



At the Heart of the Community: Hospitals

By John DiAngelo, Inspira Health Network President and CEO

What makes a community great? Friendly people. A thriving business sector. Good schools. Nice parks and opportunities for activities.

And, somewhat under the radar, I'd argue that a high quality hospital is vitally important for a strong and healthy community. Hospitals are often the backbone of a strong community, creating an environment of healthy living, fueling the local economy and playing the role of good corporate citizen.

Hospitals are a place where we often experience the highs and lows of life, from the joy of birth to the daunting prospect of serious health challenges.

Look, we understand—there are plenty of reasons to *not* want to go the hospital. Going to the hospital often means there's something wrong. Truth be told, we'd like to keep you out of the hospital, too. But a hospital is not just a building. A hospital or a network of hospitals is made up of people committed to the health and wellness of the communities they serve. They're mission-driven to make the people of the community healthier, whether that happens in a doctor's office, an operating room or when our Wellness On Wheels (WOW) van rolls into your neighborhood.

Additionally, the value of hospitals goes beyond the health and wellbeing of citizens and extends to the financial health of the community. At Inspira, we are responsible for almost \$600 million in expenses in the community. We employ more than 3,700 people, including a medical staff of more than 1,100 professionals. We're committed to attracting the best and brightest medical minds to our community so that we can continue to serve the people and keep them healthy; to that end we were recognized last year as one of 36 Top Teaching Hospitals in the country.

In the community, we offer grants to students for STEM education. We're launching new programs to battle the scourge of drug abuse and to help solve homelessness. We do it because we care, and we want to help the South Jersey community continue to thrive.

Celebrating nurses, the heart of our Network

One of the driving forces behind the Inspira Health Network—and all hospitals systems, really—is our nursing staff. Inspira nurses are everyday heroes, comforting and caring for the sick, never getting flustered and almost universally delivering service with a smile.

In early May, we celebrated National Nurses Week. Each year, the week of honoring nurses and educating the public

about their role in healthcare begins on May 6, and concludes May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday.

Nurses are valued part of the fabric of our communities. In December of 2017, a Gallup Poll¹ showed that Americans consider nurses to be the most honest and ethical profession. It's the 16th straight year that nursing topped this list. And our nurses are the best, and that's not just me saying it; for 10 years, three of our facilities have been designated Magnet[®] facilities by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the highest distinction a health network can receive for nursing excellence and high quality care. Nationwide, only eight percent of hospitals have earned the Magnet designation.

At Inspira, we know that our nurses are the heart of our Network, making everything go and ensuring that both patients and the Network itself are healthy.

¹ <http://news.gallup.com/poll/224639/nurses-keep-healthy-lead-honest-ethical-profession.aspx>



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