

2025 COMMUNITY HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT



UPDATE TO THE 2025 COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Department of Community Health
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During Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN) continued efforts supporting the top priorities established through the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). These priorities, outlined in the 2022-2025 Implementation Strategy, are listed below and advancements and initiative updates from FY25 are detailed in this report. Our efforts to implement sustainable initiatives that focus on a wide range of health and quality of life outcomes are a result of data-driven strategies to promote overall health and wellbeing. While there are many issues facing our communities, the results from the 2022 CHNA found the top priorities for the St. Luke's Network to include:

Top Priorities (Fiscal Year 2025)	
Connection to Care	Workforce Development
Transportation and Housing	Food Security
Nutrition Education and Promotion	Physical Activity Promotion
Access to Mental Health Services	Access to Opioid and other Substance Use Disorder Services
Access to Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery	COVID-19 <i>Removed as a priority (Fiscal Year 2023)</i>

The needs outlined in our implementation strategy serve as a guide to support strategic initiatives through the pillars of Prevention and Wellness, Care Transformation, and Research and Partnerships. Through collaborations with community and Network partners, we aim to promote a more equitable society with better health outcomes for all, with an emphasis on supporting the diverse needs of our most vulnerable populations.

The priority areas outlined in this document served as our guide in creating this Network Implementation Plan to best address the needs of populations within the SLUHN service areas. Results from the 2022 CHNA found access to care as the main barrier facing our community, particularly within the four main priority areas. The updates to the 2022-2025 implementation strategy include removing the priority area of COVID-19. Given the end of the public health emergency and continued decline of the pandemic, COVID-19 was removed from the implementation strategy as a top priority for the Fiscal Year 2023 update as well as for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. Continued monitoring of COVID-19 ensures that the Network is prepared to pivot and re-prioritize as necessary.

Access to Care

- Connection to Care
- Workforce Development
- Transportation and Housing

Chronic Disease Prevention

- Food Security
- Nutrition Education and Promotion
- Physical Activity Promotion

Mental and Behavioral Health

- Access to Mental and Behavioral Health Services
- Access to Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery

St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN) conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Through our analysis of primary and secondary data, as well as the CHNA key informant interviews, forums, and surveys with community members, we see significant issues facing our communities that impede healthy lifestyles. Our efforts in prevention, care transformation, research, and partnerships help support our work to implement sustainable initiatives that focus on a wide range of health and quality of life outcomes.

SLUHN supports a Department of Community Health that utilizes CHNA results to inform its strategic plan and catalyze initiatives that address priority needs for underserved communities. The Department's mission is to create pathways for equity toward measurable health outcomes through advocacy, access, and navigation of resources for partners and underserved communities. The Department's vision is for everyone in our community to have access to exceptional healthcare built on a foundation of trust and compassion. Through collaborations with community and Network partners, the Department of Community Health aims to promote a more equitable society with better health outcomes, especially within the Network's most vulnerable populations. Community Health Liaisons and Community Health Workers (CHW) help to promote access to care, services, and resources through trust and relationship-building. Pathways have been established and strengthened to connect families to primary care, social services, food access, financial literacy, career mentoring, workforce development, and more.

SLUHN is nationally recognized for its unwavering commitment to excellence in healthcare quality, safety, and performance. In 2024, SLUHN was recognized by the Lown Institute, an independent think tank advocating bold ideas for a just and caring system for health, as the third most socially responsible health network in the United States and the first in Pennsylvania. The Lown Institute seeks to shine a light on those hospitals that provide exceptional, high-value patient care to all who need it in their community -- and encourage all hospitals to follow their example. In FY24 St. Luke's reported \$462 million of IRS defined community benefit spending, approximately 16% of the Network's operating expenditures. The Network consistently ranks in the top decile for national quality measures and has earned over 200 prestigious awards for healthcare excellence. Notable achievements include:

- **Leapfrog Safety Grade:** All acute care hospitals received straight A's for patient safety.
- **CMS Star Ratings:** Awarded five stars for quality by Medicare & Medicaid.
- **Premier 100 Top Hospitals:** Recognized for 11 consecutive years.
- **50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals:** Honored eight times for outstanding cardiac care.

In 2025, St. Luke's was once again named a **Top Workplace** in the large employer category by *The Morning Call*, marking its third consecutive year receiving this distinction.

St. Luke's University Health Network's Department of Community Health oversees the CHNA for the communities served by hospitals within the Network. The department is led by Vice President Rajika E. Reed, Ph.D., MPH, M.Ed., who has served the local community for more than 25 years in the field of public health. The Department of Community Health operates using a strategic plan focused on sustainability and data-driven decision making through comprehensive community-based initiatives and helps to strengthen established collaborative partnerships.

St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN) conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) every three years as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Through our analysis of primary and secondary data, including the CHNA key informant interviews, forums, and surveys with community members, we see significant issues related to the social determinants of health (SDOH) facing our communities. Our efforts in prevention, care transformation, research, and partnerships help support our work to implement sustainable evidence-based initiatives that focus on a wide range of health and quality of life outcomes.

Through collaborations with community and Network partners, the Department of Community Health (Community Health) aims to promote a more equitable society with improved health outcomes, especially within the Network's most vulnerable populations. Community Health's mission is to create pathways for equity toward measurable health outcomes through advocacy, access, and navigation of resources for partners and underserved communities. The Department envisions a community where everyone has access to exceptional healthcare built on a foundation of trust and compassion. SLUHN partners with local schools, civic organizations, and community-based organizations to navigate SDOH resources to improve the health of residents within the communities we serve.

Community Health Liaisons and Community Health Workers (CHW) build trust in their communities to improve access to care, services, and resources. Established pathways strengthen connections to primary care, physical and mental health services, social services, food access, financial literacy, career mentoring, and workforce development.

Assessment results from 2022 highlight three main priority focus areas for our Community Health initiatives that include improving access to care, preventing chronic disease, and improving mental and behavioral health. The overarching top priority that emerged from the results of the 2022 CHNA was access to care, which prioritizes access to primary care, mental health care, dental care, and other services, with an emphasis on promoting connections to care and a medical home (e.g., primary care physician). Strategies to support vulnerable populations include a comprehensive approach in our urban and rural communities and school-based efforts in high-need schools and school districts. Schools serve as a community hub and provide sustainable access points to connect with students, families, and the surrounding community. Based on the identified needs and priorities, each campus implements plans and sustainable initiatives to improve the health of the community.

St. Luke's supports the CHNA priority areas that are identified within the communities we serve through monitoring and evaluating of current initiatives and incorporating community input. The 2025 CHNA primary and secondary data collection processes took place during FY25, including 15,148 surveys collected Network-wide. The 2025 CHNA outcomes will be published for FY26, and used in subsequent Annual Reports (i.e., FY26). The table below reflects community-based participation in primary data for the 2025 CHNA. Service area totals reflect data collected from individuals in the top 80% of zip codes served by the campuses. Due to overlapping service areas, some individual surveys were counted in multiple service areas.

2025 CHNA Primary Data Collection									
Service Area	Network-wide	Allentown and Sacred Heart	Anderson and Easton	University Hospital–Bethlehem	Geisinger St. Luke's	Carbon, Lehigh, and Miners	Monroe	Quakertown and Upper Bucks	Warren
Community Forum Participation	120 internal partners	28 internal partners	14 internal partners	12 internal partners	11 internal partners	24 internal partners	9 internal partners	12 internal partners	10 internal partners
	170 external partners	17 external partners	27 external partners	18 external partners	21 external partners	31 external partners	14 external partners	16 external partners	26 external partners
Survey	15,148	2,864	3,926	6,018	800	1,605	1,580	1,529	1,022

St. Luke's Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospitals *Access to Care*

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Allentown School District (ASD) Partnership Committees: Community Health and ASD have a longstanding collaboration that connects students and their families to a medical home (i.e., primary care physician), vision, dental, behavioral health, and other social services. These efforts have improved access to care and services to children and their families. St. Luke's participates in the ASD health partner monthly meetings to address emerging medical issues facing children and their families, as well as the ASD Homelessness Task Force which brings together key community partners to help address issues for students experiencing homelessness. Various departments at St. Luke's Allentown and St. Luke's Sacred Heart Hospitals help to support food, hygiene, supplies, and other drives throughout the year to support ASD. Additionally, Dr. Reed, Vice President of Community Health, sat on the ASD Strategic Planning Committee to develop a strategic plan for the district with both short and long term goals to be realized by 2030.

Raub Middle School: St. Luke's partners with the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, as well as other local partners, to implement the Community School Model. This includes financial and programmatic support of the school-based Community School Coordinator (CSC) who is cross-trained as a Community Health Worker (CHW). An After School Coordinator (ASC) is also employed by St. Luke's to provide enrichment opportunities and to support and connect students and families to services. The Raub CSC and ASC organized 34 diverse programs and initiatives resulting in more than 790 encounters (duplicated), as well as 51 school-wide events available to all students. SLUHN staff and departments, as well as community partners and other organizations, worked to support priority needs at Raub through fundraising efforts, contributing more than \$200,000 dollars in financial and in-kind donations to assist students with identified barriers.

A financial literacy program (i.e., The Money Club), in collaboration with First Commonwealth Credit Union, was implemented during the 2024-2025 school year. The goal was to give students the ability to understand and effectively use various financial skills, including personal financial management, budgeting, and investing. From September 2024 to May 2025 there were 98 students in the after-school program.

The Raub food pantry is a school-based food pantry that serves Raub families in need. The pantry, held outside and initially open to the community, moved indoors and reopened in the school for Raub students and families in January 2024 to help focus on the needs of children and their families. In January 2025 Raub officially became a Healthy Pantry and is staffed by student volunteers. Staff collaborate with faculty and school staff to incorporate distribution to parent teacher conferences and other school-wide events to give more families easier access to food. While families come to a food distribution event, staff provides support to connect them to other services, enroll their children in after-school programs and academic tutoring support, also assisting with medical consent forms and other paperwork.

In February 2025 the Raub food pantry began offering 100% free choice to the participants, which creates a dignified "grocery store" experience for the participants where they self-select items as opposed to offering pre-bagged food that may not align with personal and cultural preferences. The pantry received positive evaluations from the Second Harvest Food Bank Health Pantry program and it continues to be well utilized by families. During Fiscal Year 2025, the school-based pantry served 813 households and distributed more than 40,000 pounds of food valued at over \$130,000.



Raub Middle School Healthy Choice food pantry

St. Luke's Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospitals Access to Care

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Literacy: Literacy promotion through Read Across America was implemented at local schools in communities across the Network. A total of 126 volunteers, including seven of the SLUHN campus presidents, read to more than 6,300 students during Read Across America week in 2025 and more than 7,500 literacy resources were shared with students Network-wide. Raub Middle School students and SLUHN campus presidents were some of the volunteers that read to elementary school students in the Allentown School District.

Mobile Youth Health Centers (MYHC): The MYHC provided care and services at Sonya Sotomayor Academy, Raub Middle School, and William Allen High School to 329 unique students in the Allentown School District through 888 encounters and connected them to medical insurance, a medical home, vision services, dental services, and community resources. The Allentown MYHC care team completed 227 referrals resulting in 70 completed visits with a primary care physician. A total of 64 vision vouchers were provided to ASD district students with a monetary value of \$7,260. Additional health screenings, vaccines, and other services were provided to 426 students. School partnerships and activities were also provided at Harrison Morton Middle School, Hays Elementary School, and Union Terrace Elementary School.

Star Community Health: Star Community Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike (FQHC-LA) affiliated with St. Luke's that provides care and wraparound services to uninsured and underinsured individuals and families at little or no out-of-pocket cost. Sigal Center, located in Allentown, provided connection to care and services including Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Women's Health, and Dental. Star Community Health's Dental Van served 1,239 patients and a total of 1,050 sealants and 533 restorations were provided.



*Star Community
Health Dental Van*

Breast Cancer Prevention: Adagio Health, through state and federal funding, administers the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP) across much of Pennsylvania. This initiative provides free screenings and diagnostic services to uninsured and underinsured women, helping catch cancer early when it's most treatable. St. Luke's University Health Network is a key partner and early detection site in this effort. With women's imaging locations and advanced technologies like 3D mammography and breast MRI, St. Luke's enhances early detection rates and reduces unnecessary follow-ups. During FY25, there were 1,188 patient outreach encounters resulting in 21.4% of those outreach encounters ordering a mammogram, 39.9% establishing with a primary care physician post-outreach, 63.6% of ordered images completed, and 91.2% of pathology orders completed. This partnership is a powerful example of how public funding and local health systems can work together to create lasting health equity.

Family Medicine Resident Community Education: St. Luke's Sacred Heart Family Medicine first-year medical residents participated in the evidence-based model "See the City You Serve" to provide an opportunity to meet with key partners that help promote overall health and wellbeing. Family Medicine Residents also rotate through the Department of Community Health annually to work with Allentown-based community initiatives.

Workforce Development and Career Mentoring: St. Luke's supports workforce development initiatives for both adults and school-aged populations including the CareerLinking Academy Program, Health Career Exploration Program, and the new Cultural and Linguistic Workforce Development Centers. These opportunities promote education, experiential learning, and skills-based training to prepare individuals for the workforce and help participants gain employment that provides them with a livable wage. Adolescent career mentoring programs and workforce initiatives target both in-school and out-of-school youth between the ages of 15-24 years old who reside in Lehigh and Northampton Counties through a combination of hospital rotations, professional development sessions, and work experience.

Career Linking Academy: CareerLinking Academy combines observational learning experiences and professional development sessions focusing on exposure to healthcare careers with job readiness skills training. During FY25, nine students from William Allen High School enrolled in the program. The students participated in clinical rotations at the St. Luke's Allentown Campus, and attended a Business Etiquette Luncheon at Twin Lakes Country Club, located in Allentown.

Health Career Exploration Program (HCEP): Established more than 15 years ago, the Health Career Exploration Program offers experiential learning opportunities for high school students from diverse backgrounds to explore careers in the healthcare industry. Funded by the Workforce Board Lehigh Valley, HCEP assists students to gain insight into clinical and non-clinical roles, learn employability skills, understand future employment opportunities, and build confidence in their abilities.

The students work for a maximum of 20 hours per week at an assigned department. They also participate in employability skill sessions that focus on a variety of topics to increase their knowledge on job seeking and job keeping skills (e.g., resume development, interviewing skills, leadership, communication in the workplace). During FY25, 15 students from the Allentown School District enrolled in the program, with 93% (n=14) successfully completing the program. Students had the opportunity to work at St. Luke's Allentown Labor & Delivery, Same Day Surgery, PACU, Radiology, East 5, East 4, East 2, South 2, Pharmacy and the Emergency Department.



*HCEP Student
Experience*

Skill-Up Program: In partnership with the Workforce Board Lehigh Valley and the Allentown School District, the SkillUp™ PA program was launched. The program utilized SkillUp™ PA, an online learning platform, to assist students in obtaining industry-recognized credentials for high demand occupations. During FY 25, 19 students enrolled in the program, with 73% (n=14) completing the program successfully. In addition, the students had the opportunity to meet with healthcare professionals to discuss education and career pathways in the healthcare industry sector.

Workforce Development Centers: The Linguistic and Cultural Workforce Development Initiative, implemented by St. Luke's Department of Community Health in collaboration with the Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley and other community-based organizations, supports workers at any stage in their career. This initiative assists individuals to access English as Second Language courses, skill-based trainings, and employment opportunities that aligns with workforce needs in our local communities.

During Fiscal Year 2025, the Workforce Development Centers had 119 participant engagements including services such as job readiness, job placements, and enrollment in skill-based trainings. The Centers also organized six job fairs, reaching over 100 individuals, and offered resume and job interview workshops. Further, participants were connected to employment opportunities within St. Luke's University Health Network and other community businesses/agencies. Collectively, the Allentown and Bethlehem Centers successfully secured 93 jobs across various sectors including manufacturing, healthcare, hospitality, supply chain, retail, and food service. In addition, the St. Luke's Workforce Development Centers and the Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley, in partnership with ASR Media, produced a video highlighting the Centers. Selected from over 800 submissions, the video was featured at the Allentown Film Festival in April 2025.



Workforce Development

Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant: St. Luke's Department of Community Health was awarded the Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant from Workforce Board Lehigh Valley. The overall purpose of the grant was to establish a Lehigh Valley Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership through the development of a Workforce Pipeline Strategic Action plan and to increase the pipeline of healthcare workers trained and employed in the Lehigh Valley's Healthcare Industry Sector. For this grant, SLUHN developed a three-pronged approach to education and training for program participants including:

- **SkillUp™ PA and Employability Skills Training** – In partnership with CareerLink Lehigh Valley, the SkillUp™ program enrolled high school students from the Allentown School District. The program utilized SkillUp™, an online learning platform to assist participants to attain industry-recognized credentials for high-demand careers, including those in healthcare. Additionally, program participants were educated on employability skills and career ladders in the healthcare field.
- **Medical Assistant On-the-Job Training** – This program component provided funds to support 23 Medical Assistance Trainees. Out of 23 enrolled in the grant, 87% (n=20) of the trainees obtained full-time employment across the St. Luke's Network. During this six-week training period, the trainees worked with patients while learning anatomy skills, medical terminology, collecting vital signs and EKG results, and administering immunizations and injections. They also learned how to participate in data collection, planning, and implementation of patient care plans, all while exhibiting professional behavior and high-level customer service skills.
- **School of Phlebotomy** – This program component supported 15 participants enrolled in the St. Luke's School of Phlebotomy, with 100% (n=15) of participants completing the program successfully. The phlebotomy students participated in a twelve-week program that provided phlebotomy education through a combined delivery of didactic/theory in a classroom setting, as well as clinical experience in one of the St. Luke's outpatient lab service centers.

St. Luke's Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospitals *Access to Care*

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Community Health Navigation: Community Health Navigation had 2,061 encounters (e.g., calls, appointments, follow ups) with 372 unique individuals. These encounters resulted in 316 referrals and 222 completed visits. Various resources such as clothing, hygiene, and bus passes were provided to patients in need. The population includes homeless or near homeless, adults, families, and others facing hardships. Bridging the Gap funds were distributed to patients to support their basic needs totaling \$3,459.02. Community Health Navigation also partners with local community-based organizations such as Ripple Community Inc. and Daybreak to coordinate care and connection to services, as well as the Student-Led Interdisciplinary Care Center (SLICC) led by Temple St. Luke's medical students.

findhelp: St. Luke's partners with findhelp, a free self-navigating online platform (sluhn.findhelp.com). findhelp is a social care network established to provide a comprehensive platform for people to find social services in their communities at any time in a language they understand, and for nonprofit and other community-based organizations to coordinate their service delivery and support services. St. Luke's Information Technology, Quality, Case Management, and Community Health teams work collaboratively, especially with Star Community Health, with more than 1,750 established (i.e., claimed) community-based partners in the communities we serve, which is also integrated with SLUHN electronic health record (i.e., Epic). findhelp allows community members to search for and connect to Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) support such as financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, transportation, and more. This platform, as well as United Way's 211, are tools that Community Health Liaisons use to assist our community members, patients, and staff to connect to vital resources. Community Health continues to onboard priority partners to ensure accurate and up-to-date resources are available to our communities. Network-wide there were 51,280 searches during FY25 with the top searches including food, housing, and utilities. In Lehigh County, there were a total of 16,331 searches during FY25, with the top searches including food, housing, and transportation.

SLICC (Student-led Interdisciplinary Care Center): SLICC is a student-run center in collaboration with Temple St. Luke's School of Medicine. The goal of the center is to meet community needs, especially in, or near, the housing insecure populations in the community. Students work with medical faculty mentors to establish a bridge between those with limited access to care and the greater health system by promoting cooperation and trust between the healthcare system and the community. SLICC not only provides clinical services with the goal of connecting patients to a medical home, but they also address SDOH by providing basic needs during clinic hours (e.g., food, clothing, hygiene products). During FY25, SLICC had 141 encounters with 88 unique patients and connection to more than 500 SDOH resources (e.g., clothing, food, hygiene products) for individuals and families in need.



SLICC medical students and residents working with patients

Transportation: St. Luke's transportation services, in collaboration with Lyft and Uber rideshares, ensures access to care by supporting rides to and from appointments. Transportation initiatives supported by SLUHN align with the primary goal of improving access to primary care for homeless and near homeless populations. By providing complimentary Lyft and Uber rides to and from appointments with primary care doctors and other specialists, this initiative allows patients to receive routine care in a timely manner, with the added goal of reducing the frequency and overuse of Emergency Department resources. More than \$900,000 in Lyft and Uber rides were provided for services during FY25 Network-wide.

