2022 COMMUNITY REPORT

Partnering for a Healthier Community
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*Note: Some photos were taken during a time the CDC did not recommend face masks in non-healthcare facilities, so do not include PPE or social distancing. Both were in practice at Inova care sites.*
To Our Community,

Inova’s guiding vision is to continually serve the needs of the community we are privileged to serve. In 2022, Inova’s focus on the strength and wellbeing of the community was a deliberate and collaborative effort. Our triennial Community Health Needs Assessment recognizes and prioritizes Northern Virginia’s health issues – including mental health and social drivers of health such as economic stability and healthcare access. We prioritize our support and investment accordingly, always with a focus on health equity.

Of course, we cannot do this work alone. Our community partners stand shoulder to shoulder with us to identify and focus on under-resourced communities and unmet needs. For example:

- The Women’s Center in Vienna provided low income and uninsured clients across all ethnically and racially diverse populations approximately 500 hours of reduced fee mental health services.
- We were thrilled to partner with Nueva Vida, a support network for Latinas with cancer & their families, addressing the lack of access to culturally sensitive and competent cancer support services.
- And our longstanding partnership with the Loudoun Literacy Council ensured that 1,240 at-risk adult and children received health education and literacy intervention instruction sessions focusing on nutrition, wellness and English instruction.

There are many additional examples included in the pages that follow, and we are proud to serve this community and play a leading role in bringing health equity to the people in the surrounding regions.

I am reminded that strength and growth come only through continuous effort and dedication. Inova is an anchor the Northern Virginia community has relied on for more than 150 years. I am proud and privileged to lead this dedicated team as we move forward into a future of health and wellbeing for all.

Sincerely,

J. Stephen Jones, MD, FACS, President and CEO
INOVa AS An Anchor

Across the nation, hospitals and healthcare systems play a major role not only in their communities’ health but also their financial vitality. Inova’s hospitals and services enhance the neighborhoods where its patients and team members live, work and play, proving an essential part of the fabric of Northern Virginia, and playing a crucial role in the economy.

Inova’s role as a member of the Healthcare Anchor Network includes multiple components that enhance local health equity:

- Community Health (neighborhood clinics, programs and community engagement)
- Local Hiring (diverse workforce development for youth and adults)
- Local Investment (grants, financial opportunities, neighborhood livability efforts and volunteering in the community)
- Local Procurement (purchasing from local vendors and building local economies)
- Evidence-Based Data (addressing clinical disparities and ensuring stewardship driven by community assessments)
- Advocacy (sharing the community voice in the development of programs and policies, both locally and statewide)

Throughout this year’s report you will find examples of Inova’s commitment to its role as an Anchor in our communities.
Community Health Locations

Care Connection for Children (CCC)  www.inova.org/ccc
Available to individuals in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania or Stafford
CCC works closely with families to coordinate care for children and youth with disabilities.

Inova Cares Clinic for Children (ICCC)  www.inova.org/iccc
Located in Falls Church
ICCC provides comprehensive pediatric services for children with Medicaid or without insurance.

Inova Cares Clinic for Community Bridging (ICCCB)  www.inova.org/icccb
Locations in Alexandria, Fairfax and Leesburg
ICCCB clinically supports patients being discharged from an Inova hospital or Inova emergency room who do not have a medical home or cannot get an appointment with their primary care provider within 72 hours following a hospital admission.

Inova Cares Clinic for Families (ICCF)  www.inova.org/iccf
Locations in Alexandria, Annandale, Fairfax, Herndon, Manassas, and Sterling, serving individuals across Northern Virginia
ICCF provides primary care services for patients of all ages, regardless of immigration status, who qualify for Medicaid, FAMIS, Inova’s Financial Assistance Program, or are uninsured.

Inova Cares Clinic for Women (ICCW)  www.inova.org/iccw
Locations in Falls Church, Herndon, Lansdowne and Mount Vernon, serving individuals across Northern Virginia
ICCW provides outpatient obstetrical and gynecological services for uninsured or low-income individuals.

Inova Cares Clinic for Behavioral Health (ICCBH)  www.inova.org/iccbh
Located in Leesburg, serving individuals across Northern Virginia
ICCBH provides adult mental health counseling services for individuals approved or eligible for Inova financial assistance or are covered by Virginia Medicaid plans.

Inova Lions Eye Clinic  www.inova.org/ilec
Located in Annandale and serves patients through referral
The Inova Lions Eye Clinic provides free eye care to uninsured adult patients who are at or below 400% of the FPL.

