



Community Purpose In Action





By listening to those we serve, we identify shared priorities and transform community insights into data-driven plans that guide our strategy and drive meaningful, measurable impact. We are anchored in our commitment to stronger, healthier communities.



The shaded areas on regional maps throughout indicate the communities that Ochsner serves.



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Connecting With Purpose

A Letter From Our President & CEO



“Connection” is a word that has been on my mind lately—connection to purpose, connection to one another and connection to our community. Connection is the foundation of every meaningful interaction.

When we feel connected to what we do, it fuels us to achieve remarkable things. The 40,000 team members who make up this incredible organization represent this spirit daily as they come together to fulfill our shared vision of inspiring healthier lives and building stronger communities.

Each day at Ochsner, we strive to deliver care that meets our patients’ needs while also advancing the overall health of the communities we serve. Through our focus on convenient access, the highest quality care and an experience

that exceeds expectations, we are building healthier, more resilient communities and ensuring that Ochsner continues to be the most trusted leader in healthcare in the Gulf South and beyond.

Our unwavering commitment to our community continues to grow stronger each day, driving us to make an even greater difference in the lives we touch. That strength is a direct result of the dedication, compassion and integrity demonstrated by our teams who are connected to their purpose.

“Together, with connection and intention, we are building the healthier, brighter future our communities deserve.”

Together, we have the ability and the responsibility to turn this commitment into action, fulfilling our mission to create a brighter, healthier future for all.

That's why I am honored to share our 2025 Community Benefit Report, Community Purpose in Action. This report reflects the exceptional work happening across Ochsner Health and the partnerships we have built with community leaders to make a meaningful impact.

In 2024, Ochsner invested more than \$431 million to address community health needs through subsidized health services, financial assistance, research and community health initiatives. By working alongside our valued partners, we are focused on five key areas that guide our mission:

- **Increase Access to Healthcare**
- **Improve Health Outcomes**
- **Educate the Next Generation**
- **Create Economic Opportunity**
- **Develop Community Partnerships to Address Social Drivers of Health**

From our expansive reach across 47 hospitals and 370 care centers to our cutting-edge advancements in digital medicine and AI, Ochsner is driving innovation to enhance care experiences for our patients while empowering our physicians, nurses and clinicians. We are also deeply committed to cultivating economic growth and opportunity through workforce development programs,



investments in our local economies and partnerships with organizations across the region. These collective efforts not only advance individual lives but uplift the entire region.

As you explore this year's community benefit report, I invite you to reflect on the meaningful collaborations and inspired efforts that shape our work. I am immensely grateful for our teams, partners and community leaders who help bring our purpose to life every day. Together, with connection and intention, we are building the healthier, brighter future our communities deserve.

Sincerely,

Pete November
President & Chief Executive Officer
Ochsner Health

“Through our focus on convenient access, the highest quality care and an experience that exceeds expectations, we are building healthier, more resilient communities and ensuring that Ochsner continues to be the most trusted leader in healthcare in the Gulf South and beyond.”

On left page: Ochsner Health President & CEO Pete November celebrates the new location of Ochsner MD Anderson Cancer Center in Slidell, La. **Above:** Pete November talks with students from Dr. John Ochsner Discovery Health Sciences Academy at Mrs. Benson's Holiday Kick Off.

Community Insights, Lasting Impact

Ochsner’s community benefit represented 5.91% of 2024’s total expenses, underscoring our ongoing commitment to building healthier communities and advancing health outcomes for all across the Gulf South. These figures reflect reporting from Ochsner Clinic Foundation, Ochsner Rush and Ochsner Lafayette General.

\$5.9M

Cash and In-Kind Donations

Support provided to charitable organizations that advance community needs aligned with Ochsner’s mission and services.

\$15.2M

Community Health Improvement Services

Funding dedicated to community health programs, outreach, donation efforts, community-building activities and other initiatives designed to improve health and strengthen well-being across local neighborhoods.

\$15.9M

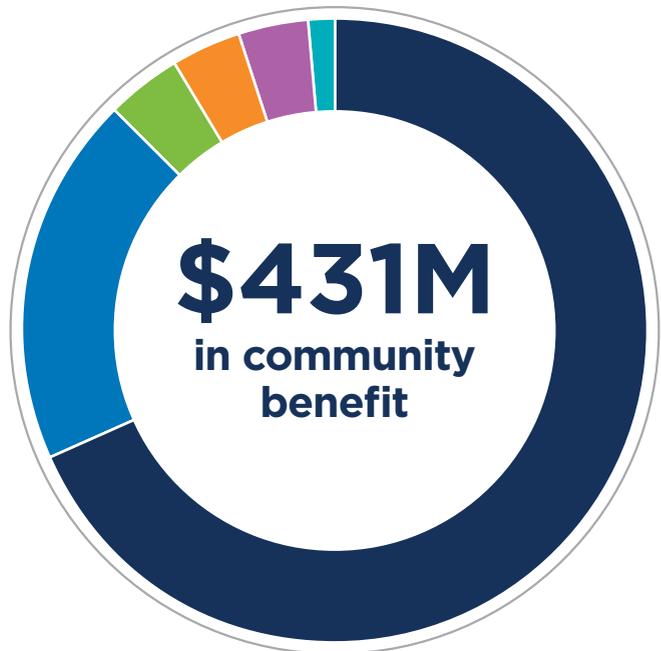
Research

Resources that fuel groundbreaking medical research with local, national and global impact.

\$16.4M

Health Professions Education

Investment in Ochsner’s academic and training programs, including The University of Queensland – Ochsner Clinical School, residency and allied health programs, and continuing medical education, to strengthen the future healthcare workforce.



\$82.4M

Financial Assistance at Cost

Support that helps uninsured and underinsured patients access the care they need.

\$295M

Medicaid and Subsidized Health Services

Costs associated with caring for Medicaid patients and operating community clinics that meet essential local needs, especially in areas where access to care is limited.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Connecting community members to jobs in healthcare through workforce development. Supporting economic development through job creation, investments and business with local vendors.

Honoring a Legacy of Nursing Leadership

Nurse Scholars Esther Wilson and Ainslee Soileau received the Cheryl Wood Scholarship, honoring the former Chief Nursing Officer. "Receiving this scholarship was incredibly encouraging. It reminded me that I'm not doing this alone and that my community believes in my goal of becoming a nurse," Ainslee says.

