Access to safe, quality, affordable housing is a basic and powerful social determinant of health. Yet many of the most vulnerable members of the community, especially those with limited resources, struggle to remain safely in their homes.

To help address this, MedStar Montgomery Medical Center partnered with Rebuilding Together Montgomery County, a nonprofit organization that works in partnership with community volunteers to provide free home repairs to those in need. Rebuilding Together identified a group home requiring improvements that was operated by Housing Unlimited, another local nonprofit that provides affordable, independent housing for adults in mental health recovery.

During the course of a single day, 20 members of the hospital's senior leadership spent nearly 100 service hours painting interior and exterior walls, deep cleaning the kitchen, landscaping, and more to ensure that the five residents could continue to live safely in their home. With the security of knowing that their housing was secure, these vulnerable residents were able to continue focusing on their recovery and becoming productive members of the community.

“Knowing that their housing was secure, these vulnerable residents could continue focusing on their recovery and becoming productive members of the community.” —Tonja Paylor, Director of Marketing and Communications

**Letter from the president.**

MedStar Health is committed to making sure all area residents have access to the resources they need to live long and healthy lives. While there are still disparities in the region of MedStar Montgomery Medical Center, the good news is that MedStar Health is making a difference through our community outreach efforts. You’ll read about two of these initiatives in this report.

Caring for the community is integral to what we do, but we couldn’t do it without the support of others. I thank all of you for your contributions to this important work.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Senker, FACHE
Senior Vice President,
MedStar Health
President,
MedStar Montgomery Medical Center
In April of 2019, MedStar Montgomery Medical Center partnered with Linkages to Learning to enhance the learning environment at three area schools. Linkages to Learning, an initiative established by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County Public Schools, and local public and private nonprofit agencies, assists students and their families, as well entire school communities, by providing or connecting them to services and resources that address the social, economic, health, and emotional issues that may interfere with student success.

The three schools, Harmony Hills Elementary School, Loiederman Middle School, and Sargent Shriver Elementary School are all located in the hospital’s community benefit area—underserved areas where resources are spread thin. The goal at each school was to make needed improvements to exterior learning and playground spaces that had been neglected.

The project brought together 80 members of MedStar Montgomery’s Leadership Council, who split into three teams. Then, in one day alone, they spent a total of 480 hours doing beautification work, which included cleaning, power washing, pruning, planting flowers and butterfly gardens, mulching, and painting.

Today, the students at these schools are enjoying a safe and positive learning environment that encourages them to be active and engage with others while learning new skills.