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## **St. James Mercy Publishes 2013 Community Service Plan**

**Hornell, New York...November 20, 2013...**St. James Mercy Hospital (SJMH) has completed its 2013 Community Service Plan and has posted it to its website ([www.stjamesmercy.org/community.shtml](http://www.stjamesmercy.org/community.shtml)).

New York State hospitals are required by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to create and distribute an annual Community Service Plan that describes the hospital's plan to address local health priorities. The priorities were identified through a community health needs assessment in 2012 in collaboration with Steuben County Public Health and partner agencies, based on the state's "Prevention Agenda 2013 – 2017" ([www.health.ny.gov/prevention/prevention\\_agenda/](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/prevention_agenda/)).

A public document, the Community Service Plan describes SJMH's progress toward meeting the Steuben County priorities which include two identified challenging areas regarding the prevention of chronic disease:

- Reduce obesity in children and adults
- Reduce heart disease and hypertension

The partner agencies also chose to address the following disparity:

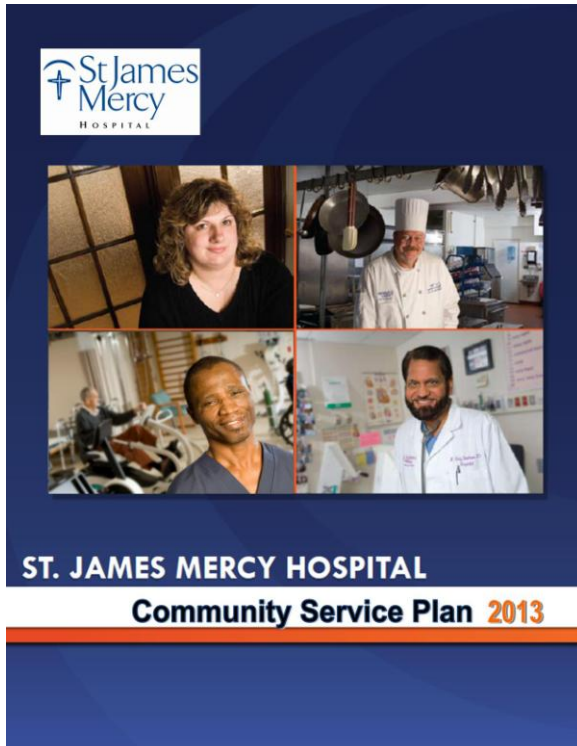
- Promote tobacco cessation, especially among low SES (socioeconomic status) populations and those with mental health illness

St. James Mercy Hospital actively participated in the needs assessment and has been integral in the development of collaborative programs to address local priorities. Some of SJMH's key programs over the next three years include breastfeeding education to address maternal weight control, chronic heart failure reduction program, heart disease support group, outpatient adolescent tobacco assessment, and will also support county programs.

*More....more....more*

SJMH will report its progress on an annual basis, and continue to collaborate with Steuben County Public Health and partner agencies to address and monitor local health priorities. For more information visit [www.stjamesmercy.org/community.shtml](http://www.stjamesmercy.org/community.shtml) and select “2013 Community Service Plan”.

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*St. James Mercy's 2013 Community Service Plan can be accessed at [www.stjamesmercy.org/community.shtml](http://www.stjamesmercy.org/community.shtml).*