St. Luke's Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospitals *Access to Care*

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Blueprint Community Program: The Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh (FHLBank) selected ten new communities to become a Blueprint Community Program in Allentown (1st, 6th, and Jordan Heights areas). The program invests in the revitalization of communities and neighborhoods in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. St. Luke's, the only healthcare network to join this community team, will participate for the next 18 months in a comprehensive training to plan for a revitalization effort in Allentown. The effort was spearheaded by Embassy Bank of the Lehigh Valley and includes the following organizations: Casa Guadalupe, Allentown Economic Development Corp, Lehigh County Housing Authority, Allentown Housing Authority, City of Allentown, and Community Action of the Lehigh Valley. The team will develop strategies for revitalization that improve quality of life for residents and focus on building community assets, engagement, housing improvements and increased employment and economic engagement. Past participating communities have leveraged the Blueprint Communities efforts into millions of public and private investments for their communities.

Housing Action Committee: Habitat for Humanity Lehigh Valley, Community Action Lehigh Valley, City of Allentown, and additional partners provided home repairs and lead abatement services in Allentown. St. Luke's continues to be part of the monthly meeting to review current work orders and collaborations on work projects, as well as provide support and resources to community members.

HOPE (Health, Outreach, Prevention, Education): HOPE at St. Luke's provides clinical, case management, and prevention services to persons living with HIV. At the end of FY25, 369 active (unduplicated) patients were receiving medical care at the Bethlehem and Easton locations. There were 17 newly diagnosed patients with HIV linked into care at HOPE, and there continues to be an increase in patients with complex needs (e.g., medically compromised, homeless, uninsured, undocumented). There were 486 active patients that received Medical Case Management services in Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, and Stroudsburg. In collaboration with St. Luke's Monroe Hospital, medical case management services in Monroe County were transitioned from Tannersville to Stroudsburg. The office is closer to other St. Luke's medical offices and public transportation, allowing for increased access and sustainability of care and services. During FY25, 116 patients received housing assistance through ongoing rental assistance, permanent housing placement, emergency assistance, or short-term rental assistance.

Visiting Nurse Association: As a member of the St. Luke's University Health Network, the Visiting Nurse Association of St. Luke's Health/Hospice, Inc. ("the VNA") offers Home Health, Hospice and community-based mother/baby services that include the Visiting Nurse Advocate in the Home (VNAC) and Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). Established in 1919, the agency maintains Medicare-certification, Pennsylvania Department of Health licensure, Accreditation Commission for Healthcare (ACHC) accreditation and provides care in Lehigh, Berks, Northampton, Carbon, Schuylkill, Monroe, Upper Bucks, and Montgomery Counties. During FY25, 2,148 patients were provided Hospice care and 5,658 in Home Health across the Network.

Maternal and Child Health: The VNA operates three programs under the Maternal Child Health department that support children and families. The first is the prevention model, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) which supports and fosters positive parenting in our community making the Lehigh Valley a better place for families and children. St. Luke's NFP program was established in 2001 and serves economically disadvantaged families in Lehigh and Northampton counties. The program goals are to improve pregnancy outcomes, improve child health and development, and enhance the economic self-sufficiency of the family. Each NFP family is partnered with a Registered Nurse (RN) early in the mother's pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits throughout the pregnancy and through the child's second birthday.

During FY25, NFP received 1,011 referrals, served 435 families, and completed 5,137 visits. There were 89% of babies in the program born at term and 93% of babies were born at a healthy weights. There were 98% of children vaccinated at two years of age, and 75% of mothers working at the time they graduated from the NFP program. 84% of children were meeting their developmental milestones at 24 months, and 78% of mothers who completed the program delayed their next pregnancy beyond two years.

The second model which is implemented in collaboration with St. Luke's Behavioral Health Integrations team, Moving Beyond Depression, is in the second year of a three-year pilot to help support mothers enrolled in NFP who struggle with a diagnosis of major depression. Those who are enrolled in this program receive a series of in-home cognitive behavior therapy sessions provided by a therapist who is imbedded with the NFP team. The program had a 63% completion rate for FY25, and 93% of completers no longer met the criteria for depression at the completion of their treatment. Of those who completed their treatment, 53% reported decreased parenting stress and, 73% reported increased social supports.

The third program is an intervention program, the Visiting Nurse Advocate for the County (VNAC). This intensively focused program provides services to families that are referred by the Offices of Children, Youth, and Family Services (OCYS) in Lehigh and Northampton Counties and have current open cases. The program works to promote positive growth in the families and serves to create safety nets for the children involved. Families are partnered with a RN, who provides family support, parenting education and guidance, life skills, and case management services. The services are provided using a holistic nursing approach, centered on family preservation. The goals of this program are that the parent/caregiver will provide a safe environment for the child, to increase parenting knowledge and skills, and that the parent/caregiver will meet the child's health and medical needs. During FY25, there were 84 families served, with 86% showing improvement in the safety of the living environment for the child, 73% improved parenting knowledge and skills, and 93% improved in their child's health and medical needs being met. In addition to the traditional in-home services, the VNAC team also provide Nurse Consultation services to both counties for medically complex cases on request. During the FY2025 VNAC received 531 such consult requests and worked a total of 981.25 hours on these cases.



Mom and baby at a Nurse Family Partnership event

Raub Food Pantry: Through a partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, St. Luke's school-based staff implemented a school-based food pantry at Raub Middle School for students and families. During Fiscal Year 2025, the school-based pantry served 813 households and more than 40,000 pounds of food valued at over \$130,000.



Raub Middle School food pantry

Summer Meals Food Access: For the seventh consecutive year, the St. Luke's Summer Meals Program provided no cost lunches in Allentown to ensure every child in need has access to nutritious meals during the summer months. St. Luke's Sacred Heart Campus, in partnership with Star Community Health at the Sigal Center, provided meals (Tuesday-Thursday) for food insecure children and their families. There were 1,525 meals served to children and 470 meals to adults at the Sigal Center site between June-August 2025. Financial support for the program was provided by Hatzel and Buehler.

Older Adult Meal Program: The Sacred Heart Campus Older Adult Meals Program is designed to provide subsidized meals to adults ages 65 and older at the Sacred Heart Campus cafeteria, which served 71 meals during FY25. This initiative addresses food security and loneliness among older adults.

Employee Wellness: St. Luke's University Health Network recognizes that the health of its workforce is important and vital to the success of our organization. To support our employees and their spouses, the St. Luke's Employee Wellness Team provides evidence-based programming and health education to empower individuals to positively impact their health and reduce their risk of chronic health conditions through making healthy lifestyle choices. In alignment with the Network CHNA top priorities (i.e., Access to Care, Chronic Disease Prevention, Mental and Behavioral Health), Employee Wellness provides opportunities for employees and their spouses to focus on their physical, mental, and social well-being, to help foster a high quality of life while managing the demands of their roles at work and home. During FY25, the following programs and resources were provided to support employee wellness: *Caring Starts with You Core* (annual biometric and health risk assessment program), Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program, health coaching, Plant Based Eating Class, tobacco cessation, Employee Fitness Incentive Program, massage therapy, Silver Cloud, Employee Assistance Program, and Therapy Anywhere. The CSA program provided the opportunity to improve access to fresh, local produce. Network-wide, a total of \$225,044 was invested in our local farms during the 2024 CSA season, including Willow Haven Farm in the Allentown and Sacred Heart service area. Additionally, through this initiative, 131 shares were donated in the Allentown and Sacred Heart service area to the Sixth Street Shelter.

Diabetes Education and Prevention: Diabetes Self-Management, Education, and Support (DSMES) is provided for patients in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Coaldale through the Department of Community Health. This program is executed through our partnership with the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists for our Diabetes Education Accreditation Program (DEAP). Additionally, St. Luke's Center for Diabetes & Endocrinology serves additional sites throughout the Network. The Department of Community Health established a quality improvement initiative, Diabetes CARES (Clinical Assessment, Resources, Education, and Support), for patients at Star Community Health (Allentown and Bethlehem). This program, in collaboration with our residencies and Medical Fitness and Sports Performance, provides DSMES and a focused team approach to reduce the percentage of patients with poorly controlled diabetes ($HgbA1c > 9.0$). This initiative included clinical diabetes visits, diabetes education with a bilingual Community Health Worker, physical activity opportunities, diabetes self-management, support, and access to healthy food. During FY25, the CARES project had 30% of patients at the Sigal Center at Star Community Health with poorly controlled diabetes.

Physical Activity: Get Your Tail on the Trail is a free program created in 2013 by SLUHN and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The program aims to help people of all ages and abilities to meet their personal fitness goals. Since program inception, there have been a total of 6,295,048 miles recorded. Network-wide, there were 2,162 active users that logged 637,618 miles during FY25.

Sports Medicine and Athletic Trainers: With a wide range of skill sets and abilities, athletic trainers manage an athlete from initial injury to return to life and play. Athletic trainers play a critical role in healthcare as they are often the most available and onsite medical provider in the athletics venue, therefore providing immediate care and facilitation of medical action that results in effective and efficient care to support patient recovery goals. SLUHN athletic trainers support more than 100,000 youth and collegiate athletes in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.



Get Your Tail on the Trail events



St. Luke's Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospitals

Mental and Behavioral Health

FISCAL YEAR 2025

St. Luke's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Response Warm Hand Off (WHO): WHO is an initiative to support the continuum of care for patients in need of multiple services and providers. It is a transfer of care between providers with the patient (and potentially family) present to ensure clear communication and transparency, while helping to build relationships between patients and providers. St. Luke's collaborates with local community-based organizations and local county to support WHO efforts. Additionally, Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) operate in the Allentown, Bethlehem, Sacred Heart, Upper Bucks, Anderson, and Easton emergency departments to support WHO. In the Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospitals, a total of 633 WHO were conducted for alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, opioids, and other stimulants during FY25.

Narcan Education and Distribution: This service is provided in the community and in the Emergency Department, which includes a Certified Recovery Specialist for individuals that present with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and/or overdose.

St. Luke's SUD Services: St. Luke's Sacred Heart Campus' Medical Detox Unit and SUD services (e.g., Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), SHARE clinic, behavioral health services) continue to provide vital SUD services.

Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit (ABHU): St. Luke's Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit at the Easton Campus also provides connection to care and services for youth in need with a 16-bed unit. During FY25, 252 adolescents were provided care in the ABHU from Lehigh County.

Recovery Center Support: Partnership between St. Luke's and Treatment Trends Inc. provides an opportunity for Temple/St. Luke's medical students to implement the Student-Led Interdisciplinary Care Center (SLICC) which engages with underserved populations, provide connections to care and other SDOH services.

Education: Through our Community School partnership, positive mental health messaging and support was provided to Raub Middle School students, teachers, and staff.

Suicide Prevention Coalition of the Lehigh County: St. Luke's supports the Lehigh County Suicide Task Force's steering committee as well as their action teams (Prevention and Intervention and Awareness and Engagement). St. Luke's, along with other partners, collaborate to support social service organizations concerned about the rising number of deaths by suicide. This is funded by Lehigh County Mental Health and a community project grant from SAMHSA.

St. Luke's Penn Foundation Education: Providing the community with mental health and addiction prevention education, information, and resources is a vital part of St. Luke's Penn Foundation's (SLPF) programming. SLPF delivers regular in-school presentations to middle and high students and educational presentations in the community on topics such as mental health, substance use, overdose prevention, recovery, and harm reduction.

Through its monthly podcast "Just STARt the Conversation," SLPF discusses timely mental health topics such as social media use, perinatal mood disorders, changing careers, getting along in polarizing times, athlete mental health, and more. With over 40 available episodes, this podcast offers relevant information for everyone.

Additionally, St. Luke's Wellness 101 has more than 100 episodes that take viewers (ages 13+) on a practical yet humorous step-by-step journey to explore the basics of health and wellness. From the importance of hand washing to mindfulness practices and everything in between, the Wellness 101 show presents fun and educational information while helping viewers learn and retain health and wellness information. Wellness 101 Jr. is a child-friendly version of Wellness 101 that explores the basics of health and wellness for kids ages 6-12. With almost 40 episodes, children learn about a variety of health topics such as sleep, handling peer pressure, how to ask for help, and more through interactive videos and simple Q&As.

St. Luke's Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospitals

Partnerships and Collaborations

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Allentown Police Department, Allentown Health Bureau, Allentown Public Library, Allentown Economic Development Corporation, Allentown School District, Allentown Housing Authority, Allentown Economic Development Corp., Bethany Christian Services, Bloom, Bradberry Sullivan LGBT Community Center, CareerLink (Sacred Heart Campus), Casa Guadalupe, Catholic Charities, Cedar Crest College, Century Promise, Community Service for Children, City of Allentown, Cohesion, Community Action of the Lehigh Valley, Daybreak (Lehigh Conference of Churches), DeSales University, Embassy Bank for the Lehigh Valley, First Commonwealth Federal Credit Union, Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley, LANTA, Laundry on Linden, Lehigh Carbon Community College, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Lehigh Carbon Technical Institute, Lehigh Valley Economic Development Cooperation, Coalition for Transportation Lehigh Valley, Lehigh Conference of Churches, Lehigh County Suicide Task Force, Muhlenberg College, Penn College, Pennsylvania Downtown Center, Promise Neighborhoods, Pinebrook Family Answers, Ripple Community, Inc., Sacred Heart Church, Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeastern Pennsylvania, Star Community Health, Treatment Trends, Inc., The Center (Treatment Trends, Inc.), United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Workforce Board Lehigh Valley, YMCA



Blueprint Communities PA Kickoff Ceremony, April 29, 2024

School Districts: St. Luke's partnered with Easton Area and Wilson Area School Districts to connect families to vaccinations, physicals, and care with Star Community Health KidsCare and St. Luke's Family Medicine (Easton). The Community Health Department participated on School District Wellness Committees and St. Luke's continues to support Paxinosa Elementary Community School (Easton Area school District) by volunteering at family engagement and school events. St. Luke's Easton Campus hosted both a hygiene product and school supply drive for Paxinosa Elementary School. St. Luke's also provided holiday gift donations during the winter season to the Wilson community at United Fellowship Lutheran Church 12 Baskets Full Food Pantry. Wilson Area School District had "Wilsonaires" caroling the halls of the Easton Campus during this past holiday season and elementary school students met with the Cardiology team during Heart Health Month in the spring. St. Luke's also attended the Wilson Area School District staff wellness event. Additionally, literacy is promoted through Read Across America at local schools and Little Free Libraries are located at Bangor Area School District and the Anderson and Easton Campuses.

Literacy: Literacy promotion through Read Across America was implemented at local schools in communities across the Network. A total of 126 volunteers, including seven of the SLUHN campus presidents, read to more than 6,300 students during Read Across America week in 2025 and more than 7,500 literacy resources Network-wide were shared with students in the community.

*Read Across America at an
Easton Area School District
elementary school*



Star Community Health: Star Community Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike (FQHC-LA) affiliated with St. Luke's that provides care and wraparound services, including dental van services, to uninsured and underinsured individuals and families at little or no out-of-pocket cost. Star Community Health KidsCare, located in Easton, PA, provided connection to care and services to Easton Area and Wilson Area School Districts students seeking new primary care and mandated school vaccinations. Star Community Health's Dental Van visited Paxinosa and Cheston elementary schools and provided care to 125 students with a total of 96 sealants, 58 cleanings, and 27 restorations.



*The Tooth Fairy visiting Star Community Health's
Dental Van*

Career Mentoring and Workforce Initiatives: Workforce development initiatives continued to grow in FY25, including School-to-Work with their wellness curriculum visits conducted at the St. Luke's Anderson Campus Rodale Organic Farm.

Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant: St. Luke's Department of Community Health was awarded the Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant from Workforce Board Lehigh Valley. The overall purpose of the grant was to establish a Lehigh Valley Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership through the development of a Workforce Pipeline Strategic Action plan and to increase the pipeline of healthcare workers trained and employed in the Lehigh Valley's Healthcare Industry Sector. For this grant, SLUHN developed a three-pronged approach to education and training for program participants including:

- **SkillUp™ PA and Employability Skills Training** – In partnership with CareerLink Lehigh Valley, the SkillUp™ program enrolled 19 high school students from the Allentown School District, with 73% (n=14) completing the program successfully. The program utilized SkillUp™, an online learning platform to assist participants to attain industry-recognized credentials for high-demand careers, including those in healthcare. Additionally, program participants were educated on employability skills and career ladders in the healthcare field.
- **Medical Assistant On-the-Job Training** – This program component provided funds to support 23 Medical Assistance Trainees. Out of 23 enrolled in the grant, 87% (n=20) of the trainees obtained full-time employment across the St. Luke's Network. During this six-week training period, the trainees worked with patients while learning anatomy skills, medical terminology, collecting vital signs and EKGs, and administering immunizations and injections. They also learned how to participate in data collection, planning, and implementation of patient care plans, all while exhibiting professional behavior and high-level customer service skills.
- **School of Phlebotomy** – This program component supported 15 participants enrolled in the St. Luke's School of Phlebotomy, with 100% (n=15) of participants completing the program successfully. The phlebotomy students participated in a twelve-week program that provided phlebotomy education through a combined delivery of didactic/theory in a classroom setting, as well as clinical experience in one of the St. Luke's outpatient lab service centers.

ProJeCt of Easton: St. Luke's Community Health and St. Luke's Anderson and Easton Campus's Human Resources teams collaborate with ProJeCt of Easton to support their student success programs (e.g., Summer Sizzle!), adult literacy, workforce development, and career placement programs. During FY25, there were fifteen ProJeCt of Easton clients (ESL or GED students) referred to employment at St. Luke's Easton and St. Luke's Anderson Campus. Employed individuals work as environmental service aides, case management outreach coordinator, medical receptionist, patient care assistants, nutrition services aides, cook, and dietary hostess. St. Luke's "ESL Journey to the USA" success story was also shared to ProJeCt of Easton students led by Dr. Israel Zighelboim and Valeska Zighelboim. Additionally, Dr. Zighelboim hosted a mentorship meeting with the ProJeCt of Easton employees from SLRA and SLE from various countries (Venezuela, Colombia, Lebanon, Mexico, and Guatemala) and career backgrounds (economist, political advocate, lawyer, nurse, cook, police officer, beautician, marketing/communications, banking, and construction) to learn and support their career interests and goals.



ProJeCt of Easton classroom

findhelp: St. Luke's partners with findhelp, a free self-navigating online platform (sluhn.findhelp.com). findhelp is a social care network established to provide a comprehensive platform for people to find social services in their communities at any time in a language they understand, and for nonprofit and other community-based organizations to coordinate their service delivery and support services. St. Luke's Information Technology, Quality, Case Management, and Community Health teams work collaboratively, especially with Star Community Health, with more than 1,750 established (i.e., claimed) community-based partners in the communities we serve, which is also integrated with SLUHN electronic health record (i.e., Epic). findhelp allows community members to search for and connect to Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) support such as financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, transportation, and more. This platform, as well as United Way's 211, are tools that Community Health Liaisons use to assist our community members, patients, and staff to connect to vital resources. Community Health continues to onboard priority partners to ensure accurate and up-to-date resources are available to our communities. Network-wide there were 51,280 searches during FY25 with the top searches including food, housing, and utilities. In the Anderson and Easton service area, there were a total of 13,701 searches during FY25 (Northampton County), with the top services including food, housing, and utilities.

Family Medicine Resident Community Medicine: St. Luke's Anderson Campus first-year family medicine residents participated in the evidence-based model "See the Community You Serve" to provide residents with a better sense of the community and key partners that help promote overall health and wellbeing. Residents also rotate through the Department of Community Health during their first year.

Housing: Stable housing greatly impacts an individual's ability to access and maintain regular medical care. St. Luke's partners with local organizations to address the housing shortage through community partnerships at the campus-level to build capacity within the community.

Transportation: St. Luke's transportation services, in collaboration with Lyft and Uber rideshares, ensures access to care by supporting rides to and from appointments. Transportation initiatives supported by SLUHN align with the primary goal of improving access to primary care for homeless and near homeless populations. By providing complimentary Lyft and Uber rides to and from appointments with primary care doctors and other specialists, this initiative allows patients to receive routine care in a timely manner, with the added goal of reducing the frequency and overuse of Emergency Department resources. More than \$900,000 in Lyft and Uber rides were provided for services during FY25 Network-wide.

