Meridian Health Annual Report 2010/2011
TAKING CARE OF NEW JERSEY
Dear Friends,

I’m pleased to report that 2010 was another successful year for Meridian Health — a year filled with many accomplishments and accolades, further positioning us as a leading health care organization in New Jersey.

Despite the changing economic environment, Meridian Hospital Corporation’s operating revenues increased significantly over the previous year. We continued to grow with the addition of Southern Ocean Medical Center and Bayshore Community Hospital and the introduction of JFK at Home, a joint venture with JFK Medical Center and Meridian At Home. Over the past year, we further developed our continuum of care to ensure patients receive the highest quality of care, from prevention and wellness to diagnosis, treatment, recovery, and home care services. We introduced programs and initiatives to better collaborate with our physicians, including an electronic health records initiative. Our ongoing investment in information technology continued to ensure that Meridian Health becomes an even more integrated health care system. *Modern Healthcare* ranking Meridian Health as one of the “Top 100 Integrated Health Networks” clearly indicates we are making excellent progress.

In light of health care reform and the challenges still in place for not-for-profit health care providers, as Meridian Health moves forward, we will maintain our collaboration with our physicians and our focus on quality and technology, while delivering on our brand promise and providing an exceptional patient experience. As a result, we are well positioned to respond to the challenges with health care reform.

It is the support we receive from our physicians, trustees, nurses, team members, and community members that allows us to continue *Taking Care of New Jersey*. Thank you for your interest in Meridian Health and the health and well-being of our community.

John K. Lloyd, FACHE
President, Meridian Health
In April 2011, Meridian Health hosted a remote radio broadcast with radio personality, Joan Hamburg, host of The Joan Hamburg Show on WOR Newstalk Radio 710.

Harry Carson, New York Giants and Pro Football Hall of Fame Inductee, participates in Meridian’s Communities of Color: Tackling Stroke Event.
Key Milestones

Service Lines
Over the past year, Meridian’s service lines, Meridian Cancer Care, Meridian CardioVascular Network, Meridian Neuroscience, and Meridian Pediatric Network, have been further developed to ensure they feature touch points across the continuum of care, including our six hospitals and partner companies. Patients are learning everything is available close to home: prevention and wellness, diagnosis, treatment, recovery, and home care services – all rooted in research and education and seamlessly coordinated by a team of physicians, resulting in the highest quality of care. Our philosophy is that it’s not just the ability to do a single thing well, but the unique ability to do everything better.

Meridian Cancer Care
Meridian Cancer Care offers compassionate teams of experts that work to prevent, diagnose, and treat all types of cancers including prostate, lung, breast, colon, gynecological, and pancreatic. Meridian Cancer Care was designated as the first and only “System Partner” of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey (CINJ). This new partnership with CINJ provides an even greater foundation to expand clinical trials, and ensures the best options for care are available close to home.

Meridian CardioVascular Network
Meridian CardioVascular Network provides the most comprehensive heart and vascular services in the region. It’s an overarching umbrella coordinating all aspects of heart and vascular care from research and education to diagnosis and treatment to rehabilitation and post-hospital care.

In an effort to remind the community that taking care of their heart is something worth practicing all year long, Meridian CardioVascular Network introduced 365 Days of Heart, a wellness program and Web site promoting a series of special events, heart healthy tips, and educational information. More than 2,000 women have joined Meridian Women’s Heart Connection to help raise awareness about ways to lower risks for heart disease.

Meridian Neuroscience
Life can change in a moment. Specialists in Meridian Neuroscience have developed programs to diagnose and treat a range of conditions from stroke to epilepsy, brain tumors to spine injuries, and movement and memory disorders.

Meridian is home to five Primary Stroke Centers that are connected to the Stroke Rescue Center at Jersey Shore through the Meridian Transfer Center. Recently, Jersey Shore University Medical Center, Ocean Medical Center, and Riverview Medical Center were recognized for their commitment to excellent
Mike Haviland, a resident of Wall and assistant coach of the Chicago Blackhawks, brings the Stanley Cup Trophy to K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital.