150+ high school and college students participated in New Orleans Summer Youth Employment programs

Advancing Innovation and Economic Opportunity in Acadiana

Through the Ochsner Louisiana Innovation Fund, Ochsner Ventures partnered with Lafayette Economic Development Authority and BlueFlite to bring new jobs and cutting-edge innovation to the Acadiana region. BlueFlite designs advanced drone-based delivery systems with applications across healthcare, emergency response and other critical industries. As part of this collaboration, BlueFlite has committed to establishing an office in Lafayette, strengthening the local economy while positioning Louisiana as a leader in next-generation healthcare logistics.



Building the Healthcare Workforce of Tomorrow

The Ochsner Scholars Program supports students pursuing nursing, allied health, and athletic training careers by providing financial assistance in exchange for a commitment to care for patients at Ochsner. In 2025, the program welcomed 144 Nurse Scholars, 32 Allied Health Scholars and three Athletic Trainer Scholars.

These investments are strengthening care teams across the system. In 2025, Ochsner hired 168 nurses and 8 allied health professionals who received funding through the Scholars Program, helping to ensure continued access to high-quality care for the communities Ochsner serves.

Catalyst Internship Program Wraps a High-Impact Summer

The 2025 Catalyst Summer Internship Program brought more than 62 mentees into departments across Ochsner, where each intern was paired with a dedicated mentor who helped guide their professional growth. Interns contributed fresh ideas and meaningful work throughout the organization, with five already hired into part-time or full-time roles. In total, 154 interns participated in Ochsner summer programs this year, supported by mentors across the system.



ACCESS TO CARE



Expanding access to care, eliminating barriers and offering services in community settings.

46K

health education interactions and 15,838 health screenings brought Ochsner care and wellness education into our communities.



Creating a Healthier Future for Children and Families

Ochsner proudly marked a historic milestone on April 29 with the groundbreaking of The Gayle and Tom Benson Ochsner Children's Hospital, a transformational step forward for pediatric care in the Gulf South. Joined by Gayle Benson along with state and local leaders, Ochsner celebrated the beginning of what CEO Pete November called "a shared vision for enhancing pediatric healthcare."

In addition to celebrating the groundbreaking, Ochsner announced a new partnership with Make-A-Wish Texas Gulf Coast and Louisiana aimed at granting 28 wishes over the next two years. With more than 280 Louisiana children currently waiting, this collaboration will bring meaningful moments of joy and strength to young patients.

The five-story, 343,000-square-foot facility will open in 2028 and bring expanded emergency care, enhanced surgical and imaging capabilities, and a Level IV Surgical NICU.

Bringing Clinical Care to Students

The Ochsner Healthy Schools School Nurse program aims to improve access to high-quality healthcare in a school-based setting through a thoughtful collaboration between Pediatrics and Community Affairs. Ochsner has partnered with schools to provide school nurses with clinical and medical resources. Ochsner pediatrician Dr. Christina Cannizzaro serves as the Medical Director for both Ochsner Healthy Schools and Jefferson Parish School District. This school district is the largest in Louisiana with approximately 47,000 students in 80 schools.

90K+

school nurse visits provided for students throughout the year

Whole-Person Care for Older Adults

Ochsner 65 Plus Centers are designed to support adults ages 65 and older with personalized primary care that goes beyond the traditional doctor's visit. With longer appointment times and a team-based approach, patients receive support tailored to their goals, whether that means staying active, managing chronic conditions or maintaining independence.

Each center brings together primary care providers and a multidisciplinary care team, which may include clinical pharmacists, social workers, dietitians, health coaches and fitness instructors. From preventive care to wellness and lifestyle guidance, Ochsner 65 Plus helps older adults improve quality of life while staying connected to the specialty care and resources they need.



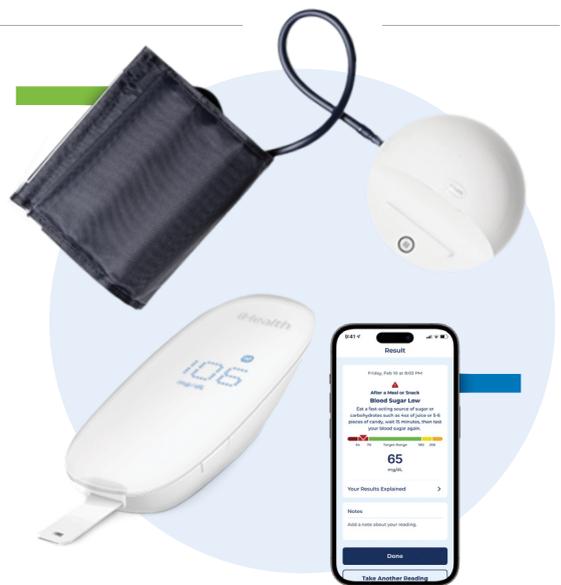
Expanding Preventive Care in North Louisiana

The Big Health Event, hosted with the Urban League of Louisiana, made its North Louisiana debut in Shreveport, bringing together wellness education, expert insights and community resources in one dynamic day. The event welcomed an estimated 723 attendees, and featured guidance from chefs, health and fitness specialists, and healthcare professionals.

Ochsner LSU Health teams completed 300+ health screenings, resulting in referrals for cancer screenings, biometrics and pediatric development. By delivering preventive care and education directly to the community, The Big Health Event helped advance healthier outcomes across North Louisiana.

Happy 10th Anniversary, Ochsner Digital Medicine

We're celebrating a decade of transformative, nationally recognized care that started as an internal quality initiative. Ochsner Digital Medicine has helped more than 56,000 members in Louisiana and Mississippi take control of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, Type 2 diabetes and weight through personalized support, remote management, and practical lifestyle guidance, often leading to meaningful improvements within months. Now available in all 50 states, the program continues to grow, powered by the dedication of our teams, the trust of our members, and the belief that innovation can truly change lives. Some patient perks include no-cost devices and testing supplies, \$0 copays on select prescriptions and generous coverage for weight-loss medications.



HEALTH OUTCOMES



Improving health outcomes by developing innovative healthcare delivery models and ensuring high-quality care for all patients.

3.5K+

new participants enrolled in clinical trials, reflecting continued momentum and strong engagement across research studies

10.8K+

received no-cost tobacco cessation services, resulting in a 31% quit rate



Support That Meets Families Where They Are

Transitioning home with a newborn can be one of the most vulnerable moments in healthcare, especially with 75% of new mothers experiencing anxiety. That's why Ochsner Baptist partnered with the New Orleans Health Department to launch Family Connects, an evidence-based program that brings compassionate, expert care directly to families' homes. Since its launch in July 2024, the program has supported 669 families, made 336 referrals to essential community resources, and provided comprehensive care for both mothers and infants.

