



Partnering to Improve the Lives of All We Serve

By John DiAngelo, Inspira Health Network President and CEO

Partnering with other organizations that share similar goals just makes sense. As a health network, we can make sure you get high quality medical care when you visit one of our medical centers or 125-plus service locations. We can also help you coordinate that care and monitor your progress.

Yet there are some things we can't do, at least not alone. We can't make sure you have a place to call home or that you have the resources to purchase food that will promote healing and good health. We can't end the opioid crisis in our communities. And we can't provide year round activities and support services for people with intellectual disabilities. Yet each of these efforts supports our mission of improving the lives of all we serve.

However, we can help in all of these areas by supporting organizations that: focus on ending homelessness and food insecurity, battle the opioid crisis and work tirelessly to enrich the lives of New Jersey residents with intellectual disabilities.

Our mission calls on us to improve the lives of all we serve. And, as a health care network, a majority of our resources are focused on delivering accessible high quality health services. For all of the other factors that can impact a person's health and well-being, such as those I have highlighted above, it is critically important that we partner with other community organizations.

You may have read recently how Inspira is playing a role in ending Homelessness in Cumberland County. We are providing

funding, logistical support and the expertise of Inspira employees to aid the Cumberland County Housing First Collaborative, of which we are a proud member. By working with the Housing First Collaborative, the strengths of six organizations are brought together to improve the lives of some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

At Inspira, we see the human toll of the opioid crisis in our emergency departments, inpatient nursing units and behavioral health programs. The stories of devastated families and lives cut short are heartbreaking. Understanding that this crisis requires a multifaceted approach, we have chosen to support the distribution of a life-saving overdose reversal drug to law enforcement and provide drug disposal pouches that allow anyone to safely dispose of opioids and other drugs before they can be misused or abused.

I'm also pleased to share that we are just a few months away from opening the region's first inpatient medical detoxification and addiction treatment program. Although not limited to people seeking treatment for opioid addiction, this new service will be a valuable resource for those seeking help and for their families. This new program will be housed in our Inspira Health Center Bridgeton.

I will also take this opportunity to tell you about a brand new partnership we have entered. Our health network has signed on as the Presenting Sponsor for the first Special Olympics of New Jersey Unified 5K Field Run. This event is open to everyone, including runners with intellectual disabilities. The goal

is to increase understanding and awareness among the participants and, of course, raise dollars for the tremendous work of the Special Olympics and their amazing athletes. This field run will be held on October 22 at Rowan University. You can learn more about this event by visiting www.unifiedtrailrun.org. Again, both the Special Olympics and Inspira share the goal of improving lives in our communities.

I must also mention a very dedicated group of people who facilitate countless partnerships in our region. The Cumberland, Salem, Gloucester Health and Wellness Alliance brings together more than 40 organizations and agencies, all of whom aim to improve the lives of those we serve. Each brings its own expertise and resources to the table to address difficult challenges faced by our fellow South Jersey residents. Just the action of assembling together in one room has greatly improved how our counties approach medical, mental health and quality of life concerns. This group also helps Inspira develop a triennial Community Health Needs Assessment, which serves as a guide to identifying and tackling some of our communities' greatest challenges.

We are grateful to work with such wonderful partners. Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission and fostering healthier communities.



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