



Community Plan

Revised and Updated 2017

*Originally approved by LWF Board and HSD #1, May 2010
Review and update approved by LWF Board and HSD #1, March 2013
Review and update approved by LWF Board and HSD #1, February 2015
Revision and update approved by LWF Board and HSD #1, October 2017*

Executive Summary

The Living Well Foundation exists to promote and fund projects for the improvement of health and well-being of the citizens in its service area, especially those identified as under-served or under-insured. The Living Well Foundation was created in 2006 upon the sale of Glenwood Regional Medical Center in West Monroe to IASIS Healthcare. Glenwood Regional Medical Center was a public hospital funded by the taxpayers of Ward 5 in Ouachita Parish. Upon public vote, the hospital was sold to a for-profit corporation, IASIS Corporation, of Nashville, Tennessee, and the Hospital Service District #1 established the Ward 5 Healthcare Foundation, later re-named the Living Well Foundation, to administer the dedicated proceeds on behalf of the public benefit.

Since the demographic referral base for Glenwood Regional Medical Center included several parishes as a regional provider, the service area of the Foundation was developed to consist of Caldwell, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, and Union Parishes. As part of Region 8 in northeast Louisiana, and within the area identified by the Office of Public Health with major healthcare gaps, the service area has many challenges for provision of health care services and access for medical, dental, and mental healthcare.

Service Area



The Foundation is governed by the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the HSD #1, the Coordination Agreement with the OPPJ and the HSD #1, the Articles of Incorporation, and the By-Laws, as well as Louisiana statutes regarding public entities as a quasi-governmental non-profit public charity.

Community Needs Assessment

Early on, the Living Well Foundation engaged the services of Professional Research Consultants of Omaha, Nebraska, to study the 8-parish service area and determine the needs of the communities. The Community Needs Assessment, finalized in 2008, identified major needs in the status of the health and well-being of the constituents. Because Region 8 is the poorest overall region in Louisiana, and one of the poorest in the nation, and there are gaps in the healthcare access and delivery systems, major issues confront the populations.

The findings of the Community Needs Assessment identified 3 overall areas of concern: healthcare access, healthy lifestyle practices, and the high rate of infant mortality. The availability of healthcare professionals and facilities providing medical, dental, or mental health is diminished and difficult to sustain, especially in rural areas. Obesity and diabetes, as well as hypertension and other chronic diseases, are rampant and sometimes untreated in all ages of the population. Lack of proper prenatal care and infant mortality are at distressing levels for the region.

Relationship to the Community Plan:

The Living Well Foundation, through its governance, is required to have a Community Plan in place within one year after a Community Needs Assessment and updated at least every 10 years unless waived by the HSD #1 Board of Commissioners. The Community Plan is based on the findings identified in the Community Needs Assessment and will be used as a tool to guide the strategic and budget planning of the Foundation. Additionally, the Community Plan addresses the main areas of concern of the Community Needs Assessment by identifying the themes and strategic priorities which the Living Well Foundation seeks to address through its grant-making activities and large impact initiatives.

The Community Plan will serve as a guide for the Foundation Board of Directors and staff to address activities such as:

- Establishing partnerships that can enhance and advance identified themes;
- Leveraging resources through public and private collaborative efforts;
- Providing access to health and wellness options that improve the quality of life;
- Creating new initiatives and supporting existing programs and services that will address identified themes as well as have a beneficial effect on other health-related issues;
- Creating an internal system to measure the results and clarity of funded grants; and,
- Providing information that will promote policy initiatives and change.

Overview of the Living Well Foundation

The Foundation uses the earnings from the invested principal to fund projects as grants or initiatives to area non-profit entities including but not limited to agencies, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), parish hospitals, school boards, and state universities through a grant determination process based on established parameters by the Board of Directors and in compliance with the 2008 Community Needs Assessment. As a non-profit foundation and a public charity, the Living Well Foundation seeks to fund health-related projects or initiatives which serve to provide long-term sustainable impact both economically and socially.

Mission Statement

The Living Well Foundation is committed to improving the wellness of our communities and the physical and mental health of individuals in the service area.

Vision Statement

Through its programs, grants, and initiatives, and networking with area agencies and healthcare providers as well as school boards, state universities and colleges, and other government entities, the Living Well Foundation envisions a future of improved quality of life and well-being for the populations of the Service Area with measurable social and economic impact.

Identified Themes

From the 2008 Community Needs Assessment, three overall themes for the Community Plan were identified:

- Promoting Healthy Lifestyles Through Education, Awareness, and Wellness Services
- Improving Access to Healthcare Through Availability and Affordability
- Addressing Special Healthcare Needs of Infants and Minor Children

These themes will provide the guidance for strategic priorities and goals within the Strategic Plan and the budgeting processes of the Living Well Foundation. To ensure that minor children and young under-served mothers and their infants receive special attention, and due to the challenges for this at-risk population in northeast Louisiana, the Foundation includes this theme as a distinct and separate item.

The Foundation desires to focus its efforts especially to the under-served and under-insured populations, including Medicaid covered lives, and to children within its Service Area. Based on the Coordination Agreement with the OPPJ and the HSD #1, the Foundation also seeks to ensure that grants and initiatives will be funded throughout Ouachita Parish in relationship to the referral patterns previously experienced by Glenwood Regional Medical Center.

Acknowledgements

The Living Well Foundation Board of Directors and the Hospital Service District (HSD) #1 Board of Commissioners are appreciative of the members of the 2008 and 2011 Community Advisory Councils for their vital role in advising the Foundation on items related to the 2008 Community Needs Assessment of the 8-parish service area.

The Community Plan, revised and updated for 2017, was approved by the Board of Directors for the Living Well Foundation and by the Hospital Service District (HSD) #1 Board of Commissioners.

2017 Living Well Foundation Board of Directors

Deion Hemphill, Chair
Pastor Don Banks
Leah Biley
Dr. Florencetta Gibson

A. Whitfield Hood, Jr.
Courtney Hornsby
Dr. Louis E. McGuire
Dr. Dave N. Norris, Jr.

Ken Phillips
Dr. John Shepard
Jimmy Snow
Carl Turner

2017 HSD #1 Board of Commissioners

Steve Hall, Chair
Randy Gilley

Mike Mulhearn
Pat Spencer

Jeri Sanders Watson