Challenge or Opportunity: In Our Community, access to sufficient, healthy food is a barrier faced by almost 9,000 people every day. Food insecurity and inadequate diets negatively impact the health of our patients and community, leading to high rates of childhood and adult obesity and noncommunicable diseases including diabetes, heart disease, and certain types of cancer.

Approach or Solution: In Partnership with Willing Hands (Norwich, VT), a local food recovery and distribution organization, we established a Farmacy Garden on D-H’s campus. The Farmacy is sustainably growing fresh fruits and vegetables that will be harvested and distributed to local food shelves, homeless shelters, and other community resource locations.

Impact: The Farmacy Garden is providing fresh, nutritious produce to local food shelves that support individuals and families with food insecurity and diet-related health conditions. It is also creating public awareness about food insecurity and the need to improve healthy food access in order to ensure the well-being of our community.