

*Caring*  
for our community

The 2009  
Meriter Story

**MERITER**

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202 South Park Street  
Madison, WI 53715

For more information on Meriter's  
community involvement, visit  
[meriter.com/community-service](http://meriter.com/community-service)

### Meriter Health Services

For over 110 years Meriter Health Services has been privileged to serve residents of Madison, Dane County and the surrounding counties. This report gives you a glimpse of the breadth of Meriter's services and the people served as Meriter carries out its mission on a daily basis –

To heal this day  
 To teach for tomorrow  
 To embrace excellence always  
 To serve our communities -  
 For a lifetime of quality healthcare

### Meriter Health Services at a Glance

Meriter's family of companies include:

- **Meriter Hospital**, a not-for-profit, 448-bed community hospital providing a wide range of medical and surgical services. It features centralized cardiac services within the Meriter Heart & Vascular Hospital; a family-focused Birthing Center that delivers the most babies in the area; an award-winning Newborn Intensive Care Unit; Emergency Services, that is the most relied upon in the area; a full array of orthopedic surgical services and the region's only Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital.
- **Meriter Medical Group**, a growing primary and specialty care practice including internists, endocrinologists, pediatricians, hospitalists, addiction medicine specialists, physiatrists, cardiovascular surgeons as well as advanced practitioners.
- **Meriter Medical Clinics**, in Middleton, McKee Road and our newest location on West Washington Avenue as well as FastCare Clinics in the Eastside and Westside Shopko stores.
- **Meriter Home Health** provides comprehensive home health care services and medical products to southern Wisconsin.
- **Meriter Laboratories**, a trusted provider of reference lab services for area clinics, hospitals, researchers and nursing homes.
- **Meriter Foundation**, a not-for-profit, tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization raising, investing, granting and stewarding gifts on behalf of Meriter Hospital.

### ANNUAL STATISTICAL REVIEW – 2008

#### MERITER HOSPITAL

Inpatients (including babies) .....	21,844
Outpatient visits (including Emergency Services).....	206,649
Surgical procedures (inpatient and outpatient).....	10,172
Babies delivered .....	3,821
Nurses on staff .....	846
Physicians on staff .....	1,122
Allied Health Professionals .....	117
Total Meriter Health Services Employees .....	3,237
Hours of service provided by 636 volunteers.....	61,992
The Friends of Meriter Hospital Grants.....	\$109,705
Friends 4 Friends Community Grants.....	\$12,925

#### MERITER HOME HEALTH

Total home care patient visits .....	26,722
Home medical equipment, respiratory care and infusion therapy patients served .....	8,681

#### MERITER LABORATORIES

Laboratory tests conducted.....	767,450
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#### MERITER FOUNDATION

Total Gifts Received by Meriter Foundation .....	\$2,290,769
Total Grants for 2007 .....	\$2,089,232

**2008 PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

**COMMUNITY CARE**

Subsidized Services.....	\$3,405,561
Charity Care .....	\$8,827,590
Uncompensated Care.....	\$21,913,944

**EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

Community Services .....	\$1,043,342
Medical Education and Research.....	\$5,434,330

**Meriter Community Service Total .....\$40,624,767**

**Meriter Health Services Overall**

Net Patient Service Revenue .....	\$274,850,000
Meriter Health Services Payroll.....	\$166,168,000
Meriter Local economic Impact.....	\$415,420,000
(Payroll x 2.5)	

**Better Health Inspired by Fashion and Storytelling**



Despite the alarming fact that it's their number one cause of death, too many women still are not aware that heart disease is their top health risk. In 2008, Meriter took a unique approach to creating awareness and inspiring women to take action to protect their own heart health. "Designs of the Heart" combined a dress design competition, a fashion show and personal stories to put a spotlight on one

of our community's biggest health risks.

Every element of the program created awareness among a target group of women: from young girl scouts, to college design students, to high-risk minorities, to the hundreds of women who voted on line or attended the fashion show and heard the real-life stories of the heart survivors who were models during the fashion show.

Real life stories put a woman's face on heart disease and served as an urgent wake-up call. Wendy Rutherford, a heart attack survivor who shared her story and modeled in the show advised, "Women don't know how to be selfish since we're always caring for others. I learned the hard way that when it comes to your health, you have to be a selfish so that you can be here to care for others."

The afternoon ended with heartwarming thank yous from all the women who enjoyed this fun, fashionable, informative event – for getting their attention and motivating them to take care of their hearts.

**Seal Dane**

"Oral health has a profound impact on overall health," says Stanley Brysh, DMD, director of Meriter's Max Pöhle Dental Clinic. Dental health issues are the number one cause for missed school. "Children suffering chronic toothaches, acute pain, dental abscesses, disfigured smiles and dysfunctional speech can't focus on school and result in learning and behavior problems."

Through "Seal Dane," Meriter has partnered with Public Health Madison and Dane County to help children who don't have a regular dentist. Targeting third-graders, this school-based program raises awareness of the importance of dental health, provides free sealants to eligible children, and coordinates necessary follow-up dental care needs.

During the 2007-2008 school year, Seal Dane reached 2,345 students at 12 area schools with oral health education, and 385 students received sealants on 1,299 teeth.



## Meriter Takes Aim on Heart Health

For many hunters, the hunt itself is the greatest workout their heart will get all year. "People forget that hunting is an athletic event," says Renee Robbins, Meriter exercise physiologist. "The adrenaline rush that a hunter feels when they see a deer, and the actual exertion when they drag a deer out of the woods, cause the hunter's heart rate and blood pressure to increase dramatically."

To give hunters a better understanding of their personal cardiovascular fitness, Meriter Heart Hospital staff brings heart health screenings to where the hunters are – the annual Dane County Hunter Sight-In.

"Our partnership with Meriter doubles the safety factor" says Sgt. Lorie Wessinger, the Dane County Sheriff's Department. "We reduce their safety hazard by making their weapons accurate; Meriter reduces their health hazard by making them heart smart."

Hunters receive a heart risk assessment, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, as well as safety advice.



## Empowering Moms

Meriter's Prenatal Care Coordination Program teaches moms "to fish." Just as teaching someone to fish, rather than just giving them a fish, will help them feed themselves for a long-time, this program helps pregnant women at high risk for early deliveries access and utilize the support and services they need to have healthy babies. "We teach women how to advocate for themselves," says Krystal Wages, who along with Susan Lee, coordinates care for over 100 women a year. "Our goal is to foster independence."

In addition to health issues, many women served by this program have lives complicated by unstable home, economic and social concerns. Wages and Lee walk the women through the steps of exploring the housing, transportation, parenting and other resources available, helping them make the vital connections and filling out the necessary applications to assure a more stable life for their babies. Moms also are encouraged to develop healthy habits by earning incentives for baby supplies through the Angelica's Child program.

As an indication of the success of Meriter's program, a recent state study highlighted the low rate of low-birth weight babies in Dane County and research is underway to duplicate the results here to other parts of the state. "We are proud of our moms and the steps they take to give their babies a healthy start," says Wages.