Meridian senior leaders welcome Bayshore team members to the team.
care for stroke patients. The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Gold Plus Performance Achievement Award verifies the exceptional level of quality care that Meridian’s physicians and team members provide.

Meridian Pediatric Network
Meridian Pediatric Network consists of pediatricians, family practitioners, and obstetricians in communities near you, working side-by-side with nearly 100 subspecialists at K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital at Jersey Shore University Medical Center to guide patients and their families through every step of care.

In March 2010, the National Association of Children’s Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI) recognized Meridian Pediatric Network and K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital with the prestigious Impact Award for the best integrated marketing campaign for children’s hospitals and child health programs in the country.

Welcome to the Team, Bayshore!
Meridian Health completed its merger with Bayshore Community Hospital and Health Services, with the Holmdel-based hospital and health care affiliates officially joining Meridian on September 1, 2010. Through the merger, Meridian and Bayshore will utilize their combined talent and resources to enhance access to care and improve clinical quality and service to the community, decrease costs through shared efficiencies and purchasing opportunities, and provide new academic and research opportunities for physicians, nurses, and clinicians.

Awards Abound for Meridian
Throughout the past year, Meridian has been recognized with several prestigious awards.

- **FORTUNE Magazine’s** “100 Best Companies to Work For” - two years in a row.
- **Top 100 Most Wired and Top 25 Most Wireless Health Systems in the Nation** from *Hospitals & Health Network Magazine* – Ten consecutive years on annual ranking
- **Top 100 Integrated Health Networks for Modern Healthcare** – In 2010, Meridian Health was the only health system from New Jersey to be ranked as one of the most integrated health care systems in the nation according to *SDI* and *Modern Healthcare* Magazine
- **Best Regional Hospitals** – By *U.S. News & World Report*
Concierge Care
While exceptional quality care is Meridian Health’s top priority, Jersey Shore, Ocean, and Riverview are also making their patients and their guests as comfortable as possible with our hotel-like service called Concierge Care. This service, available to all patients and guests, is designed to meet non-clinical needs during their stay. Patients now have access to services such as help with transportation and lodging requests for visitors, pet assistance, room service and restaurant delivery, and spa services like manicures and shaves.

In addition to specialty services that can be requested either by placing a simple phone call or visiting the concierge desk, the program is based upon creating a health care experience that goes beyond the exceptional clinical care that is delivered daily.

Meridian’s Making “Friends” through Social Media
Over the past year, Meridian Health has added social media to its toolbox. In fact, Meridian Health has Facebook pages for all of its hospitals and has Twitter accounts as well. And yes, Meridian also has a YouTube channel where clips of events and clinical experts are sharing great information.

In addition, Meridian Health proudly introduced MeridianMomtourage.com, a destination Web site for local expectant and experienced moms. The unique local resource offers health information and news on everything from pregnancy to women’s and children’s health to parenthood.

Meridian KidViews Makes Its Debut
In spring 2010, Meridian expanded its complimentary health education resources for its communities with the introduction of Meridian KidViews, a quarterly publication dedicated to health information for families that focuses on children’s health topics, including asthma, safety, neonatal care, and much more for parents.

The magazine incorporates both the Meridian Health and the K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital brands, and provides the opportunity to further communicate the benefits and features of Meridian Pediatric Network.
Meridian celebrates the opening of the Early Childhood Education Center at Jersey Shore.

Local resident Jennifer Levine is back to running following robotic surgery at Jersey Shore.
Jersey Shore University Medical Center

Jersey Shore “LEEDs” Along the East Coast
Jersey Shore University Medical Center’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) was recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute. It is the first hospital in New Jersey and the largest on the east coast to receive LEED Gold. LEED is the nation’s preeminent program for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings.

Jersey Shore achieved LEED Gold certification for energy use, lighting, water and material conservation, as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. By using less energy and water, LEED certified buildings save money for families, businesses, and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers, and the larger community.

