

Inside a Hospital's Nonprofit Mission



By Keith Jones,
Scottsdale Healthcare

When you think of hospitals, the classic line from the 1980s comedy movie *Airplane!* may come to mind – “It’s a big building full of doctors.” Well, that’s true but in Scottsdale the local nonprofit hospitals are much more than that.

Scottsdale Healthcare’s nonprofit mission means its community involvement extends beyond hospital walls. These efforts range from providing care to those in need, to offering screenings and health education, to supporting continuing education for hospital staff members and medical students.

Keeping elected representatives up to date on the how Washington’s actions affect Scottsdale is also on the agenda. For example, U.S. Congressman David Schweikert recently visited Scottsdale Healthcare hospitals to learn more about the organization and healthcare issues facing our community.

During a town hall meeting with physicians, Congressman Schweikert shared data on the rising national debt and deficit, and the escalating cost of entitlement programs such as Medi-

care. Physicians spoke about the need for Medicare reform and spending the nation’s resources wisely.

The congressman also met with Scottsdale Healthcare’s executive team in a roundtable discussion of issues impacting health care. Schweikert noted he expected Congress to focus on entitlement reform, including Medicare and Medicaid, during the summer.

“Scottsdale Healthcare is not only the largest employer in our area, but a leading health care provider. Their leaders and physicians have been a strong sounding board for the conversation I bring to Congress, bringing long-term and honest solutions to the challenges we face today,” Schweikert said.

The Story in Numbers

Beyond the economic impact of the hospitals’ \$332 million annual employee payroll, Scottsdale Healthcare invests its earnings in programs and services that benefit the well-being of our community as a whole.

Here are just a few highlights of Scottsdale Healthcare’s activity greater Scottsdale during the past year:

- More than 3,000 individuals participated in the Creative



Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health, or NOAH, provided primary care services for 1,484 children and 2,012 adults.

Arts-Body, Mind, Spirit Program, and more than 130 risk and prevention educational programs, cancer support groups and nutritional programs were provided by the Virginia G. Piper Cancer Center on the Scottsdale Healthcare Shea Medical Center campus.

- More than 200 active research studies, including 60 Phase 1 clinical trials of new cancer therapies, are now underway through the Scottsdale Healthcare Research Institute.
- Other efforts included free children’s immunizations, and free health screenings.
- Neighborhood Outreach Access to Health (NOAH) provided 1,227 primary care dental visits, primary care services for 1,484 children and 2,012 adults, 690 routine well-child care visits, 200 women received cervical cancer screening and 200 received comprehensive prenatal services.
- Through Scottsdale Healthcare’s Investment in Nursing Excellence program, 684 nurses earned more than \$208,000 in certificates that can be applied toward educational activities. More than 1,200 hospital staff members received \$3.4 million in tuition assistance benefits.
- Graduate medical education programs at Scottsdale Healthcare represent an annual investment of approximately \$665,000 to further training of physicians and health care providers.
- Nearly 500 tons of paper, 400 tons of cardboard and 40,000 pounds of medical sharps were recycled. More than 19,800 meals were donated to shelters and those in need and over 7,200 pounds of food were donated to the Vista Del Camino food bank.

And yes, inside those big buildings full of doctors, nurses, volunteers and support staff, Scottsdale Healthcare strives to provide the highest quality and most compassionate care for all individuals. ■

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