



# THE HEART BEAT

GSPHS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022



## A MESSAGE

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT **GEORGE FORCIER**

We do a lot with little because of great teamwork.

GSPHS's licensed pharmacy dispensed over a half million dollars of medication over the past year with a purchasing budget of approximately \$20,000. In order to accomplish this output, our pharmacy has to minimize waste, take advantage of free medication that is available and judiciously utilize available funds. This presents a challenge for our pharmacy manager Dr. Kelly Scolaro.

GSPHS has three sources to obtain medication at no cost:

- Donations of physician samples by local doctors
- Sourcing free medication from Americares and Direct Relief
- Pfizer drug replenishment program

It is important for our pharmacy to maintain a fixed formulary (inventory) of medications commonly prescribed by primary care physicians who utilize our services. Physicians must be able to count on having access to these commonly prescribed medications for their patients

In order to maintain this fixed formulary, our pharmacy manager must closely monitor our inventory and make maximum use of medications available from free sources. However, since these free sources may not always have an available supply of specific medications needed, we must purchase some medications from wholesale suppliers. Because GSPHS operates with a limited budget, it is important to minimize waste. One way to minimize waste is that only a 30 day supply of medication is dispensed at one time so that if patients' prescription needs change, less medication is wasted. This also requires patients to visit our pharmacy on a monthly basis and provides greater insurance that patients are complying with their medical treatment plans. When possible, a minimum inventory of each medication is maintained in our pharmacy to eliminate drug expiring on our pharmacy shelves. It should also be noted that the dispensing pharmacy often only provides an interim supply of medication until our patient advocates enroll patients who qualify into free pharmaceutical manufacturers' compassionate care programs for brand name products.

In addition to medication dispensed by the GSPHS pharmacy, patient advocate services have provided millions of dollars' worth of brand name medication to our patients through the manufacturers' compassionate care programs.. However, maintaining a fixed formulary in our pharmacy that physicians can count on is a critical part of successful patient care. The ability to maintain this fixed formulary, while staying within our budget, requires teamwork by GSPHS pharmacists, physicians and patient advocates. We are grateful for their dedicated service.

## Did You Know?

"Good Samaritan has been blessed with a surplus of toiletries in the last few months. We decided to partner with Backpack Angels <https://backpackangels.org/> and provided them with over 100 personal size bottles of body wash, lotion, and shampoo on Sat, Dec 18th. Items were collected during their toiletry drive at the Venice Symphony Holiday concert. We are grateful for our non-profit partners in Sarasota County."

## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

- Volunteers are required to be vaccinated.
- Masks are required
- Curbside services are continuing.
- Clinic visits by appointment. Walk-ins during clinic night based on availability.

**3:1 Matching funds still available:  
Flanzer Foundation and Anonymous Donor**



## Our Volunteers

**KIM BAIGERT**

I grew up in CT, and taught for 37 years in the public schools as a High School Transition Specialist for students with special needs. When not teaching, I worked part-time in a jewelry store, sang in a Chorale, lead a Relay for Life group and worked as a spinning instructor, all while bringing up 2 wonderful boys as a single parent. 5 years ago I was lucky to marry a wonderful man, and upon retirement, moved to Florida. Still working as a fitness instructor, I met Gary, who quickly convinced me to check out Good Samaritan, when I spoke of looking for volunteer opportunities. The rest is history! The people I work with and the work we do collaboratively, bring fun, joy and a true sense of helping the community. I truly enjoy everything that has been brought to me. . .even though George has fired me a few times!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED • VARIOUS TIMES AVAILABLE • CONTACT LULDES @ 941-445-5687**