Jersey Shore Partners With World-Renowned Reconstructive Surgeons to Unveil Center for Paralysis
Jersey Shore announced the launch of a unique Center for the Treatment of Paralysis and Reconstructive Nerve Surgery in the fall of 2010. Representing one of the first known comprehensive centers of its kind in the nation, a team of surgeons are pioneering specialized surgeries aimed at restoring a significant degree of function to patients who have suffered stroke and other forms of paralysis. Comprehensive management includes a series of treatment options for: brachial plexus reconstruction, nerve transplantation, bells palsy, radial and ulnar nerve surgery, foot drop, neuropathy decompression, phrenic nerve injuries, stroke paralysis, swallowing disorders, and reconstruction for spinal cord injury.

Robotic Surgery Comes to Jersey Shore
In December 2010, the first robotics surgeries were successfully performed at Jersey Shore University Medical Center. The program began operating full time in January 2011 with robotics cases being performed each week. Led by an experienced team of surgeons, Jersey Shore University Medical Center has expanded its robotic treatment options for men’s and women’s health, offering patients with prostate, kidney, and gynecologic conditions the highest quality care and faster recovery time.

Early Childhood Education Center at Jersey Shore Opens
In a boardwalk-themed celebration on June 8, 2010, the new Early Childhood Education Center at Jersey Shore University Medical Center was unveiled. During the opening remarks, John Sindoni, SPHR, senior vice president of Human Resources said, “In 1955 Walt Disney opened Walt Disney Land welcoming people to ‘Our Happy Place.’ This is our happy place.” For years, many team members were unable to send their children to the Early Childhood Education Center because of an extensive waiting list. This state-of-the-art facility will help us alleviate that wait and welcome many more bright young faces through our doors.
Patients and physicians come together for the Cardiac Surgery and Trauma Reunion.

Hopscotch makes her debut at Jersey Shore University Medical Center’s Community Day.
Cardiac Surgery and Trauma Reunion
As part of the Jersey Shore Fall Festival of Life, more than 200 grateful patients returned to Jersey Shore University Medical Center under happier times for a program to recognize the 20 Year anniversaries of Cardiac Surgery and Trauma. From the singing rendition of 91-year-old Ruth Hyman to the tears of joy from a poem from the family of Walter Byczek to speeches from physician leaders current and from the start, including Lori Christensen, M.D., Felix Garcia, M.D., Arthur Roberts, M.D., and Richard Neibart, M.D., the evening was a celebration of more than 20,000 people treated at Jersey Shore in these programs.

Opening of Jersey Shore University Medical Center
Jane H. Booker Family Health Center, A-Team, and Dental Clinic
On May 24, 2010, as part its Transformation, Jersey Shore University Medical Center celebrated the opening of the new Jane H. Booker Family Health Center, A-Team, and Dental Clinic on the corner of Route 35 and West Lake Avenue in Neptune. This move provided the opportunity to bring access to services closer to the major population served by the Family Health Center. Previously, the Family Health Center was located on the hospital campus, but this newly built facility adds the comfort of a suite-like setting, on two floors of a beautifully designed new building with the square footage increasing from 20,000 to 30,000.

K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital
The Most Pediatric Specialists in the Region
When it comes to caring for kids, no team in the region can match the breadth and depth of care and services offered by K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital. As a result of additional physician recruitment during 2010, the Children’s Hospital now offers more than 100 pediatric specialists – the most in the region — including experts in asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, autism, neurosurgery, and neonatal care.

Hopscotch Adds Bounce to the Pawsitive Action Team
The newest member of the Pawsitive Action Team has a spring in her step and sparkle in her eye! Her name is Hopscotch, and the energetic bunny made her grand appearance at Jersey Shore University Medical Center’s Community Day on September 19, 2010.

As the signature characters for K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital, the Pawsitive Action Team was introduced in August 2008 and now boasts more than 7,000 Pals, making it one of the largest of its kind in the country. While Doctor Bernard is a friendly doctor who helps children and their families lead healthy and safe lives, Hopscotch lets her energy flow and is one bouncy bunny! She loves sports and games, and wants to show people that healthy habits are fun. With the motto, “Keep Yourself Moving...Let’s Go!” Hopscotch visits schools and community events, further educating youngsters in our communities.
Ocean Medical Center team members welcome Dean Q. Lin as their new president.

