

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, CHIPPEWA FALLS, WIS.

CHIPPEWA HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) is a collaborative endeavor striving to enhance the quality of life through educational and preventative initiatives advocating wellness and good health, broadly defined. Since 1994, HSHS St. Joseph's

Hospital has CHIP. With representatives from schools, churches, businesses, medical facilities, senior citizens, government and legal agencies, CHIP initiatives have strived to enhance the quality of life for residents of Chippewa County. It was the recipient of an AHA NOVA Award in 2013.

Serving as the umbrella organization St. Joseph's Hospital together with schools, churches, senior centers and other partners conducts a community needs assessment every few years to stay abreast of what might be ailing its patient population. A 20-member committee representing various local organizations governs the group, and they hold community retreats every November to sort through data and start planning for the next year. For example, when patients routinely showed up in the emergency department with dental problems CHIP helped to establish a federally qualified dental health center. A group of local business owners raised money, and the center now operates with a staff of 60, treating 150 patients a day from 27 different counties.

CHIP identifies health needs and priorities from which collaborative activities are created to help improve the health status and quality of life of our community. Accomplishments include:

- Family Health Center – Chippewa Dental providing dental care to 200 patients daily in need
- County-wide food audits resulting in enhanced access to and awareness of food availability
- Partner in the formation of the Open Door Clinic providing free medical care
- Developed Chippewa County resource website
- Lead effort in getting cardiac defibrillators for community facilities.

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