



A MESSAGE

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT **GEORGE FORCIER**

HURRICANE MILTON OCTOBER 2024

As you all know, Sarasota suffered a direct hit by hurricane Milton earlier this month. The eye of the hurricane passed directly over GSHS. This newsletter is intended to describe the impact that it had on GSHS and how adaptable GSHS can be to always try to meet our patients' needs.

Since GSHS is physically located in evacuation zone A, we were forced to close on Tuesday October 9. However, before closing, we assessed the medical consequences of interrupting prescription distribution to our patients based on their current supply of medication plus their medical conditions. These patients were contacted so we could fill their prescriptions prior to closing on Monday afternoon. At the same time, we created a plan to address any prescription needs as soon as possible after the storm had passed. Since we were informed that it could be a week before electric services would be restored, this plan included a contingency of operating without electrical power.

Like everyone else in the Sarasota area, we anticipated damage to our facility but were also concerned with the safety of our staff and volunteers. We reached out to volunteers and staff (like family members would reach out) to ensure their safety and an obtain an assessment of damage to their homes. Although there was some property damage, our staff and volunteers had all safely weathered the storm.

Our attention then turned to how we would meet our patients' needs. Within 24 hours of Milton landfall, we were able to confirm that our facility had not suffered any significant damage. However, we did lose electric power. With the cooperation of our volunteers, we put together a plan to meet all our patients' prescription needs. This involved significantly more manual labor, but we felt that we owed this to our patients. Fortunately, electric power was restored within a couple of days and we returned to normal operations by October 15th.

It is reassuring to know that our staff and volunteers are always ready to adjust to the existing conditions to find a way to serve our patients.

Patient Comments

FROM A RECENT CLINIC

Fantastic & compassionate!
The staff was very helpful and the nurse answered my question & very knowledgeable and compassionate.

Best Care EVER! This place & the Volunteers are amazing! "God's Angels" are running a wonderful place

EVERYONE WAS WONDERFUL, POLITE, FRIENDLY AND ANSWERED ALL MY QUESTIONS

You are a wonderful organization! Everyone has always been so helpful. Thank you so much.

I love coming here, everybody is very pleasant and provide me with my medicine when I'm in need.

Thank to everyone For such very Nice to all come at the Door, I am very Much Appreciated For the Work they do, With Love God Bless you All...

everyone was very pleasant & helpful.



Volunteer Profile

CAROLINE CANON

I am a sophomore at Pine View School. I enjoy playing tennis and spending time with friends and family. I have one older sister, Gabrielle, who now is at the University of Florida. She spent 4 years volunteering at Good Sam. That is how I found out about the opportunity. I love volunteering with Good Sam because of the environment and the people I get to work with. I also want to go into the medical field when I am older, so the experience is great! My most meaningful experience at Good Sam is helping people in need. Having this opportunity has made me appreciate the things I have. I have spoken to many patients who lost a lot in the past 3 hurricanes. Being able to help them recover, even if I just play a small role, means the world to me.

LICENSED PHARMACISTS & PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

Tuesdays 9 AM - 2:30 PM & Wednesdays 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LICENSED NURSES

Wednesdays 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM

FRONT DESK

Tuesdays 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

MATCHING FUNDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FROM THE FLANZER FOUNDATION