New mom Elisa's experience shows the program's impact. After welcoming her son, Cooper, she was paired with nurse Jasmine Clayborne, who offered in-home expertise and the reassurance she needed. "Family Connects coming to my home made sure I took care of myself, not just my baby," Elisa says. "Nurse Jasmine helped me feel like a priority and took the shame out of asking for help."

The free Eat Fit mobile app serves as a trusted wellness resource to help make the healthy choice the easy choice. The app identifies products and menu items that meet Eat Fit nutritional criteria at more than 500 local restaurant partners, as well as within Ochsner cafeterias, vending machines, and markets as part of the Eat Fit at Ochsner Health foodservice wellness commitment.

- Restaurant partners near you
- Nutrition facts for Eat Fit dishes
- Recipes and cooking videos
- Grocery guides



Launching an Online Assessment to Help People Understand Their Cancer Risk

Ochsner has launched a new Genetic Wellness Assessment, an easy, no-cost online tool designed to help adults learn whether they may be at increased risk for hereditary cancers. By answering a few quick questions about personal and family history, users receive guidance on whether genetic counseling or testing may be right for them, opening the door to earlier detection, personalized screening plans and potentially lifesaving prevention strategies.

“The Genetic Wellness Assessment is a pivotal step in advancing precision medicine and preventive care,” says Marc Matrana, MD, System Medical Director of Precision Medicine at Ochsner Health. “Once patients are identified, we can offer a tailored plan to prevent a cancer from developing or detecting it early when it’s most treatable.”

With hereditary cancer syndromes responsible for roughly 1 in 8 cancers, this assessment helps individuals take proactive steps while connecting them to Ochsner’s nationally recognized Hereditary Cancer & High-Risk Program. Backed by decades of cancer research leadership, comprehensive genetics expertise, and Ochsner’s collaboration with MD Anderson Cancer Center, the Genetic Wellness Assessment makes personalized cancer prevention more accessible than ever across the Gulf South.

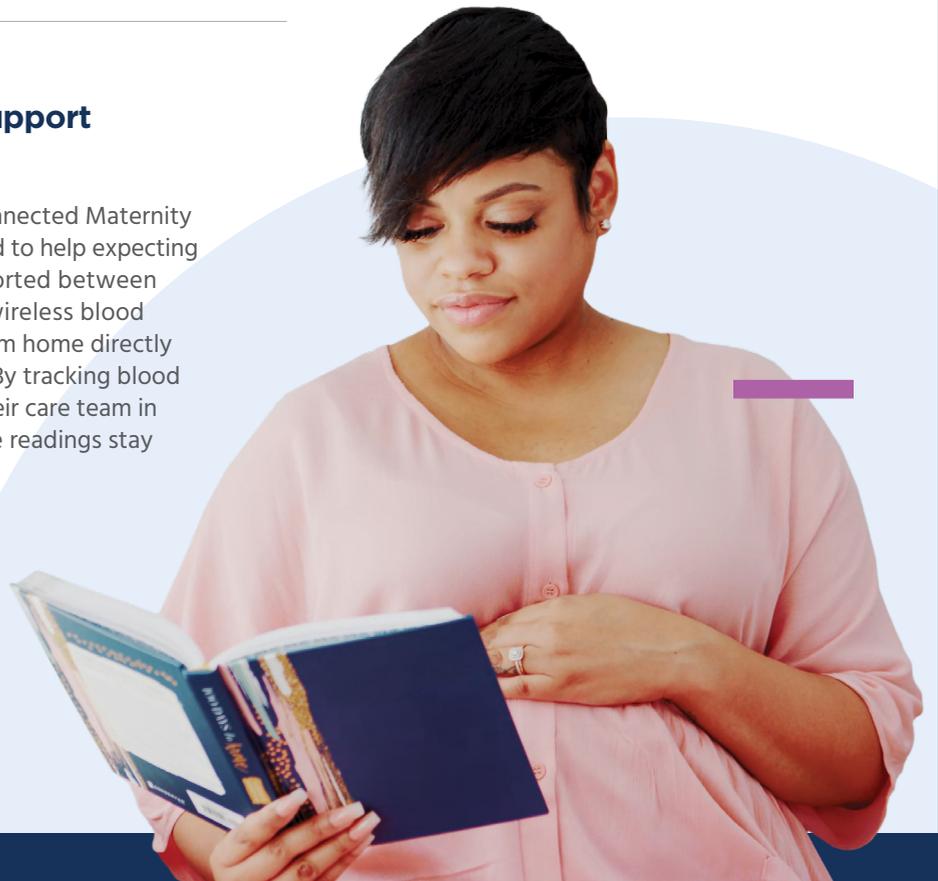


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Marc Matrana, MD, System Medical Director of Precision Medicine at Ochsner Health

Offering Connection and Support Throughout Pregnancies

Ochsner Connected MOM, short for Connected Maternity Online Monitoring, is a program designed to help expecting mothers stay healthy and closely supported between appointments. Moms-to-be receive a wireless blood pressure cuff to easily send readings from home directly to their Ochsner Health OB/GYN team. By tracking blood pressure and staying connected with their care team in real time, Connected MOM helps ensure readings stay within healthy ranges.



EDUCATION



Educating the next generation through quality academic programs from kindergarten to medical school. Improving health literacy with access to health education.

Building Future Clinicians: The OASIS Summer Program

The Ochsner Academics Summer Internship for Students offers undergraduate students hands-on exposure to careers in medicine, physician assistant studies and biomedical research. The 2025 program, held in June, provided students with a strong foundation for future medical school success through 486 hours of one-on-one shadowing, 17 lecture hours, nine hours of clinical simulation and two campus tours. Since launching in 2019, 106 interns have completed the program.

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Growing Readers, Building Futures

For the third year in a row, the Chapter One Literacy Program helped first graders at Dr. John Ochsner Discovery Health Sciences Academy strengthen their reading foundation. With the dedication of OchsnerServes volunteers, students from three first-grade classes participated in weekly online tutoring. By year's end, most students were reading at or above grade level, reinforcing what research shows: early reading proficiency is one of the strongest predictors of future educational outcomes.