Inova Ewing FACT Department  www.inova.org/fact
Serving individuals across Northern Virginia
FACT provides acute and non-acute forensic exams for victims of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, strangulation, human trafficking and child abuse.

Inova Health Plate Club (IHPC)  www.inova.org/healthplateclub
Available in Alexandria, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties
IHPC runs programs based in school, community and virtual settings to improve students understanding of nutrition and promote healthy behaviors.

Inova Juniper Program (IJP)  www.inova.org/juniper
Locations in Dumfries, Fairfax, Herndon, Leesburg, Manassas and Mount Vernon, serving individuals across Northern Virginia
IJP provides primary medical care and mental health, substance abuse and case management services to individuals living with HIV.

Inova Kellar Center  www.inova.org/kellar
Locations in Fairfax and Sterling, serving individuals across Northern Virginia
The Kellar Center provides behavioral health services and substance use disorder treatment programs for children, adolescents and their families.

Inova Cares Medical House Calls (IMHC)  www.inova.org/IMHC
Service area across Northern Virginia
IMHC brings primary care to homebound patients who are 65 years of age or greater.

Inova Pride Clinic (IPC)  www.inova.org/prideclinic
Located in Falls Church, serving individuals across Northern Virginia and beyond
IPC provides primary care tailored to the unique needs of LGBT+ people ages 12 years and older.

Partnership for Healthier Communities (PHC)  www.inova.org/phc
Locations in Alexandria, Annandale, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Sterling, serving individuals across Northern Virginia
PHC provides application and enrollment assistance for programs like Medicaid and Inova Financial Assistance to uninsured children and adults in Virginia.

Department Names
Care Connection for Children
Inova Cares Clinic for Children
Inova Cares Clinic for Community Bridging
Inova Cares Clinic for Families
Inova Cares Clinic for Women
Inova Cares Clinic for Behavioral Health
Inova Lions Eye Clinic
Inova Ewing FACT Department
Inova Healthy Plate Club
Inova Hospital
Inova Juniper Program
Inova Kellar Center
Inova Pride Clinic
Partnership for Healthier Communities

Concatenate (color) broken down by Department Names.
The view is filtered on Department Names, which excludes NULL.
## 2022 Health Equity Grant Recipients Include:

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Capital Youth Empowerment Program</strong></td>
<td>to support the Fathers in Tech workforce development program and to equip 200 Arlington, Fairfax and Alexandria fathers living in Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities with workplace and family empowerment skills.</td>
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<td><strong>Nueva Vida</strong></td>
<td>to improve access to culturally sensitive cancer and mental health support services for under-resourced Latino populations in Alexandria and Fairfax County.</td>
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<td><strong>Our Minds Matter</strong></td>
<td>to support 750 adolescents in 32 Northern Virginia high schools by bolstering protective factors and improving access to mental health resources.</td>
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<td><strong>Loudern Literacy Council</strong></td>
<td>to support 1,240 at-risk adults and children with Health Education and Literacy intervention instruction sessions and Story Walks to promote family literacy, Head Start and Starting Towards Excellence in Preschool (STEP) reading.</td>
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<td><strong>The Women’s Center</strong></td>
<td>to provide affordable mental health services to low-income and uninsured Fairfax County residents across ethnically and racially diverse populations.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Act for Alexandria</strong></td>
<td>to support the Community Leaders Initiative that helps BIPOC youth and adults play an active role in promoting positive social change that directly affects their communities.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Arm &amp; Arm</strong></td>
<td>to provide peer recovery, behavioral health and support services to people who are homeless and experience mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders in Fairfax, Alexandria and Arlington.</td>
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<td><strong>Boat People SOS, Inc.</strong></td>
<td>to empower Vietnamese-Americans in Fairfax County to take control of their health by increasing health awareness, health literacy and access to healthcare resources.</td>
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<td><strong>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of Greater Washington</strong></td>
<td>to expand its Triple Play: A Game Plan for the Mind, Body and Soul, which helps young people improve their health and wellbeing through diet, movement, and positive relationships.</td>
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<td><strong>Capital Area Food Bank</strong></td>
<td>to support a pilot program that provides healthy food options and nutrition education to Northern Virginia residents facing food insecurity and chronic medical conditions.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ENDependence Center of Northern Virginia</strong></td>
<td>to help people with disabilities from BIPOC, immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities find services, support, programs and resources that promote their health and wellbeing.</td>
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**Edu-Futuro**
in the Public Health Youth Ambassador Program, part of the Emerging Leaders Program, which offers immigrant and underserved elementary and high school students opportunities to develop skills and strategies to meet their future goals.

