

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The Department of Public Health protects and enhances the quality of life for people and animals throughout St. Charles County. Through staff among three divisions — Environmental Health and Protection, Health Services and Humane Services — the department provides a wide range of services that have a profound impact on this community.

A region's health is the by-product of its character. With a strong economy, an active population and a network of support, St. Charles County is recognized as an excellent location to raise a family. Extending its commitment to a community that has placed among the top of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ranking for Missouri's healthiest counties for the past eight years, the Department has enhanced the well-being of St. Charles County residents and businesses in many ways.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that for every dollar invested in public health, there is a return of \$5.60 in value. Here are a few things that the Department of Public Health achieved with your investment in 2017:

### **DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- Received 4,051 reports of influenza cases from October 2016 through March 2017 (recording the highest number of reported flu cases for the county in recent years) This high incidence of flu was found similarly across the United States.
- Executed more than 1,900 U.S. passport applications and assisted with nearly 1,700 photos for these applications. This marked an increase of more than 300% over the previous year and generated more than \$60,000 in revenue for the County.
- Began implementation and data collection as part of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to gain a better understanding of and target efforts toward the opioid drug abuse problem.
- Issued nearly 35,000 birth and death record certificates for Missouri residents, generating approximately \$400,000 in revenue for the County.
- Served more than 27,000 individuals through the WIC, Immunizations, Communicable Disease and STD programs.
- Collected more than 1.1 million pounds of recyclable material at Recycle Works Central and Recycle Works West. This included more than 35,000 pounds of potentially hazardous material collected.
- Issued more than 2,300 health licenses (for food establishments, aquatic centers, fitness centers, tanning facilities, body art establishments and more) and performed more than 3,800 routine inspections to ensure safe practices.
- Recognized 7 county food establishments with 24 Carrot Gold Food Safety Excellence Awards, distinguishing these facilities for emphasis on food safety and stewardship.

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- Responded to more than 500 requests for mosquito control services, as well as contracted with 10 area municipalities for season-long control assistance. Implemented a surveillance program for area mosquito populations to better target services in future years and test insects for the presence of mosquito-borne diseases.
- Completed a regional project to mark more than 2,000 St. Charles County storm drains and educate nearby residents to the hazards associated with stormwater run-off.
- Returned more than 900 lost/missing pets to their families and adopted more than 2,000 pets into new homes (including nearly 900 dogs and more than 1,100 cats).
- Treated more than 500 cats through the Operation Sterile Feral program caring for feral and barn cats.
- Distributed more than 4,000 pounds of food to St. Charles County animal owners participating in the Pet Food Pantry program
- Recorded a euthanasia rate of 9.7% for cats and 6.8% for dogs, well below the 23% national average for animal shelters around the United States.
- Received more than 7,800 hours of volunteer service (an in-kind value of approximately \$180,000 - based on the estimated value calculated by *Independent Sector* of \$23.56 per volunteer hour)
- Generated more than \$2.7 million in general revenue for the County.

**WE'RE ANTICIPATING THESE ADDITIONS IN 2018:**

- The introduction of electronic medical records and the ability to bill insurance programs for health services.
- The introduction of new programs and lab services to better detect and manage chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease and obesity.
- Targeted education focused on improving prescription drug disposal and on reducing incidences of prescription drug abuse.
- Construction within the Pet Adoption Center that will improve the comfort and functionality of 72 animal kennels.
- Improved customer service and advanced outreach programs to assist the citizens and businesses of St. Charles County.
- Increased awareness for the Department's online inspection database promoting safe and sanitary consumer practices (<http://bit.ly/SCCMOSCORE>).