Phillipa Woodriffe, M.D., Bokran Won, M.D., and Tim Hogan celebrate the renovation to the Jane H. Booker Women’s Center.
Ocean Medical Center

Ocean Medical Center Cath Lab Opening
The construction and upgrade of the equipment and control room in the cardiac catheterization lab was completed early in January 2010 and Ocean now houses one of the most advanced labs in the nation. The new catheterization lab enables physicians to perform peripheral stenting, pacemaker insertions, and EPS studies. Ocean’s catheterization lab originally opened in 1996, and began performing emergency coronary angioplasties in 2004. Ocean’s stellar team of experts averaged 83 minutes for door-to-balloon time in 2010, which is below the 90 minute goal, and have seen excellent patient outcomes from the catheterization lab.

New President Joins Ocean Medical Center
April 18, 2011 marked a new beginning for Ocean Medical Center, as Dean Q. Lin, MHA, MBA, FACHE, began his first day as president. Dean has over fifteen years of progressively responsible health care experience working at Geisinger Health System and Intermountain Health Care, two of the nation’s most recognized integrated health systems. His experiences at these prestigious organizations have allowed him to develop a unique set of management skills that will be invaluable in facilitating Ocean Medical Center’s move to its next level of success. He was recently elected to The Fellowship of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia in recognition of his efforts to improve access to convenient, affordable health care.

Riverview Medical Center

Riverview Medical Center Celebrates New Childbirth Center
Like any expectant parent, the Jane H. Booker Women’s and Children’s Center at Riverview had been carefully planning for a new arrival. In the fall of 2010, Riverview officially welcomed two precious new additions to the family: completely renovated Labor & Delivery and Post Partum Rooms. These rooms overlook the beautiful Navesink River, creating a soothing environment for all patients and quality comfort for overnight guests.

Revitalized Jane H. Booker Women’s Center Opens to Better Serve Women in the Community
Continuing its tradition of exceptional diagnostic care, the renovations to the Jane H. Booker Women’s Center have included a whole new look and fantastic changes, including: a third imaging room; new stereotactic biopsy equipment; a third digital mammography with Computer Aided Detection (CAD) unit; expanded patient waiting rooms with views of the Navesink River; a private “patient only” lounge; and dedicated areas for Perinatal Institute, stress testing, breast imaging, and non-breast imaging services.
Marilyn Bruno of Wall received treatment from the CyberKnife to stop a tumor on her brain from growing. Today she is back to the activities she loves, like biking.
When a patient visits the Jane H. Booker Women’s Center for their annual mammogram or other services, they’ll have access to the latest diagnostic technology, as well as the expertise and support of a multi-disciplinary women’s health care team and female dedicated Fellowship-trained breast imagers. Combined with the new amenities and relaxing waterfront views, the Women’s Center truly delivers an exceptional guest experience.

**Riverview Medical Center Celebrates Five Years of CyberKnife® Robotic Radiosurgery**

In 2005, Riverview Medical Center became home to one of the most revolutionary radiosurgical technologies in the world: the CyberKnife Robotic Radiosurgery System. It offers a non-invasive alternative to surgery for the treatment of both cancerous and non-cancerous tumors in the brain, as well as other sites including prostate, lung, spine, liver, pancreas, and kidney. In its continuing mission to bring ground-breaking, preventive, and life-saving treatment to patients, Riverview, part of Meridian Cancer Care, was among the first to bring the CyberKnife to the New York-New Jersey region. Riverview now stands as one of a limited number of medical facilities in the U.S. to host the CyberKnife System. Thanks to this extraordinary advancement, patients experience no pain with less side effects and can even go back to work afterwards. Riverview looks forward to continuing its role as an area leader in the treatment and advancement of stereotactic radiosurgery and radiotherapy.

