

News Release

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Help With Growing Medical Needs Found at The Sharing Center

With three children in school and her husband of 20 years out of work undergoing intensive chemotherapy for lung cancer, Lisa has had to give up her job in order to care for Mike and their children full time. Now relying solely on Social Security income and some food stamps, the family fell behind in utility payments and nearly had their power shut off. The Sharing Center has assisted with water and power bills and helped Lisa with leads to work she can do from home.

Lisa is just one of hundreds of people who will be helped this year at The Sharing Center to deal with the financial burden of long-term medical care. To better assist an increasing number of people with medical dilemmas, The Sharing Center is working to help them access more avenues of help.

The Sharing Center has assisted low-income families with prescription medicine costs for many years. This year, grants from Health Council of East Central Florida have added two new staff members to address specific medical issues. Evelyn Vazquez is a Health Navigator who helps patients without insurance to find a medical “home,” a family physician or specialist who can help them with long-term needs. Daisy Rivera is a MedNet Navigator who helps patients with life-saving prescriptions to find help with these costs from free or reduced-price drug programs. Each of these advisers expects to assist over 800 individuals a year.

H.O.P.E. Mobile Medical Unit is another new collaboration for The Sharing Center. The 37-foot H.O.P.E. clinic parks at The Sharing Center once a month to assist with medical and behavioral health care. It is equipped with two examining rooms and staffed by a Physician Assistant and a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. On its first day at The Sharing Center in May, H.O.P.E. assisted 14 people; most were referred to The Sharing Center’s MedNet Navigator for further assistance, and one was taken to an emergency room with heart trouble. The H.O.P.E. van (Homeless Outreach Partnership Effort) is operated by the non-profit Health Care Center for the Homeless. Homeless and other medically indigent patients are seen the second Monday each month by appointment through The Sharing Center from 9 am-1 pm or on a walk-in basis after 1 pm.

The Sharing Center caseworkers also network with Longwood Shepherd’s Hope Medical Center, which has been leasing space from The Sharing Center for over a year. Shepherd’s Hope is equipped with examining rooms where physicians and others volunteer their skills to provide non-emergency healthcare for the uninsured.

The Sharing Center is located at 600 N. Hwy. 17-92, Ste. 158, Longwood 32750. Phone: 407.260.9155 / www.thesharingcenter.org.

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The Sharing Center
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