobile Screening Van to provide breast cancer screenings at community sites. In 2024, we hosted mobile mammography events and are exploring preventive dental care for pediatric patients through this initiative, expanding health services for hard-to-reach populations.



Project ROLE

Language access is essential to patient safety and care equity. Project ROLE reduces hospital readmissions and improves outcomes for patients with limited English proficiency by expanding medical interpreter services and training. Sponsored by a federal grant from the Office of Minority Health, the program trains interpreters to better educate patients on key health concerns and builds system-wide best practices through the Your Health in Your Language symposium series, led by Dr. Cindy Hou.

Frazier Family Coalition

A partnership between Jefferson and Temple, the Frazier Family Coalition for Stroke Education and Prevention addresses chronic disease and stroke risk in North Philadelphia. Operating in the city’s lowest-income zip code, the coalition coordinates screenings, workshops, and 15 health education programs to improve disease management and raise awareness of risk factors. The program tackles an urgent need, as stroke is the city’s fourth leading cause of death.



Closing The Gap

Through a partnership with Novartis, Jefferson launched Closing the Gap, targeting cardiac health disparities in five high-risk Philadelphia zip codes. Embedded in our Community Health Collaborative, the initiative focuses on addressing risk factors for heart disease and stroke through screening, education, and referral to services. Community health workers play a central role, navigating residents to care and preventive services. The program directly confronts life expectancy gaps of 10–20 years between neighborhoods by meeting people where they are.



Athlete Health Support

Thomas Jefferson University’s Athlete Health Organization (AHO) provides free health screenings to underserved student-athletes. With over 10,000 screenings completed, the initiative has identified life-threatening conditions, safeguarding young athletes’ futures. Meanwhile, Lehigh Valley Health Network’s Impact Athlete program offers free clinics across 13 sports, with over 2,000 athletes participating. Events include educational seminars for families and coaches, with topics like sports nutrition, injury prevention, and performance.

Community Health Worker (CHW) Academy

Jefferson’s Community Health Worker (CHW) Academy is a full-time, paid workforce development program delivering immersive training in health access, advocacy, and patient support. In 2024, the program achieved an 83% graduation retention rate. Graduates saw wage increases and gains in financial stability and home ownership. Patients experienced reduced hospital stays, readmissions, and discharge barriers. Community learnings are shared with partners and policymakers to shape health access improvements regionally.

Jefferson Center for Refugee and Immigrant Health

One of Philadelphia’s largest providers for newly arrived immigrants and refugees, the center delivers culturally competent care. Recognized by the CDC as a Center of Excellence, it screens over 500 refugees annually, addressing health disparities and improving access to care. Students and faculty also conduct research to evaluate care delivery for refugees.



Eagles Autism Challenge

Jefferson Health is proud to partner with the Philadelphia Eagles as an Official Partner of the Eagles Autism Challenge, promoting awareness, research, and services for individuals with autism. At the 2024 event, representatives from Jefferson’s Autism Center of Excellence hosted a sensory-friendly station, featuring hand-painting activities, a kinetic sand box, and a blackout sensory tent offering a calm, quiet reprieve for attendees. Educational resources, recruitment materials, and fidget toys were also distributed.

ACLAMO Partnership

The Health Plan partners with ACLAMO, a Norristown nonprofit serving the Latino community with health, social services, and education. Through our funding, community navigators help close care gaps and connect members with preventive services and resources addressing social determinants of health. This collaboration helps improve access, trust, and health outcomes for under-resourced families.

Perinatal Education: Warm Line, Pediatricians Night, Breastfeeding Class, Lactation Support

Jefferson offers prenatal and postpartum education to support families through childbirth and early parenthood. Services include breastfeeding classes, newborn care, maternity tours, and pediatrician Q&As. A dedicated Warm Line provides breastfeeding support calls, logging over 4.5 hours of direct assistance. Since launch, the program has educated over 550 families and offers guided support groups for new parents.

Pride Care at Jefferson Center for Healthy Aging

Pride Care at Jefferson Center for Healthy Aging is the nation’s first program focused on LGBTQIA+ patients 55+. It offers specialized clinical services, preventive screenings, HIV prevention, and other programs designed to fill long-standing care gaps. Pride Care also supports creating an inclusive, academically driven care hub for older LGBTQIA+ adults.