**Southern Ocean Medical Center**

**Growing into a New Name: Southern Ocean Medical Center**

To reflect growth as well as its future direction, on October 21, 2010, Southern Ocean County Hospital adopted a new name: Southern Ocean Medical Center. The subtle name change is a testament to the growth made possible by so many over the years and the medical center’s continued commitment to the local community which it serves. In recent years, Southern Ocean Medical Center has expanded its cancer care programs, orthopedic and joint health services, and cardiovascular services, including becoming a state-designated primary stroke center. Through its alignment with Meridian Health, Southern Ocean now also provides a seamless connection to a wide range of programs throughout Meridian, including comprehensive home care and hospice, cardiac surgery, stroke rescue, trauma, and K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital.

**Southern Ocean’s Center for Bariatrics Named “Center of Excellence”**

For people suffering from morbid obesity, Gastric Bypass surgery and Laparoscopic Gastric Banding can be powerful tools that allow people the ability to manage their condition and help cure chronic diseases, such as diabetes. The Center for Bariatrics at Southern Ocean has recently been named a “Center of Excellence” by the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. The Center was notified of this prestigious designation in December following a comprehensive survey and inspection by the Bariatric Surgical Review Committees, as well as review of related data.
Thomas Keyes Lakewood resident suffers from congestive heart failure (CHF). His participation in the CHF Pilot program at Ocean Medical Center allowed him to safely track his illness from the comfort of his own home.
The designation reflects the Center’s success in adhering to established criteria for the surgeons, the hospital, and the physician practice. The designation is based on compliance with several requirements which include in-service education programs, credentialing guidelines, sensitivity training, number of cases performed, presence of a medical director, availability of consultative services, proper equipment suited to the bariatric patient, physician qualifications and appropriate coverage, clinical pathway through the continuum of care, a program coordinator, program physician extenders, and follow up and monitoring of patients among others.

**A New Era of Emergency Care for Southern Ocean**
Planning for Southern Ocean Medical Center’s new Emergency Department was in full force in 2010 with a groundbreaking of the exciting new project scheduled for fall of 2011. With expanded and renovated space, the new ED will transform the way care is delivered at Southern Ocean. The new Emergency Department will grow from 8,800 square feet to 29,000 square feet. Expanded triage and fast track areas will help doctors and nurses provide even better care and service. The new design features 42 larger private bays that will make time in the ED more comfortable for patients and their loved ones. Space has been set aside just for behavioral health patients that will be discreet, separate and secure. Children will have their own area with a special family-friendly waiting area and a five-bed pediatric area will provide top-quality care for pediatric emergencies and for children recovering from surgery, as well as for routine medical issues.

**PartnerCompanies**
Meridian Partner Companies, including Ambulatory Services, Meridian Health Resources, Alert Ambulance, Meridian At Home, Meridian Nursing and Rehabilitation, Meridian Practice Institute, Shore Rehabilitation Institute, and Meridian Occupational Health, had a successful 2010 and continue to be a distinguishing feature of Meridian Health, providing strategic and economic value.

**Remote Monitoring Pilot Program Receives Quality Improvement Award**
Meridian At Home received the first-ever Excellence in Quality Improvements Award from New Jersey Hospital Association for their Chronic Heart Failure (CHF) Pilot Program which took place in partnership with Ocean Medical Center. The program provides comprehensive, individualized education, follow-up, and support for patients with chronic heart failure. In less than eight months, this highly successful program reduced the percentage of patients who were later readmitted to Ocean. The program also offered great benefits to the patient — they remained under the watchful eye of the hospital from the comfort of their own home, and their health was monitored and tracked in an extremely accurate and safe manner. Most importantly, this program ensured excellence in patient education, allowing patients increased independence in the successful management of their chronic illness.
Lisa Vernon, M.D., an OBGYN and part of Meridian Health Resources, joined the team in 2010 and opened an office in Forked River.

Jocelyn A. Carlo, M.D., reads Christie Rampone’s blood pressure.
Meridian Health Resources
Meridian Health Resources (MHR) provides billing and practice management services to more than 420 physician providers at 64 locations throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties. They took care of more than 225,000 patients in 2010. Additional highlights include:

- Meridian Practice Institute (MPI), the umbrella organization for all employed physicians, added 32 new physicians and nine locations in 2010. Since its inception in 2006, the number of full-time equivalent MPI providers has nearly doubled, and revenues have tripled.