**Family Counseling Center of Greater Washington**
to support bilingual and culturally appropriate mental health and counseling services to low-income Asian and other immigrant community members in Fairfax County.

**Food for Others**
to support emergency food distribution to people in need who are referred by Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning, social workers, religious organizations, schools and physicians in Northern Virginia.

**INMED Partnership for Children**
to support the Legacy for the Future Program, which improves mental health and wellness of low-income Latino/a teenagers and their families impacted by COVID-19.

**Loudern Education Foundation**
to help the Health and Medical Sciences Career Academy boost Loudoun County student involvement in specialized programs in the health and medical fields.

**Loudern Hunger Relief**
to help the Supporting Wellness at Pantries Program better engage the community to address food insecurity in Loudoun County.

**National Alliance on Mental Illness of Northern Virginia**
to promote services, including support groups and other resources, for people living with mental health conditions throughout Northern Virginia.

**Stop Child Abuse Now**
to facilitate child abuse prevention in Northern Virginia through training, parent education, parent coaching and child intervention.

**SevaTruck Foundation**
an innovative free meal food truck, to deliver 125,000 nutritious meals to low-income students in Fairfax County.

**The Heart Leaf Center**
to help the School and Community Mental Health Access Partnership increase community access to high-quality, play-based mental health services for children and families struggling with financial, linguistic and logistical barriers.

**Western Fairfax Christian Ministries**
to support the Free Food Fridge Program with equipment and healthy food to increase food stability, nutrition and health in Fairfax County.

**Youth for Tomorrow**
to increase access to diverse behavioral health clinicians through outpatient mental health services for children, adolescents and adults in Northern Virginia.
CREATING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Inova is committed to developing a healthcare workforce made up of local community members. To do this, Inova has developed several programs with community partners to create opportunities for adults and youth to learn about healthcare careers, develop the skills needed to succeed and find pathways to available positions. Here are a few highlights:

**BLOOM!**
In November, 200 students from six middle schools in Sterling and Leesburg attended BLOOM! – Building Learning Opportunities and Options in Medical Sciences. The students heard from Inova healthcare professionals about their career journeys and rotated through several hands-on experiences. They explored the Inova Loudoun Hospital Mobile Health Bus, practiced CPR with the Loudoun Fire and Rescue Team, and participated in virtual reality heart surgery with the Future Kings.

BLOOM! brought together multiple partners, including Loudoun County Public Schools and the Loudoun Education Foundation, which received a Health Equity Grant from Inova for the project in early 2022. Following the event, 79% of students surveyed said it increased their interest in the health and medical sciences.

**Dream BIG: A Day in the Life at Inova**
In December, 100 Fairfax County Public School seniors attended a Dream Big event at Inova Fairfax Hospital. They toured the Advanced Surgical Technology and Education Center, worked with mannequins at the Inova Center for Advanced Medical Simulation, observed heart and vascular surgery and practiced physical exams with University of Virginia medical students.

Inova team members shared their career paths and passion for their work. Dream Big: A Day in the Life at Inova exposes young people to healthcare career opportunities and the satisfaction this work brings.

**Dream BIG: Career Development Program**
Developing a robust and diverse workforce means engaging with all age groups interested in healthcare careers. Inova partnered with the Workforce Innovation Skills Hub (WISH) and Melwood to pilot a four-week career training program for adults at the Hybla Valley Community Center. More than 20 people received role-specific skill-building, resume support, interview coaching and the opportunity to interview for available positions.

Of the 22 participants, more than half received job offers and several were hired as new Inova team members. This successful pilot will be replicated in other communities around the region, leading to more opportunities for community members to find rewarding and fulfilling careers.

**Community Health Worker Experience and Certification**
In partnership with Fairfax County Health Department, Edu-Futuro and Neighborhood Health, Inova provided community-based training and experiential opportunities for Fairfax County Public High School students with low-income backgrounds. Community Health Workers (CHWs) from Inova Cares Clinic for Families in Alexandria provided training and shadowing experiences for students to supplement computer-based learning modules.

The inaugural cohort launched in the summer with 19 students graduating in December with a CHW certification from Morehouse School of Medicine. Along with their CHW certification, the students receive a $500 stipend and a laptop to use during their fieldwork. The partnership will continue to provide these trainings to four cohorts each school year, building opportunities for young people and creating a robust local workforce of CHWs.
SAFE, INCLUSIVE CARE FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Inova opened Northern Virginia’s first dedicated medical clinic for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) population during Pride Month 2022. The Inova Pride Clinic, located in Falls Church, provides primary care with an emphasis on the unique needs of LGBTQ+ youth and adults in a safe, respectful and compassionate environment.

