

simply
because

a 2008 community report

Fulfilling Our Mission

The number of initiatives we have set in place keeps growing every year. Here is just a sampling of the many Penn Medicine programs that enable us to uphold our commitment to the communities we serve.

Abramson Cancer Center – a resource at the University of Pennsylvania where cancer patients find comfort, support and encouragement.

Bridging the Gaps (BTG) – a partnership of the area’s five academic health centers dedicated to helping students better understand the complex health-related issues of underserved and low-income urban communities.

Chinatown Clinic – a medical facility in Philadelphia’s Chinatown neighborhood serving patients who have recently emigrated from various Asian countries.

The Circle of Women – nurse leaders at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania work to develop and coordinate community programs and outreach targeting women in the family.

Community Health Advancement through Neighborhood Grassroots Education (CHANGE) – created in partnership with Penn’s Department of Family Medicine and West Philadelphia’s Carroll Park Neighborhood Youth Achievement Program, Penn medical students teach health education classes to children and their families as part of a neighborhood-run after-school program.

Core Team/Home School Connection – established at Pennsylvania Hospital to bring together programs that provide specialized clinical support with case management support to children, adolescents, and adults with mental health and mental retardation needs.

Drew Health Collaborative – a mutually beneficial relationship between the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine’s Department of Family Medicine and Community Health of the Charles Drew School in West Philadelphia. Students and staff of both schools work together to identify and address key community health issues.

Firearm & Injury Prevention Center at Penn (FICAP) – conducts extensive research on firearm use and injury to help influence policymakers to initiate preventative programs.

Helen O. Dickens Center – helping low-income women of all ages address and cope with complex medical, obstetrical, psychosocial and educational needs.

Longitudinal Experience to Appreciate Patient Perspectives (LEAPP) – created by the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine to help students develop a personal understanding of how chronic diseases affect the daily lives of patients and their families.

Penn Family Medicine Center – providing low-income residents of Philadelphia with primary care health services.

Penn Community Practice – a clinic at Penn Presbyterian, serving as a major source of care and preventive education for the area’s HIV community.

Penn Heart Transplant Program – social workers help patients and their families deal with the distress of heart failure and the burden of transplant cost.

Penn Mobile Trials Unit – a custom-built medical vehicle – equipped with exam rooms and a waiting area – health care teams travel to areas of West Philadelphia with high incidence of HIV.

Puentes de Salud (Bridges to Health) – a clinic specifically dedicated to serving the medical and social needs of the undocumented Latino community.

Sayre Health Center – a state-of-the-art family clinic where students of Sayre High School in West Philadelphia can assist health care providers with actual patients, to learn and develop an interest in the medical profession.

United Community Clinic (UCC) – providing residents of West Philadelphia’s East Parkside neighborhood with routine care and referrals.

University City Hospitality Coalition – a homeless advocacy and food program, for warm meals and supportive services.

Women’s and Children’s Health Services (WCHS) – providing new and soon-to-be mothers with clinical care, low cost childbirth education, walk-in pregnancy testing, birth control counseling and social work support. WCHS also runs Loop of Love, a program providing assistance to HIV infected women and their partners.



University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

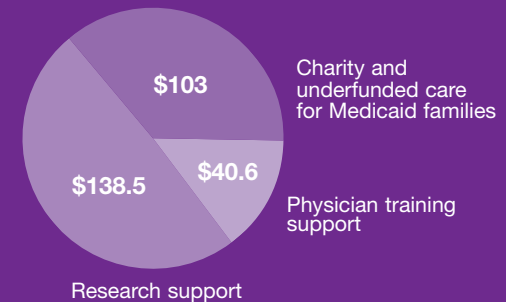
University of Pennsylvania Health System:

- Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania Hospital
- Penn Presbyterian Medical Center
- Penn Home Care and Hospice Services
- Clinical Care Associates

In addition to the many programs throughout the region supported by Penn Medicine, in fiscal year 2008, we provided the following to the benefit of our community:

Support

\$282.1 million dollars



Infant Deliveries

Pennsylvania Hospital: **5,251**

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania: **4,063**

Many of the women giving birth were underinsured, uninsured or covered by Medicaid and many were also undocumented immigrants.

Emergency Department Visits

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania: **58,452**

Penn Presbyterian Medical Center: **34,835**

Pennsylvania Hospital: **27,062**

because we are part of the community

What does it take to improve the health and well-being of a community? It takes 18,000 physicians, nurses, scientists and staff members with a willingness to share knowledge, provide compassion and build trust. At Penn Medicine, we work to improve the lives of those affected by health-related issues – in Philadelphia and throughout the world – through our three-part mission of medical education, biomedical research and patient care. It's a responsibility we take seriously.