HOPE (Health, Outreach, Prevention, Education): HOPE at St. Luke's provides clinical, case management, and prevention services to persons living with HIV. At the end of FY25, 369 active (unduplicated) patients were receiving medical care at the Bethlehem and Easton locations. There were 17 newly diagnosed patients with HIV linked into care at HOPE, and there continues to be an increase in patients with complex needs (e.g., medically compromised, homeless, uninsured, undocumented). There were 486 active patients that received Medical Case Management services in Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, and Stroudsburg. In collaboration with St. Luke's Monroe Hospital, medical case management services in Monroe County were transitioned from Tannersville to Stroudsburg. The office is closer to other St. Luke's medical offices and public transportation, allowing for increased access and sustainability of care and services. During FY25, 116 patients received housing assistance through ongoing rental assistance, permanent housing placement, emergency assistance, or short-term rental assistance.

Breast Cancer Prevention: Adagio Health, through state and federal funding, administers the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP) across much of Pennsylvania. This initiative provides free screenings and diagnostic services to uninsured and underinsured women, helping catch cancer early when it's most treatable. St. Luke's University Health Network is a key partner and early detection site in this effort. With women's imaging locations and advanced technologies like 3D mammography and breast MRI, St. Luke's enhances early detection rates and reduces unnecessary follow-ups.

During FY25, there were 1,188 patient outreach encounters resulting in 21.4% of those outreach encounters ordering a mammogram, 39.9% establishing with a primary care physician post-outreach, 63.6% of ordered images completed, and 91.2% of pathology orders completed. This partnership is a powerful example of how public funding and local health systems can work together to create lasting health equity.

Visiting Nurse Association: As a member of the St. Luke's University Health Network, the Visiting Nurse Association of St. Luke's Health/Hospice, Inc. ("the VNA") offers Home Health, Hospice and community-based mother/baby services that include the Visiting Nurse Advocate in the Home (VNAC) and Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). Established in 1919, the agency maintains Medicare-certification, Pennsylvania Department of Health licensure, Accreditation Commission for Healthcare (ACHC) accreditation and provides care in Lehigh, Berks, Northampton, Carbon, Schuylkill, Monroe and upper Bucks and Montgomery Counties. During FY25, 2,148 patients were provided Hospice care and 5,658 in Home Health across the Network.

Maternal and Child Health: The VNA operates three programs under the Maternal Child Health department that support children and families. The first is the prevention model, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) which supports and fosters positive parenting in our community making the Lehigh Valley a better place for families and children. St. Luke's NFP program was established in 2001 and serves economically disadvantaged families in Lehigh and Northampton counties. The program goals are to improve pregnancy outcomes, improve child health and development, and enhance the economic self-sufficiency of the family. Each NFP family is partnered with a Registered Nurse (RN) early in the mother's pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits throughout the pregnancy and through the child's second birthday.

During FY25, NFP received 1,011 referrals, served 435 families, and completed 5,137 visits. There were 89% of babies in the program born at term and 93% of babies were born at a healthy weights. There were 98% of children vaccinated at two years of age, and 75% of mothers working at the time they graduated from the NFP program. 84% of children were meeting their developmental milestones at 24 months, and 78% of mothers who completed the program delayed their next pregnancy beyond two years.

The second model which is implemented in collaboration with St. Luke's Behavioral Health Integrations team, Moving Beyond Depression, is in the second year of a three-year pilot to help support mothers enrolled in NFP who struggle with a diagnosis of major depression. Those who are enrolled in this program receive a series of in-home cognitive behavior therapy sessions provided by a therapist who is imbedded with the NFP team. The program had a 63% completion rate for FY25, and 93% of completers no longer met the criteria for depression at the completion of their treatment. Of those who completed their treatment, 53% reported decreased parenting stress and, 73% reported increased social supports.

The third program is an intervention program, the Visiting Nurse Advocate for the County (VNAC). This intensively focused program provides services to families that are referred by the Offices of Children, Youth, and Family Services (OCYS) in Lehigh and Northampton Counties and have current open cases. The program works to promote positive growth in the families and serves to create safety nets for the children involved. Families are partnered with a RN, who provides family support, parenting education and guidance, life skills, and case management services. The services are provided using a holistic nursing approach, centered on family preservation. The goals of this program are that the parent/caregiver will provide a safe environment for the child, to increase parenting knowledge and skills, and that the parent/caregiver will meet the child's health and medical needs. During FY25, there were 84 families served, with 86% showing improvement in the safety of the living environment for the child, 73% improved parenting knowledge and skills, and 93% improved in their child's health and medical needs being met. In addition to the traditional in-home services, the VNAC team also provide Nurse Consultation services to both counties for medically complex cases on request. During the FY2025 VNAC received 531 such consult requests and worked a total of 981.25 hours on these cases.

St. Luke's Anderson and Easton Hospitals

Chronic Disease Prevention

FISCAL YEAR 2025

St. Luke's Rodale Organic Farm: In 2014, Rodale Institute established an organic farm in partnership with the St. Luke's Anderson Campus to offer organic produce to patients and staff. On 14 acres, our farmers grow thousands of pounds of high-quality, organic produce for distribution to St. Luke's campuses in the region as well as hospital patient meals, the cafeterias, and employee Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Donations of fresh produce is also provided to community organizations to be distributed to people in need.

Older Adult Meal Program: The Anderson Campus Older Adult Meals Program is designed to provide subsidized meals to adults ages 65 and older at the Anderson Campus cafeteria, which served 17,550 meals during FY25. This initiative addresses food security and loneliness among older adults.

Local Food Pantry Support: ProJeCt of Easton and St. Luke's Family Medicine – Easton continues to utilize the “Food Rx” initiative, lifestyle medicine resources, and provided vital resources to key community partners and schools.

Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support: Anderson and Easton Campuses serve as sites for diabetes education.

Physical Activity: St. Luke's Anderson Medical Residents promoted literacy and physical activity in partnership with ProJeCt of Easton's Summer Sizzle! Program, including Get Your Tail on the Trail walks with Easton Area School District students. Get Your Tail on the Trail is a free program created in 2013 by SLUHN and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The program aims to help people of all ages and abilities to meet their personal fitness goals. Since program inception, there have been a total of 6,295,048 miles recorded. Network-wide, there were 2,162 active users that logged 637,618 miles during FY25.

Employee Wellness: St. Luke's University Health Network recognizes that the health of its workforce is important and vital to the success of our organization. To support our employees and their spouses, the St. Luke's Employee Wellness Team provides evidence-based programming and health education to empower individuals to positively impact their health and reduce their risk of chronic health conditions through making healthy lifestyle choices. In alignment with the Network CHNA top priorities (i.e., Access to Care, Chronic Disease Prevention, Mental and Behavioral Health), Employee Wellness provides opportunities for employees and their spouses to focus on their physical, mental, and social well-being, to help foster a high quality of life while managing the demands of their roles at work and home. During FY25, the following programs and resources were provided to support employee wellness: *Caring Starts with You Core* (annual biometric and health risk assessment program), Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program, health coaching, Plant Based Eating Class, tobacco cessation, Employee Fitness Incentive Program, massage therapy, Silver Cloud, Employee Assistance Program, and Therapy Anywhere. The CSA program provided the opportunity to improve access to fresh, local produce. Network-wide, a total of \$225,044 was invested in our local farms during the 2024 CSA season, including the St. Luke's Rodale Farm at the Anderson Campus. Additionally, through this initiative, 314 shares were donated in the Anderson and Easton service area to ProJeCt of Easton, Slater Family Network, Easton Food Pantry, and Safe Harbor.

Sports Medicine and Athletic Trainers: With a wide range of skill sets and abilities, athletic trainers manage an athlete from initial injury to return to life and play. Athletic trainers play a critical role in healthcare as they are often the most available and onsite medical provider in the athletics venue, therefore providing immediate care and facilitation of medical action that results in effective and efficient care to support patient recovery goals. SLUHN athletic trainers support more than 100,000 youth and collegiate athletes in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.



St. Luke's Rodale Organic Farm and CSA, Anderson Campus

St. Luke's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Response Warm Hand Off (WHO): WHO is an initiative to support the continuum of care for patients in need of multiple services and providers. It is a transfer of care between providers with the patient (and potentially family) present to ensure clear communication and transparency, while helping to build relationships between patients and providers. St. Luke's collaborates with local community-based organizations and local county to support WHO efforts. Additionally, Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) operate in the Allentown, Bethlehem, Sacred Heart, Upper Bucks, Anderson, and Easton emergency departments to support WHO. In the Anderson and Easton Hospitals, a total of 259 WHO were conducted for alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, opioids, and other stimulants during FY25.

Northampton County Task Forces: Community Health worked with the Northampton County Opioid Task Force to connect patients to SUD treatment and recovery services as well as the Northampton County Suicide Prevention Task Force to promote mental health trainings, including Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention.

School-based Programs: Your Emotional Strength Supported (YESS!) school-based mental health counseling is designed to support students with mental health needs at school. Your Emotional Strength Supported (YESS!) established school-based mental health counseling at school districts in the Anderson and Easton service area. A total of 10,197 student encounters for the YESS! Program occurred during FY25 in the Bethlehem Area, Bangor, Easton Area, Nazareth Area, and Northampton Area school districts. The Community Health liaison and Community Health Worker partner with Easton Area School District for youth-led mental health initiatives at Paxinosa elementary, Cheston elementary, and Easton middle school.

Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit (ABHU): St. Luke's Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit at the Easton Campus also provides connection to care and services for youth in need with a 16-bed unit. During FY25, 315 adolescents in Northampton County were provided care through the ABHU.

St. Luke's Penn Foundation Education: Providing the community with mental health and addiction prevention education, information, and resources is a vital part of St. Luke's Penn Foundation's (SLPF) programming. SLPF delivers regular in-school presentations to middle and high students and educational presentations in the community on topics such as mental health, substance use, overdose prevention, recovery, and harm reduction.

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Positive mental and behavioral health messaging

St. Luke's Anderson and Easton Hospitals *Partnerships and Collaborations*

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Cops 'n' Kids of Easton, Star Community Health, St. Luke's Family Medicine, Greater Easton Development Partnership including Easton Main Street and West Ward Initiatives, JusticeWorks family of Services Plan of Safe Cares, Plan of Safe Care, YMCA Easton/Phillipsburg, Easton Area School District, Wilson Area School District, LV Active Life SHARE Housing Programme, SHARE Housing Program, Lehigh Valley Domestic Violence Task Force, Bangor Area School District, Bethlehem Health Bureau, ProJeCt of Easton, Pennsylvania State Trooper community affairs outreach, Children's Home of Easton, Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center, The Lafayette Experience Mentoring Program, Slater Family Network, Family Connection of Easton, City of Easton, Pennsylvania Downtown Center, The Whole Life Center Food Pantry, Safe Harbor of Easton, Northampton Community College, Wilson LINCS Family Center, Third Street Alliance for Women and Children, Northampton County Human Services, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Easton Housing Authority, United Fellowship Lutheran Church, Twelve Baskets Full Food Pantry, Pinebrook Family Answers, Safe Harbor, Easton Area Public Library, Lehigh Conference of Churches, Easton, Boys and Girls Club of Easton, Two Rivers Health and Wellness Foundation, Treatment Trends, Inc., Palmery Recovery Center, Wilson Area Partners in Education Foundation, Greater, Shiloh Church, Easton Area Neighborhood Center, Wilson Area Communities that Care Coalition, Nature Nurture, Hamilton Eye Institute of Easton, and Easton Area Community Center



Easton Area School District and Wilson Area School District partnership panel discussion

Bethlehem Area School District (BASD): The partnership between Community Health and BASD began more than 25 years ago and continues to connect students and their families to a medical home (i.e., primary care physician), vision, dental, behavioral health, and other social services. These efforts have improved access and services to families in need. St. Luke's is part of the BASD Wellness Committee to strategize how best to improve and promote student and staff wellbeing and the BASD Attendance Committee. St. Luke's Bethlehem Campus and St. Luke's Children's Hospital organized multiple drives for school supplies, clothing, and other essential needs.

Community School Model: St. Luke's partners with the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, as well as other local partners, to implement the Community School Model. This includes financial and programmatic support from St. Luke's for a full-time school-based Community School Coordinator at Marvine Elementary School that works school-wide and a Family Development Specialist (FDS) at Donegan Elementary School that supports and connect students and families in need to services. During FY25, the Marvine Community School Coordinator worked with more than 300 elementary school families to address barriers to student attendance and improve parent and caregiver engagement. At Donegan Elementary, the FDS supported approximately 70 families referred by staff. One of the primary roles of the FDS is to provide support and resources for students and families to ensure students have good attendance rates so they can achieve in school. During this academic year there was an increase of 9% in good attendance to 41% and a decrease of 4% to 24% in chronic attendance issues. Not only does the FDS provide support to Donegan students and families, but they are also sharing these best practices district-wide.



Summer event at Donegan Elementary School

Literacy: Literacy promotion through Read Across America was implemented at local schools in communities across the Network. A total of 126 volunteers, including seven of the SLUHN campus presidents, read to more than 6,300 students during Read Across America week in 2025 and more than 7,500 literacy resources Network-wide were shared with students in the community.

Mobile Youth Health Center (MYHC): During FY25 the MYHC provided care and services to 410 unique students through 913 encounters at Broughal Middle School, Freedom High School, Liberty High School, and Northeast Middle School. These encounters included connections to care including medical insurance, a medical home, vision and dental services, and additional community resources. The MYHC team also provided an additional 3,598 health screenings, vaccines, and other services to students. The MYHC care team provided 76 vision vouchers to the district students with a value of \$9,645.



Community School Partners, Bethlehem Area School District

Community Health Navigation: Community Health Navigation had 2,061 encounters (e.g., calls, appointments, follow ups) with 372 unique individuals. These encounters resulted in 316 referrals and 222 completed visits. Various resources such as clothing, hygiene, and bus passes were provided to patients in need. This includes homeless or near homeless, adults, families, and others facing hardships. Bridging the Gap funds were distributed to patients to support their basic needs totaling \$3,459.02. Community Health Navigation also partners with local community-based organizations such as New Bethany Ministries and the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter to coordinate care and connection to services.

Star Community Health: Star Community Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike (FQHC-LA) affiliated with St. Luke's that provides care and wraparound services to uninsured and underinsured individuals and families at little or no out-of-pocket cost. Southside Medical and Family Medicine (Easton Avenue), located in Bethlehem, provided connection to care and services for families, medical and dental service. In Bethlehem, Star Community Health's Dental Van visited nine schools and provided care to 868 students with a total of 410 cleanings, 549 sealants and 163 restorations.



Star Community Health Dental Van

Breast Cancer Prevention: Adagio Health, through state and federal funding, administers the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP) across much of Pennsylvania. This initiative provides free screenings and diagnostic services to uninsured and underinsured women, helping catch cancer early when it's most treatable. St. Luke's University Health Network is a key partner and early detection site in this effort. With women's imaging locations and advanced technologies like 3D mammography and breast MRI, St. Luke's enhances early detection rates and reduces unnecessary follow-ups. During FY25, there were 1,188 patient outreach encounters resulting in 21.4% of those outreach encounters ordering a mammogram, 39.9% establishing with a primary care physician post-outreach, 63.6% of ordered images completed, and 91.2% of pathology orders completed. This partnership is a powerful example of how public funding and local health systems can work together to create lasting health equity.

Temple/St. Luke's Medical Students Community Health Engagement Program (CHEP): Temple/St. Luke's offers the opportunity to participate in a Mentorship Program for students from the Bethlehem Area School District. This program seeks to connect medical students with high school students who could benefit from additional support. These students were identified as needing tier two interventions, which include increased instruction, supervision, positive reinforcements, academic support, and more. The medical students meet with the high school students on a one-on-one basis, twice monthly, for forty-five minutes. Their time together is spent discussing college preparation, studying techniques, and any other topics identified by the high school students.

Workforce Development and Career Mentoring: St. Luke's supports workforce development initiatives for both adults and school-aged populations including the School-To-Work Program, Health Career Exploration Program, and the new Cultural and Linguistic Workforce Development Centers. These opportunities promote education, experiential learning, and skills-based training to prepare individuals for the workforce and help participants gain employment that provides them with a livable wage. Adolescent career mentoring programs and workforce initiatives target both in-school and out-of-school youth between the ages of 15-24 years old who reside in Lehigh and Northampton Counties through a combination of hospital rotations, professional development sessions, and work experience.

School-to-Work (STW): For the past 28 years, St Luke's Hospital and the Bethlehem Area School District have been collaborating to provide English as a Second Language students the opportunity to explore healthcare careers through the School-To-Work Program (STW). The STW Program was created to improve graduation rates, lower absenteeism, and encourage students toward post-secondary education. Its intent is to engage at-risk students to remain in school by exposing them to health careers at St. Luke's Hospital, to offer support and guidance as they work to achieve fluency in English, and to obtain valuable career and life skills. Since the program was founded in 1997, it has served more than 430 ESL students. During FY25, 17 ESL students enrolled in the program, with 94% (n=16) completing the program successfully.

Health Career Exploration Program (HCEP): Established more than 15 years ago, the Health Career Exploration Program offers experiential learning opportunities for high school students from diverse backgrounds to explore careers in the healthcare industry. Funded by the Workforce Board Lehigh Valley, HCEP assists students to gain insight into clinical and non-clinical roles, learn employability skills, understand future employment opportunities, and build confidence in their abilities.

The students work for a maximum of 20 hours per week at an assigned department. They also participate in employability skill sessions that focus on a variety of topics to increase their knowledge on job seeking and job keeping skills (e.g., resume development, interviewing skills, leadership, communication in the workplace). During FY25, 15 students from the Bethlehem Area School District enrolled in the program, with 100% (n=15) successfully completing the program. Students had the opportunity to work at St. Luke's Bethlehem Campus Priscilla Payne Hurd Pavillion (PPHP) floors five, six, seven, the Short Stay Center, Emergency Department, and Acute Rehabilitation Center.



Workforce Development Center Participants

Workforce Development Centers: The Linguistic and Cultural Workforce Development Initiative, implemented by St. Luke's Department of Community Health in collaboration with the Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley and other community-based organizations, supports workers at any stage in their career. This initiative assists individuals to access English as Second Language courses, skill-based trainings, and employment opportunities that aligns with workforce needs in our local communities.

During Fiscal Year 2025, the Workforce Development Centers had 216 participant engagements including services such as job readiness, job placements, and enrollment in skill-based trainings. The Centers also organized six job fairs, reaching over 100 individuals, and offered resume and job interview workshops. Further, participants were connected to employment opportunities within St. Luke's University Health Network and other community businesses/agencies. Collectively, the Allentown and Bethlehem Centers successfully secured 93 jobs across various sectors including manufacturing, healthcare, hospitality, supply chain, retail, and food service. In addition, the St. Luke's Workforce Development Centers and the Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley, in partnership with ASR Media, produced a video highlighting the Centers. Selected from over 800 submissions, the video was featured at the Allentown Film Festival in April 2025.



Workforce development participant

Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant: St. Luke's Department of Community Health was awarded the Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant from Workforce Board Lehigh Valley. The overall purpose of the grant was to establish a Lehigh Valley Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership through the development of a Workforce Pipeline Strategic Action plan and to increase the pipeline of healthcare workers trained and employed in the Lehigh Valley's Healthcare Industry Sector. For this grant, SLUHN developed a three-pronged approach to education and training for program participants including:

- **SkillUp™ PA and Employability Skills Training** – In partnership with CareerLink Lehigh Valley, the SkillUp™ program enrolled 19 high school students from the Allentown School District, with 73% (n=14) completing the program successfully. The program utilized SkillUp™, an online learning platform to assist participants to attain industry-recognized credentials for high-demand careers, including those in healthcare. Additionally, program participants were educated on employability skills and career ladders in the healthcare field.
- **Medical Assistant On-the-Job Training** – This program component provided funds to support 23 Medical Assistance Trainees. Out of 23 enrolled in the grant, 87% (n=20) of the trainees obtained full-time employment across the St. Luke's Network. During this six-week training period, the trainees worked with patients while learning anatomy skills, medical terminology, collecting vital signs and EKGs, and administering immunizations and injections. They also learned how to participate in data collection, planning, and implementation of patient care plans, all while exhibiting professional behavior and high-level customer service skills.
- **School of Phlebotomy** – This program component supported 15 participants enrolled in the St. Luke's School of Phlebotomy, with 100% (n=15) of participants completing the program successfully. The phlebotomy students participated in a twelve-week program that provided phlebotomy education through a combined delivery of didactic/theory in a classroom setting, as well as clinical experience in one of the St. Luke's outpatient lab service centers.

findhelp: St. Luke's partners with findhelp, a free self-navigating online platform (sluhn.findhelp.com). findhelp is a social care network established to provide a comprehensive platform for people to find social services in their communities at any time in a language they understand, and for nonprofit and other community-based organizations to coordinate their service delivery and support services. St. Luke's Information Technology, Quality, Case Management, and Community Health teams work collaboratively, especially with Star Community Health, with more than 1,750 established (i.e., claimed) community-based partners in the communities we serve, which is also integrated with SLUHN electronic health record (i.e., Epic). findhelp allows community members to search for and connect to Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) support such as financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, transportation, and more. This platform, as well as United Way's 211, are tools that Community Health Liaisons use to assist our community members, patients, and staff to connect to vital resources. Community Health continues to onboard priority partners to ensure accurate and up-to-date resources are available to our communities. Network-wide there were 51,280 searches during FY25 with the top searches including food, housing, and utilities. In the Bethlehem service area (Lehigh and Northampton counties), there were a total of 30,032 searches, with the top services including food, housing, and utilities.