The clinical team brings expertise in areas including gender-affirming care and counseling, HIV prevention, adolescent health, sexually transmitted infection treatment and prevention and mental health. “In healthcare, it’s critical that we meet patients where they are,” says Dr. Jorge Ramallo, lead physician. “Unfortunately, many LGBTQ+ patients have encountered some form of discrimination in a healthcare setting in their lifetime, which has made doctor visits stressful and avoidable. By creating a dedicated medical home, we can help members of this community get the care they need.”

The clinic is the latest example of Inova’s commitment to health equity. In 2021, Inova Fairfax Hospital was designated an LGBTQ+ Healthcare Top Performer by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. Inova Alexandria, Inova Fair Oaks, Inova Loudoun and Inova Mount Vernon hospitals achieved the Foundational Tier of Recognition for LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality.

To further build trust with the LGBTQ+ community, Inova proudly participated at both Capital Pride and Loudoun Pride!
Inova Leads Efforts to Address Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a growing problem in America. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), more than 34 million people, including 9 million children, are food insecure. In Virginia in 2020, 650,000 people routinely did not get enough to eat, a number that has continued to grow throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The USDA defines food insecurity as “limited or uncertain access to adequate food.” It’s one of the 13 Social Drivers of Health (SDOH) – behavioral, socio-economic and environmental factors that influence health outcomes.

For the past few years, Inova has taken proactive steps to address SDOH in the community, with an emphasis on food insecurity. Inova has the ability to screen patients at any appointment (see figure 2) and partners with community organizations to help families in need (see figure 1).

“Food insecurity is a significant health-related social issue in our region, and the pandemic has only made it worse,” says Henna Qureshi, DO, an Inova pediatrician. “Children who do not get enough to eat face long-term medical, developmental and behavioral problems. It can also contribute to, or worsen, chronic health conditions in adults, which leads to higher healthcare costs.”

To identify those at risk, Inova has implemented an SDOH screening tool for adults and children in its electronic health record that identifies food insecurity (see sidebar). Working toward universal screening removes the stigma for families who may be reluctant to ask for help and takes the guesswork out of trying to identify people who are hungry.

Patients who screen positive are referred to local food banks and federal nutrition programs such as SNAP and WIC. In addition, several of Inova’s clinics have in-house pantries to provide emergency help for families who have no food for their next meal. Support comes from an annual Inova employee food drive, as well as grants and the Inova Foundation, which helps supply grocery bags and food cards.

“We recognize that medical care, while important, is only a part of a person’s health,” says Kate Garsson, Manager of Program Outreach and Education for Community Health. “If we want to keep people healthy and out of the hospital, we must address these non-clinical aspects.”

Inova is working to expand and refine the program to provide medically tailored food bags to patients with chronic illnesses, such as HIV, diabetes and heart disease. Efforts are also underway to customize food bags to cultural preferences.

“These actions speak to the fact that we recognize food as a critical driver in healthcare outcomes,” Dr. Qureshi says. “We want to meet patients where they are and with what they need, rather than what we think they need. Being proactive has a greater impact and supports a shift to value-based care.”

Inova’s Initiatives to Address Food Insecurity

- **On-site food pantries at locations including the Inova Cares Clinic for Children, Inova Cares Clinic for Women, Inova Cares Clinic for Families, Care Connections for Children and the Inova Abdominal Transplant Clinic.**
- **Food referrals at many Inova locations.** Patients who are identified as food insecure receive a prescription to take to an area food pantry, and some sites offer food deliveries to patients who are homebound or transportation insecure.
- **Inova works with Food for Others to participate in Project DASH, Door Dash’s free food delivery program for food-insecure and transportation-insecure families. Inova refers families to Food for Others, which organizes the deliveries.**
- **Food drives, including a system-wide annual food drive in which team members donate, sort and pack food that goes directly to patients in need. Inova’s Pediatric Residency Program collaborates with the Medical Care for Children Partnership Foundation to provide education at food drives in neighborhoods throughout Northern Virginia.**
- **Fruit and vegetable prescription program for pediatric patients who are overweight and/or present risks for obesity-related diseases, such as high cholesterol, blood pressure or A1C. Through a grant from No Kid Hungry, patients are referred by providers and receive four to six boxes of produce every other week.**
TWENTY YEARS OF BOOSTING CHILDHOOD LITERACY & FAMILY BONDING

Reading together fosters curiosity, promotes healthy brain development and provides an opportunity for families to build powerful, lasting bonds. Research shows that reading with children puts them on a path to success. Benefits include better language and listening skills, stronger emotional connections and a lifelong love of reading.