- Meridian Health Resources’ Physician Recruitment organization, responsible for proactively recruiting new physicians and providers for the Meridian Hospitals in specialty areas as well as primary care, completed 68 searches, including 51 physicians and 17 mid-level providers.

Meridian At Home: An Elite Choice for Third Consecutive Year
Meridian At Home was recently named in the 2010 HomeCare Elite™ listing, ranking them as part of the top 25 percent of agencies in the nation.

The listing is developed annually by nationally recognized home care organization and is based on a market-leading review of agencies across the country. The three factors that determine an agency’s status include quality of care, quality improvement, and financial performance.

Meridian At Home Launches New Medication Management Program
Managing more than one medication from home can be difficult at any age. The routine activities and responsibilities of our lives can be enough to distract even the most careful person to miss, forget, or even take a double dose, especially if they are trying to manage multiple medications.

In 2010, Meridian At Home launched MediSuite, a medication management program designed to take the guess work out of taking daily prescription, non-prescription, or a combination of both types of medication. Programs are customized to meet each individuals needs and can include as much or as little management options as needed. There are several packages available, including an automated medication dispensing system.

Home care on the Move
In January 2011, Meridian At Home announced a joint venture with JFK Medical Center to form JFK at Home. JFK at Home now provides a one-stop resource for at-home health care needs in Middlesex, Somerset, and Union counties.
A devastating stroke left Anita Crooks unable to walk or use her left arm. Therapy at Shore Rehabilitation Institute helped her regain much of her movement, allowing her to enjoy more quality time with her family.
Manor by the Sea Renovation and Expansion

Over the past year, several improvements have been and continue to be made at Manor by the Sea, Meridian’s Nursing and Rehabilitation facility in Ocean Grove. Started in late 2009, the project will be complete this year and includes a third floor expansion including 27 new beds, storage training rooms, and support areas. The first floor lobby and corridor areas were renovated as well. These improvements will help support Manor by the Sea’s growth and benefit residents, families, and team members alike.

Technology

Ensuring Patient Safety through Barcode Scanning Technology

Barcode scanning technology — similar to that you see being used every day in the retail environment — is now being applied at Jersey Shore, Ocean, and Riverview. Medication Administration Check (MAK) was instituted as part of Meridian’s commitment to patient safety through bedside charting and barcode medication administration. The process begins with computerized physician order entry (CPOE), then verification by the pharmacist and security of medications in the MedSelect machines. Then nurses scan the medication and patient’s wristband. The technology will then indicate whether it is the correct medication. From order entry to dispensing to administration, there are checks and balances resulting in the highest level of patient quality and safety.

Improved Health through Technology

Meridian Health and Cypak, a global, Swedish based technology company, launched a joint venture, iMPak Health, Inc., to develop wireless health monitoring devices and services. Through this venture, low cost, consumer-friendly technology and services will be introduced to many segments of the health care market to broadly improve the user experience of the health care consumer. The initial product offering, iMPak’s Health Journal for Pain, is a portable, wirelessly-enabled diary that empowers patients to easily record their pain levels before and after their prescribed medication regimen, providing physicians with readily available, useful, patient information and reports. Product offerings in the near future will target diabetes, sleep, depression, weight management, and pulmonary conditions such as asthma, providing solutions to support and service Meridian Health’s patients.
Despite the challenging economic environment, the Meridian Health Affiliated Foundations received $16 million in total grants and contributions during 2010, which clearly indicates that our community continues to view Meridian Health as a philanthropic priority. In addition, Meridian Health Affiliated Foundations events flourished in attendance and sponsorship throughout 2010, with net proceeds exceeding $1 million.