A Transformational Year of Leadership, Momentum, and Milestones for XOCOM

The Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine continues to make extraordinary progress as we work to build the nation's fifth allopathic medical school at an HBCU, a bold partnership with Xavier University of Louisiana. Since submitting our LCME accreditation application on July 31, XOCOM has advanced its academic structure with key physician appointments who will guide faculty development, research and the clinical learning environment for our students. Zoe Larned, MD, Medical Director of Ochsner MD Anderson Cancer Center, will serve as the Academic Chair of Internal Medicine, leading faculty recruitment, professional development, and new residency and fellowship programs. Kristen Toups, MD, Chair of Hospital Medicine at Ochsner Medical Center – New Orleans, has been named Vice Chair of Education for Internal Medicine, overseeing the learning experience across inpatient and outpatient services and strengthening the academic culture that will guide our future physicians.

We are also proud to welcome several new deans and operational leaders. Randal "Randy" Langford now serves as Co-associate Dean for Finance and Administration, partnering with Xavier's Edward Phillips to guide XOCOM's financial strategy. Amy Lin, MD, joins as Assistant Dean for Accreditation and Curriculum, bringing experience from the University of Illinois and helping lead our successful submission of XOCOM's LCME accreditation materials. We also celebrate new management appointments supporting accreditation and planning: Jewel Harden-Barrios, MEd; Austin McCann; Janelle Bachman; Courtney Parke, PhD; and Ian Roche, each playing a crucial role in preparing XOCOM for launch.

OPTIMUS Pre-Med Event Kicks Off a Year of Learning and Opportunity

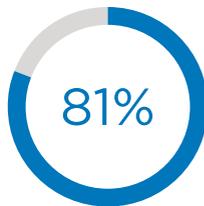
The OPTIMUS program opened the academic year on September 6 with a Pre-Med Event at Ochsner Medical Center – New Orleans, bringing together students from seven Louisiana universities: Xavier, Tulane, Loyola, SUNO, UNO, LSU and Southeastern.

Founded in 2019 by Tamika Webb-Detiege, MD senior rheumatologist and Associate Dean for Student Affairs at the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine, OPTIMUS introduces students to medical careers through hands-on learning and academic pathway guidance.

During the 2024–2025 school year, OPTIMUS hosted 10 events across eight schools, impacting 1,725 students in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish.



96%
said the event met or exceeded expectations



81%
found the personal statement workshop extremely beneficial



100%
would refer a friend or colleague



STEM Sparks Introduces First Graders to the World of Healthcare

STEM Sparks, created by the Ochsner Education Outreach team at Dr. John Ochsner Discovery Health Sciences Academy, gives first graders a look into healthcare careers through hands-on, immersive activities. Designed to spark curiosity and build early awareness, STEM Sparks supports the shared Ochsner–Discovery mission to inspire future healthcare professionals and strengthen our communities by starting with our youngest learners.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH

Collaborating with businesses, faith-based groups, schools, community organizations, government and other healthcare providers to develop partnerships that address social drivers of health.

Recycling Efforts Shine at Jazz Fest

Jazz Fest continued its commitment to sustainability with expanded recycling stations across the festival grounds, making it easy for attendees to properly dispose of plastic bottles, cans and paper. The festival also strengthened its Battery Recycling Program, collecting used batteries from performers and keeping hazardous materials out of landfills. Through these efforts, Jazz Fest and its volunteers are helping reduce waste and protect Louisiana's environment for future residents.



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Building Strength Through Movement and Opportunity

The 18th Ward is a nonprofit that builds community through high-quality, affordable sports and workforce development programs for youth and families from every neighborhood in New Orleans. Grounded in the belief that movement and physical activity support lifelong health, Ochsner Education Outreach partners with The 18th Ward through joint STEM programming in schools and leadership development for coaches, helping to empower youth and strengthen communities across the city.

26K+

OchsnerServes volunteer hours were completed by 7,458 volunteers who represented 14.6% of Ochsner's workforce. They supported 137 causes across 434 volunteer participation opportunities.

Improving Access to Nutrition

Louisiana ranks 47th in the nation for food insecurity, which directly impacts health outcomes. More than 825,000 Louisianans struggle to access consistent nutritious food.

Ochsner is prioritizing food access as a core strategy alongside clinical care to support long-term health and stability. Through a SNAP outreach partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, we supported 413 education and enrollment interactions across five locations in 2025. In addition to Acadiana, we launched another Second Harvest Mobile Market in New Orleans to bring fresh, affordable groceries to 274 patients, staff and community members. Along with a produce prescription pilot with Market Umbrella in New Orleans East and a partnership with LSU AgCenter at St. Charles and St. Anne, these efforts reflect a coordinated, data-informed approach to expanding access to healthy food where it is needed most.



Empowering Youth Through Learning and Opportunity

Through a growing partnership with the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP), Ochsner Education Outreach is helping create meaningful opportunities for young people across New Orleans. Grounded in a shared commitment to empowering youth, this collaboration brings hands-on STEM learning, mentorship and career exposure to students from neighborhoods throughout the city. Together with community partners, including the New Orleans Pelicans, Ochsner and YEP host engaging experiences that blend science, teamwork and movement, reinforcing the connection between physical activity, education and long-term health. The partnership also extends beyond the classroom, supporting families through back-to-school initiatives that help students start the year equipped and ready to learn.



Volunteer with Me: Celebrating Impact

As part of Ochsner's Volunteer with Me series, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Tiffany Murdock, DNP, RN, joined nurses across Louisiana and Mississippi for hands-on service with community partners. From supporting NAMI Northshore to volunteering at the Baton Rouge Food Bank and Second Harvest Food Bank, Tiffany worked alongside frontline caregivers to give back and highlight the vital role nurses play in strengthening the health of our communities—both inside and outside our walls.