To encourage reading aloud to children, Inova’s clinics provide new and gently used books to families. Inova Cares Clinic for Children (ICCC) has been part of the Reach Out and Read program for 20 years. Reach Out and Read is a nationally based program that incorporates the benefits of reading aloud to children into pediatric care. At ICCC, children between the ages of two months and five years receive a new, age-appropriate book at every well-child visit, and a gently used book at all other visits. In addition, the team educates parents about the importance of reading with their children and gives tips to make reading together a daily routine. Through additional Foundation support, Inova Cares Clinic for Families provides donated books to their pediatric patients at clinics throughout the region.

80% of a child’s brain is formed between birth and age 3. Source: https://reachoutandread.org/

In 2022, more than 2,500 children received one or more books through Reach Out and Read.

The bookshelves at ICCC are colorful and inviting even after more than 2,500 children received books in 2022.

PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES REACHES 45K MILESTONE

Partnership for Healthier Communities (PHC), Inova’s longstanding initiative to connect vulnerable populations to quality healthcare, celebrated a significant milestone in 2022.

Located throughout Northern Virginia, PHC works closely with schools, governments and community outreach programs to identify uninsured children and adults. The program then connects them to appropriate and affordable healthcare resources such as Medicaid, FAMIS (Virginia’s health insurance program for children), and other free or low-cost medical care coverage. PHC has now enrolled more than 45,000 community members in Medicaid and FAMIS.

PHC offers the community free services such as:
- Medicaid and FAMIS enrollment and renewal assistance
- Inova charity and emergency Medicaid application assistance
- Referrals to regional safety net clinics
- Collaboration with local school systems and community partners
- Community outreach and enrollment opportunities
- Medicaid and baby shower educational workshops

The team partners with Inova Cares Clinics and local health departments to host free back-to-school physicals, well-child exams and immunizations for kids in need. At these events, uninsured families are screened for Medicaid eligibility and receive one-on-one enrollment assistance or referrals to safety net clinics.

PHC is an Inova program with funding support from the Virginia Health Care Foundation, the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

In 2022, PHC helped 3,864 clients enroll in Virginia Medicaid and FAMIS programs.

In 2022, PHC team members connected 22,375 clients with safety-net providers.

Helping Kids Thrive for 25 Years

Xavier Becerra, Health & Human Services Secretary, and Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, administrator of CMS, join team members at Inova Cares Clinic in Falls Church to celebrate the 25th anniversary of FAMIS. The event also recognized PHC’s Medicaid/FAMIS outreach and enrollment efforts.
Mental health was the number one health concern in the 2019 Loudoun County Community Health Needs Assessment, and the demand, which intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic, has not subsided. Throughout the pandemic, Loudoun Health Equity Community Action Committee members and stakeholders shared ongoing gaps in mental healthcare in the county. One of the biggest areas identified was lack of options for the un- or under-insured to receive care before a crisis occurs. Loudoun County Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Disability Services frequently sees patients with acute mental health needs who would have benefitted from earlier intervention.

In May, the Inova Cares Clinic for Behavioral Health (ICCBH) opened in Leesburg to address the growing need for mental health services in Loudoun County. ICCBH provides in-person and virtual therapy and support services for mild to moderate mental health needs among Virginia Medicaid patients and those without insurance coverage. Treatment is short-term and goal-directed. The clinic also connects patients to community resources and primary care services. ICCBH helps Inova address disparities in access to mental health care and meet the needs of all patients in the community.

The 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment revealed that mental health is one of the top three most important health issues in all five Inova regions. COVID-19 amplified that need, creating a surge in demand for behavioral health services across the Northern Virginia region and beyond.

Inova responded to this acute need, adding inpatient behavioral health beds and outpatient resources, including a women’s behavioral health program. All services are designed to provide the right level of help for each individual’s needs.

Inova Honors – the signature fundraising event of the Inova Health Foundation – raised more than $4.15 million for Inova Behavioral Health Services and other programs to strengthen and expand access to these critically needed mental health and addiction programs throughout Northern Virginia.