The generous contributions from our community in 2010 have allowed the Meridian Health Affiliated Foundations to transfer funds to the hospitals to support important initiatives, such as:

- Transforming Care project at Jersey Shore University Medical Center
- CyberKnife technology upgrades at Riverview Medical Center
- Advanced endoscopy equipment at Ocean Medical Center
- NICU equipment at K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital
- Upcoming expansion at Southern Ocean Medical Center
- Nursing scholarships at Bayshore Community Hospital
**Financials**

**Meridian Hospitals Corporation**
**Statement of Operations**
*Year Ending December 31, 2010*  
($ millions)

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**Meridian Hospitals Data**

- Inpatient Admissions 70,647
- Births 4,608
- Patient Days 334,358
- Average Length of Stay (in days) 4.73
- Emergency Department Visits 228,541
- Surgeries 37,995
- Cardiac Surgeries 846
- Cardiovascular Lab Procedures 15,775
2010 Community Benefit Report

Message to the Community
At Meridian Health, we recognize that the care we provide through our hospitals and partner companies reaches far beyond the boundaries of our facilities. Our mission to improve the health status of the communities we serve is at the heart of our charitable roots. In this new era of health care reform, community based prevention and wellness activities will play a critical role in keeping our local communities healthy and keeping health care costs down. Meridian remains committed to strengthening its mission and in 2010, devoted more than $138.5 million in community benefits.

Assessing the Local Health Needs
Meridian embarked on a process of assessing the health needs of the communities it serves through telephone and focus group interviews with residents of Monmouth and Ocean counties, analysis of state and federal health data, and collaboration with community partners. Together with our community partners, who include departments of health, social service providers, other area hospitals as well as local business and community leaders, Meridian will develop community health improvement plans that address the very issues identified in the analysis. Our efforts will be measured and reported in an annual report card to the community.

Caring for All Members of the Community
As a not-for-profit health care provider, Meridian Health is the regional leader in providing innovative and accessible health care programs and services to individuals, families, and communities throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties. Everyone deserves access to quality care regardless of their ability to pay. In 2010, Meridian provided $51.8 million dollars in charity care and other uncompensated care, serving as a health care safety net for our community’s most vulnerable populations. In addition, Meridian spent $7.1 million in subsidizing vital health services such as outpatient dialysis, behavioral health services, and family health clinics.

Delivering on Community Commitment
More than 80,000 community members took advantage of free health and wellness screenings, education programs, and other subsidized services offered throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties. Doctor Bernard, the Director of Fun and Good Health at K. Hovnanian Children’s Hospital at Jersey Shore University Medical Center and his pal Hopscotch, have educated over 30,000 children at schools, libraries, and early childhood centers on how to stay healthy, eat right, stay fit, and be safe.
Meridian provides 24/7 call center services to the community to locate physicians, health care services, and support groups as well as to register for health education and screening programs. In 2010, Meridian’s call center handled more than 37,000 calls. Meridian HealthViews Magazine reaches over 500,000 households and provides information on timely and relevant health topics as well as a calendar of free community health programs. Nearly 24,000 people accessed the free health library on MeridianHealth.com.

Over the years, Meridian has been honored to offer support through charitable donations to a host of worthy local not-for-profit organizations. Meridian also encourages our leaders, physicians, and team members to serve on a variety of boards and community groups dedicated to improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Training the next generation of health care providers is vital to providing a foundation for sound health in our community. Meridian encourages the development of physicians, nurses, medical technologists, and those entering allied health professions by supporting their education and offering clinical experience in our hospitals.

Meridian convenes several community advisory committees (CAC’s) whose mission is to assist us in identifying and addressing health care needs so that Meridian can continue to improve the health status of the communities we serve. Our Partners in Health and Unidos committees are comprised of African American and Hispanic civic and community leaders respectively and are focused on addressing health issues and disparities affecting communities of color. Currently, more than 100 people from the surrounding area serve as members of Meridian’s Community Advisory Committees.

The success and effectiveness of Meridian’s community benefit programs is derived from a committed staff of physicians, nurses, health care specialists and community educators along with dedicated community members who help Meridian identify, strategize and implement initiatives that positively impact the health of the community.
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**Meridian Leadership**

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