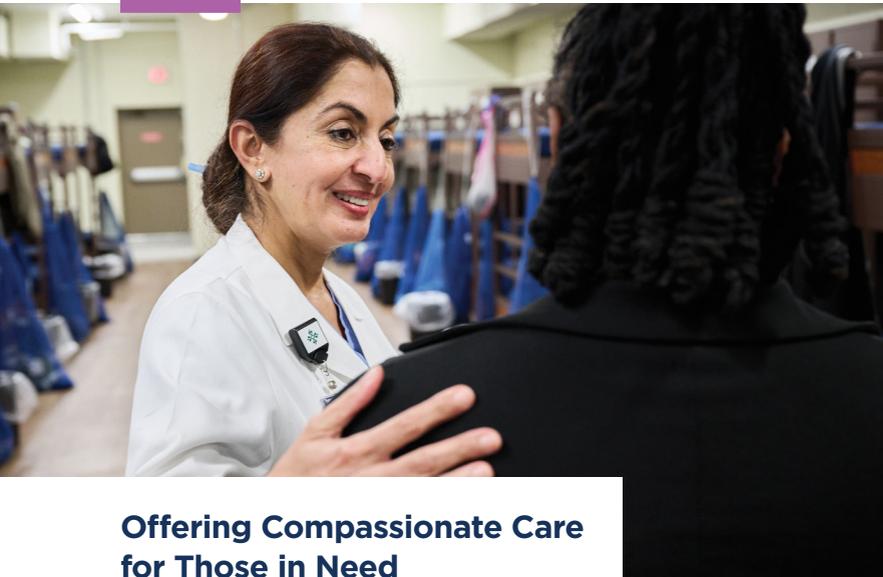
"Volunteer with Me is a very special program. It allows me to connect with our nurses and work alongside them, as a team united in purpose, to give back to our communities," she says.

Acadiana

5.9K
Team Members



260K
Patients Served



Offering Compassionate Care for Those in Need

Ochsner clinicians continued their longstanding partnership with Catholic Charities of Acadiana, providing essential medical care to individuals experiencing homelessness. Their work, highlighted in Catholic Charities' publication, delivers continuity, dignity and critical healthcare support.

Expanding Healthy Food Access

The Makin' Groceries Mobile Market continued monthly visits to Ochsner University Hospital & Clinics (OUHC), serving 836 customers with affordable, nutritious groceries and reducing barriers to healthy eating. During the Day of Purpose, Ochsner team members partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank to pack 640 food boxes for seniors, strengthening nutrition access and supporting older adults in need. OUHC's team also volunteered at St. Joseph's Diner in fall 2025, preparing meals and supporting residents experiencing homelessness and food insecurity.

Sharing Progress at the United in Health Breakfast

This year's United in Health Breakfast brought together partners from across Acadiana to celebrate shared progress in health outcomes and community well-being, reinforcing the importance of education, collaboration and early pipeline development.

Supporting a Camp for Children With Heart Defects

Each year, more than 40,000 children in the U.S. are born with congenital heart defects, and Camp Bon Coeur gives these brave kids a rare place where they can simply be a kid. Ochsner Lafayette General Foundation supports the camp, Louisiana's only heart-focused camp and one of only a few in the nation, which brings children together to build friendships, confidence and community through safe, joy-filled summer activities.

Support Behind the Celebration

As the Official Medical Provider of Festival International de Louisiane, Ochsner Lafayette General supported five days of celebration by treating 60 patients, mobilizing 30 Ochsner volunteers and staffing four on-site physicians led by Ochsner nephrologist Shamir Hasan, DO. We provided sunscreen and sanitizer distribution along with finish-line medical coverage for the Courir du Festival 5K.



STEM Pathfinders Inspiring Future Professionals

The STEM Pathfinders summer experience continues to spark excitement for healthcare careers among regional students, offering immersive, hands-on activities with clinicians and educators. "Honestly, this is the best part of my summer," one student shares. "Being around such amazing healthcare professionals was inspiring."

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Baton Rouge

2.7K
Team Members



195K
Patients Served



The Jag Mobile Brings Health to the Community

In partnership with the Southern University School of Nursing and serving neighborhoods across Baton Rouge, the Jag Mobile remained a vital resource for expanding access to preventive care. Through student-supported health screenings, wellness education and community outreach, the mobile unit met patients where they are, reducing barriers to care and strengthening trust within the community. These efforts not only increase awareness of health risks but also connect individuals to follow-up care and ongoing support, helping to improve health outcomes across the region.



Ochsner Day at CTEC Sparks Career Curiosity

Ochsner partnered with the East Baton Rouge Career & Technical Education Center to host Ochsner Day at CTEC, engaging 96 high school students in hands-on demonstrations, career conversations and mentorship opportunities with clinicians and healthcare professionals. The event provided students with exposure to pathways in medicine, nursing and allied health fields. By fostering these connections, Ochsner continues to support workforce development and inspire the next generation.

Expanding Hands-Only CPR Training in Baton Rouge

Through a partnership with the American Heart Association – Louisiana, Ochsner Baton Rouge sponsored two CPR Anytime Training Kits to expand access to hands-only CPR education. One kit was presented to Baton Rouge Ochsner Discovery School, and the second was delivered to the Southern University School of Nursing. These resources will help train community members in hands-only CPR, a critical, lifesaving skill that strengthens heart health readiness across Baton Rouge.

Helping People Heal Through Nutrition

The Food is Medicine initiative is helping to improve health outcomes through access to nutritious food. Clayton Runfalo, MD, is the heart behind the monthly mobile food pantry at Ochsner Health Center – Gonzales. On the second Saturday of each month, he and his wife oversee volunteers who help pack and distribute food to feed about 400 people. “Food insecurity hits everyone,” Dr. Runfalo says. “It crosses social classes and age ranges. And with the price of groceries going up, some people just need a little extra help.”



During the Regional Day of Service, Ochsner Baton Rouge team members worked alongside HandsOn New Orleans at Baton Rouge Ochsner Discovery School to improve gardens, grounds and shared spaces.

Bayou & River Region

2.6K
Team Members



177K
Patients Served



Expanding Access Through St. Anne Community Screenings

Ochsner St. Anne continued expanding access to preventive care with 728 community screenings and nine health fairs, including the Community Health Fair in September 2025 and a series of free Hello Health seminars bringing fitness, cardiovascular health and chronic disease prevention directly to residents.

A Summer of Healthcare Preparation at Ochsner St. Mary

High school students participated in the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program at Ochsner St. Mary, gaining hands-on exposure to healthcare careers through volunteering and shadowing clinicians. During the 10-day program, students rotated through hospital departments, practiced vital skills and participated in interactive workshops.

Breakfast With the Doctors Encourages Future Clinicians

Ochsner St. Mary hosted local students for a Breakfast With the Doctors, providing career insights from OB/GYN, internal medicine and family medicine physicians. The event gave students a unique chance to ask questions, learn firsthand about the medical profession and explore potential healthcare careers.

St. Charles SIM Lab Strengthens Regional Workforce Readiness

St. Charles Parish Hospital has opened its new Education Center & Simulation Lab, a major milestone for the River Region and a powerful engine for workforce development. The center serves as a regional hub for clinical training and emergency preparedness, offering real-world simulation experiences for new nurses, EMTs, paramedics and industry partners. Designed to expand job-ready training across the region, the lab will train more than 400 healthcare and industrial professionals each year.





Through OchsnerServes, team members volunteered at the Terrebonne Churches United Food Bank, assisting with food sorting and distribution for local families. These efforts support a vital community resource that depends on volunteers to help fight hunger and care for neighbors in need.

A Pledge of Stewardship

Ochsner’s Sustainability Team expanded systemwide recycling efforts at Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center, Ochsner St. Anne and Ochsner St. Mary, by adding the collection of plastic beverage bottles and aluminum cans at multiple hospital facilities. New recycling-and-trash combination stations are being installed in high-traffic areas such as cafés, entrances and waiting rooms, making it easier for patients, visitors and team members to recycle PET (#1), HDPE (#2), and aluminum materials.

In October, we launched a Pledge of Environmental Stewardship, inviting employees to commit to recycling at work and encouraging others to do the same. Team members who take the pledge receive 30 minutes of OchsnerServes credit, reinforcing responsible environmental practices.

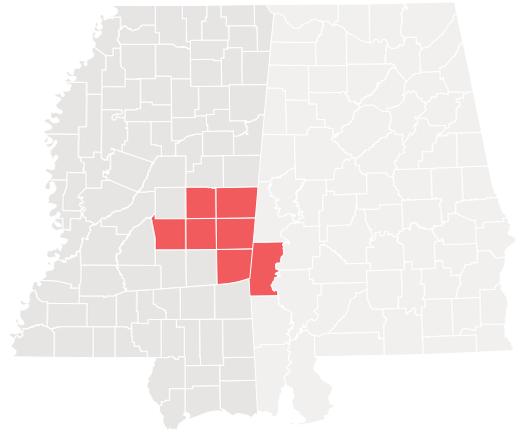
STEM Pathfinders Inspires 12 River Region Scholars

This summer, Donna Palahang, Michelle Zaidain and Cas Perry hosted 12 River Region students for STEM Pathfinders’ third year at St. Charles Parish Hospital. Students explored labor & delivery, the NICU, the milk bank, the Simulation Center and the new Barbara & Edwin Beckman STEM Lab. “The sim lab was the best part—I learned things I’ve never done and why healthcare matters,” one scholar says.



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Central Mississippi & West Alabama



2.4K
Team Members



92K
Patients Served



Learning Through Play

Ochsner Rush Health proudly sponsored the 5th Annual Science Saturday at the Mississippi Children’s Museum in Meridian. As part of the statewide Mississippi Science Festival, Ochsner clinicians hosted a hands-on Teddy Bear Clinic, helping children learn about doctor visits and wellness in a playful, comforting way.



A young visitor checks her bunny’s health during Ochsner Rush Health’s hands-on Teddy Bear Clinic.



Supporting At-Risk Youth

Project Inspire is a semester-long, hospital-based injury prevention program aiming to reduce violence among at-risk youth by combining trauma center exposure, mentorship and career development. Through an ongoing partnership with the Meridian Youth Court, local juvenile offenders gain unique insight into the consequences of gun violence through tours of Ochsner Rush Health’s trauma services. They will also receive Stop the Bleed® training and participate in community service projects and career planning activities.



Creating Career Pathways for Students With Disabilities

During the 2024–2025 program year, Ochsner Rush continued hosting Project SEARCH, offering students with intellectual and developmental disabilities immersive, real-world training in hospital departments, preparing them for competitive employment and long-term success.

Building Beds and Hope With Sleep in Heavenly Peace

On October 4, nearly 70 Ochsner Rush volunteers partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace – Meridian to build 31 beds for children and families in need. With more than 660 local kids waiting for a bed of their own, this effort provided comfort, safety and dignity to families across the region.



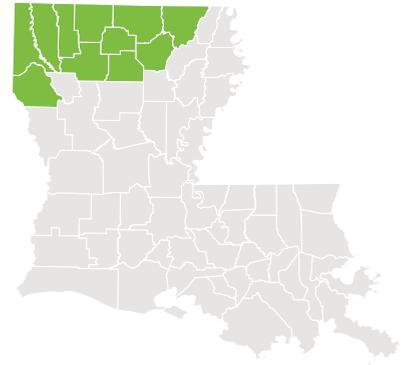
70 Ochsner Rush volunteers partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace – Meridian to build 31 beds for children and families in need.

North Louisiana

5.4K
Team Members



162K
Patients Served



Mobile Health Unit Expands Community Reach

In 2025, Ochsner LSU’s Mobile Health Unit hosted 30+ clinics, serving 600+ people through health screenings, flu shots and community events. The unit also supported five student-led clinics with LSU Health’s Medical Student Charity Outreach Organization, with more planned for 2026, helping to bring preventive care directly to the communities that need it most.

Empowering Men Through Prostate Cancer Awareness

Our Monroe team welcomed Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for its Second Annual Prostate Cancer Awareness Lunch & Learn. Attendees received education on early detection and treatment, engaged in an informative Q&A and had access to on-site PSA screenings, all underscored by Ochsner LSU Health Monroe CEO Mark Randolph’s message on the importance of preventive care.

Ochsner LSU Health Hosts Healthy Habits Class for Kids & Teens

We are empowering young people to build lifelong wellness routines through a monthly FAN Club healthy habits class, led by outpatient nutrition dietitians. Held every second Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at Ochsner LSU Health – St. Mary Medical Center, the 90-minute class teaches children ages 10–17 how to manage weight, prevent disease, reduce reliance on medications and develop healthier eating patterns.



Empowering Future Leaders

STEM Pathfinders, offered by Ochsner LSU Health – Monroe and Ochsner LSU Health – Shreveport, gives local high schoolers a hands-on look at careers in healthcare. Students explored lab science, therapy services, respiratory care and infection prevention through interactive demonstrations led by our clinical and non-clinical teams.

Supporting Seniors and Students in Ouachita Parish

Partnering with the Ouachita Council on Aging, Ochsner LSU Health – Monroe Medical Center supported a fan drive to help seniors beat the heat and collected school supplies for the Community Health & Wellness Expo’s back-to-school initiative, supporting both seniors and students across the parish.



▶ Ochsner LSU Health Monroe proudly partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of North Louisiana to support the Celebration of Literacy, creating a new Book Nook and providing STEM kits to inspire young readers and future innovators.

Celebrating Life and Survivorship

An annual Celebration of Life Luncheon was hosted in Monroe, bringing more than 80 survivors and loved ones together for music, heartfelt stories and uplifting recognition. The event honored milestones, from decades cancer-free to recent victories, creating a meaningful space of joy, connection and gratitude.

Walking Together in Strength and Remembrance

The 6th Annual Cancer Survivor and Memorial Walk brought survivors, families and team members together to honor those affected by cancer and celebrate their strength. Led by Wilma Davis, RN, the walk in Monroe continues to grow each year as a powerful expression of hope and support.

Community Health at the Shreveport and Monroe Markets

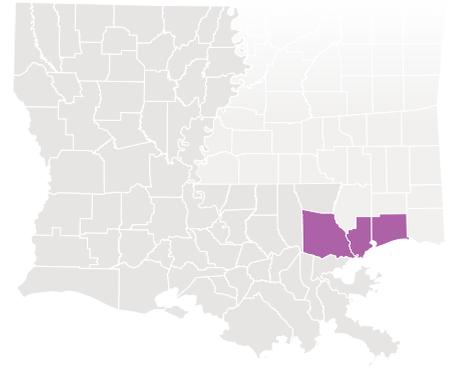
From the Shreveport Farmers Market to the Monroe Civic Center, Ochsner LSU Health’s mobile and market-based outreach brought screenings, education and interactive wellness experiences to families where they live, shop and gather.

Northshore & Mississippi Gulf Coast

3.7K
Team Members



181K
Patients Served



New Wide-Bore MRI in Hancock

A new wide-bore, AI-enhanced MRI at Ochsner Medical Center – Hancock delivers faster scans, higher-quality images and greater patient comfort, including for pediatric patients, individuals with claustrophobia and those requiring higher weight capacities. The system expands access to advanced prostate and breast imaging and will soon support MRI-guided breast biopsies.

Expanding Countywide Access to Care

From free transportation to and from appointments to on-site support at community events, Ochsner Medical Center – Hancock is working to make care easier and more accessible for local families. More than 70% of surveyed community members now report that getting an appointment is “very easy,” reflecting progress in meeting patients where they are.

Giving Back to the Community Through Gardening

Thirty nurses volunteered at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Northshore campus, spending the day gardening to help beautify the Covington location. Teams worked in the main garden, greenhouse and near the residences, pulling weeds, hauling mulch, clearing debris, and planting flowers and seeds. Whether pushing a wheelbarrow or plowing dirt, the group enthusiastically supported NAMI’s mission of serving individuals with mental illness while strengthening their own connection to community service. The effort not only refreshed the campus grounds but also reinforced the meaningful impact of showing up for a cause that truly matters.



Bringing a Sensory Room to Life

The regional executive team recently spent a meaningful day of service at Slidell Elementary School, partnering with staff to support students in a hands-on way. During the visit, the team helped paint a classroom that the school is transforming into a dedicated sensory room for its large population of Students with Exceptionalities.

We are proud to serve as the sole sponsor for outfitting the space with the specialized materials and equipment needed to create a fully functional sensory room. Once complete, the room will provide a calming, supportive environment designed to help students feel safe, regulated and ready to learn.

Meeting the Needs of Our Youth

In partnership with the American Heart Association, we donated 150 boxes of food to the Slidell Boys & Girls Club, which supports children and families in the local community. Coordinated by our Community Outreach team, the giveaway took place right before Thanksgiving to ensure kids had a nutritious meal while school was out.

Promoting Children's Health and Fitness

We partnered with the Junior Auxiliary of Hancock County to host KidFit, a fun and energetic children's health and fitness fair. Families enjoyed dancing, yoga, jiu jitsu, karate, Pilates and hands-on nutrition demos, showing kids that healthy eating and fitness can take many forms.



Ochsner MD Anderson Cancer Center Now Open in Slidell

The new Ochsner MD Anderson Cancer Center at Slidell Regional Cancer Center, a Campus of Ochsner Medical Center, opened in October 2025, bringing world-renowned cancer expertise, advanced therapies, coordinated nurse navigation, nutrition support and select clinical trials—including Louisiana's only Phase I program—to Slidell. Through the MD Anderson partnership, patients now have expanded breast, prostate and oncology services close to home, supported by leading clinical specialists. The center's launch also creates new clinical roles, interdisciplinary training opportunities and long-term career pathways for local healthcare professionals. "We are transforming the cancer care landscape in Slidell," says Matthew McElveen, MD, medical director at Slidell Regional Cancer Center.

South Shore



10K+
Team Members



530K+
Patients Served



Men's Health Events Focus on Prostate Cancer and Well-Being

Ochsner's Community and Public Affairs Department partnered with Ochsner MD Anderson Cancer Center, with support from Johnson & Johnson, to host six community events focused on men's health. These included events at Fischer Community Church, Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, New Orleans & Company's Hospitality Health Fair, Urban League of Louisiana's Big Health Event, Abundant Life Tabernacle Full Gospel Baptist Church's Protect the Prostate, and ReNEW Delores T. Aaron Academy's Donuts with Dads. In total, 172 prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screenings were completed, and 336 prostate cancer education interactions were delivered.

Inspiring Young Minds

This year, Ochsner helped bring hands-on science to local classrooms through five Super STEM Bowls, reaching more than 4,200 students across the region. A dedicated team of 286 volunteers contributed over 1,300 hours to spark curiosity, support learning, and uplift future innovators. These efforts were powered in part by the Impact 59 Powered by Entergy Legacy Program, which awarded \$3.5 million in grants to 65 nonprofits advancing education and community impact.



A dedicated team of 286 volunteers contributed over 1,300 hours to spark curiosity, support learning and uplift future innovators.

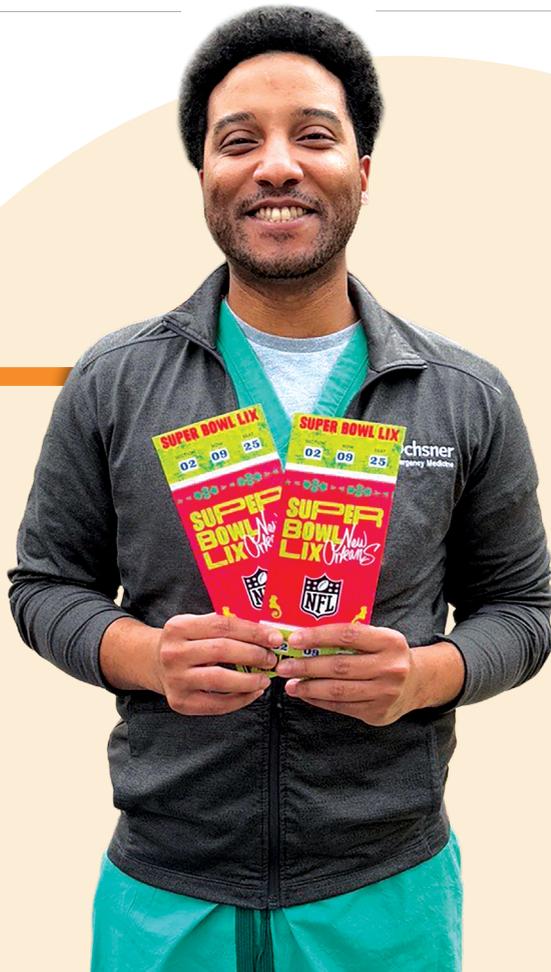
Prioritizing Prevention

New Orleans & Company's Hospitality Health Fair created a welcoming space for hospitality workers to focus on their well-being, and Ochsner was proud to partner in support of this effort. With free health screenings and guidance from local providers, the event helped hospitality professionals catch potential issues early, connect with resources, and leave feeling more informed, supported and empowered to prioritize their health.



Health & Wellness Expo Brings Care to New Orleans East

The 4th Annual Health & Wellness Family Expo drew 321 attendees, and staff provided 331 screenings, 1,481 health education interactions and 100 fresh food boxes. Additionally, 10 women were enrolled for free mammograms. The event was delivered in partnership with the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission and The Links, Incorporated mental health services, and meaningful programming that supports long-term career development.



Honoring First Responders: Ochsner Team Recognized at Super Bowl Tribute

Two first responders were surprised with tickets to the big game during a special tribute event held February 6, hosted by Councilmember Helena Moreno's office to honor those who cared for victims of the New Year's Day Bourbon Street tragedy. The event brought together Gayle Benson, former Saints head coach Sean Payton, NFL leaders, Saints players, and hundreds of first responders—including Ochsner's own Robin Bundick, CRNA; Ashley Battaglia, CRNA; Catherine "Kit" Spencer; Darby Winter; and Rachel Talton. Tom Brady and Michael Strahan introduced Lady Gaga, who delivered a powerful live performance of "Hold My Hand" on Bourbon Street, honoring victims of the New Orleans terror attack.

A Conversation on Community Health

Hear from Emily Arata, System Vice President, Community Affairs, and Yvens Laborde, MD, Chief Community Medical Officer, on Ochsner's approach to moving the community toward a healthier future. By listening to insights, partnering with community leaders and using community engagement as a strategy, Ochsner is working to fulfill its mission and secure a healthier outlook for generations to come.

Q: How do you define community health for your organization?

A: Arata: For us, community health starts long before someone shows up in an exam room. It's about asking what's actually getting in the way of people being healthy in their everyday lives. Things like housing, food, transportation, safety, education and trust. If we're not paying attention to these things, we're missing the point. Our role is to meet people where they are and remove barriers, not just treat your symptoms and send you home.

Q: How is your approach different from traditional community benefit programs?

A: Dr. Laborde: When we invest in health where people live, work, play and worship, we fulfill our mission and secure the foundations that sustain it. Health is not created in hospitals and clinics alone.

Healthcare happens inside our walls, but health itself is forged in the social fabric of communities. When we listen, partner and act together, we extend our impact beyond traditional settings and begin to truly transform lives.

Arata: We don't think of community benefit as a checklist or a compliance exercise. It's a part of our strategy to deliver the highest quality healthcare. We focus on real problems where we can make the biggest difference and stay with them long enough to see real, measurable progress. That means listening first and partnering with organizations already doing the work. We know we can't do this work alone and we shouldn't even try. Some of our strongest results come from backing trusted community partners. Partnerships are the key to lasting community solutions.



Yvens Laborde, MD
Chief Community Medical Officer



Emily Arata
System Vice President
Community Affairs

Q: How do you decide where to invest community benefit dollars?

A: Arata: We start with data, but we don't stop there. Numbers tell us where the problems are, but people tell us why they exist. We spend a lot of time in conversation with community leaders, nonprofits, faith groups and our patients. If something looks good on paper but doesn't resonate on the ground, we rethink it.

Q: How do you measure success in community health work?

A: Dr. Laborde: Community impact cannot be fully measured by numbers and data alone. It is also measured in trust earned, barriers removed, partnerships co-created and lives changed for the better. Data matters. It guides our decisions. But relationships are what allow that data to translate into real progress.

Improving health outcomes for all means meeting people where they are, on their streets, in their schools, in their parks and in their faith communities. Care without access is an unfulfilled promise, and community engagement is the bridge between intention and impact.

Arata: We look at outcomes, not just activity. It's easy to count screenings or community events—and we do that, don't get me wrong. It's harder to track whether people are actually healthier or more stable over time. We care about things like fewer ER visits, better chronic disease control, better health outcomes for moms and babies, and stronger connections to primary care. We also pay attention to trust. If people keep showing up, that tells us a lot.

Q: What makes a partnership successful?

A: Dr. Laborde: Sustained, cross-sector collaboration is at the heart of our most successful partnerships. Whether we're working with school systems, nonprofits or government agencies, impact is strongest when efforts are coordinated, trust is built over time and community partners are empowered as co-leaders.

The most meaningful partnerships prioritize community agency. When collaboration is rooted in mutual respect and shared accountability, we can deliver care and support that are culturally responsive, accessible and meaningful while improving outcomes across populations.

Q: How does prevention and access shape the path forward?

A: Dr. Laborde: Our greatest challenge, and opportunity, is not simply curing disease, but creating conditions that prevent it. Prevention is the foundation of health outcomes. Every screening completed, every conversation about wellness and every evidence-based prevention program moves us toward a healthier future.

Disease prevention is not a moment; it is a longitudinal commitment that begins before birth and continues throughout life. At Ochsner, we are working toward a community-centered, personalized, distributive and integrated approach, one that uses data, innovation and partnership to improve health across the entire continuum of care.

Q: How does this work connect to the health system's broader mission?

A: Arata: This is core to who we are. If we say we exist to improve health, then community health isn't separate from clinical care. It's the front end of it. When communities are healthier, patients do better and the system works better. This isn't charity. It's smart, mission-driven healthcare.

[Access the Community Health Needs Assessments](#)
for each of our hospital facilities to understand how
listening to the voices of our community has guided
our mission-driven work.

[Learn more about free or discounted medical services](#)
for patients who meet eligibility criteria by reading
our Financial Assistance Policy.