JeffHOPE

Founded by Sidney Kimmel Medical College students, JeffHOPE (Health Opportunities, Prevention & Education) is a student-run program delivering free healthcare to people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity in Philadelphia. Operating clinics in five shelters and a Kensington drop-in center, JeffHOPE provides acute medical care, health education, advocacy, and social services navigation.

Stop the Bleed Program

Jefferson’s Stop the Bleed program trains the public to control life-threatening bleeding before emergency services arrive. Led by trauma nurses and doctors, the program delivers bilingual sessions to schools, workplaces, and community groups. To date, providers have conducted nearly 250 sessions, equipping thousands with lifesaving skills, including proper tourniquet use.



HONICKMAN CENTER

The Honickman Center opened in April 2024, during Jefferson's Bicentennial year, as Jefferson Health's flagship facility in Center City Philadelphia. The center ushers in a bold new era of healthcare, offering convenient, centralized access to a wide range of specialty medical services. Designed in partnership with patients and community members, the **19-story, 462,000-square-foot** facility blends advanced technology with human-centered care.

It includes more than **300** exam rooms, **58** infusion chairs, **10** operating rooms, six endoscopy rooms, an onsite lab, pharmacy, radiology services, and more. The Honickman Center brings Jefferson's nationally ranked specialty programs under one roof, enabling multiple appointments in a single visit through integrated, digital-first care. It stands among the most technologically advanced, patient-friendly medical facilities in the nation.

Equity and access were core to the center's design. Features include sensory-friendly spaces, neurodiverse-designed furniture, immersive art installations, and Jefferson-developed digital whiteboards, which allow clinicians at different sites to join patient visits. Patients can also invite loved ones to attend virtually, providing a high-touch, personalized experience.

The center was made possible by community partnerships, including National Real Estate Development, LLC, which conceptualized and developed the project. Construction generated approximately **\$772 million** in economic impact for Philadelphia, supporting **4,120** jobs over four years and **\$25 million** in tax and fee revenue. Art installations throughout the space include projects from Thomas Jefferson University's Kanbar College of Design, Engineering, and Commerce. Industrial design students collaborated with the Jefferson Center for Autism and Neurodiversity (JeffCAN) to research, design, and create neurodiverse-friendly seating.

The Honickman Center reflects Jefferson's mission to reimagine healthcare, improve lives, and set the standard for patient-first care well into our third century.



JEFFERSON'S BICENTENNIAL SERVICE

INITIATIVE RALLIED **4,000+ volunteers**

TO LOG OVER **212,000 hours** OF SERVICE

ACROSS **1,600+ programs**, TACKLING

CRITICAL ISSUES LIKE: **FOOD INSECURITY, CANCER, HOUSING, AND WOMEN'S HEALTH.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bicentennial

M

any initiatives crossed multiple Healthy Communities pillars, making this year-long campaign a turning point for Jefferson's community engagement efforts. What began as a bold challenge from leadership — to hit 200,000 service hours during our Bicentennial year — turned into a powerful movement, with employees, students, alumni, faculty, and health plan members rising to the occasion and expanding partnerships across the region.

It all kicked off on Valentine's Day, when over 200 Jefferson team members "Spread the Love" through projects addressing food insecurity, volunteering with Philabundance, MANNA, Share Food Program, and Grace Episcopal Church. Ramo Market, Thomas Jefferson University's food pantry, hosted a pop-up with Sharing Excess to provide fresh, recovered produce to those in need.

The Bicentennial campaign sparked new programs that continue today — from JeffCARES volunteer initiatives and the Community Impact Council to academic pathway and mentorship programs, strengthening community health and wellness.

It also launched the **Bicentennial Fund**, fueling Jefferson's next century by accelerating research, expanding educational access, advancing clinical care, and closing equity gaps in our communities.



Hands of Hope

Hands of Hope, a student-led initiative, delivers free physical therapy (PT) clinics twice weekly at Methodist Hospital and one night a week at Puentes de Salud, supporting Philadelphia's Latinx immigrant community. The program also runs wellness sessions on fall prevention, joint health, and pain management, and partners with the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging.

Recently, faculty secured an American Physical Therapy Association grant to create a trauma-informed exercise program for chronic pain patients. Collaborating with the Nationalities Service Center, Hands of Hope not only provides immediate care but fosters long-term health improvements for underserved communities.

Annual Zoo Events

Hosted by the Health Plan, our annual zoo events are beloved, family-friendly affairs promoting healthy outdoor activity. Members enjoy a 5K scavenger hunt and explore local zoos, fostering quality time in nature. Children receive backpacks with school supplies, water bottles, and healthy snacks.