HOPE (Health, Outreach, Prevention, Education): HOPE at St. Luke's provides clinical, case management, and prevention services to persons living with HIV. At the end of FY25, 369 active (unduplicated) patients were receiving medical care at the Bethlehem and Easton locations. There were 17 newly diagnosed patients with HIV linked into care at HOPE, and there continues to be an increase in patients with complex needs (e.g., medically compromised, homeless, uninsured, undocumented). There were 486 active patients that received Medical Case Management services in Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, and Stroudsburg. In collaboration with St. Luke's Monroe Hospital, medical case management services in Monroe County were transitioned from Tannersville to Stroudsburg. The office is closer to other St. Luke's medical offices and public transportation, allowing for increased access and sustainability of care and services. During FY25, 116 patients received housing assistance through ongoing rental assistance, permanent housing placement, emergency assistance, or short-term rental assistance.

Transportation: St. Luke's transportation services, in collaboration with Lyft and Uber rideshares, ensures access to care by supporting rides to and from appointments. Transportation initiatives supported by SLUHN align with the primary goal of improving access to primary care for homeless and near homeless populations. By providing complimentary Lyft rides to and from appointments with primary care doctors and other specialists, this initiative allows patients to receive routine care in a timely manner, with the added goal of reducing the frequency and overuse of Emergency Department resources. More than \$900,000 in Lyft and Uber rides were provided for services Network-wide.

Housing: Stable housing greatly impacts an individual's ability to access and maintain regular medical care. St. Luke's partners with local organizations to address the housing shortage through community partnerships at the campus-level to build capacity within the community. St. Luke's is also working with the City of Bethlehem on a Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant.

Visiting Nurse Association: As a member of the St. Luke's University Health Network, the Visiting Nurse Association of St. Luke's Health/Hospice, Inc. ("the VNA") offers Home Health, Hospice and community-based mother/baby services that include the Visiting Nurse Advocate in the Home (VNAC) and Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). Established in 1919, the agency maintains Medicare-certification, Pennsylvania Department of Health licensure, Accreditation Commission for Healthcare (ACHC) accreditation and provides care in Lehigh, Berks, Northampton, Carbon, Schuylkill, Monroe, Upper Bucks, and Montgomery Counties. During FY25, 2,148 patients were provided Hospice care and 5,658 in Home Health across the Network.

Maternal and Child Health: The VNA operates three programs under the Maternal Child Health department that support children and families. The first is the prevention model, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) which supports and fosters positive parenting in our community making the Lehigh Valley a better place for families and children. St. Luke's NFP program was established in 2001 and serves economically disadvantaged families in Lehigh and Northampton counties. The program goals are to improve pregnancy outcomes, improve child health and development, and enhance the economic self-sufficiency of the family. Each NFP family is partnered with a Registered Nurse (RN) early in the mother's pregnancy and receives ongoing nurse home visits throughout the pregnancy and through the child's second birthday.

During FY25, NFP received 1,011 referrals, served 435 families, and completed 5,137 visits. There were 89% of babies in the program born at term and 93% of babies were born at a healthy weights. There were 98% of children vaccinated at two years of age, and 75% of mothers working at the time they graduated from the NFP program. 84% of children were meeting their developmental milestones at 24 months, and 78% of mothers who completed the program delayed their next pregnancy beyond two years.

The second model which is implemented in collaboration with St. Luke's Behavioral Health Integrations team, Moving Beyond Depression, is in the second year of a three-year pilot to help support mothers enrolled in NFP who struggle with a diagnosis of major depression. Those who are enrolled in this program receive a series of in-home cognitive behavior therapy sessions provided by a therapist who is imbedded with the NFP team. The program had a 63% completion rate for FY25, and 93% of completers no longer met the criteria for depression at the completion of their treatment. Of those who completed their treatment, 53% reported decreased parenting stress and, 73% reported increased social supports.

The third program is an intervention program, the Visiting Nurse Advocate for the County (VNAC). This intensively focused program provides services to families that are referred by the Offices of Children, Youth, and Family Services (OCYS) in Lehigh and Northampton Counties and have current open cases. The program works to promote positive growth in the families and serves to create safety nets for the children involved. Families are partnered with a RN, who provides family support, parenting education and guidance, life skills, and case management services. The services are provided using a holistic nursing approach, centered on family preservation. The goals of this program are that the parent/caregiver will provide a safe environment for the child, to increase parenting knowledge and skills, and that the parent/caregiver will meet the child's health and medical needs. During FY25, there were 84 families served, with 86% showing improvement in the safety of the living environment for the child, 73% improved parenting knowledge and skills, and 93% improved in their child's health and medical needs being met. In addition to the traditional in-home services, the VNAC team also provide Nurse Consultation services to both counties for medically complex cases on request. During the FY2025 VNAC received 531 such consult requests and worked a total of 981.25 hours on these cases.



Nurse Family Partnership families

Food Access: Food access is a critical component of maintaining health and preventing chronic disease. Issues related to food access include access to healthy foods. SLUHN partners with local organizations through our schools and community partners to decrease food insecurity and promote healthy lifestyles.

Older Adult Meal Program: The Bethlehem Campus Older Adult Meals Program is designed to provide subsidized meals to adults ages 65 and older at the Bethlehem Campus cafeteria, which served 1,164 meals during FY25. This initiative addresses food security and loneliness among older adults.

Marvine Food Pantry: Through partnerships with Second Harvest Food Bank and other local organizations, Marvine Elementary School provides a food pantry for students and families facing food insecurity. During FY25, more than 2,000 households (duplicated) were supported through Marvine's food initiatives.

Hispanic Center of the Lehigh Valley (HCLV): St. Luke's has established collaborative processes with community partners, such as HCLV, to meet individuals where they are and promote connections and access to care and services, including a community food pantry that served 2,278 households and a total of 8,565 adults, children, and seniors in FY25, including 276 new visitors. Additionally, the Basilio Huertas Senior Center promotes healthy aging, with a focus on culturally appropriate communications and supports, through bilingual case management, food access/nutrition, socialization, and recreation. During FY25, HCLV worked with more than fifty seniors monthly (655 encounters). St. Luke's continues to support the infrastructure and capacity building at HCLV.



*Marvine Elementary School
Food Distribution*

New Bethany Inc: St. Luke's Bethlehem Campus works closely with New Bethany Inc to help address food insecurity. SLUHN provides food donations, capacity building, and other services to New Bethany Inc.

Physical Activity: Get Your Tail on the Trail is a free program created in 2013 by SLUHN and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The program aims to help people of all ages and abilities to meet their personal fitness goals. Since program inception, there have been a total of 6,295,048 miles recorded. Network-wide, there were 2,162 active users that logged 637,618 miles during FY25.

Sports Medicine and Athletic Trainers: With a wide range of skill sets and abilities, athletic trainers manage an athlete from initial injury to return to life and play. Athletic trainers play a critical role in healthcare as they are often the most available and onsite medical provider in the athletics venue, therefore providing immediate care and facilitation of medical action that results in effective and efficient care to support patient recovery goals. SLUHN athletic trainers support more than 100,000 youth and collegiate athletes in PA and NJ.

Diabetes Education and Prevention: Diabetes Self-Management, Education, and Support (DSMES) is provided for patients in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Coaldale through the Department of Community Health. This program is executed through our partnership with the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists for our Diabetes Education Accreditation Program (DEAP). Additionally, St. Luke's Center for Diabetes & Endocrinology serves additional sites throughout the network. The Department of Community Health established a quality improvement initiative, Diabetes CARES (Clinical Assessment, Resources, Education, and Support), for patients at Star Community Health (Allentown and Bethlehem). This program, in collaboration with our residencies and Medical Fitness and Sports Performance, provides DSMES and a focused team approach to reduce the percentage of patients with poorly controlled diabetes ($HbA1c > 9.0$). This initiative included clinical diabetes visits, diabetes education with a bilingual Community Health Worker, physical activity opportunities, diabetes self-management, support, and access to healthy food. During FY25, the CARES project had 30% of patients at Star Community Health Southside with poorly controlled diabetes.

Employee Wellness: St. Luke's University Health Network recognizes that the health of its workforce is important and vital to the success of our organization. To support our employees and their spouses, the St. Luke's Employee Wellness Team provides evidence-based programming and health education to empower individuals to positively impact their health and reduce their risk of chronic health conditions through making healthy lifestyle choices. In alignment with the Network CHNA top priorities (i.e., Access to Care, Chronic Disease Prevention, Mental and Behavioral Health), Employee Wellness provides opportunities for employees and their spouses to focus on their physical, mental, and social well-being, to help foster a high quality of life while managing the demands of their roles at work and home. During FY25, the following programs and resources were provided to support employee wellness: *Caring Starts with You Core* (annual biometric and health risk assessment program), Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program, health coaching, Plant Based Eating Class, tobacco cessation, Employee Fitness Incentive Program, massage therapy, Silver Cloud, Employee Assistance Program, and Therapy Anywhere. The CSA program provided the opportunity to improve access to fresh, local produce. Network-wide, a total of \$225,044 was invested in our local farms during the 2024 CSA season, including Willow Haven Farm at the Bethlehem Campus. Additionally, through this initiative, 343 shares were donated in the Bethlehem service area to Valley Youth House.



Community Supported Agriculture shares of fresh fruits and vegetables for St. Luke's employees



St. Luke's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Response Warm Hand Off (WHO): WHO is an initiative to support the continuum of care for patients in need of multiple services and providers. It is a transfer of care between providers with the patient (and potentially family) present to ensure clear communication and transparency, while helping to build relationships between patients and providers. St. Luke's collaborates with local community-based organizations and local county to support WHO efforts. Additionally, Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) operate in the Allentown, Bethlehem, Sacred Heart, Upper Bucks, Anderson, and Easton emergency departments to support WHO. At the Bethlehem Hospital, a total of 139 WHO were conducted for alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, opioids, and other stimulants during FY25.

Northampton County Task Forces: Community Health worked with the Northampton County Opioid Task Force to connect patients to SUD treatment and recovery services as well as the Northampton County Suicide Task Force to provide mental health trainings, including Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention.

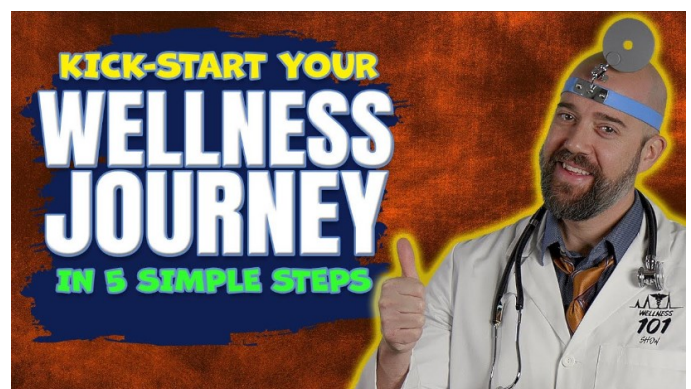
School-based Programs: Your Emotional Strength Supported (YESS!) school-based mental health counseling is designed to support students with mental health needs at school and provides services in the Bethlehem Area School District. A total of 4,488 encounters for the YESS! Program occurred during FY25 in nine Bethlehem elementary schools and Northeast Middle School. Mindfulness rooms were created at Marvine Elementary School for staff, Donegan Elementary School for students, and Boys and Girls Club of Bethlehem for adults and children to support mental health and self-care.

Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit (ABHU): St. Luke's Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit at the Easton Campus also provides connection to care and services for youth in need with a 16-bed unit. During FY25, there were 252 adolescents in Lehigh County and 315 in Northampton County that received care in the ABHU.

St. Luke's Penn Foundation Education: Providing the community with mental health and addiction prevention education, information, and resources is a vital part of St. Luke's Penn Foundation's (SLPF) programming. SLPF delivers regular in-school presentations to middle and high students and educational presentations in the community on topics such as mental health, substance use, overdose prevention, recovery, and harm reduction.

Through its monthly podcast "Just STARt the Conversation," SLPF discusses timely mental health topics such as social media use, perinatal mood disorders, changing careers, getting along in polarizing times, athlete mental health, and more. With over 40 available episodes, this podcast offers relevant information for everyone.

Additionally, St. Luke's Wellness 101 has more than 100 episodes that take viewers (ages 13+) on a practical yet humorous step-by-step journey to explore the basics of health and wellness. From the importance of hand washing to mindfulness practices and everything in between, the Wellness 101 show presents fun and educational information while helping viewers learn and retain health and wellness information. Wellness 101 Jr. is a child-friendly version of Wellness 101 that explores the basics of health and wellness for kids ages 6-12. With almost 40 episodes, children learn about a variety of health topics such as sleep, handling peer pressure, how to ask for help, and more through interactive videos and simple Q&As.



Wellness 101

Boys and Girls Club Bethlehem, Bethlehem Health Bureau, Community Action Lehigh Valley (CALV), Bethlehem Library, Northampton Community College, Crime Victims of the Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem Salvation Army, Giant Food Stores, Moravian Frezer Ministries, Hablando Con Su Doctor, Coalition for Appropriate Transportation, Bethlehem Police Department, SHARE Housing, Pinebrook Family Services, Moravian University, Star Community Health, Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley, Just Born, Lehigh University, New Bethany Ministries, Northampton County SUD Response, Northampton County Suicide Task Force, Northampton County Question, Persuade, Refer trainings, Second Harvest Lehigh Valley, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Volunteer Center Lehigh Valley, City of Bethlehem, Cay Galgon, Treatment Trends Inc., and Bethlehem Emergency Shelter



See the Community You Serve at Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley

St. Luke's Carbon and Lehigh Hospitals

Access to Care

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Pathstone Head Start: Head Start is a federally funded program designed to promote school readiness for children from low-income families. It serves children from birth to age five and supports their cognitive, social, and emotional development. Community Health staff, cross trained as CHWs, provide connection to care services and resources to students and families.

findhelp: St. Luke's partners with findhelp, a free self-navigating online platform (sluhn.findhelp.com). findhelp is a social care network established to provide a comprehensive platform for people to find social services in their communities at any time in a language they understand, and for nonprofit and other community-based organizations to coordinate their service delivery and support services. St. Luke's Information Technology, Quality, Case Management, and Community Health teams work collaboratively, especially with Star Community Health, with more than 1,750 established (i.e., claimed) community-based partners in the communities we serve, which is also integrated with SLUHN electronic health record (i.e., Epic). findhelp allows community members to search for and connect to Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) support such as financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, transportation, and more. This platform, as well as United Way's 211, are tools that Community Health Liaisons use to assist our community members, patients, and staff to connect to vital resources. Community Health continues to onboard priority partners to ensure accurate and up-to-date resources are available to our communities. Network-wide there were 51,280 searches during FY25 with the top searches including food, housing, and utilities. In the Carbon and Lehigh service area, there were a total of 2,745 searches during FY25 (Carbon County), with the top services including food, housing, and utilities.

Breast Cancer Prevention: Adagio Health, through state and federal funding, administers the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP) across much of Pennsylvania. This initiative provides free screenings and diagnostic services to uninsured and underinsured women, helping catch cancer early when it's most treatable. St. Luke's University Health Network is a key partner and early detection site in this effort. With women's imaging locations and advanced technologies like 3D mammography and breast MRI, St. Luke's enhances early detection rates and reduces unnecessary follow-ups. During FY25, there were 1,188 patient outreach encounters resulting in 21.4% of those outreach encounters ordering a mammogram, 39.9% establishing with a primary care physician post-outreach, 63.6% of ordered images completed, and 91.2% of pathology orders completed. This partnership is a powerful example of how public funding and local health systems can work together to create lasting health equity.

Visiting Nurse Association: As a member of the St. Luke's University Health Network, the Visiting Nurse Association of St. Luke's Health/Hospice, Inc. ("the VNA") offers Home Health, Hospice and community-based mother/baby services that include the Visiting Nurse Advocate in the Home (VNAC) and Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). Established in 1919, the agency maintains Medicare-certification, Pennsylvania Department of Health licensure, Accreditation Commission for Healthcare (ACHC) accreditation and provides care in Lehigh, Berks, Northampton, Carbon, Schuylkill, Monroe, Upper Bucks, and Montgomery Counties. During FY25, 2,148 patients were provided Hospice care and 5,658 in Home Health across the Network.



Sunflower fields at the Carbon Campus

St. Luke's Carbon and Lehigh Hospitals

Access to Care

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Carbon County School Districts: St. Luke's University Health Network (SLUHN) school-based staff provide services to students and families in the Panther Valley School District (PVSD) and our Community Health Workers (CHW) help support programs and initiatives at Carbon County School Districts. St. Luke's staff also help to implement a food pantry for PVSD families facing food insecurity. In collaboration with the St. Luke's Rural Health Centers and with support from CHWs, connections to care were established to improve access to school physicals, vaccinations, education, and resources. The Star Community Health Dental Van partnered with local schools during FY25 providing services to 1,698 patients, including 952 cleanings, 1,718 sealants and 283 restorations. The Carbon County schools visited by the dental van include Panther Valley Elementary, Intermediate, and High School, SS Palmer Elementary School, Parkside Elementary, Towamensing Elementary, Palmerton Middle and High School, Weatherly Elementary School, Behavioral Health Associates (BHA), as well as visits to PathStone Lehigh Head Start. The summer dental van program during July and August also provided dental services to children and adults. Priorities in Panther Valley School District (PVSD) aligned with the Community School Model to connect students and their families to a medical home, vision, dental, behavioral health services, and other social services. During FY25, through the Mobile Youth Health Centers, 81 unique students were provided care and services resulting in 40 referrals and 18 connections to care. Vision vouchers were provided to 29 students with a value of \$2,645.

Literacy: St. Luke's promotes literacy in Carbon County through the evidence-based Reach Out and Read (ROR) program in partnership with Carbon County Community Foundation. ROR is integrated into our Carbon County pediatric and family medicine practices to engage families during each well patient visit. In addition, Brush, Book, Bed (BBB), an American Academy of Pediatrics initiative to engage families on the importance of a regular bedtime routine, is integrated to promote oral health, literacy, and healthy lifestyles and behaviors. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative, also funded by the Carbon County Community Foundation, further supports literacy and provides age-appropriate books for all Carbon County children enrolled. During FY25, participating St. Luke's Physician Group pediatrics and family medicine practices completed 1,839 well visits for children ages 0-5 years in which trained providers and staff engaged families with messaging and resources vital for growth and development. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative provides Carbon County children with an age-appropriate new book each month. At the end of FY25, there were 1,388 active children in the program. since 2021, 942 have "graduated", meaning they aged-out of the program (i.e., reached age six). Additionally, the Veterans Literacy Initiative at the St. Luke's Lehigh Campus as well as Little Free Libraries provide additional access points.

Literacy promotion through Read Across America was implemented at local schools in communities across the Network. A total of 126 volunteers, including seven of the SLUHN campus presidents, read to more than 6,300 students during Read Across America week in 2025 and more than 7,500 literacy resources Network-wide were shared with students in the community. Raub Middle School students and SLUHN campus presidents were some of the volunteers that read to elementary school students in the Allentown School District.

Carbon Collaborative: St. Luke's Community Health partners with the Carbon County Interagency Collaborative to provide consistent communications and support. More than 100 Carbon County social service organizations and nonprofit partners are represented, with over 35 regularly contributing to collaborative meetings. The committee identifies gaps, barriers, and opportunities and prioritizes how to best align existing services and strengthen connections to care, education, and resources. Additionally, several subcommittees and initiatives are established to build capacity for key community needs (e.g., transportation, literacy, early childhood education, prevention efforts, homeless task force).

