## Vanderbilt University’s Impact on Your Community

### Your Constituents and Vanderbilt in 2014*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uncompensated Care</td>
<td>$1,291,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Financial Aid</td>
<td>$5,796,193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Mountain States Health Alliance and the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Strategic Affiliation

Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) and the Mountain States Health Alliance (MSHA) finalized an affiliation agreement in May 2013. As part of the affiliation agreement, VUMC assists with recruitment of hard-to-find specialists and subspecialists to serve the Northeast Tennessee/Southwest Virginia area. VUMC also brings to the table a number of evidence-based care models that help MSHA enhance the care of patients with certain diagnoses such as diabetes, heart disease, and asthma. An internationally renowned research institution, VUMC brings to MSHA’s service area a number of clinical trials that have the potential to benefit patients while making significant advances in medical research. As nonprofit organizations, both health systems pursue a common mission to provide the highest-quality care for broad and diverse patient populations.

In March 2015, VUMC commenced teleneurology at two MSHA hospitals, Franklin Woods Community Hospital and Sycamore Shoals Hospital. The teleneurology service provides 24/7 consultation services for neurologic conditions including stroke and facilitates treatment and management of neurologic conditions at MSHA’s community hospitals, creating an opportunity for patients to receive appropriate care within their community, closest to their homes and families.

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*Includes data for Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington Counties

** The Pathfinder Hotline is a statewide multi-language help line that connects the Tennessee disability community with service providers and information.
Southern Community Cohort Study

The Southern Community Cohort Study (SCCS), funded by the National Cancer Institute, attempts to provide a better understanding of why certain groups, such as African Americans, the poor, or those living in particular geographical areas, experience disproportionately high rates of certain diseases including cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. This cohort study, led by researchers at Vanderbilt University, Meharry Medical College, and the International Epidemiology Institute, has involved tracking disease occurrence among 86,000 participants since its inception in 2001. The study is carried out across 12 southern states, with recruitment of participants from several areas of Tennessee, including Rogersville.

- Based on data from the SCCS, Vanderbilt researchers concluded that health disparities between blacks and whites are strongly related to socioeconomic status, with higher mortality overall and for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and other illnesses among the poor, for both blacks and whites.

- The study confirmed that smoking rates are elevated in the South and that smoking is the major cause of premature death among southerners regardless of race. However, it was determined that people who smoke mentholated cigarettes are no more likely to develop lung cancer or die from the disease than are smokers of non-mentholated brands.

- The prevalence of infection with the bacterium H. pylori, the major cause of gastric and duodenal ulcers and a key risk factor for the development of stomach cancer, was shown to be exceptionally high among study participants, especially blacks, leading to ongoing research at Vanderbilt and elsewhere to discover health implications.

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder ("Pathfinder"), a project of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, provides free information, referrals, and support to Tennesseans with disabilities, their families, and service providers. Through three major components, Pathfinder serves individuals of all ages, with any type of disability, or language spoken:

- Through a phone or email help line and online database, Pathfinder connects individuals to appropriate community resources that suit their needs. During FY15, Pathfinder assisted 82 individuals in the 1st District.

- Pathfinder staff also provide innovative trainings and presentations featuring information about Pathfinder services, disability etiquette and people-first language, working with multicultural populations, and other disability-related topics and services at various workshops and conferences. In FY15, this included 38 different trainings for 958 participants. Four trainings were statewide workshops or conferences, which included residents of the 1st District.

- Pathfinder’s Multicultural Outreach Program strives to remove barriers that many culturally diverse communities find when trying to access disability resources by providing cultural awareness, education and training, and case management. Through this program in FY15, staff served 326 individuals with disabilities from 30 different counties, some of whom were residents of the 1st District.

For more information, please contact Vanderbilt’s Office of Federal Relations:

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