More than 4,000 members participate each year, reinforcing Jefferson’s commitment to encouraging healthy choices and meaningful family experiences.



Health Partners Foundation

Through the Health Partners Foundation, we make a difference in the community in ways that go beyond the traditional services of a health plan. We support low-income communities in Philadelphia and across the state with educational programs, scholarships, emergency assistance and more.



Da Vinci Science Center

Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) proudly sponsors the My Body exhibit at the Da Vinci Science Center, a nationally recognized nonprofit making science engaging for all ages. My Body immerses visitors in a giant walk-through human body, answering common health questions and teaching how to stay well. Visitors also meet healthcare professionals and learn about local health careers. Expected to welcome 300,000 visitors in 2025, this exhibit helps foster lifelong health literacy and interest in health professions.

KleinLife

The Health Plan partners with KleinLife Pennsylvania, a nonprofit offering social, cultural, and wellness programs to multigenerational, diverse communities. Rooted in the Jewish tradition of tikkun olam (repairing the world), KleinLife serves people of all backgrounds, providing services ranging from health screenings to social gatherings and lifelong learning. The organization strengthens bonds across communities by offering accessible, enriching resources and connections to critical services. KleinLife’s Executive Director also serves on the Jefferson Health Plans Medicare Advisory Committee, ensuring community needs are represented.



EMAC Partnership

Lehigh Valley Reilly Children’s Hospital, Lehigh Valley Orthopedic Institute, and the Emmaus Aquatic Club (EMAC) launched a three-year partnership to expand EMAC’s mission-based swim lessons for adaptive swimmers, foster care families, and other underserved groups. Over 350 children benefited from free or reduced-cost swim lessons in 2024.

“The ability to swim is a lifesaving skill, and the health benefits and enjoyment of swimming can last a lifetime... we are proud to invest in this critical skill for all children as a part of our mission to heal, comfort, and care for our community.”
— Anne Baum, President, Lehigh Valley Reilly Children’s Hospital



2024 Ramily Day of Service

As part of a Jefferson tradition, 260 new students volunteered at 17 local sites, including Share Food Program, Historic Rittenhouse Town, and Rutabaga Toy Library, contributing 680 hours of service to the community.



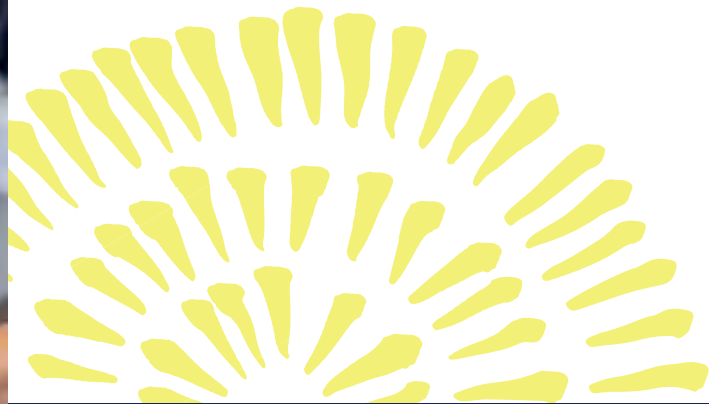
Weller Health Education

A program of Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital, Weller Health Education has been a trusted source of preventive health education for northeastern Pennsylvania schools for over 30 years. The program addresses pressing health topics like mental health, bullying prevention, internet safety, and substance use.

In 2023–2024, four health educators delivered 942 sessions to 32,030 students across 24 school districts. Weller's YouTube channel, with over 197,500 unique viewers, extends the program's reach. Teachers consistently praise the engaging, accessible delivery of complex health topics, empowering students to make informed, healthy choices.

“The topic was presented in a way that was engaging and informative. My students were attentive the whole time. It was a hard subject to teach and I'm glad I was able to have the program come to my school.”

— Local Teacher



Bicentennial Service Initiative

As part of Jefferson's 200th Bicentennial year, over **2,000** volunteers joined community service projects through our Bicentennial Service Initiative. Highlights included:

- Assembling toiletry kits on MLK Day, food pantry service days, campus beautification, and Earth Day tree planting
- Volunteers prepared **500** sandwiches for people experiencing homelessness and cooked dinners for **70** cancer patients and their families at Hope Lodge
- Partnerships with faith-based organizations provided health screenings, and executive leadership supported veterans and local schools with toiletry kits and school supplies
- The year concluded with our largest volunteer turnout in Philabundance's history—over **100** volunteers

These collective efforts reflect Jefferson's enduring commitment to service and community health.