Workforce Development: In partnership with the Pocono Counties Workforce Board, the Department of Community Health assisted St. Luke's Volunteer Services with the implementation of the Hands-on Immersive Healthcare program at St. Luke's Lehigh Campus. This initiative provided 55 high school students from Weatherly High School, Jim Thorpe High School, Lehigh High School, and Palmerton High School the opportunity to engage in practical learning experiences through simulated clinical tasks that represent various roles in the healthcare industry. Over the course of the program, students rotated through different stations where they observed and participated in simulations using patient actors or mannequins. The program consists of three separate sessions, featuring stations that highlight in-demand occupations within healthcare, while also teaching students vital employability skills and essential patient care techniques.

Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant: St. Luke's Department of Community Health was awarded the Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant from Workforce Board Lehigh Valley. The overall purpose of the grant was to establish a Lehigh Valley Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership through the development of a Workforce Pipeline Strategic Action plan and to increase the pipeline of healthcare workers trained and employed in the Lehigh Valley's Healthcare Industry Sector. For this grant, SLUHN developed a three-pronged approach to education and training for program participants including:

- **SkillUp™ PA and Employability Skills Training** – In partnership with CareerLink Lehigh Valley, the SkillUp™ program enrolled 19 high school students from the Allentown School District, with 73% (n=14) completing the program successfully. The program utilized SkillUp™, an online learning platform to assist participants to attain industry-recognized credentials for high-demand careers, including those in healthcare. Additionally, program participants were educated on employability skills and career ladders in the healthcare field.
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Transportation: St. Luke's transportation services, in collaboration with Lyft and Uber rideshare, ensures access to care by supporting rides to and from appointments. Transportation initiatives supported by SLUHN align with the primary goal of improving access to primary care for homeless and near homeless populations. By providing complimentary Lyft and Uber rides to and from appointments with primary care doctors and other specialists, this initiative allows patients to receive routine care in a timely manner, with the added goal of reducing the frequency and overuse of Emergency Department resources. More than \$900,000 in Lyft and Uber rides were provided for services Network-wide.

St. Luke's Carbon and Lehighton Hospitals

Chronic Disease Prevention

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Older Adult Meal Program: The Carbon and Lehighton Older Adult Meals Program is designed to provide subsidized meals to adults 65 and older at the Carbon Campus cafeteria and the Lehighton Campus cafeteria. The Carbon Campus cafeteria served 9,528 meals during FY25 and Lehighton served forty-three. This initiative addresses food security and loneliness among older adults. Fireside chats were aligned with the program to provide older adults with guest speakers and interactive events.

Food Security: The Rural Health Center food access partnership with Leiby's Farm was implemented to improve patient intake of fresh produce to help support healthy eating habits. The VALOR Foundation Stand Down Lansford for veterans provided quarterly food access support services.

Physical Activity: Get Your Tail on the Trail is a free program created in 2013 by SLUHN and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The program aims to help people of all ages and abilities to meet their personal fitness goals. Since program inception, there have been a total of 6,295,048 miles recorded. Network-wide, there were 2,162 active users that logged 637,618 miles during FY25.

Employee Wellness: St. Luke's University Health Network recognizes that the health of its workforce is important and vital to the success of our organization. To support our employees and their spouses, the St. Luke's Employee Wellness Team provides evidence-based programming and health education to empower individuals to positively impact their health and reduce their risk of chronic health conditions through making healthy lifestyle choices. In alignment with the Network CHNA top priorities (i.e., Access to Care, Chronic Disease Prevention, Mental and Behavioral Health), Employee Wellness provides opportunities for employees and their spouses to focus on their physical, mental and social well-being, to help foster a high quality of life while managing the demands of their roles at work and home. During FY25, the following programs and resources were provided to support employee wellness: *Caring Starts with You Core* (annual biometric and health risk assessment program), Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program, health coaching, Plant Based Eating Class, Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), tobacco cessation, Employee Fitness Incentive Program, massage therapy, Silver Cloud, Employee Assistance Program, and Therapy Anywhere. The CSA program provided the opportunity to improve access to fresh, local produce. A total of \$225,044 was invested in our local farms Network-wide. The St. Luke's Rodale Farm that provided fresh produce to the Miners, Carbon, and Lehighton campuses during the 2024 CSA season. Additionally, through this initiative, ten shares were donated in the Carbon and Lehighton service area to Family Promise of Carbon County.

Sports Medicine and Athletic Trainers: With a wide range of skill sets and abilities, athletic trainers manage an athlete from initial injury to return to life and play. Athletic trainers play a critical role in healthcare as they are often the most available and onsite medical provider in the athletics venue, therefore providing immediate care and facilitation of medical action that results in effective and efficient care to support patient recovery goals. SLUHN athletic trainers support more than 100,000 youth and collegiate athletes in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.



Older adult meals, Carbon Campus

St. Luke's Carbon and Lehigh Hospitals

Mental and Behavioral Health

FISCAL YEAR 2025

St. Luke's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Response Warm Hand Off (WHO): WHO is an initiative to support the continuum of care for patients in need of multiple services and providers. It is a transfer of care between providers with the patient (and potentially family) present to ensure clear communication and transparency, while helping to build relationships between patients and providers. St. Luke's collaborates with local community-based organizations and local county to support WHO efforts. Additionally, Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) operate in the Allentown, Bethlehem, Sacred Heart, Upper Bucks, Anderson, and Easton emergency departments to support WHO. At the Carbon and Lehigh Hospitals, a total of 43 WHO referrals were conducted for alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, opioids, and other stimulants during FY25.

Stigma Presentations: The Department of Community Health worked with partners to deliver a Community Stigma Presentation for Carbon and Schuylkill Counties.

Narcan Education and Distribution: Narcan education and distribution was provided during FY25 to community members in Carbon and Schuylkill Counties through eleven events and providing 141 boxes of Narcan to the community.

Safe Medication Disposal: Safe medication disposal boxes continued to provide a space to dispose of unwanted medicines at the St. Luke's Carbon Campus. During FY25, 300.2 pounds of unused medication were safely disposed.

Behavioral Health Walk-in Center: St. Luke's Psychiatric Associates' behavioral health walk-in center is located at the Lehigh Campus and offers a welcoming and comfortable, non-residential environment for those dealing with a variety of mental health issues. Those seeking services or support for a non-life-threatening mental health circumstance will be greeted by a medical receptionist and will be assessed by a professional crisis intervention specialist in a relaxed, non-clinical environment. Individuals will be evaluated and provided with the resources and/or referrals needed to deal with the immediate situation. This may include psychotherapy sessions or connections other community resources (e.g., Veterans Affairs) and specialists. A case manager may be assigned to provide ongoing support.

Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit (ABHU): St. Luke's Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit at the Easton Campus also provides connection to care and services for youth in need with a 16-bed unit. During FY25, there were 116 adolescents in Carbon County that were provided services at the ABHU.

PVSD Behavioral Health Counseling: Your Emotional Strength Supported (YESS!) school-based mental health counseling is designed to support students with mental health needs at school. YESS! school-based mental health had 634 student encounters for the YESS! Program occurred during FY25 at PMSD.



Behavioral Health walk-in center waiting room, Lehigh Campus

St. Luke's Carbon and Lehighton Hospitals *Mental and Behavioral Health*

FISCAL YEAR 2025

St. Luke's Penn Foundation Education: Providing the community with mental health and addiction prevention education, information, and resources is a vital part of St. Luke's Penn Foundation's (SLPF) programming. SLPF delivers regular in-school presentations to middle and high students and educational presentations in the community on topics such as mental health, substance use, overdose prevention, recovery, and harm reduction.

Through its monthly podcast "Just STARt the Conversation," SLPF discusses timely mental health topics such as social media use, perinatal mood disorders, changing careers, getting along in polarizing times, athlete mental health, and more. With over 40 available episodes, this podcast offers relevant information for everyone.

Additionally, St. Luke's Wellness 101 has more than 100 episodes that take viewers (ages 13+) on a practical yet humorous step-by-step journey to explore the basics of health and wellness. From the importance of hand washing to mindfulness practices and everything in between, the Wellness 101 show presents fun and educational information while helping viewers learn and retain health and wellness information. Wellness 101 Jr. is a child-friendly version of Wellness 101 that explores the basics of health and wellness for kids ages 6-12. With almost 40 episodes, children learn about a variety of health topics such as sleep, handling peer pressure, how to ask for help, and more through interactive videos and simple Q&As.



*Department of Community Health staff and United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley staff
celebrating mental health*

St. Luke's Carbon and Lehighton Hospitals *Partnerships and Collaborations*

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Area Health Education Center (AHEC), Blue Mountain Ski Resort Community partnership, Carbon County Area Agency on Aging, Carbon County Transit, Family Promise, Carbon County KidZone, Carbon County Interagency Collaborative Council, Carbon County Mental Health, Carbon County Technical Institute, College and Carbon County CareerLink Career Mentoring, Carbon County Veteran Affairs, Houser Newman, Panther Valley School District, Lehighton School District, Palmerton School District, Jim Thorpe School District, Weatherly School District, PathStone Head Start, Pennsylvania State Police, SHARE Housing, Reimagine Carbon, Veteran's office (Lehighton campus), Carbon County Community Action, Pocono Workforce Board, Leiby's Farm



Community engagement with partner organizations

Child Development Head Start: A Geisinger St. Luke's (GSL) Community Health Worker (CHW) and Community Health staff provide services to more than 600 students and families at Child Development Head Start as direct or indirect family advocates. The partnership between St. Luke's Department of Community Health and Child Development Head Start began in 2013 through the St. Luke's Miners Campus. When GSL opened in 2019, SLUHN was able to further prioritize the partnership by embedding a CHW at Child Development Head Start. The GSL CHW provides outreach to all Schuylkill School Districts with connection to health education and services, which support improved access and services to families in need. Locations include Blue Mountain, Mahanoy Area, Marian, Minersville, Nativity, North Schuylkill, Pine Grove, Pottsville, Saint Clair, Schuylkill Haven, Shenandoah, Tamaqua, Tri-Valley, Williams Valley and the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29.

Rural Health Centers (RHC): In collaboration with the St. Luke's Rural Health Centers and with support from CHWs, connections to care were established to improve access to school physicals, vaccinations, education, and resources. Additionally, the RHCs employs a full-time Public Health Dental Hygienist who is also trained as a CHW.

Breast Cancer Prevention: Adagio Health, through state and federal funding, administers the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP) across much of Pennsylvania. This initiative provides free screenings and diagnostic services to uninsured and underinsured women, helping catch cancer early when it's most treatable. St. Luke's University Health Network is a key partner and early detection site in this effort. With women's imaging locations and advanced technologies like 3D mammography and breast MRI, St. Luke's enhances early detection rates and reduces unnecessary follow-ups. During FY25, there were 1,188 patient outreach encounters resulting in 21.4% of those outreach encounters ordering a mammogram, 39.9% establishing with a primary care physician post-outreach, 63.6% of ordered images completed, and 91.2% of pathology orders completed. This partnership is a powerful example of how public funding and local health systems can work together to create lasting health equity.

Visiting Nurse Association: As a member of the St. Luke's University Health Network, the Visiting Nurse Association of St. Luke's Health/Hospice, Inc. ("the VNA") offers Home Health, Hospice and community-based mother/baby services that include the Visiting Nurse Advocate in the Home (VNAC) and Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). Established in 1919, the agency maintains Medicare-certification, Pennsylvania Department of Health licensure, Accreditation Commission for Healthcare (ACHC) accreditation and provides care in Lehigh, Berks, Northampton, Carbon, Schuylkill, Monroe, Upper Bucks, and Montgomery Counties. During FY25, 2,148 patients were provided Hospice care and 5,658 in Home Health across the Network.

Literacy: Literacy promotion through Read Across America was implemented at local schools in communities across the Network. A total of 126 volunteers, including seven of the SLUHN campus presidents, read to more than 6,300 students during Read Across America week in 2025 and more than 7,500 literacy resources Network-wide were shared with students in the community. Raub Middle School students and SLUHN campus presidents were some of the volunteers that read to elementary school students in the Allentown School District. A Little Free Library was placed at Geisinger St. Luke's front hospital entrance through the work of a volunteer and the Community Health team. The library is supported by the campus to ensure an assortment and abundance of books.



Read Across America at a local elementary school in Schuylkill County

Workforce Development: A new partnership developed during FY25 with the Lifelong Learning Center to address workforce and education connections in Schuylkill County and the Panther Valley area. Miners Campus Human Resources provided connections and information for adult education students to share employment and educational opportunities in healthcare to create an employment pipeline.

On November 13, 2024, St. Luke's Chairman of Oncology, Israel Zighelboim, MD and Valeska Zighelboim, RN of St. Luke's Infusion Services presented "Our Journey to the USA". This presentation was held in partnership with the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 Lifelong Learning Center and was geared toward their adult education English as a Second Language students. The purpose was to walk the ESL students through the process of immigrating to America, the steps that the Zighelboim's took to furthering their careers and navigating a different environment and culture. The event was held at Alvernia University Pottsville CollegeTowne and about 20 students/community members attended and participated in an engaging conversation.



St. Luke's staff and participants at Our Journey to the USA presentations

Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant: St. Luke's Department of Community Health was awarded the Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant from Workforce Board Lehigh Valley. The overall purpose of the grant was to establish a Lehigh Valley Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership through the development of a Workforce Pipeline Strategic Action plan and to increase the pipeline of healthcare workers trained and employed in the Lehigh Valley's Healthcare Industry Sector. For this grant, SLUHN developed a three-pronged approach to education and training for program participants including:

- **SkillUp™ PA and Employability Skills Training** – In partnership with CareerLink Lehigh Valley, the SkillUp™ program enrolled 19 high school students from the Allentown School District, with 73% (n=14) completing the program successfully. The program utilized SkillUp™, an online learning platform to assist participants to attain industry-recognized credentials for high-demand careers, including those in healthcare. Additionally, program participants were educated on employability skills and career ladders in the healthcare field.
- **Medical Assistant On-the-Job Training** – This program component provided funds to support 23 Medical Assistance Trainees. Out of 23 enrolled in the grant, 87% (n=20) of the trainees obtained full-time employment across the St. Luke's Network. During this six-week training period, the trainees worked with patients while learning anatomy skills, medical terminology, collecting vital signs and EKGs, and administering immunizations and injections. They also learned how to participate in data collection, planning, and implementation of patient care plans, all while exhibiting professional behavior and high-level customer service skills.
- **School of Phlebotomy** – This program component supported 15 participants enrolled in the St. Luke's School of Phlebotomy, with 100% (n=15) of participants completing the program successfully. The phlebotomy students participated in a twelve-week program that provided phlebotomy education through a combined delivery of didactic/theory in a classroom setting, as well as clinical experience in one of the St. Luke's outpatient lab service centers.

findhelp: St. Luke's partners with findhelp, a free self-navigating online platform (sluhn.findhelp.com). findhelp is a social care network established to provide a comprehensive platform for people to find social services in their communities at any time in a language they understand, and for nonprofit and other community-based organizations to coordinate their service delivery and support services. St. Luke's Information Technology, Quality, Case Management, and Community Health teams work collaboratively, especially with Star Community Health, with more than 1,750 established (i.e., claimed) community-based partners in the communities we serve, which is also integrated with SLUHN electronic health record (i.e., Epic). findhelp allows community members to search for and connect to Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) support such as financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, transportation, and more. This platform, as well as United Way's 211, are tools that Community Health Liaisons use to assist our community members, patients, and staff to connect to vital resources. Community Health continues to onboard priority partners to ensure accurate and up-to-date resources are available to our communities. Network-wide there were 51,280 searches during FY25 with the top searches including food, housing, and utilities. In the Geisinger St. Luke's service area (Schuylkill County), there were a total of 2,736 searches, with the top services including food, housing, and utilities.

Transportation: St. Luke's transportation services, in collaboration with Lyft and Uber rideshare, ensures access to care by supporting rides to and from appointments. Transportation initiatives supported by SLUHN align with the primary goal of improving access to primary care for homeless and near homeless populations. By providing complimentary Lyft and Uber rides to and from appointments with primary care doctors and other specialists, this initiative allows patients to receive routine care in a timely manner, with the added goal of reducing the frequency and overuse of Emergency Department resources. More than \$900,000 in Lyft and Uber rides were provided for services Network-wide.



Partnership with Schuylkill United Way to help promote access to care

Local Food Pantry Support: Geisinger St. Luke's employees provided ongoing volunteer support to church pantries such as Holy Family in Minersville, Christ Church in McKeanburg and St. John's UCC Church in Orwigsburg as well as at established pantries operated by Schuylkill Community Action and Helping Harvest Food Bank that assist geographical areas in Minersville, St. Clair, South Schuylkill, Auburn, Schuylkill Haven, Pottsville, Frackville and many others. Participation is also provided by the Salvation Pottsville Corps' Food for the Body and Soul Lunch Cafe on Fridays as well as at the Pine Grove Military & Veterans Food Pantry.

Physical Activity: Get Your Tail on the Trail is a free program created in 2013 by SLUHN and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The program aims to help people of all ages and abilities to meet their personal fitness goals. Since program inception, there have been a total of 6,295,048 miles recorded. Network-wide, there were 2,162 active users that logged 637,618 miles during FY25.

Sports Medicine and Athletic Trainers: With a wide range of skill sets and abilities, athletic trainers manage an athlete from initial injury to return to life and play. Athletic trainers play a critical role in healthcare as they are often the most available and onsite medical provider in the athletics venue, therefore providing immediate care and facilitation of medical action that results in effective and efficient care to support patient recovery goals. SLUHN athletic trainers support more than 100,000 youth and collegiate athletes in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Older Adult Meals: The Geisinger St. Luke's Campus Older Adult Meals Program is designed to provide subsidized meals to adults 65 and older at the Geisinger St. Luke's Campus cafeteria, which served 8,800 meals during FY25. This initiative addresses food security and loneliness among older adults. Fireside chats were available to the community to help share information and resources for topics such as Heart Health, The Aging Brain, Diabetes, Hernia, Orthopedic, Your Lung Health, Wound Care, and Urology. Additionally, a special event was held in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month which provided mammograms, music, massages and mocktails for participating community members. A presentation on Heart Health was presented to local hunters at Cabelas, the region's premier outdoor and conservation company.

Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support: St. Luke's Diabetes Education Accreditation Programs (DEAP) is governed by the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists. These programs include Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES) and Medical Nutrition Therapy. The Community Health DEAP program provides diabetes education to vulnerable populations in Coaldale at the Miners campus and the Ringtown Rural Health Center with Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support, DSMES, classes through one-on-one and group sessions, which are both offered in-person or virtually.

Lead Testing: Geisinger St. Luke's joined St. Luke's phlebotomists at seven Child Development Centers for lead testing services in April 2025. Center locations included two Pottsville locations, Mahanoy City, Fountain Springs, Tamaqua, St. Clair, and Schuylkill Haven. During the 2024-2025 school year, sixty-three children received lead tests (54 onsite tests from 7 sites, 9 lab walk-ins). Of those tests, six resulted in high levels with three of the children uninsured. Families without insurance were provided information about St. Luke's Rural Health Centers by the Family Advocate from Child Development. Tip sheets and other resources were provided (e.g., Your Child Tested Positive for Lead, Now What?) Additionally, students and families with identified needs were connected to a Community Health Worker to ensure access to care and other resources.

Employee Wellness: St. Luke's University Health Network recognizes that the health of its workforce is important and vital to the success of our organization. To support our employees and their spouses, the St. Luke's Employee Wellness Team provides evidence-based programming and health education to empower individuals to positively impact their health and reduce their risk of chronic health conditions through making healthy lifestyle choices. In alignment with the Network CHNA top priorities (i.e., Access to Care, Chronic Disease Prevention, Mental and Behavioral Health), Employee Wellness provides opportunities for employees and their spouses to focus on their physical, mental and social well-being, to help foster a high quality of life while managing the demands of their roles at work and home. During FY25, the following programs and resources were provided to support employee wellness: *Caring Starts with You Core* (annual biometric and health risk assessment program), Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program, health coaching, Plant Based Eating Class, Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), tobacco cessation, Employee Fitness Incentive Program, massage therapy, Silver Cloud, Employee Assistance Program, and Therapy Anywhere. The CSA program provided the opportunity to improve access to fresh, local produce. A total of \$225,044 was invested in our local farms Network-wide and during the 2024 CSA season, including the St. Luke's Rodale Farm that provided the CSA for the GSL Campus.



