As a not-for-profit organization, Sharp HealthCare places great value on the health and wellness of the San Diego community. Sharp’s mission is to improve the health of our community with a commitment to excellence in all that it does.

The more than 20,000 affiliated physicians, nurses, staff and volunteers are dedicated to providing the extraordinary level of care called The Sharp Experience.

As a reflection of Sharp’s charitable mission, the organization contributed more than $437 million in unreimbursed community benefit in fiscal year 2018 — the difference between the cost of services provided and reimbursement received.

Sharp provided free care to more than 1,750 inpatients and more than 24,500 outpatients. Sharp also performed nearly 930 free surgeries with 61% of those surgeries requiring extended stays in Sharp hospitals. One of every $9 of Sharp’s net revenue was spent in direct support of our community.

This summary features a snapshot of community benefit programs provided by Sharp in fiscal year 2018, as well as stories from community members that highlight the impact of these programs. To view the entire *Sharp HealthCare Community Benefit Plan and Report*, Fiscal Year 2018, or to learn more about Sharp’s community involvement, visit [sharp.com/community](http://sharp.com/community).
As an intern, he applied this approach to a successful program launched in partnership with his geriatrics clinical supervisor, Dr. Dara Schwartz, and adolescent clinical supervisor, Dr. Jennifer McWaters. Recognizing that both geriatric and adolescent patients experienced feeling isolated and underappreciated, they brought the groups together in their Intergenerational Group Therapy Program. The program featured collaborative art projects, music and the sharing of important perspectives from their lives.

“Both generations felt valued,” Dr. Yahalom says. “They were reintegrated with the broader community, and embodied the true, inspiring spirit of recovery.”

Planning for Future Care

Advance care planning is a challenging, but extremely important, topic to discuss with loved ones. Whether it’s regarding your own wishes or those of a loved one, a discussion about the level of care someone may want if unable to speak for themselves can be emotional.

Melanie Culuko, a senior human resources analyst with the City of Chula Vista, is grateful for her own parents’ meticulous planning. The thoughtful conversations they held, though sometimes uncomfortable, allowed Melanie to fully understand their wishes and guide her decision-making related to the care they should receive if their health declined.
“When my parents became ill, I could refer to their written advance directives to see what type of care they would and would not have wanted,” Melanie says. “Helping them live out their days with respect, and being able to focus on my own grieving, rather than having to make tough decisions in the moment, was invaluable.”

Melanie’s appreciation for her parents’ planning and the care they received from Sharp HospiceCare inspired her to share information with her colleagues. Together with Teressa Vaughn, an advance care planning facilitator with Sharp HospiceCare, she organized trainings for employees, volunteers and their family members to help them begin the conversation about advance care planning and creating an advance health care directive.

Sharp HospiceCare team members offer the classes throughout Chula Vista, including at the police station, City Hall and senior centers. The free trainings are open to anyone, and professional notary services are provided at no cost to finalize participants’ advance directives.

“I wanted everyone to have the positive experience I did,” Melanie says. “I am so lucky my parents did this for me. It brings a tremendous amount of comfort to know I gave my parents what they wanted. It was a gift that will stay with me forever and I am so happy we can share it with others.”

Inspiring Young Minds

Most middle school field trips don’t lead students to discover their future careers. However, a visit to HealthCare Towne — an all-day field trip to Sharp Grossmont Hospital — inspired two Health Sciences Middle School eighth-graders to pursue a future in health care.

Jocelyn Dominguez and Elizabeth Siliezar, now Health Sciences High and Middle College freshmen, both chose the school because of its rigorous and relevant education experience in a vocational setting. Students work with educators and health care professionals to explore real-world applications of their school-based knowledge and skills. The trip to HealthCare Towne was an extension of the long-standing internship partnership between Sharp HealthCare and the schools.

“I really thought our visit to HealthCare Towne would be just another field trip,” Jocelyn says. “I didn’t really think we would get much out of it and definitely didn’t think I’d discover what career I might want.”

Elizabeth agreed, sharing that she expected a day filled with lectures. However, both girls were pleasantly surprised to find that instead, the field trip included hospital-based scenario, skill labs and other health care-related activities.

The students were all given official Sharp badges, a lab coat and even a stethoscope of their own. The activities were not only informative, but also fun. Both students were impressed by how friendly the Sharp team members were and how much the instructors seemed to be enjoying themselves.

“I went home and announced that I’m going into the health care field,” Elizabeth says. “I really like the idea of being able to help people — to see them go from their worst to recovery in part because of my help. Going to HealthCare Towne allowed me to figure that out.”
Highlights of Community Benefit Provided by Sharp HealthCare

**Medical Care Services**, including uncompensated care for patients who are unable to pay for services, emergency department physician coverage and the unreimbursed costs of public programs.

**Other Benefits for Vulnerable Populations**, including van transportation for patients to and from medical appointments; flu vaccinations, telephone reassurance calls and other services for seniors; financial and other support to community clinics to improve access to health services; specialized programs for those in need to access community resources and support, and thrive post-discharge; funding to assist patients who cannot afford to pay for medications, transportation and other needs; Meals on Wheels; contribution of time to Stand Down for Homeless Veterans, the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank, Feeding San Diego, Mama’s Kitchen, Ssubi is Hope, and Promises2Kids; and the Sharp Humanitarian Service Program.

**Other Benefits for the Broader Community**, including participation in community health fairs and events; the provision of critical health education and support groups, preventive health screenings and flu vaccinations; as well as financial and in-kind support to community organizations that improve the health and wellness of the San Diego community. Sharp leaders participated in numerous community organizations, committees and coalitions to improve the health of San Diegans. Sharp also collaborated with local schools to provide students with experiences to develop and support interest in health care careers.

**Health Research, Education and Training Programs**, including supervision of residents and interns; sponsorship of health-related programs, classes and professors at local colleges and universities; and education and training programs for medical, nursing and other community health care professionals. Sharp also facilitated interdisciplinary research on health care practices in order to identify and promote quality patient care across the health care community through its Outcomes Research Institute.

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<td>Medical Care Services</td>
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<td>Health Research, Education and Training</td>
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<td><strong>Total Unreimbursed Community Benefit</strong></td>
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