Community Impact Council

Launched in 2024, Jefferson's Community Impact Council (CIC) unites 50+ enterprise representatives to share community engagement updates, ideas, and collaborative opportunities. The CIC organizes programming around four priority pillars:

- Women's health
- Housing
- Food insecurity
- Cancer

The council connects employees to volunteer opportunities with trusted local partners and supports Jefferson's Healthy Communities Framework. Through cross-departmental collaboration and strategic community partnerships, the CIC ensures Jefferson's community health efforts are comprehensive, responsive, and inclusive of local needs.





ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

At Jefferson, academics, training, and education are the foundation of our legacy and the key to building stronger, healthier communities. That commitment extends beyond classrooms and clinical settings through dynamic academic outreach and pathway programs that inspire and prepare the next generation of healthcare, research, design, and community leaders.

Across the Jefferson enterprise, more than **15 programs** provide hands-on experiences for students from elementary school through college. These initiatives nurture academic achievement, career readiness, essential life skills, meaningful mentorship, and personal and professional growth.

Summer Training and Enrichment Programs (STEP-UP) remain a cornerstone, preparing students for careers in medicine, nursing, rehabilitation sciences, and research through immersive summer programs and academic support — including reapplication counseling for aspiring healthcare professionals.

Beyond clinical tracks, Jefferson's **College of Architecture & the Built Environment (CABE) Summer Academy** and **Fashion & Textile Summer Academy** offer high school students design-focused workshops, studio projects, and mentorship from faculty and industry professionals.

Jefferson also collaborates with regional partners and legacy programs, including:

LVHN Health Care Futures Program, offering high school students hands-on career exposure, CPR certification, and pathways to healthcare employment. Bilingual students can earn medical interpreter certification through Bridging the Gap.

REACH (Research Engagement at City High Schools) Program, raising awareness about cancer research and clinical trials among Philadelphia-area high school students.

Providence Center Youth Ambassador Program, providing trauma-informed care training to adolescents as they educate and uplift their neighborhoods.

Together, these programs reflect Jefferson's deep investment in the future — equipping students and emerging leaders with the knowledge, tools, and real-world experience to thrive, innovate, and build healthier, more resilient communities for generations to come.



HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Ramily Market

Nearly one in four college students nationwide experiences food insecurity, which affects academic performance, well-being, and long-term success. At Jefferson, we address this through Ramily Market — free, confidential campus markets offering nonperishable food, fresh produce, personal care items, and essentials to students in need.

First launched in 2017 on the East Falls Campus, the program has expanded to Center City and Dixon campuses with support from partners like Philabundance and Sharing Excess. Markets now offer online ordering and mobile pickup options for discreet, convenient access.

Recent renovations have expanded capacity and offerings. In 2024 alone, thousands of visits were recorded, with hundreds of students accessing fresh produce, meal kits, and everyday necessities.

By addressing food insecurity, Jefferson ensures students can focus on their academic, social, and emotional growth — supporting their success both in and beyond the classroom.



A Better Start

A Better Start (ABS) is the preventive health education arm of Jefferson Einstein Philadelphia Hospital's Women and Children's Service Line (WSC). Funded through USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program -Education (SNAP – ED) and internal grants, ABS addresses nutrition-related health disparities by offering education and sustainable initiatives to prevent chronic disease. In partnership with schools, libraries, senior centers, and local nonprofits, the program leads evidence-based sessions on nutrition, food insecurity, and wellness.

In 2023–24, ABS delivered **200** sessions, educating more than **1,750** community members, including students, seniors, and adults. ABS has served the community for over **25** years, advancing health equity through education.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

CHWs in Harrisburg

Community Health Workers (CHWs) play a critical role in bridging gaps between healthcare systems and the communities they serve, addressing social risk factors, improving outcomes, and building trust.

Jefferson's CHW Academy joined the Pennsylvania Healthcare Workers Collaborative, a coalition of 400+ CHWs and advocates from across the state working to secure sustainable funding for these vital positions. Currently, most CHW roles are grant-funded and not reimbursed by Medicaid in Pennsylvania — despite the essential services they provide.