Employee Assistance Program Presentation

St. Luke's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Response Warm Hand Off (WHO): WHO is an initiative to support the continuum of care for patients in need of multiple services and providers. It is a transfer of care between providers with the patient (and potentially family) present to ensure clear communication and transparency, while helping to build relationships between patients and providers. St. Luke's collaborates with local community-based organizations and local county to support WHO efforts. Additionally, Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) operate in the Allentown, Bethlehem, Sacred Heart, Upper Bucks, Anderson, and Easton emergency departments to support WHO. At the Geisinger St. Luke's Hospital, a total of 26 WHO referrals were conducted for alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, opioids, and other stimulants during FY25.

Prevention: The Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol Program partners with Community Health for assistance with SUD prevention activities in Schuylkill County. During FY25, the SLUHN CHW in Schuylkill County provided 720 hours of information dissemination, prevention education in the schools with curriculum (e.g., Too Good for Drugs), positive activities (e.g., Summer BLAST program), and community-based activities that promote awareness about the health harms of vaping, drinking alcohol during pregnancy and other vital topics.

Community Health supports Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health Services' Schuylkill County Junior Advisory Board. This initiative brings student representation from each of the Schuylkill County School Districts to discuss how to bring awareness to mental health and substance use issues in their schools and across the county. Students attend monthly meetings to brainstorm ideas for implementation at their respective schools.

Stigma Presentations: The Department of Community Health worked with partners to deliver a Community Stigma Presentation for Carbon and Schuylkill Counties.

Narcan Education and Distribution: Narcan education and distribution was provided during FY25 to community members in Carbon and Schuylkill Counties through eleven events and providing 141 boxes of Narcan to the community.

Safe Medication Disposal Boxes: GSL provides 24/7 access to safe medication disposal as a harm reduction service to dispose of unwanted medicines. During FY25, 221.3 pounds of unused medication at GSL were safely disposed. Additionally, through our work with the County's Drug & Alcohol Program, 72 Safer Lock Boxes (to secure medications) were distributed to families during the end of school year visits at 5 Child Development Head Start visits.

Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit (ABHU): St. Luke's Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit at the Easton Campus also provides connection to care and services for youth in need with a 16-bed unit. During FY25, there were 79 adolescents in Schuylkill County that received services at the ABHU.



SLUHN athletic trainer promoting positive activities at the Summer BLAST program

Mental Health Support and Messaging: Support was provided during a Spring 2025 county-wide Avedium Leader Lab Workshop to provide Mental Health resources and handouts to student leaders to take back to their schools for their peers. Mental Health resources were also provided at Blue Mountain High School's Avedium Club's first Annual Mental Health and Self-Care Day.

St. Luke's Penn Foundation Education: Providing the community with mental health and addiction prevention education, information, and resources is a vital part of St. Luke's Penn Foundation's (SLPF) programming. SLPF delivers regular in-school presentations to middle and high students and educational presentations in the community on topics such as mental health, substance use, overdose prevention, recovery, and harm reduction.

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SLUHN is currently in year three of a 3-year federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as part of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) to address rural substance use disorder in Schuylkill County and the Panther Valley area of Carbon County. The grant focus is on education, prevention, treatment, and recovery of psychostimulants. Some examples of this year's grant activities include: building linkages within the community, addressing stigma and other community education related to SUD, incorporating screening tools for providers to identify and refer patients with SUD, expanding access to mental and behavioral health services, and developing resources to improve the workforce. County drug and alcohol agencies provided prevention activities at local school districts. Monthly meetings were held with community organizations such as drug and alcohol providers, local school districts and head start, as well as housing agencies to coordinate resources and ensure continuity of care. The recovery community was also a large part of this committee, using their lived experience to guide activities. During this year, SLUHN held a "Pathways to Recovery" event targeting community members in need of SUD assistance for themselves or a family member to connect to local organizations and providers. Over 30 community organizations set up exhibit tables and then a panel discussion was held that included representation from community partners from education/prevention, treatment, and recovery.



SLUHN staff and students with positive behavioral health messaging in collaboration with Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol

Alvernia University, Schuylkill County Mental Health/Developmental Services and Drug & Alcohol Programs, Clinical Outcomes Group, Inc. (COGI), Schuylkill REACH (SUD Prevention Task Force), Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol, East Central Area Health Education Council (AHEC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Lehigh Carbon Community College, Helping Harvest Food Bank, Child Development, Inc., Interfaith Health Network, The Nurse Family Partnership of Schuylkill County, Suicide Prevention Task Force of Schuylkill County, Schuylkill HOPE, Servants to All, Schuylkill HIVE, The Salvation Army Pottsville Corps, The Salvation Army Schuylkill Service Center of Tamaqua, Schuylkill United Way, Diakon Community Services, Lifelong Learning Center, Schuylkill Community Action, Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling Center (SARCC), Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29, Rural Community Opioid Response Program (RCORP), and Schuylkill County Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition

**Disclaimer: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided financial support for this program. The award provided \$500,000 with more than 50% financing from nongovernmental sources. The contents are those of the author. They may not reflect the policies of HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.*



Behavioral Health Services expansion in Schuylkill County

Panther Valley School District (PVSD): The partnership between Community Health and PVSD began in 2013 to connect students and their families to a medical home (i.e., primary care physician), vision, dental, behavioral health, and other social services. These efforts have improved access and services to families in need. St. Luke's partners with the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, as well as other local partners, to implement the Community School Model. This includes support of a full-time school-based Community School Coordinator and a Family Development Specialist (FDS), both cross trained as Community Health Workers (CHW), to support and connect students and families to services. The Panther Valley Elementary School Community School Coordinator worked with families referred by staff and supported 620 elementary students to address barriers to student attendance and improve parent and caregiver engagement. At Panther Valley Junior/Senior High School, the FDS supported more than 50 families referred by staff and coordinated a prosocial student activity group (i.e., Step Up Panthers).



Rural pediatrician conducting school physicals during kindergarten registration at PVSD

Literacy: Literacy promotion through Read Across America was implemented at local schools in communities across the Network. A total of 126 volunteers, including seven of the SLUHN campus presidents, read to more than 6,300 students during Read Across America week in 2025 and more than 7,500 literacy resources Network-wide were shared with students in the community. Raub Middle School students and SLUHN campus presidents were some of the volunteers that read to elementary school students in the Allentown School District. A Little Free Library was placed at Geisinger St. Luke's front hospital entrance through the work of a volunteer and the Community Health team. The library is supported by the campus to ensure an assortment and abundance of books.

Mobile Youth Health Centers: Priorities in Panther Valley School District (PVSD) aligned with the Community School Model to connect students and their families to a medical home, vision, dental, behavioral health services, and other social services. During FY25, through the Mobile Youth Health Centers, 81 unique students were provided care and services resulting in 40 referrals and 18 connections to care. Vision vouchers were provided to 29 students with a value of \$2,645.

Visiting Nurse Association: As a member of the St. Luke's University Health Network, the Visiting Nurse Association of St. Luke's Health/Hospice, Inc. ("the VNA") offers Home Health, Hospice and community-based mother/baby services that include the Visiting Nurse Advocate in the Home (VNAC) and Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). Established in 1919, the agency maintains Medicare-certification, Pennsylvania Department of Health licensure, Accreditation Commission for Healthcare (ACHC) accreditation and provides care in Lehigh, Berks, Northampton, Carbon, Schuylkill, Monroe, Upper Bucks, and Montgomery Counties. During FY25, 2,148 patients were provided Hospice care and 5,658 in Home Health across the Network.



Provider seeing patients as part of the Mobile Health Clinic at Panther Valley

Head Start: Community Health staff, cross trained as CHWs, provide services to students and families at Child Development Head Start (Schuylkill) and PathStone Head Start (Carbon). The partnership between Community Health and Head Start began in 2013 through the St. Luke's Miners Campus.

Rural Health Centers (RHC): Community Health collaborates with the RHC team to provide connections for local students and families to improve access to school physicals, vaccinations, education, and resources. Additionally, the RHCs employ a full-time Public Health Dental Hygienist who is also trained as a CHW.

Star Community Health Dental Van: The Star Community Health Dental Van partnered with local schools during FY25 providing services to 1,698 patients, including 952 cleanings, 1,718 sealants and 283 restorations. The Carbon County schools the dental van visits are Panther Valley Elementary, Intermediate, and High School, SS Palmer Elementary School, Parkside Elementary, Towamensing Elementary, Palmerton Middle and High School, Weatherly Elementary School, Behavioral Health Associates (BHA), as well as visits to PathStone Lehigh Head Start. The summer dental van program during July and August also provided dental services to children and adults.



Star Community Health Dental Van

Breast Cancer Prevention: Adagio Health, through state and federal funding, administers the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP) across much of Pennsylvania. This initiative provides free screenings and diagnostic services to uninsured and underinsured women, helping catch cancer early when it's most treatable. St. Luke's University Health Network is a key partner and early detection site in this effort. With women's imaging locations and advanced technologies like 3D mammography and breast MRI, St. Luke's enhances early detection rates and reduces unnecessary follow-ups. During FY25, there were 1,188 patient outreach encounters resulting in 21.4% of those outreach encounters ordering a mammogram, 39.9% establishing with a primary care physician post-outreach, 63.6% of ordered images completed, and 91.2% of pathology orders completed. This partnership is a powerful example of how public funding and local health systems can work together to create lasting health equity.

Workforce Development: A new partnership developed during FY25 with the Lifelong Learning Center to address workforce and education connections in Schuylkill County and the Panther Valley area. Miners Campus Human Resources provided connections and information for adult education students to share employment and educational opportunities in healthcare to create an employment pipeline.

Hands-on Immersive Health Program: In partnership with the Pocono Counties Workforce Board, the Department of Community Health assisted St. Luke's Volunteer Services with the implementation of the Hands-on Immersive Healthcare program at St. Luke's Miners Campus. This initiative provided 45 high school students from Panther Valley High School, Tamaqua High School and Marian Catholic High School the opportunity to engage in practical learning experiences through simulated clinical tasks that represented various roles in the healthcare industry. Over the course of the program, students rotated through different stations for about 13 to 15 minutes, where they observed and participated in simulations using patient actors or mannequins. The program consisted of three separate sessions, featuring 11 stations that highlight in-demand occupations within healthcare, while also teaching students vital employability skills and essential patient care techniques.

Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant: St. Luke's Department of Community Health was awarded the Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant from Workforce Board Lehigh Valley. The overall purpose of the grant was to establish a Lehigh Valley Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership through the development of a Workforce Pipeline Strategic Action plan and to increase the pipeline of healthcare workers trained and employed in the Lehigh Valley's Healthcare Industry Sector. For this grant, SLUHN developed a three-pronged approach to education and training for program participants including:

- **SkillUp™ PA and Employability Skills Training** – In partnership with CareerLink Lehigh Valley, the SkillUp™ program enrolled 19 high school students from the Allentown School District, with 73% (n=14) completing the program successfully. The program utilized SkillUp™, an online learning platform to assist participants to attain industry-recognized credentials for high-demand careers, including those in healthcare. Additionally, program participants were educated on employability skills and career ladders in the healthcare field.
- **Medical Assistant On-the-Job Training** – This program component provided funds to support 23 Medical Assistance Trainees. Out of 23 enrolled in the grant, 87% (n=20) of the trainees obtained full-time employment across the St. Luke's Network. During this six-week training period, the trainees worked with patients while learning anatomy skills, medical terminology, collecting vital signs and EKGs, and administering immunizations and injections. They also learned how to participate in data collection, planning, and implementation of patient care plans, all while exhibiting professional behavior and high-level customer service skills.
- **School of Phlebotomy** – This program component supported 15 participants enrolled in the St. Luke's School of Phlebotomy, with 100% (n=15) of participants completing the program successfully. The phlebotomy students participated in a twelve-week program that provided phlebotomy education through a combined delivery of didactic/theory in a classroom setting, as well as clinical experience in one of the St. Luke's outpatient lab service centers.

findhelp: St. Luke's partners with findhelp, a free self-navigating online platform (sluhn.findhelp.com). findhelp is a social care network established to provide a comprehensive platform for people to find social services in their communities at any time in a language they understand, and for nonprofit and other community-based organizations to coordinate their service delivery and support services. St. Luke's Information Technology, Quality, Case Management, and Community Health teams work collaboratively, especially with Star Community Health, with more than 1,750 established (i.e., claimed) community-based partners in the communities we serve, which is also integrated with SLUHN electronic health record (i.e., Epic). findhelp allows community members to search for and connect to Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) support such as financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, transportation, and more. This platform, as well as United Way's 211, are tools that Community Health Liaisons use to assist our community members, patients, and staff to connect to vital resources. Community Health continues to onboard priority partners to ensure accurate and up-to-date resources are available to our communities. Network-wide there were 51,280 searches during FY25 with the top searches including food, housing, and utilities. In the Miners service area (Schuylkill County), there were a total of 2,736 searches, with the top services including food, housing, and utilities.

Transportation: St. Luke's transportation services, in collaboration with Lyft and Uber rideshare, ensures access to care by supporting rides to and from appointments. Transportation initiatives supported by SLUHN align with the primary goal of improving access to primary care for homeless and near homeless populations. By providing complimentary Lyft and Uber rides to and from appointments with primary care doctors and other specialists, this initiative allows patients to receive routine care in a timely manner, with the added goal of reducing the frequency and overuse of Emergency Department resources. More than \$900,000 in Lyft and Uber rides were provided for services Network-wide.



*Substance use disorder
prevention, treatment,
and recovery services
and connections to care*

Older Adult Meals: The Miners Campus Older Adult Meals Program is designed to provide subsidized meals to adults 65 and older at the Miners Campus cafeteria, which served 5,839 meals during FY25. This initiative addresses food insecurity and loneliness among older adults.

Panther Valley School District (PVSD) Food Pantry: In partnership with Community Health and Second Harvest Food Bank, PVSD operates a monthly school-based community food pantry that served nearly four thousand (duplicated) families during the 2024-2025 school year. The pantry is held monthly at Panther Valley Elementary and parent outreach services are provided at the pantry.



Panther Valley School-based Pantry

Additional Community-based support for Food Access: Community Health partners with a food pantry in Tamaqua as part of the Tamaqua Hunger Coalition to provide assistance and resources as needed. In partnership with Schuylkill United Way, the Rural Health Center food access partnership was implemented in Tamaqua to improve patient intake of fresh produce. Patients that were identified as being at risk for chronic disease and/or having financial need were selected to participate. During FY25, 57 households were able to benefit from this 12-week program. Additionally, the VALOR Foundation Stand Down Lansford and the Tamaqua Hunger Coalition partnership were food access points for veterans in need.

Physical Activity: Get Your Tail on the Trail is a free program created in 2013 by SLUHN and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The program aims to help people of all ages and abilities to meet their personal fitness goals. Since program inception, there have been a total of 6,295,048 miles recorded. Network-wide, there were 2,162 active users that logged 637,618 miles during FY25.

Sports Medicine and Athletic Trainers: With a wide range of skill sets and abilities, athletic trainers manage an athlete from initial injury to return to life and play. Athletic trainers play a critical role in healthcare as they are often the most available and onsite medical provider in the athletics venue, therefore providing immediate care and facilitation of medical action that results in effective and efficient care to support patient recovery goals. SLUHN athletic trainers support more than 100,000 youth and collegiate athletes in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Diabetes Education and Prevention: Diabetes Self-Management, Education, and Support (DSMES) is provided for patients in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Coaldale through the Department of Community Health. This program is delivered through our partnership with the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists for our Diabetes Education Accreditation Program (DEAP). Additionally, St. Luke's Center for Diabetes & Endocrinology serves additional sites throughout the network. This initiative included clinical diabetes visits, diabetes education with a bilingual Community Health Worker, physical activity opportunities, diabetes self-management, support, and access to healthy food. The Community Health DEAP program provides diabetes education to vulnerable populations at the Miners campus and the Ringtown Rural Health Center with Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support, DSMES, classes through one-on-one and group sessions, which are both offered in-person or virtually. The Department of Community Health established a quality improvement initiative, Diabetes CARES (Clinical Assessment, Resources, Education, and Support), for patients at Star Community Health (Allentown and Bethlehem). This program, in collaboration with our residencies and Medical Fitness and Sports Performance, provides DSMES and a focused team approach to reduce the percentage of patients with poorly controlled diabetes ($HgbA1c > 9.0$). This initiative included clinical diabetes visits, diabetes education with a bilingual Community Health Worker, physical activity opportunities, diabetes self-management, support, and access to healthy food. During FY25, the CARES project had 30% of patients with poorly controlled diabetes at the Rural Health Centers.

Employee Wellness: St. Luke's University Health Network recognizes that the health of its workforce is important and vital to the success of our organization. To support our employees and their spouses, the St. Luke's Employee Wellness Team provides evidence-based programming and health education to empower individuals to positively impact their health and reduce their risk of chronic health conditions through making healthy lifestyle choices. In alignment with the Network CHNA top priorities (i.e., Access to Care, Chronic Disease Prevention, Mental and Behavioral Health), Employee Wellness provides opportunities for employees and their spouses to focus on their physical, mental and social well-being, to help foster a high quality of life while managing the demands of their roles at work and home. During FY25, the following programs and resources were provided to support employee wellness: *Caring Starts with You Core* (annual biometric and health risk assessment program), Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program, health coaching, Plant Based Eating Class, Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), tobacco cessation, Employee Fitness Incentive Program, massage therapy, Silver Cloud, Employee Assistance Program, and Therapy Anywhere. The CSA program provided the opportunity to improve access to fresh, local produce. Across the Network, a total of \$225,044 was invested in our local farms during the 2024 CSA season, including Willow Haven Farm at the Miners Campus. Additionally, through this initiative, ten shares were donated to cancer infusion center patients.



Panther Valley community pantry

Tamaqua Area School District (TASD) and PVSD: Through a Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) grant, TASD school-based coordinators and PVSD staff assist Community Health and local substance use disorder (SUD) partners to identify and connect students in need of physical, behavioral, and social services. Regular information on how to access resources and services were distributed via school email blasts and social media, including a Panther Valley Food Pantry Facebook page and Panthers Step Up Instagram. Additionally, PVSD works to consistently connect students, staff, and families to substance use prevention education and messaging.

PVSD Behavioral Health Counseling: Your Emotional Strength Supported (YESS!) school-based mental health counseling is designed to support students with mental health needs at school. A total of 267 student encounters for the YESS! Program occurred during FY25 at all PVSD schools.

St. Luke's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Response Warm Hand Off (WHO): WHO is an initiative to support the continuum of care for patients in need of multiple services and providers. It is a transfer of care between providers with the patient (and potentially family) present to ensure clear communication and transparency, while helping to build relationships between patients and providers. St. Luke's collaborates with local community-based organizations and local county to support WHO efforts. Additionally, Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) operate in the Allentown, Bethlehem, Sacred Heart, Upper Bucks, Anderson, and Easton emergency departments to support WHO. At the Miners Hospital, a total of 36 WHO were conducted for alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, opioids, and other stimulants during FY25.

Prevention: The Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol Program partners with Community Health for assistance with SUD prevention activities in Schuylkill County. During FY25, the SLUHN CHW in Schuylkill County provided 720 hours of information dissemination, prevention education in the schools with curriculum (e.g., Too Good for Drugs), positive activities (e.g., Summer BLAST program), and community-based activities that promote awareness about the health harms of vaping, drinking alcohol during pregnancy and other vital topics.

Stigma Presentations: The Department of Community Health worked with partners to deliver a Community Stigma Presentation for Carbon and Schuylkill Counties.

Narcan Education and Distribution: Narcan education and distribution was provided during FY25 to community members in Carbon and Schuylkill Counties through eleven events and providing 141 boxes of Narcan to the community.

Safe Medication Disposal Boxes: St. Luke's Miners provides 24/7 access to safe medication disposal as a harm reduction service to dispose of unwanted medicines. Additionally, the Miners Campus hosts two events (spring and fall) in conjunction with National Drug Take Back Day where they collect unused medication. During FY25, 161.8 pounds of unused medication at St. Luke's Miners were safely disposed.

Mental Health Support: The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) grant also supported a social worker who provided community support services and connections to mental and behavioral health services for students, families, and community members.

Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit (ABHU): St. Luke's Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit at the Easton Campus also provides connection to care and services for youth in need with a 16-bed unit. During FY25, there were 79 adolescents from Schuylkill County that received care and services at the ABHU.