From church basements to trauma bays...

Life is not without its challenging moments – especially for those who cannot meet personal and family health care needs. Indeed, as the number of uninsured people rises, and the cost of health care reaches record levels, our mission is more meaningful than ever. Thus, one of our most vital ongoing goals is to help deliver health care to low-income and disadvantaged communities.

That care is not always provided in a conventional manner. When patients are unable to come to us, we go to them. One example is Penn's United Community Clinic (UCC), located in the basement of the First African Presbyterian Church in West Philadelphia's East Parkside neighborhood. Area residents visit the clinic for physicals, HIV testing, routine screenings and more. We provide the same kinds of services in Chinatown, in Latino communities and in the many other clinics we support throughout the Philadelphia area.

When the needs are more urgent, the Health System's emergency and trauma facilities treat well over 100,000 patients yearly, regardless of their ability to pay. In addition, we provide specialty care to patients with complex health care needs referred by the City Health District Clinics in West Philadelphia, and our medical teams are working to meet staffing needs in these public health clinics.

In 2008, we have continued to make great strides in elevating quality of life in the communities we serve. Yet we recognize that there is still work to be done. This booklet provides an overview of the many initiatives we've set in place to keep this mission moving forward.

Penn Medicine brings skilled hands and open hearts to communities in need.

To say that we provide care may not truly reflect the depth of the end result. To us, care encompasses the talent and empathy of the dedicated doctors, nurses and staff who willingly give their time for the betterment of the community and its people. Our physicians, nurses and medical students can be found at clinics around the region providing free routine screenings, follow-up referrals, prescription programs and more.

Through its various programs, Penn Medicine annually accommodates visits from two million





patients of all economic levels. Our patients are as diverse as the kinds of treatment they need – from pre-natal and maternity care...to HIV testing and disease prevention...to treating serious or traumatic health conditions. All who entrust us with their health can count on receiving nothing less than the best available care.

We serve with skill and compassion not only to fulfill our responsibility to others, but also as an example for those who follow in our footsteps.

Influencing the future of health care...

In keeping with the objectives of our mission, we work regularly with public officials to shape health care policy in the communities we serve. By pooling our resources with state and federal programs, as well as other private organizations, our physicians and researchers are better able to understand and address community needs. For example, along with other Philadelphia-based medical centers and community-based organizations, the Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology (CEET) Community Outreach and Education programs target communities that are located in Southeastern Pennsylvania and face a range of health issues arising from exposure to toxic and industrial sites, and living in an aging urban environment.

As one of the nation's top research-oriented schools, Penn's School of Medicine has gained

renown for educating and training the next generation of leaders. Here some of the nation's brightest students are taught to combine knowledge of intricate medical science with the humane delivery of care.

Meaningful education, of course, extends well beyond the classroom. With the School of Medicine's LEAPP (Longitudinal Experience to Appreciate Patient Perspectives) program, first-year students are assigned to chronically ill patients, whom they visit at home, regularly communicate with and accompany to doctor visits. As a result, students gain a deeper, more personal, understanding of the effects of chronic diseases on patients and families – experiences they will carry with them into practice.

What's more, for young people with interests in the medical profession, programs like the Sayre Health Center and the Drew Health Collaborative provide invaluable hands-on experience. These programs give high school students in West Philadelphia the opportunity to learn from University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine students and see how prevalent health issues affect the community.

With all of the many programs we've established to motivate young people to pursue careers in health care, our objective is to foster insight and compassion. We take pride in knowing the educational initiatives we have set in place serve

