

THE EVOLUTION *of* COMMUNITY BENEFIT

A Total Commitment Toward Total Community Health

Kaiser Permanente’s heritage of caring for local communities is fundamental to meeting the complex health care challenges we face today. Our diverse portfolio of community benefit investments ranges from research and education, to participation in public and private programs for the underserved, to grant support for community-based organizations. We focus our community benefit services, partnerships and funding on four core areas:

1. Care and coverage for low-income people
2. Safety net partnerships
3. Community health initiatives
4. Developing and disseminating knowledge

These streams of work are increasingly integrated with one another and can adapt to different community circumstances. They provide the framework for our investments in communities.

1	2	3	4
Care and coverage for low-income people	Safety net partnerships	Community health initiatives	Developing and disseminating knowledge
Kaiser Permanente believes everyone has the right to quality care and coverage. We create and support programs that lower financial barriers so that the uninsured and underinsured can gain access to the care we provide. We accomplish this through the provision of charity care, free or subsidized coverage, and enrollment in Medicaid, CHIP, and other public programs (e.g., Medicare Limited-Income Subsidy).	Kaiser Permanente is committed to building partnerships with community clinics, local health departments, and public hospitals. Through funding, technical assistance, influencing public policy, training and volunteering, and dissemination of care-management and quality-improvement technologies, we help these vital health care providers improve care and expand treatment capacity for the communities and vulnerable populations they serve.	Kaiser Permanente’s community health initiatives seek to measurably improve the health of the communities that we serve. As an innovator in health, we design, deliver, and sustain long-term programs that engage communities in work to improve the conditions in their neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools that can support good health, particularly Healthy Eating Active Living.	Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to advancing health through research, education, and training. We aim to improve health care by sharing our knowledge, educating practitioners, advancing research, empowering consumers, and informing policymakers about the evidence base for care and health.

A HISTORY *of* INNOVATION



Morris Collen, MD

Health Screenings Led to Innovation in Health Information Technology

Kaiser Permanente has long been at the forefront of using information technology to advance health care. In the early 1960s, one of our physicians helped to lay the groundwork for the current data systems that have evolved to include Kaiser Permanente HealthConnect®, the largest civilian electronic health record system in the United States.

In 1961, Morris Collen, MD, began leading a new research arm—today’s Division of Research—to explore the use of “all possible electronic aids in diagnostic work and treatment” to expand the scope of preventive medicine across the program. A year later, Dr. Collen received a three-year, \$900,000 grant from the United States Public Health Service to computerize and study the effect of an annual check up on preventing disease.

With the medical information punched on cards and fed into a computer, Dr. Collen and his team began building what later became one of America’s largest research databases. During the next decade, Dr. Collen and others built a research program that showed preventive care could indeed improve health and longevity. Publications of the results brought prestige to the program and spawned replicas of the multiphasic around the world.

At 95, Dr. Collen continues his work at the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research in Oakland, Calif. harnessing the power of KP HealthConnect and computers to improve health care. He also studies the effects of drug interactions among elderly patients.

Today, KP HealthConnect connects 8.6 million of our members to their health care teams, their personal health records and the latest health information. Every month, the system supports nearly 600,000 e-mails between our doctors and our members.