St. Luke's Penn Foundation Education: Providing the community with mental health and addiction prevention education, information, and resources is a vital part of St. Luke's Penn Foundation's (SLPF) programming. SLPF delivers regular in-school presentations to middle and high students and educational presentations in the community on topics such as mental health, substance use, overdose prevention, recovery, and harm reduction.

Through its monthly podcast "Just STARt the Conversation," SLPF discusses timely mental health topics such as social media use, perinatal mood disorders, changing careers, getting along in polarizing times, athlete mental health, and more. With over 40 available episodes, this podcast offers relevant information for everyone.

Additionally, St. Luke's Wellness 101 has more than 100 episodes that take viewers (ages 13+) on a practical yet humorous step-by-step journey to explore the basics of health and wellness. From the importance of hand washing to mindfulness practices and everything in between, the Wellness 101 show presents fun and educational information while helping viewers learn and retain

health and wellness information. Wellness 101 Jr. is a child-friendly version of Wellness 101 that explores the basics of health and wellness for kids ages 6-12. With almost 40 episodes, children learn about a variety of health topics such as sleep, handling peer pressure, how to ask for help, and more through interactive videos and simple Q&As.

SLUHN is currently in year three of a 3-year federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as part of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) to address rural substance use disorder in Schuylkill County and the Panther Valley area of Carbon County. The grant focus is on education, prevention, treatment, and recovery of psychostimulants. Some examples of this year's grant activities include: building linkages within the community, addressing stigma and other community education related to SUD, incorporating screening tools for providers to identify and refer patients with SUD, expanding access to mental and behavioral health services, and developing resources to improve the workforce. County drug and alcohol agencies provided prevention activities at local school districts. Monthly meetings were held with community organizations such as drug and alcohol providers, local school districts and head start, as well as housing agencies to coordinate resources and ensure continuity of care. The recovery community was also a large part of this committee, using their lived experience to guide activities. During this year, SLUHN held a "Pathways to Recovery" event targeting community members in need of SUD assistance for themselves or a family member to connect to local organizations and providers. Over 30 community organizations set up exhibit tables and then a panel discussion was held that included representation from community partners from education/prevention, treatment, and recovery.



Carbon County Interagency Collaborative, Carbon County KidZone, Ametek, Children and Youth, Carbon County Veterans Affairs, Carbon, Monroe, Pike Drug and Alcohol, Schuylkill Drug and Alcohol, Carbon, Monroe, Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services, Schuylkill Mental Health, Clinical Outcomes Group (COGI), Carbon and Schuylkill Substance Use Task Forces, Carbon County Area Agency on Aging, East Central Area Health Education Council (AHEC), Greater Lehigh Valley United Way, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Lehigh Carbon Community College, Nurse Family Partnership (Schuylkill), Panther Valley School District, Tamaqua Area School District, PathStone Head Start, Second Harvest Food Bank, Helping Harvest Food Bank, Schuylkill Child Development, Schuylkill Suicide Prevention Task Force, Schuylkill United Way, Lifelong Learning Center, Schuylkill Intermediate Unit #29, Start Community Health Dental Vans, Tamaqua Community Partnership and Hunger Coalition, Carbon County Technical Institute (CCTI), CareerLink, Moses Taylor, Houser Neuman, Lehigh Valley Childcare Centers, Family Promise of Carbon County, Rural Community Opioid Response Program (RCORP), Pocono Workforce Board

**Disclaimer: The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided financial support for this program. The award provided \$500,000 with more than 50% financing from nongovernmental sources. The contents are those of the author. They may not reflect the policies of HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.*



Safe medication disposal box at the Miners Hospital

Pocono Mountain School District (PMSD): The partnership with PMSD provides a pathway to connect students and their families to a medical home (i.e., primary care physician), vision, dental, behavioral health, and other social services. These efforts have improved access and services to families in need. Additionally, the PMSD partnership with St. Luke's Sports Medicine has measurably improved food access and access to social services and resources to families in need through the PMSD school-based food pantries, including 605 students (duplicated) and 6,400 items distributed. Additionally, the Monroe Campus supports the district throughout the year by organizing drives for food, hygiene, and other needed supplies.



Literacy: Literacy promotion through Read Across America was implemented at local schools in communities across the Network. A total of 126 volunteers, including seven of the SLUHN campus presidents, read to more than 6,300 students during Read Across America week in 2025 and more than 7,500 literacy resources Network-wide were shared with students in the community. Raub Middle School students and SLUHN campus presidents were some of the volunteers that read to elementary school students in the Allentown School District.

Workforce Development: In partnership with the Pocono Counties Workforce Board, the Department of Community Health assisted St. Luke's Volunteer Services with the implementation of the Hands-on Immersive Healthcare program at St. Luke's Monroe Campus. This initiative provided 78 high school students from Stroudsburg High School, East Stroudsburg North High School, East Stroudsburg South High School, Pocono Mountain East High School, Pocono Mountain West High School, and Pleasant Valley High School the opportunity to engage in practical learning experiences through simulated clinical tasks that represent various roles in the healthcare industry. Over the course of the program, students rotated through different scenarios where they observed and participated in simulations using patient actors or mannequins. The program consisted of three separate sessions, featuring stations that highlight in-demand occupations within healthcare, while also teaching students vital employability skills and essential patient care techniques.

Co-Op Program: In addition, the grant funds from the Pocono Counties Workforce Board assisted St. Luke's Volunteer Services with the implementation of the Co-Op Program, in partnership with the Monroe's Career & Technical Institute. The Co-Op Program provides paid work experiences for high school juniors and seniors at St. Luke's Monroe Campus, where they learn employability skills and the roles and responsibilities of a Patient Care Assistant, Laboratory Aide, or Medical Assistant. The goals of the program are to expose high school students to high priority occupations in the healthcare field, develop a pipeline for healthcare workers, and support Monroe's Career & Technical Institute students with real life work experiences during the academic day. During FY 25, 14 students enrolled in the program, 100% (n=14) completed their work experience at St. Luke's Monroe Campus.

The Mountain Center (TMC): The Mountain Center is home to Pocono Services for Family and Children (PSFC), a single resource for family assistance that connects people with services to help support and improve the social determinants of health (e.g., food, housing, education) in a centralized location. The Mountain Center is a hub in the community that provides social services, including a St. Luke's Family Medicine practice, government services, and more. The St. Luke's Family Practice-Tobyhanna staff and providers were trained in tobacco cessation services including Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT). Literacy Initiatives at TMC include Brush, Book and Bed (BBB), an American Academy of Pediatrics initiative to engage families on the importance of a regular bedtime routine while promoting oral health, literacy, and healthy lifestyles and behaviors.

Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant: St. Luke's Department of Community Health was awarded the Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant from Workforce Board Lehigh Valley. The overall purpose of the grant was to establish a Lehigh Valley Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership through the development of a Workforce Pipeline Strategic Action plan and to increase the pipeline of healthcare workers trained and employed in the Lehigh Valley's Healthcare Industry Sector. For this grant, SLUHN developed a three-pronged approach to education and training for program participants including:

- **SkillUp™ PA and Employability Skills Training** – In partnership with CareerLink Lehigh Valley, the SkillUp™ program enrolled 19 high school students from the Allentown School District, with 73% (n=14) completing the program successfully. The program utilized SkillUp™, an online learning platform to assist participants to attain industry-recognized credentials for high-demand careers, including those in healthcare. Additionally, program participants were educated on employability skills and career ladders in the healthcare field.
- **Medical Assistant On-the-Job Training** – This program component provided funds to support 23 Medical Assistance Trainees. Out of 23 enrolled in the grant, 87% (n=20) of the trainees obtained full-time employment across the St. Luke's Network. During this six-week training period, the trainees worked with patients while learning anatomy skills, medical terminology, collecting vital signs and EKGs, and administering immunizations and injections. They also learned how to participate in data collection, planning, and implementation of patient care plans, all while exhibiting professional behavior and high-level customer service skills.
- **School of Phlebotomy** – This program component supported 15 participants enrolled in the St. Luke's School of Phlebotomy, with 100% (n=15) of participants completing the program successfully. The phlebotomy students participated in a twelve-week program that provided phlebotomy education through a combined delivery of didactic/theory in a classroom setting, as well as clinical experience in one of the St. Luke's outpatient lab service centers.

Star Community Health Dental Van: The Star Community Health mobile dental van partnership provided services in the Monroe service area, including locations at The Mountain Center and the four school districts in Monroe County to support to 484 patients providing 252 cleanings, 819 sealants, and 123 fillings.

Breast Cancer Prevention: Adagio Health, through state and federal funding, administers the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP) across much of Pennsylvania. This initiative provides free screenings and diagnostic services to uninsured and underinsured women, helping catch cancer early when it's most treatable. St. Luke's University Health Network is a key partner and early detection site in this effort. With women's imaging locations and advanced technologies like 3D mammography and breast MRI, St. Luke's enhances early detection rates and reduces unnecessary follow-ups. During FY25, there were 1,188 patient outreach encounters resulting in 21.4% of those outreach encounters ordering a mammogram, 39.9% establishing with a primary care physician post-outreach, 63.6% of ordered images completed, and 91.2% of pathology orders completed. This partnership is a powerful example of how public funding and local health systems can work together to create lasting health equity.



Breast cancer awareness event

Visiting Nurse Association: As a member of the St. Luke's University Health Network, the Visiting Nurse Association of St. Luke's Health/Hospice, Inc. ("the VNA") offers Home Health, Hospice and community-based mother/baby services that include the Visiting Nurse Advocate in the Home (VNAC) and Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). Established in 1919, the agency maintains Medicare-certification, Pennsylvania Department of Health licensure, Accreditation Commission for Healthcare (ACHC) accreditation and provides care in Lehigh, Berks, Northampton, Carbon, Schuylkill, Monroe, Upper Bucks, and Montgomery Counties. During FY25, 2,148 patients were provided Hospice care and 5,658 in Home Health across the Network.

findhelp: St. Luke's partners with findhelp, a free self-navigating online platform (sluhn.findhelp.com). findhelp is a social care network established to provide a comprehensive platform for people to find social services in their communities at any time in a language they understand, and for nonprofit and other community-based organizations to coordinate their service delivery and support services. St. Luke's Information Technology, Quality, Case Management, and Community Health teams work collaboratively, especially with Star Community Health, with more than 1,750 established (i.e., claimed) community-based partners in the communities we serve, which is also integrated with SLUHN electronic health record (i.e., Epic). findhelp allows community members to search for and connect to Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) support such as financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, transportation, and more. This platform, as well as United Way's 211, are tools that Community Health Liaisons use to assist our community members, patients, and staff to connect to vital resources. Community Health continues to onboard priority partners to ensure accurate and up-to-date resources are available to our communities. Network-wide there were 51,280 searches during FY25 with the top searches including food, housing, and utilities. In the Monroe service area (Monroe County), there were a total of 5,114 searches, with the top services including food, housing, and transportation.

HOPE (Health, Outreach, Prevention, Education): HOPE at St. Luke's provides clinical, case management, and prevention services to persons living with HIV. At the end of FY25, 369 active (unduplicated) patients were receiving medical care at the Bethlehem and Easton locations. There were 17 newly diagnosed patients with HIV linked into care at HOPE, and there continues to be an increase in patients with complex needs (e.g., medically compromised, homeless, uninsured, undocumented). There were 486 active patients that received Medical Case Management services in Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, and Stroudsburg. In collaboration with St. Luke's Monroe Hospital, medical case management services in Monroe County were transitioned from Tannersville to Stroudsburg. The office is closer to other St. Luke's medical offices and public transportation, allowing for increased access and sustainability of care and services. During FY25, 116 patients received housing assistance through ongoing rental assistance, permanent housing placement, emergency assistance, or short-term rental assistance.

Transportation: St. Luke's transportation services, in collaboration with Lyft and Uber rideshare, ensures access to care by supporting rides to and from appointments. Transportation initiatives supported by SLUHN align with the primary goal of improving access to primary care for homeless and near homeless populations. By providing complimentary Lyft and Uber rides to and from appointments with primary care doctors and other specialists, this initiative allows patients to receive routine care in a timely manner, with the added goal of reducing the frequency and overuse of Emergency Department resources. More than \$900,000 in Lyft and Uber rides were provided for services Network-wide.

Older Adult Meals: The Monroe Campus Older Adult Meals Program is designed to provide subsidized meals to adults 65 and older at the Monroe Campus cafeteria, which served 6,352 meals during FY25. This initiative addresses food security and loneliness among older adults. To enhance the meal program, there were organized Fireside Chats featuring guest speakers from various internal departments and local community organizations that were featured. These interactive events are specifically tailored for older adults. The goal is to collaborate, share valuable insights, and raise awareness about the resources available to seniors in Carbon County.

PMSD Food Pantry: Pocono Mountain High School food pantry served 605 unique students and distributed more than 6,400 items during FY25. The high school food pantries are organized and staffed by our school-based athletic trainers who are also cross trained as Community Health Workers.

Food Pantry Support: As part of the Sanofi US partnership, the Monroe Campus was able to provide food access, support, and resource sharing with Feeding Families food pantry at The Mountain Center and East Stroudsburg Area School District.

Physical Activity: Get Your Tail on the Trail is a free program created in 2013 by SLUHN and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The program aims to help people of all ages and abilities to meet their personal fitness goals. Since program inception, there have been a total of 6,295,048 miles recorded. Network-wide, there were 2,162 active users that logged 637,618 miles during FY25.

Sports Medicine and Athletic Trainers: With a wide range of skill sets and abilities, athletic trainers manage an athlete from initial injury to return to life and play. Athletic trainers play a critical role in healthcare as they are often the most available and onsite medical provider in the athletics venue, therefore providing immediate care and facilitation of medical action that results in effective and efficient care to support patient recovery goals. SLUHN athletic trainers support more than 100,000 youth and collegiate athletes in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Employee Wellness: St. Luke's University Health Network recognizes that the health of its workforce is important and vital to the success of our organization. To support our employees and their spouses, the St. Luke's Employee Wellness Team provides evidence-based programming and health education to empower individuals to positively impact their health and reduce their risk of chronic health conditions through making healthy lifestyle choices. In alignment with the Network CHNA top priorities (i.e., Access to Care, Chronic Disease Prevention, Mental and Behavioral Health), Employee Wellness provides opportunities for employees and their spouses to focus on their physical, mental and social well-being, to help foster a high quality of life while managing the demands of their roles at work and home. During FY25, the following programs and resources were provided to support employee wellness: *Caring Starts with You Core* (annual biometric and health risk assessment program), Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program, health coaching, Plant Based Eating Class, Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), tobacco cessation, Employee Fitness Incentive Program, massage therapy, Silver Cloud, Employee Assistance Program, and Therapy Anywhere. The CSA program provided the opportunity to improve access to fresh, local produce. Network-wide, a total of \$225,044 was invested in our local farms during the 2024 CSA season, including the St. Luke's Rodale Farm at the Monroe Campus. Additionally, through this initiative, 56 shares were donated in the Monroe service area to Pocono Mountain School District Food Pantry.

PMSD Behavioral Health Counseling: Your Emotional Strength Supported (YESS!) school-based mental health counseling is designed to support students with mental health needs at school. YESS! school-based mental health had 634 student encounters for the YESS! Program occurred during FY25 at PMSD.

PMSD Aevium Club: Both Pocono Mountain West and East Junior and Senior High Schools have Aevium Clubs to improve mental health messaging, support, and resources and reduce stigma.

Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit (ABHU): St. Luke's Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit at the Easton Campus also provides connection to care and services for youth in need with a 16-bed unit. During FY25, there were 160 adolescents from Monroe County that received services at the ABHU.

Integrated Behavioral Health Services: SilverCloud, an evidence-based wellbeing and behavioral health online platform with local social work support, was available through St. Luke's Monroe County physician practices.

St. Luke's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Response Warm Hand Off (WHO): WHO is an initiative to support the continuum of care for patients in need of multiple services and providers. It is a transfer of care between providers with the patient (and potentially family) present to ensure clear communication and transparency, while helping to build relationships between patients and providers. St. Luke's collaborates with local community-based organizations and local county to support WHO efforts. Additionally, Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) operate in the Allentown, Bethlehem, Sacred Heart, Upper Bucks, Anderson, and Easton emergency departments to support WHO. At the Monroe Hospital, a total of 91 WHO were conducted for alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, opioids, and other stimulants during FY25.

Safe Medication Disposal Boxes: St. Luke's Monroe provides 24/7 access to safe medication disposal as a harm reduction service to dispose of unwanted medicines. During FY25, 1,057.3 pounds of unused medication at St. Luke's Miners were safely disposed.

St. Luke's Penn Foundation Education: Providing the community with mental health and addiction prevention education, information, and resources is a vital part of St. Luke's Penn Foundation's (SLPF) programming. SLPF delivers regular in-school presentations to middle and high students and educational presentations in the community on topics such as mental health, substance use, overdose prevention, recovery, and harm reduction.

Through its monthly podcast "Just STARt the Conversation," SLPF discusses timely mental health topics such as social media use, perinatal mood disorders, changing careers, getting along in polarizing times, athlete mental health, and more. With over 40 available episodes, this podcast offers relevant information for everyone.

Additionally, St. Luke's Wellness 101 has more than 100 episodes that take viewers (ages 13+) on a practical yet humorous step-by-step journey to explore the basics of health and wellness. From the importance of hand washing to mindfulness practices and everything in between, the Wellness 101 show presents fun and educational information while helping viewers learn and retain health and wellness information. Wellness 101 Jr. is a child-friendly version of Wellness 101 that explores the basics of health and wellness for kids ages 6-12. With almost 40 episodes, children learn about a variety of health topics such as sleep, handling peer pressure, how to ask for help, and more through interactive videos and simple Q&As.



Safe medication disposal box

St. Luke's Monroe Hospital *Partnerships and Collaborations*

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Carbon Monroe Pike Drug & Alcohol, Northampton Community College (Pocono Campus), Clymer Library, Children Hunger Outreach Partner (CHOP), East Stroudsburg Area School District, Stroudsburg Area School District, Pleasant Valley School District, CareerLink, Safe Monroe, Monroe County Visitors Bureau, The Red Cross, East Stroudsburg University, NAACP, Pocono Services for Families and Children, Salvation Army, Family Promise of the Poconos, Sanofi, Giant, Shoprite, Pocono Mountain United Way, Meals on Wheels, Monroe Career and Technical Institute (MCTI), Monroe County Interagency Council, Monroe County Pathways Coalition (MCPC), The Mountain Center, Workforce Board, Pocono Mountain School District



Local partnerships at The Mountain Center

Education and Literacy Partnerships: Community Health and Quakertown Community School District (QCSD) have a longstanding collaboration that connects students and their families to a medical home (i.e., primary care physician), vision, dental, behavioral health, and other social services. These efforts have improved access to care and services to families in need. St. Luke's participates in school-based events, such as back to school and family nights, education sessions, literacy initiatives, and club and sport activities (athletic trainers). Literacy materials and events (e.g., Read Across America) were provided at Quakertown Elementary and resources were distributed at Neidig Elementary and in other schools in Palisades School District.

Literacy promotion through Read Across America was implemented at local schools in communities across the Network. A total of 126 volunteers, including seven of the SLUHN campus presidents, read to more than 6,300 students during Read Across America week in 2025 and more than 7,500 literacy resources Network-wide were shared with students in the community. Raub Middle School students and SLUHN campus presidents were some of the volunteers that read to elementary school students in the Allentown School District. Additionally, both the Quakertown and Upper Bucks Campuses have a Little Free Library to provide community members free access to books and reading materials.



Read Across America at Quakertown Elementary School

Star Community Health: Star Community Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike (FQHC-LA) affiliated with St. Luke's that provides care and wraparound services to uninsured and underinsured individuals and families at little or no out-of-pocket cost. The Star Community Health dental van provided services for Quakertown School District one day per month at either Quakertown or Neidig Elementary Schools during FY25, with 58 patients receiving care, including 31 cleanings, three sealants, and eight restorations.

Visiting Nurse Association: As a member of the St. Luke's University Health Network, the Visiting Nurse Association of St. Luke's Health/Hospice, Inc. ("the VNA") offers Home Health, Hospice and community-based mother/baby services that include the Visiting Nurse Advocate in the Home (VNAC) and Nurse Family Partnership (NFP). Established in 1919, the agency maintains Medicare-certification, Pennsylvania Department of Health licensure, Accreditation Commission for Healthcare (ACHC) accreditation and provides care in Lehigh, Berks, Northampton, Carbon, Schuylkill, Monroe, Upper Bucks, and Montgomery Counties. During FY25, 2,148 patients were provided Hospice care and 5,658 in Home Health across the Network.