In 2024, Jefferson team members participated in a coalition-led march and petition in Harrisburg, urging legislators to support Medicaid reimbursement for CHW services. The coalition highlighted CHWs' proven value in improving disease management, reducing emergency visits, lowering healthcare costs, and addressing unmet social needs.

Following advocacy efforts, the coalition began working with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services on a Service Plan Amendment to add CHW services to Medicaid reimbursement. This critical work continues, with legislation expected to be introduced in a future session.



SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT

Catalyst Grants

Jefferson’s Catalyst Grant program — made possible by the Lindy Family — funds community-based organizations working to break the cycles of violence and address social drivers of health.

In 2024, \$540,000 was awarded to four grantees focused on violence prevention in Philadelphia’s highest-need neighborhoods. The program provides not just funding, but mentoring, evaluation and resources to build organizational capacity and long-term impact.

The selected grantees include:

- **CADEKids**, offering prevention education and life skills training for youth.
- **Philly Truce**, providing community-led mentorship, social-emotional learning and victim services.
- **The Reawakening Agency**, supporting formerly incarcerated individuals with mentorship, job training and housing resources.
- **Timoteo Sports**, using sports as a tool for youth mentorship and education.

Together, these organizations are implementing grassroots strategies to reduce violence, improve community well-being, and foster safer neighborhoods.



Leonard Parker Pool Institute for Health

The Leonard Parker Pool Institute for Health (LPPIH) is a subsidiary of Lehigh Valley Health Network dedicated to improving the health of residents in the Lehigh Valley. LPPIH encourages and facilitates cross-sector collaboration to enable meaningful improvements in community health through deep, holistic neighborhood development and broader capacity-building. Its work translates national and local best practices to drive sustainable, collective solutions that foster health. Programs include the Pool Fellowship for Health, a nine-month leadership initiative equipping nonprofit and government professionals to lead cross-sector collaborations that improve community health.

AED Donation Program

Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) established a community AED Donation Program to enhance safety and emergency response capacity. **The program funds up to 12 AED packages annually — each a \$2,000 charitable contribution — covering devices, accessories and training.** Automated external defibrillators (AEDs) save lives by restoring heart rhythm in cardiac emergencies. Recent beneficiaries include the Colonial Regional Police Department, and Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley, ensuring lifesaving equipment is available in high-traffic, high-need community settings.

Bethesda Wellness Project

Jefferson students organize wellness drives for Bethesda Project, a nonprofit serving adults experiencing homelessness. **Bethesda operates Our Brother’s Place (OBP), Philadelphia’s largest men’s shelter, housing 149 residents nightly.** The on-site JeffHOPE Clinic delivers acute medical care, blood pressure and glucose screenings, smoking cessation, sexual health education and social services navigation. The clinic also offers therapeutic listening sessions, check-ins and chronic care resources. This partnership addresses critical health needs while providing valuable clinical experience for students committed to community-based care.



Better Together At Home

In partnership with Habitat for Humanity and MANNA, Jefferson launched *Better Together At Home*, a pilot project tackling health by addressing housing, food security and education on a family by family basis.

In 2024, the program served 24 families living below the poverty line, achieving a **36% decrease in food insecurity, 28% reduction in utility shutoffs and 14% increase in household safety.** This holistic model strengthens housing stability and improves health outcomes.

Cribs for Kids Safe Sleep Program

Jefferson partners with the national *Cribs for Kids* program to prevent infant sleep-related deaths, like SIDS. By promoting safe sleep practices and distributing approved cribs, the program educates families about avoiding risks like bed-sharing and unsafe bedding.

In 2024, Jefferson distributed 150 cribs and educated 500 families on safe sleep practices, reinforcing its commitment to maternal and infant health equity.



Park-In-a-Truck

Developed by Thomas Jefferson University’s College of Architecture and the Built Environment, *Park-in-a-Truck* empowers neighborhoods to transform vacant lots into community-designed parks using landscape materials that fit in a single truckload. The initiative improves access to green space, reduces heat islands and promotes community well-being.

In collaboration with the City of Philadelphia, National Wildlife Federation, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge and others, **the program strengthens neighborhoods while preserving resident ownership and preventing displacement.**

“The people were so nice and informed me through every step. It gave me the chance to focus on my retirement and grandchildren, without the stress of the home needing repairs.”

— Program Participant

SOCIAL SUPPORT

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Welcome Center

The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Support and Welcome Center, opened in 2024 at the Honickman Center, offers patients with cancer access to comprehensive, patient-centered services under one roof.