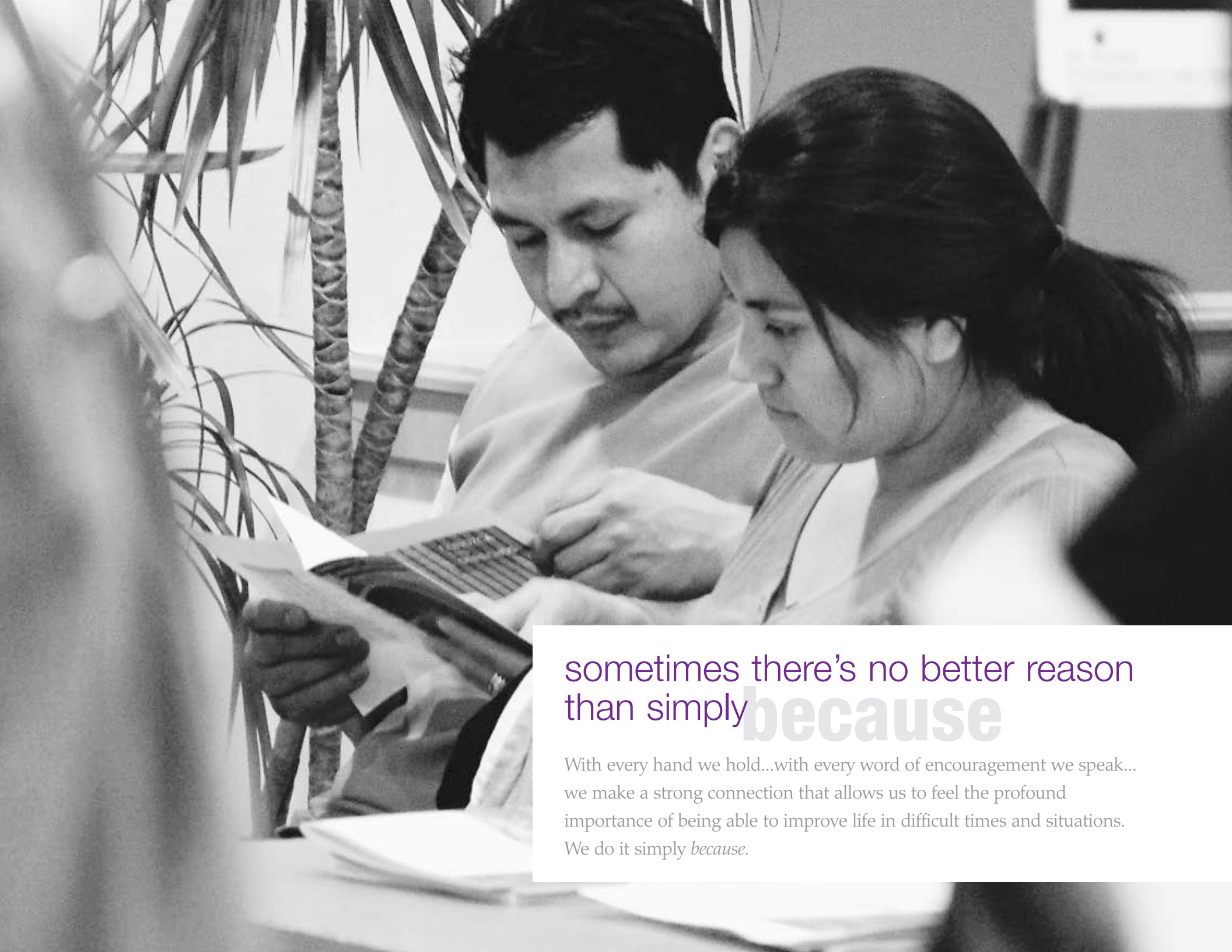
as the building blocks for a stronger and more productive community. Each one is an important part of our promise to make compassionate health care an ongoing priority.

Cultivating the power of kindness...

It is humbling to witness the power of a smile of gratitude from someone we have helped. We volunteer our knowledge and expertise, knowing that serving the community is a privilege we can never take lightly. Treating an illness or injury is often frustrating when we know that it could have been prevented. We work to bring the power of research to raise health care awareness and ultimately improve the communities we live in.

Our portable research unit – called the Penn Mobile Trials Unit – is a custom-built medical vehicle, fully equipped with exam rooms and a waiting area. The vehicle transports health care teams to areas of West Philadelphia with high incidence of HIV. The "mobile" aspect enables us to truly connect with patients by providing personalized care on a community-based level.

Moreover, we've taken action to help reduce violence and its heartbreaking effects. The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania trauma center's Firearm & Injury Prevention Center at Penn (FICAP) conducts extensive research on firearm use and injury to help influence policymakers to initiate preventative programs.



sometimes there's no better reason
than simply **because**

With every hand we hold...with every word of encouragement we speak...
we make a strong connection that allows us to feel the profound
importance of being able to improve life in difficult times and situations.
We do it simply *because*.



Our mission is a simple one: we intend to be the very best we can be. We pursue this mission in service to our scholarship, our obligation to teach others and our commitment to caring for those we can help. At Penn Medicine, we see the future every day through discovery, learning gained and shared, and lives made better. Those who join us in this mission are grateful for the privilege and accept the many responsibilities such privilege conveys.



Penn Medicine