

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

More health care for the poor?

Pottstown government is taking an enormous revenue hit now that the for-profit Pottstown Hospital has been sold to the non-profit Tower Health System (formerly Reading Health).

The borough, school district, and county will lose almost \$1.6 million in annual revenues.

However, we should count our blessings. The original Pottstown Memorial Medical Center



Commentary by
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wasn't paying taxes, either. When it was sold to Community Health Systems for \$80 million in 2003, the proceeds were used to create the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation, which

has given out nearly \$36 million in grants to area non-profits and currently has about \$80 million in assets.

When Community Health Systems took over the hospital, it dramatically reduced its charitable care (to maximize the company's profits).

In response, the Health and Wellness Foundation provided seed money to create Community Health and Dental Care in 2008, a non-profit which provides medical services to thousands of Pottstown area residents based on their ability to pay. Community Health has locations in Pottstown, Lower Pottsgrove, and soon in the Coventry Mall.

Meanwhile, Tower Health has a track record of providing millions of dollars in charity medical care annually in Reading. Let's hope it will extend that tradition to Pottstown Hospital.

Grants distributed by Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation since 2004

\$35,850,000

Percentage of annual revenue devoted to charity care

Year	Pottstown Memorial Medical Center	Reading Hospital
2012	.06%	.89%
2013	.05%	.71%
2014	.07%	.8%
2015	.06%	.82%

Funds given to Community Health & Dental Care by Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation

2008-2009	\$1,400,000
2009-2010	\$1,142,000
2010-2011	\$1,100,000
2011-2012	\$650,000
2012-2013	\$466,700
2013-2014	\$122,245
2014-2015	\$194,970
2015-2016	\$45,000
TOTAL	\$5,120,195



WILL CHARITY CARE INCREASE? — When non-profit Pottstown Memorial Medical Center was purchased by the for-profit Community Health Systems in 2003, the hospital dramatically cut the amount of charity care it provided. Reading Hospital spends at least 10 times more of its revenues on charity care annually than Pottstown does. Will Tower Health (successor to Reading Hospital) increase charity care here?