The Center provides mind-body classes, fitness and meditation programs, support groups, and creative outlets like knitting and art therapy. A unique “buddy” program pairs current patients with survivors to offer peer support and shared experience.

Specialized staff training addresses sensitive concerns such as skin changes and hair loss, and a dedicated wing offers post-surgical products and appearance-related resources.

Serving 800–1,000 patients monthly, the Center strengthens Jefferson’s commitment to holistic, compassionate care — supporting patients and families through every step of their cancer journey.



Blue Envelope Program

Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) launched a Blue Envelope Program in 2024 to ease interactions between law enforcement and drivers with autism or other communication challenges. **More than 50 law enforcement agencies across three counties support the program, distributing over 7,000 envelopes that discreetly identify drivers’ needs during traffic stops or emergencies.** The initiative quickly gained national attention, with requests from 18 U.S. states.



Bereavement Support Group

Jefferson offers quarterly eight-week grief counseling sessions, providing safe spaces for community members coping with loss. Specialized Perinatal Loss Support Groups serve families navigating pregnancy and infant loss, fostering connections, healing and resilience through shared experiences.

Nurse-Family Partnership

Jefferson Einstein Philadelphia Hospital supports the nationally recognized *Nurse-Family Partnership* program for first-time, low-income mothers in Montgomery and Bucks counties. **In 2024, 10–15 volunteers delivered over 200 hours of home visits to 150+ women, offering health education, infant care guidance and community resource navigation.** The program also donated \$10,000 in supplies, including 50 cribs, and hosted community distribution events providing essentials for new families.

MATER

Jefferson’s *MATER* program is a national model supporting mothers in recovery from opioid addiction. Services include therapy, parenting education, career support and community job placement. MATER’s Community Advisory Board, composed of patients and staff, helps plan events, distribute essential items and shape recovery initiatives.

In 2024, the CAB co-led projects like a women’s appreciation lunch and Thanksgiving food drive. **For over 50 years, MATER has helped hundreds of families heal and build lasting recovery.**

Center for Connected Care

The Center for Connected Care pilots community-informed care delivery models that address health disparities across Philadelphia. **Programs include integrating food as medicine into clinical care, improving digital health literacy and harm reduction strategies for people who use drugs.** Partners like MANNA have provided medically tailored meals to hundreds of research participants, while Esperanza Health Center co-developed culturally relevant patient education tools. This work ensures that clinical innovation is grounded in real community needs and experience.

Put People First.
Do What's Right.
Pursue Excellence.



From joining forces with Lehigh Valley Health Network to formalizing our community investment strategy under the *Healthy Communities* framework, 2024 was a landmark year for Jefferson's community impact work.

Our programs, partnerships and advocacy initiatives reaffirm our commitment to prioritizing people, doing what's right and pursuing excellence in everything we do. We've expanded efforts addressing food insecurity, housing, education, emotional well-being and healthcare access — and we're just getting started.

As we enter our third century, we look ahead to scaling JeffCARES — Jefferson's signature volunteer and community engagement program born from the Bicentennial Service Initiative. It unites colleagues, students, health plan members and partners to address critical social needs across our region. JeffCARES stands for Jeff:

**COMMUNITY
ACTION
RESOURCE +
ENGAGEMENT
SUPPORT**

JEFF CARES

The program embodies Jefferson's commitment to advancing community health through action, connection and meaningful collaboration.

It strengthens partnerships, amplifies volunteerism and aligns with the Healthy Communities framework to create lasting, ethical and measurable community impact.

We call on our neighbors, partners and the communities we serve to join us — whether by volunteering, mentoring, participating in workforce programs or investing in solutions to improve health and well-being. Together, we'll continue to build a stronger, healthier future for all.





Acknowledgements and Thank Yous

We want to take this opportunity to thank those that made our community impact efforts so successful this year.

To the tens of thousands of students, alumni, colleagues and health plan members who engaged with us.

To the hundreds of community groups and thousands of hours you spent with us to truly make an impact on a personal level.

To those who brought creative thinking and problem-solving to community health issues that, at times, felt intractable, yet we made a difference

To those who serve in the spirit of collaboration, education and innovation to impact our communities.

Thank you for helping us with our mission to improve lives. Thank you for living our values with us by putting people first, doing the right thing and pursuing excellence. We look forward to seeing what is possible in 2025 and beyond!