Breast Cancer Prevention: Adagio Health, through state and federal funding, administers the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP) across much of Pennsylvania. This initiative provides free screenings and diagnostic services to uninsured and underinsured women, helping catch cancer early when it's most treatable. St. Luke's University Health Network is a key partner and early detection site in this effort. With women's imaging locations and advanced technologies like 3D mammography and breast MRI, St. Luke's enhances early detection rates and reduces unnecessary follow-ups. During FY25, there were 1,188 patient outreach encounters resulting in 21.4% of those outreach encounters ordering a mammogram, 39.9% establishing with a primary care physician post-outreach, 63.6% of ordered images completed, and 91.2% of pathology orders completed. This partnership is a powerful example of how public funding and local health systems can work together to create lasting health equity.

Vision Vouchers: Vision plays a critical role in children's physical, cognitive, and social development. In the classroom, vision is essential in ensuring that students receive accurate, important information from reading, writing, and other academic tasks. Regular eye screenings can often be cost-prohibitive for families in need, and St. Luke's organized a partnership for vision services between Pearle Vision on West End Boulevard and the Trumbauersville Lions Club, for a free eye exam (and glasses if needed) for students in QCSD.

Workforce Development and Career Mentoring: St. Luke's supports workforce development initiatives to promote education, experiential learning, and skills-based training to prepare individuals for the workforce and help them gain employment that provides them with a livable wage. Medical Career Pathways Program (MCP) is a robust program with lectures and shadowing experiences within the network. MCP entered its tenth year, providing adolescent mentoring for high school students interested in a career in healthcare. During FY25 there were 19 students participating from Quakertown, Palisades, and Upper Perkiomen School Districts. Additional shadow and volunteer experiences were provided for the local school district students, including three career demonstrations that reached 68 students and a field study that included 21 local student participants.

St. Luke's Department of Community Health was awarded the Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant from Workforce Board Lehigh Valley. The overall purpose of the grant was to establish a Lehigh Valley Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership through the development of a Workforce Pipeline Strategic Action plan and to increase the pipeline of healthcare workers trained and employed in the Lehigh Valley's Healthcare Industry Sector. For this grant, SLUHN developed a three-pronged approach to education and training for program participants including:

- **SkillUp™ PA and Employability Skills Training** – In partnership with CareerLink Lehigh Valley, the SkillUp™ program enrolled 19 high school students from the Allentown School District, with 73% (n=14) completing the program successfully. The program utilized SkillUp™, an online learning platform to assist participants to attain industry-recognized credentials for high-demand careers, including those in healthcare. Additionally, program participants were educated on employability skills and career ladders in the healthcare field.
- **Medical Assistant On-the-Job Training** – This program component provided funds to support 23 Medical Assistance Trainees. Out of 23 enrolled in the grant, 87% (n=20) of the trainees obtained full-time employment across the St. Luke's Network. During this six-week training period, the trainees worked with patients while learning anatomy skills, medical terminology, collecting vital signs and EKGs, and administering immunizations and injections. They also learned how to participate in data collection, planning, and implementation of patient care plans, all while exhibiting professional behavior and high-level customer service skills.
- **School of Phlebotomy** – This program component supported 15 participants enrolled in the St. Luke's School of Phlebotomy, with 100% (n=15) of participants completing the program successfully. The phlebotomy students participated in a twelve-week program that provided phlebotomy education through a combined delivery of didactic/theory in a classroom setting, as well as clinical experience in one of the St. Luke's outpatient lab service centers.

St. Luke's Quakertown and Upper Bucks Hospitals

Access to Care

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Housing: St. Luke's remains actively involved in housing initiatives through partnership with several community organizations: Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB) with the Code Blue Shelter, Helping Upper Bucks Become Universally Better (HUBBUB), and Bucks County Health Improvement Partnership (BCHIP). Processes have been established for hospital discharges with direct connection to Bucks County Housing Link. There is strong collaboration among partners focused on housing, working together to secure both temporary and permanent housing.

Transportation: St. Luke's transportation services, in collaboration with Lyft and Uber rideshare, ensures access to care by supporting rides to and from appointments. Transportation initiatives supported by SLUHN align with the primary goal of improving access to primary care for homeless and near homeless populations. By providing complimentary Lyft and Uber rides to and from appointments with primary care doctors and other specialists, this initiative allows patients to receive routine care in a timely manner, with the added goal of reducing the frequency and overuse of Emergency Department resources. More than \$900,000 in Lyft and Uber rides were provided for services Network-wide.

findhelp: St. Luke's partners with findhelp, a free self-navigating online platform (sluhn.findhelp.com). findhelp is a social care network established to provide a comprehensive platform for people to find social services in their communities at any time in a language they understand, and for nonprofit and other community-based organizations to coordinate their service delivery and support services. St. Luke's Information Technology, Quality, Case Management, and Community Health teams work collaboratively, especially with Star Community Health, with more than 1,750 established (i.e., claimed) community-based partners in the communities we serve, which is also integrated with SLUHN electronic health record (i.e., Epic). findhelp allows community members to search for and connect to Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) support such as financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, transportation, and more. This platform, as well as United Way's 211, are tools that Community Health Liaisons use to assist our community members, patients, and staff to connect to vital resources. Community Health continues to onboard priority partners to ensure accurate and up-to-date resources are available to our communities. Network-wide there were 51,280 searches during FY25 with the top searches including food, housing, and utilities. In the Quakertown and Upper Bucks service area (Bucks County), there were a total of 2,447 searches, with the top services including food, housing, and transportation.



*Food access at
Summer Meals in
Quakertown*

St. Luke's Quakertown and Upper Bucks Hospitals

Chronic Disease Prevention

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Food Access: St. Luke's participated in United Way Bucks County's annual, community-powered initiative, "Bucks Knocks Out Hunger" by packaging 10,656 meals to be distributed in the community. Additionally, the Quakertown and Upper Bucks Holiday Committee provided goods to families and 572 pounds of food to Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry.

Summer Meals Program: In partnership with Free Fall Action Sports and Quakertown Community School District, 4,611 meals for children and 1,240 meals for adults were served in Quakertown during the summer with weekly distribution of weekend bags. The Open Link's Summer Meals Program for Upper Perkiomen School District was supported with three CSA shares as well as an additional \$1,000 raised by the Nursing Excellence Committee. The program received funding from Penn Community Bank and additional support from private donors.

Physical Activity: Get Your Tail on the Trail is a free program created in 2013 by SLUHN and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The program aims to help people of all ages and abilities to meet their personal fitness goals. Since program inception, there have been a total of 6,295,048 miles recorded. Network-wide, there were 2,162 active users that logged 637,618 miles during FY25.

Sports Medicine and Athletic Trainers: With a wide range of skill sets and abilities, athletic trainers manage an athlete from initial injury to return to life and play. Athletic trainers play a critical role in healthcare as they are often the most available and onsite medical provider in the athletics venue, therefore providing immediate care and facilitation of medical action that results in effective and efficient care to support patient recovery goals. SLUHN athletic trainers support more than 100,000 youth and collegiate athletes in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Older Adult Meals: The Upper Bucks Campus Older Adult Meals Program is designed to provide subsidized meals to adults 65 and older at the Upper Bucks Campus cafeteria, which served 7,739 meals during FY25. This initiative addresses food security and loneliness among older adults.

Employee Wellness: St. Luke's University Health Network recognizes that the health of its workforce is important and vital to the success of our organization. To support our employees and their spouses, the St. Luke's Employee Wellness Team provides evidence-based programming and health education to empower individuals to positively impact their health and reduce their risk of chronic health conditions through making healthy lifestyle choices. In alignment with the Network CHNA top priorities (i.e., Access to Care, Chronic Disease Prevention, Mental and Behavioral Health), Employee Wellness provides opportunities for employees and their spouses to focus on their physical, mental and social well-being, to help foster a high quality of life while managing the demands of their roles at work and home. During FY25, the following programs and resources were provided to support employee wellness: *Caring Starts with You Core* (annual biometric and health risk assessment program), Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program, health coaching, Plant Based Eating Class, Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), tobacco cessation, Employee Fitness Incentive Program, massage therapy, Silver Cloud, Employee Assistance Program, and Therapy Anywhere. The CSA program provided the opportunity to improve access to fresh, local produce. Across the Network, a total of \$225,044 was invested in our local farms during the 2024 CSA season, including Bleiler Farm at the Upper Bucks Campus. Additionally, through this initiative, 146 shares were donated in the Quakertown and Upper Bucks service area to The Open Link.

St. Luke's Quakertown and Upper Bucks Hospitals *Mental and Behavioral Health*

FISCAL YEAR 2025

St. Luke's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Response Warm Hand Off (WHO): WHO is an initiative to support the continuum of care for patients in need of multiple services and providers. It is a transfer of care between providers with the patient (and potentially family) present to ensure clear communication and transparency, while helping to build relationships between patients and providers. St. Luke's collaborates with local community-based organizations and local county to support WHO efforts. Additionally, Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) operate in the Allentown, Bethlehem, Sacred Heart, Upper Bucks, Anderson, and Easton emergency departments to support WHO. At the Upper Bucks Hospital, a total of 231 WHO were conducted for alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, opioids, and other stimulants during FY25.

Safe Medication Disposal Boxes: St. Luke's provides 24/7 access to safe medication disposal as a harm reduction service to dispose unwanted medications. During FY25 there were 315 pounds collected at the Quakertown Campus and pounds at the Upper Bucks Campus for a total of 239 pounds. St. Luke's was the winning hospital for the Bucks County Medication Take Back Contest organized by Bucks County Drug and Alcohol and BCHIP.

Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit (ABHU): St. Luke's Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit at the Easton Campus also provides connection to care and services for youth in need with a 16-bed unit. During FY25, there were 80 adolescents from Bucks County that received care and services at the ABHU.

St. Luke's Penn Foundation Education: Providing the community with mental health and addiction prevention education, information, and resources is a vital part of St. Luke's Penn Foundation's (SLPF) programming. SLPF delivers regular in-school presentations to middle and high students and educational presentations in the community on topics such as mental health, substance use, overdose prevention, recovery, and harm reduction.

Through its monthly podcast "Just STARt the Conversation," SLPF discusses timely mental health topics such as social media use, perinatal mood disorders, changing careers, getting along in polarizing times, athlete mental health, and more. With over 40 available episodes, this podcast offers relevant information for everyone.

Additionally, St. Luke's Wellness 101 has more than 100 episodes that take viewers (ages 13+) on a practical yet humorous step-by-step journey to explore the basics of health and wellness. From the importance of hand washing to mindfulness practices and everything in between, the Wellness 101 show presents fun and educational information while helping viewers learn and retain health and wellness information. Wellness 101 Jr. is a child-friendly version of Wellness 101 that explores the basics of health and wellness for kids ages 6-12. With almost 40 episodes, children learn about a variety of health topics such as sleep, handling peer pressure, how to ask for help, and more through interactive videos and simple Q&As.



*St. Luke's Penn
Foundation Recovery
Walk*

St. Luke's Quakertown and Upper Bucks Hospitals *Partnerships and Collaborations*

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Advocates for Homelessness of Bucks County (AHUB), A Woman's Place, Betty Lou's Food Pantry, Bucks County Area Agency on Aging, Bucks County Department of Health, Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Bucks County Health Improvement Partnership (BCHIP), Bucks County Intermediate Unit (Head Start), Bucks County Suicide Task Force, Career Link, Family Service Association of Bucks County, Free Fall Action Park, Free Farmers Market in partnership with Bucks County Opportunity Council and Fresh Connect, Heaven's Bounty Food Pantry, Helping Upper Bucks Be Universally Better (HUBBUB), Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce, Maternity Care Coalition, Montgomery County Health Department, NAMI Bucks County, Palisades School District, Pennsylvania State Police, Quakertown Alive, Quakertown Borough, Quakertown Community School District, Quakertown Food Pantry, Richlandtown Borough, The Open Link, United Way of Bucks County, Upper Bucks Chamber of Commerce, Upper Perkiomen Chamber of Commerce, Upper Bucks YMCA, Upper Perkiomen School District, Upper Perkiomen YMCA



Food access partnerships

School Districts: St. Luke's partnered with Phillipsburg School District (PSD) to connect families to vaccinations, physicals, and care with Star Community Health (Coventry). Community Health Workers, sports medicine staff, and others work to connect students to care and services based on identified needs. In addition to connections to care, St. Luke's Warren Campus volunteer services staff work with local schools, including PSD high school, to provide volunteer opportunities for students interested in healthcare careers. During FY25, there were 22 PSD high school students who contributed 928 volunteer hours to the Warren Campus including time spent in clinical and non-clinical settings. The Warren Campus also provided educational experiences, including a St. Luke's Immersive Hands-On Healthcare Experience that engaged PSD high school students through a health equity lens that provided exposure to healthcare career paths, including sterile processing, athletic training, and employability strategies and skills. St. Luke's Warren Medical Residents also visited the Firth Youth Center and PSD to present and educate the youth in our community about careers in medicine.

Literacy: Literacy promotion through Read Across America was implemented at local schools in communities across the Network. A total of 126 volunteers, including seven of the SLUHN campus presidents, read to more than 6,300 students during Read Across America week in 2025 and more than 7,500 literacy resources Network-wide were shared with students in the community.

Case Management: The St. Luke's Warren Campus and Star Community Health (Coventry) inpatient and outpatient case management collaborate with Community Health on "NJ Community Health Resources" Microsoft Teams channel provides vital resources and partnership presentations to build relationships with our non-profit/social service organizations and support to patients.

Family Medicine Resident Community Education: This past year, St. Luke's Community Health and Star Community Health (Coventry) continued the "See the Community You Serve" initiative in Phillipsburg, NJ, to the first-year Star Community Health Family Medicine Residents. This evidence-based model provides residents with a better sense of the community and key partners to help promote overall health and ensure they can connect their patients to available resources.



Expansion of St. Luke's affiliate, Star Community Health – Coventry, FQHC-LA, to Phillipsburg, New Jersey welcoming the community to another opportunity for access to care.

Star Community Health: Star Community Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike (FQHC-LA) affiliated with St. Luke's that provides care and wraparound services to uninsured and underinsured individuals and families at little or no out-of-pocket cost. Star Community Health (Coventry) opened during FY25 and is in Phillipsburg, NJ. The Coventry office provided connection to care and services to Phillipsburg School District students seeking new primary care and mandated school vaccinations.



Expansion of St. Luke's affiliate, Star Community Health's Coventry Practice, Federally Qualified Health Center-Look Alike Phillipsburg, New Jersey

Workforce Development: St. Luke's Department of Community Health was awarded the Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership Grant from Workforce Board Lehigh Valley. The overall purpose of the grant was to establish a Lehigh Valley Healthcare Pipeline Industry Partnership through the development of a Workforce Pipeline Strategic Action plan and to increase the pipeline of healthcare workers trained and employed in the Lehigh Valley's Healthcare Industry Sector. For this grant, SLUHN developed a three-pronged approach to education and training for program participants including:

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Community partners support local food access initiatives through collaborative efforts

Housing: Stable housing greatly impacts an individual's ability to access and maintain regular medical care. St. Luke's partners with local organizations to address the housing shortage through community partnerships at the campus-level to build capacity within the community.

Transportation: St. Luke's transportation services, in collaboration with Lyft and Uber rideshares, ensures access to care by supporting rides to and from appointments. Transportation initiatives supported by SLUHN align with the primary goal of improving access to primary care for homeless and near homeless populations. By providing complimentary Lyft and Uber rides to and from appointments with primary care doctors and other specialists, this initiative allows patients to receive routine care in a timely manner, with the added goal of reducing the frequency and overuse of Emergency Department resources. More than \$900,000 in Lyft and Uber rides were provided for services during FY25 Network-wide.

Older Adult Meal Program: The Warren Campus Older Adult Meals Program is designed to provide subsidized meals to adults ages 65 and older at the Warren Campus cafeteria, which served 19,173 meals during FY25. This initiative addresses food security and loneliness among older adults.

Wellness Initiative for Senior Education (W.I.S.E.): Community Prevention Resources of Warren County received funding from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to facilitate the W.I.S.E. program. The program reimbursed the Older Adult Meal cost for any senior that came between 4-5:30 PM during the six days (one day a week for six weeks). The educational workshops that took place during the Older Adult Meals program/meals provided support and information to promote health and wellbeing for older adults. Topics included: Understanding the Changes Associated with Aging, Aging Sensitivity, Valuing Cultural and Generational Diversity, Medication and the Older Adult, Addiction, ATOD (Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs), and the Older Adult, and An Enhanced Quality of Life.

Food Access Initiatives: Continued partnerships with both Norwescap Food Bank and Foodshed Alliance's LocalShare provided critical food access points for community members facing food insecurity. Norwescap Food Bank donated 4,855 pounds of produce to Star Community Health (Coventry) for patients during FY25. During FY25, Foodshed Alliance's LocalShare free pop-up produce markets at the St. Luke's Hillcrest Plaza distributed 3,737 pounds of produce and goods monthly to local families. The Warren Campus also participated in a food drive for Norwescap Food Bank hosted by the Warren County Health Department.

Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support: The Warren Campus serves as a site for diabetes education.

Physical Activity: Get Your Tail on the Trail is a free program created in 2013 by SLUHN and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The program aims to help people of all ages and abilities to meet their personal fitness goals. Since program inception, there have been a total of 6,295,048 miles recorded. Network-wide, there were 2,162 active users that logged 637,618 miles during FY25.

Sports Medicine and Athletic Trainers: With a wide range of skill sets and abilities, athletic trainers manage an athlete from initial injury to return to life and play. Athletic trainers play a critical role in healthcare as they are often the most available and onsite medical provider in the athletics venue, therefore providing immediate care and facilitation of medical action that results in effective and efficient care to support patient recovery goals. SLUHN athletic trainers support more than 100,000 youth and collegiate athletes in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

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St. Luke's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Response Warm Hand Off (WHO): WHO is an initiative to support the continuum of care for patients in need of multiple services and providers. It is a transfer of care between providers with the patient (and potentially family) present to ensure clear communication and transparency, while helping to build relationships between patients and providers. St. Luke's collaborates with local community-based organizations and local county to support WHO efforts. Additionally, Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS) operate in the Allentown, Bethlehem, Sacred Heart, Upper Bucks, Anderson, and Easton emergency departments to support WHO. The Warren Hospital had a total of 165 WHO conducted for alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, opioids, and other stimulants during FY25.

Warren County Task Forces: Community Health worked with the Warren County Mental Health Board to promote trainings such as Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention in partnership with Center for Family Services.

Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit (ABHU): St. Luke's Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit at the Easton Campus also provides connection to care and services for youth in need with a 16-bed unit. During FY25, 63 adolescents from Warren County received care and services at the ABHU.

St. Luke's Penn Foundation Education: Providing the community with mental health and addiction prevention education, information, and resources is a vital part of St. Luke's Penn Foundation's (SLPF) programming. SLPF delivers regular in-school presentations to middle and high students and educational presentations in the community on topics such as mental health, substance use, overdose prevention, recovery, and harm reduction.

Through its monthly podcast "Just STARt the Conversation," SLPF discusses timely mental health topics such as social media use, perinatal mood disorders, changing careers, getting along in polarizing times, athlete mental health, and more. With over 40 available episodes, this podcast offers relevant information for everyone.

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Harm Reduction Training, St. Luke's Warren Campus

St. Luke's Warren Hospital *Partnerships and Collaborations*

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Firth Youth Center, Phillipsburg Drug Free Community Coalition, LEAD (Learn, Education, Advocate, Develop), United Way of Northern NJ, Northern New Jersey Rural Health Advisory Council, New Jersey SNAP-Ed Warren County Hunger Coalition, Warren County Senior Services Provider Network, Warren County Community Health Initiatives Committee (CHIC), Warren County Collaborators, Warren County Department of Child Protection and Permanency, Warren County Department of Human Services (DHS) including the Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC), Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County (DASACC), River of Life Food Pantry, Abilities of Northwest NJ, Warren County Hispanic Coalition, Catholic Charities, Family Promise of Warren County, Center for Family Services, Phillipsburg Free Public Library, Phillipsburg School District, Phillipsburg Housing Authority, Warren County Health Department, Foodshed Alliance LocalShare, Warren County Public Library, Star Community Health, Community VNA New Jersey, Zufall Health Center, Warren County Technical School, YMCA Phillipsburg/Easton Branch, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Care Center, Norwescap, including the Foodbank, Health Connections, and Traditions Family Success Center



See the Community you Serve partners



*Food access
partners*