TOPIC FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020:

Besides delivering healthcare services, what other contributions does Mohawk Valley Health System (MVHS) make to this community and region?

As we’ve shared before, beyond providing healthcare services (emergency and inpatient care, and physician offices throughout the region), MVHS is one of the largest private sector employers in the county with an employee payroll of $286 million. Additionally, each year our organization generates nearly $900 million in economic activity in the region, according to an analysis conducted by the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS). Given this economic activity, hospitals and health systems like MVHS are often called “anchor institutions.”

But even more than that - MVHS invests in the quality of life and overall well-being of our communities. In fact, each year our organization invests more than $41 million to improve our communities’ health, both as a health system alone as well as with other community partners and organizations. This annual investment includes:

- **Community health improvement services** such as holding health screenings for cancer, heart disease, diabetes and other chronic conditions, hosting smoking cessation programs, and conducting or participating in health fairs. Significant health improvement programs include the MVHS Dental Health Center, which is one of the only dental practices to take care of Medicaid patients in our area, and the Sister Rose Vincent Family Medicine Center, which takes care of some of the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community. MVHS also works in partnership with the Oneida County Department of Health and Rome Memorial Hospital to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment that identifies and prioritizes community health needs, and then develops action plans to meet those priority needs.

- **Medical education programs** that are building the workforce of tomorrow. This includes our Family Medicine and Dental Residency programs and the St. Elizabeth College of Nursing as well as the clinical affiliations we have with local health professional education programs in nursing, medical technology programs, and other health professions. An expanding area for MVHS is also establishing programs to help prepare our area’s youth for healthcare careers in partnership with BOCES and other organizations.

- **“Community building” initiatives that help to protect or address our community’s access to healthcare and other health needs** as well as identify and address social determinants of health such as access to nutritious food, child care, etc. These initiatives are performed in partnership with other agencies, such as the Oneida County Departments of Health and Mental Health, and organizations in our community such as the Refugee Center in Utica, the Hispanic Coalition, and others.

- **Financial assistance for disadvantaged community members** which may include free or discounted health services as well as assistance applying for state (Medicaid) or federal services. In addition, MVHS subsidizes the costs not covered by the State Medicaid program for services delivered to beneficiaries – Medicaid reimburses hospitals only 73 cents for each dollar of care provided.

These are just a few examples of how MVHS contributes to the health and quality of life in our community – and our community health improvement and outreach initiatives are expanding and growing throughout our region.