



## A MESSAGE

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT **GEORGE FORCIER**

Good Sam Health Services (GSHS) always searches for means to expand services and also to increase our patient population. To qualify for our services, patients must be uninsured and have had a gross income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The 200% income limit was imposed by the Florida Legislature for our volunteer health care professionals to be covered by the State provided sovereign immunity liability coverage, which is essential for our volunteers. The income restriction meant that individuals who may work a forty-hour work week at \$15 per hour, which is barely above the minimum wage, would have gross income of approximately \$2,568 per month. After deductions, this leaves less than \$2,400 per month for living expenses. With average rental expenses for a one-bedroom apartment nearly \$1,500 per month, which is over half of their net income, this leaves limited funds for other living expenses, meaning these individuals may need to choose between paying for health care or having food on the table. Even insurance under the Affordable Care Act is too expensive because of premiums and co-pay for medical care. We would hope no one has to choose between food on the table and medical care. Fortunately, the Florida Legislature recognized this limitation, changing the eligibility requirements for the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program and approved a new law which raised the income levels to 300% of the FPL. Consequently, many patients who would have difficulty affording health care can now qualify for our services. We are grateful for this change since it was heart breaking to turn patients away who were barely over the 200% income restriction.

## A LITTLE CHANGE IS A GOOD THING

To clarify our presence to the public by reducing the emphasis on pharmacy, and to reflect the comprehensive nature of our health services, we have changed our name to:

### GOOD SAM HEALTH SERVICES

Officially, we'll be doing business as Good Samaritan Pharmacy and Health Services, Inc., but we'll refer to ourselves by the current, commonly used name, **GOOD SAM**. In many cases, our patients receive primary care, access to diagnostic testing, medical specialist referrals, patient advocacy services, as well as access to our dispensing pharmacy.

## 2024 GIVING CHALLENGE SUCCESS

The 2024 Giving Challenge arranged by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County was an important success resulting in approximately \$37,000 being raised by Good Sam Health Services. This was made possible by the generosity of our donors plus matching funds from the Patterson Foundation and an anonymous donor. We are grateful for your generosity and would not be able to provide services to our patients without you. Thank you to all who participated.



## Volunteer Profile

**TARA ARCOMANO**

I graduated from Rutgers in 1983 began my career in the pharmaceutical industry in NJ. Corporate burnout led me to consulting and a big move from New York City to Aspen, Colorado in 2000. I met my first and only husband at 41 and had our daughter at 42. Consulting dried up with the economic downturn of 2007. So, I decided to work in retail pharmacy for the first time since pharmacy school. This allowed me a part-time profession and wonderful years raising our daughter. The cold and altitude of Colorado and relocation of our daughter to Washington DC led my husband and me to Venice, Florida in 2021. I wanted to keep my hand in some volunteer work and put my skills to use. We were dining at Paradise Grill in Nokomis, and they had a fundraising table for Good Samaritan Pharmacy and Health Services. I contacted Luldes the next day and began volunteering on Tuesdays. I am not licensed to practice in Florida, but Kelly and the volunteers quickly engaged me in WEB PAP and client services. I get my "professional" fix and help some needy people along the way. Not to mention the camaraderie with the WONDERFUL people at Good Sam Health Services.



## GOOD SAM HEALTH SERVICES

**EARNs A 2024 STANDARDS GOLD RATING**

The mission of the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics is to ensure the medically underserved have access to affordable healthcare. The NAFC and our members are dedicated to ensuring that our patients receive quality healthcare. Therefore, to quantify and qualify the care provided at the Free and Charitable Clinic network, the NAFC formalized a set of Quality Standards for member organizations. These standards allow us to showcase the quality care provided to our patients to policymakers, partners, and funders. Additionally, the standards assist the NAFC in developing benefits and resources that will help our members enhance the care you provide to patients. Your organization has qualified for a NAFC 2024 Standards Gold Rating.