



# THE HEART BEAT

GSPHS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022



## A MESSAGE

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT **GEORGE FORCIER**

In our last Newsletter, I focused on how Sarasota Memorial Hospital (SMH) Specialty Clinic provides access to diagnostic testing and medical specialists for our patients, thus providing GSPHS the tools to offer comprehensive medical care. In this Newsletter, I will focus on how GSPHS provides prescription medication to uninsured financially needy patients who are treated by the SMH Internal Medicine Clinic located in the Newtown section in North Sarasota. This SMH clinic opened on July 5, 2017 in collaboration with the Florida State Medical School (FSUMS) to offer primary physician care to financially needy patients in an underserved section of Sarasota referred to as Newtown. This clinic also serves as a site for Florida State University School of Medicine physician residents to do a rotation in a primary care clinic as part of their training. With the exception of access to free prescription medication, the SMH Internal Medicine Clinic provides comprehensive health care to both insured patients who pay for health care, as well as uninsured patients with income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). These latter patients also qualify for our free prescription medication services.

GSPHS has partnered with the SMH Internal Medicine Clinic to provide free prescription medication to financially needy uninsured patients who also qualify for our services. We accept many of the SMH documents that patients have already completed as part of the application process for free medical care at the SMH Internal Medicine Clinic, along with a few additional GSPHS required documents. This helps facilitate the application process for the patients and minimizes the duplication of forms that patients need to complete. GSPHS prescriptions are filled weekly by our dispensing pharmacy and delivered by GSPHS Patient Advocates to Newtown for pick up by their clinic patients. Without access to medication, physician care for these patients is significantly less effective. In return, several physicians who treat patients in Newtown also volunteer at the GSPHS medical clinic in Nokomis. We are grateful for this most valuable partnership that is beneficial to both GSPHS and the SMH Internal Medicine Clinic.

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Are you or someone you know looking for a way to give back to the community in a way that makes an impact and leaves you feeling like you have brightened someone's day?

**GSPHS is the place.**

We are looking for a multitasker to help in our Nokomis office. . . answer the phone, process paperwork, pre-screen new clients, along with a variety of other administrative tasks.

**Tuesdays 9AM to 12PM**

Contact Luldes @ 941-445-5687

**Other times may also be available.**



## Our Volunteers

**GERRI VEZINA**

About six years ago I saw an article about GSPHS needing volunteers. Since I had recently retired from healthcare, I thought maybe I could help. I received my nursing training in the navy and wrote my state boards in 1963, but didn't work in nursing for some twenty years while raising my family. Then my life took a different path, back to nursing. It is so rewarding to see and hear the appreciation from our patients who, for whatever reason, are not able to afford healthcare. I want to thank all the family of volunteers at GSPHS for letting me be a part of that family and serve a need in our community.



With many thanks for a generous grant from the **William G. & Marie Selby Foundation**, we hope to start work renovating our office late in October.



**3:1 MATCHING FUNDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FROM THE FLANZER FOUNDATION AND ANONYMOUS DONOR**