The November 2022 event recognized Inova Behavioral Health Services’ team members and programs, which touch the lives of thousands of patients and families in our community. Many corporate and community partners gave their support including Kellar Family Foundation, United Bank, Dominion Energy and Five Guys. These partners helped Inova meet the increasingly urgent need of services by providing funds that are being used to increase access to behavioral health programs, shine a light on the mental health epidemic in our region and ensure that all patients receive the expert care they need and deserve.
The Charles B. and Betty G. Ewing Forensic Assessment and Consultation Teams (FACT) program provides specialized forensic medical evaluation services for children and adults. The FACT team of doctors, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), and child life specialists offer thoughtful care and advice based on their extensive training, experience and medical data. All services are provided free of charge to patients.

In April, FACT opened a new pediatric examination room in its Dunn Loring location dedicated to Toni Ardabell, Chief of Clinical Enterprise Operations at Inova. Ardabell is a long-time donor to Inova, supporting programs that address the needs of the underserved, including FACT, Inova Cares Clinic for Children, Inova’s Compassion Fund and the Gary August Switzer Memorial Fund. The new room will help ensure that survivors of child sexual assault and abuse have the resources they need to heal.

And, in December, community partner The Courage Closet was recognized with the dedication of a forensic exam room, in honor of founder and survivor Liz Sands, at the Cornwall Campus in Leesburg. This exam room empowers survivors and signifies strength and bravery as each patient begins their healing journey.

In recognition of its outstanding contributions to local public schools, Inova was named to the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) 2022 Business Honor Roll. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) nominated Inova for playing a key role in major initiatives that supported students, schools and the Northern Virginia community, including:

- VAXUp videos – produced by Inova pediatricians and FCPS to provide COVID-19 vaccination information to students, parents and guardians
- COVID-19 vaccinations – for school administrators, teachers and staff allowing for timely reopening of in-person learning
- Career guidance – presented in partnership with numerous FCPS schools and programs to offer diverse career opportunity information via student panels, job shadowing, Entry Pathways and Dream Big programs

VSBA is a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards that promotes excellence in public education through leadership, advocacy and services, and which recognizes community partners for their contributions.
A Call for Collaboration: Intersectionality and Health Equity. Inova’s fourth annual Healthcare Disparities Conference, was held in October. More than 350 people from across the Washington, DC, region and the country participated online, representing a diverse mix of demographics and professions.

The half-day symposium addressed the role of sociocultural barriers and intersecting identities in the care of culturally and ethnically diverse patients. This year’s keynote speaker was Oluwaferanmi Okanlami, MD, MS, Director of Student Accessibility and Accommodation Services, and Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at the University of Michigan. Dr. Okanlami discussed definitions and biases associated with the word diversity, and looked at ways to increase diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in medicine.

Participants also heard colleagues and community partners share first-hand experiences of bias in the workplace, and explored how community collaboratives could improve health equity for patients, families and healthcare teams.

Since it began in 2019, the conference has grown larger each year. The planning committee now includes Inova, iTHRIV, George Mason University’s Area Health Education Center and Carilion Clinic.

Over 350 participants included physicians, nurses, students, social workers, health educators and DEI program managers.

Audience included 31% Black, 9.5% Hispanic/Latino, 79% female.

The audience included attendees from 18 states and the District of Columbia.

Participants rated the conference 4.5 out of 5.

To support the healthiest community possible, it is critical to understand what affects health and wellbeing, and the needs and priorities of our residents.

In 2022, Inova’s Community Health team conducted the triennial Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs). Northern Virginians provided feedback on the top health issues in their communities through stakeholder interviews, focus groups and a community survey available in nine languages both virtually and on paper. Community partners helped publicize these opportunities, resulting in a robust response that provided a clear picture of the needs of our neighbors in each of our regions.

In all five regions, the top health issues were Mental Health, Healthcare Access and Economic Stability. Knowing this, the Regional Health Equity Community Action committees, made up of local stakeholders and health partners, came together to develop three-year implementation strategies.

These strategies will help Inova and our partners improve community health through local approaches tailored to each region’s unique needs.
Inova has learned from our community that building trust means showing up. Inova teams showed up to neighborhoods and events all over the region to provide resources, engage with our neighbors and advocate for the needs of residents.

Inova Cares Clinic for Children team members participate in a community partner's event for kids.

Inova Well team members participate in a community partner's event for kids.

Inova Well team members conduct health screenings at a local mosque.

Inova team members provided information at several tables at a community partner's back-to-school event.

Inova teams share resources at a local church's spring coat giveaway.

Inova Loudoun Hospital's Mobile Health Bus offers screenings at SterlingFest.

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