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Connecticut Hospitals Invest \$718 Million In Programs Benefitting Families and Communities

Wallingford, CT – In a report published by the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA), the amount spent by hospitals in the state toward community benefit programs in 2007 totals \$718 million. This amount represents 9.4 percent of total hospital revenue. Data reported to CHA by Connecticut's 28 not-for-profit acute care hospitals show more than 9.7 million community benefit services were provided to individuals and families across the state.

Included in the \$718 million was \$434.3 million in government sponsored health benefits, covering the unpaid costs of government programs. Uncompensated care, including charity care and bad debt, amounted to \$228.8 million. Subsidized health services, providing care to needy residents, totaled \$29 million. Other community investments included health improvement services (\$15.3 million), community building projects (\$4 million), donations to community organizations (\$3.4 million), and community healthcare research (\$3.2 million).

The value of these critical community investments can be seen in cities and towns throughout Connecticut. They include: financial assistance to the uninsured; mobile vans and clinics delivering primary and preventive care; healthy lifestyle education programs; weight loss and physical activity promotion; programs for managing chronic conditions like asthma and diabetes; and initiatives addressing Connecticut's key public health challenges such as heart disease and cancer.

"Connecticut's hospitals take their commitment to their communities very seriously, as evidenced by the level of investment in programs designed to improve health and provide essential services to those in greatest need of assistance," stated Jennifer Jackson, CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association. "Community benefit programs provide a healthcare safety net for the state, coming to the aid of struggling families during difficult economic times."

To view the full report, visit www.cthosp.org.

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The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's Hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's not-for-profit hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement.