



# MedStar Washington Hospital Center

## Tackling a Troubling Cancer Statistic

With screening, colorectal cancer is among the most preventable cancers—and is easily treated when diagnosed early. Yet, Washington, D.C., has one of the highest mortality rates and lowest screening rates in the U.S. MedStar Washington Hospital Center is determined to improve these outcomes with its Colorectal Cancer Prevention in the Neighborhood program, modeled after the hospital's successful Get2 Breast Care Program.



"In looking at our cancer data, it was noted that most of the patients treated for colorectal cancer at the hospital were diagnosed with advanced stages of the disease," says Elmer Huerta, MD, MPH. "They simply aren't getting screening, although 97 percent of them have health insurance."

From the founding of the program in July 2017, through the end of 2017, community navigators have been dispatched across Ward 5, educating residents about colorectal health and offering 116 free Fecal Occult Blood Test kits (FOBT) and/or navigating individuals to colonoscopy. "Our aim is to educate as well as motivate audiences to follow up with screening," Dr. Huerta adds.

## Letter From the President

For 60 years, MedStar Washington Hospital Center has provided the highest-quality health care to residents of the Washington, D.C., region. Part of our mission is to help our neighbors live their healthiest lives through community outreach.

In this annual Report to the Community, we feature two programs: the first focuses on reducing incidence and death from colorectal cancer, and the second is helping young mothers take care of their children and themselves to build a positive future.

We are encouraged by these success stories, and are committed to an even more productive 2018.

Sincerely,

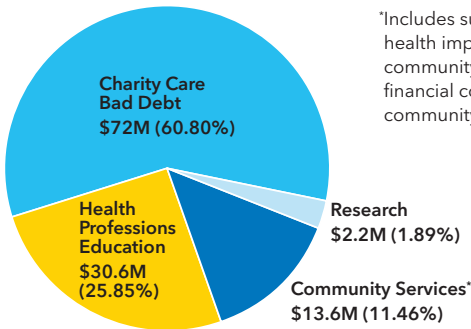
John Sullivan

President,  
MedStar Washington Hospital Center

In the first six months, 120 FOBT kits were handed out, and 30 percent were returned for analysis. As a result, 61 people have been referred for colonoscopy, five colonoscopies have been completed, and one patient was diagnosed with early stage colorectal cancer.

Pleased with the rollout of the program, the hospital hopes to expand it to Wards 7 and 8 in the next year.

## 2017 Community Benefit Contribution: \$ 118.4M



\*Includes subsidies, community health improvement services, community building activities, financial contributions, and community benefit operations.

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## A Helping Hand for Vulnerable Teen Moms

An unexpected pregnancy at age 18 turned Sade Bray's life inside out. She had just graduated from high school, and had not factored a baby into her future. Still, Sade felt blessed, and her priorities quickly became having a healthy baby and becoming a good parent. For both, she turned to TAPP—MedStar Washington Hospital Center's Teen Alliance for Prepared Parenting.

*"In D.C., the teen repeat pregnancy rate is 21 percent. Among TAPP participants, it's just 2.3 percent."* – Elysia Jordan, RN, MPH

Since its inception in 1999, TAPP has helped thousands of young women like Sade, including 250 last year alone. While the goal is to reduce the rate of teen repeat pregnancy in D.C.—which has the nation's highest number of pregnant teens—the program also promotes the overall well-being of these young women.

"Most of our mothers give birth at the Hospital Center, and we provide excellent prenatal and post-natal care," says Elysia Jordan, RN, MPH. "Through TAPP, we also provide an array of other services—everything from family planning to parenting education, social work support, and mental health services."

TAPP is offered to women 21 years old and younger, at the following three locations: the hospital's Women's Community Health Practice and the school-based health centers at D.C.'s Roosevelt and Anacostia high schools. A midwife is on duty at each school one day a week, and sees students in tandem with a TAPP social worker. "The program is a real lifeline for these vulnerable teens—and numbers prove its success," Jordan says. In D.C., the teen repeat pregnancy rate is 21 percent. Among TAPP participants, it's just 2.3 percent."

To learn more about MedStar Health's programs and initiatives across Maryland and the Washington, D.C., region that are contributing to healthier communities, visit [MedStarHealth.org/CommunityHealth](http://MedStarHealth.org/CommunityHealth).