THE FULL CIRCLE OF HEALTH MODEL

SCHOLARSHIP

MEDICAL CARE

DENTAL CARE

PARTNERSHIP

HEALTHY LIVING

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

HEALTH EDUCATION

moved by compassion

Good Samaritan Health Center
www.GoodSamAtlanta.org
Families living in Atlanta’s Westside have a life expectancy of 13 years less than those living in Atlanta’s wealthiest neighborhoods. The socioeconomic gradient and accompanying social determinants of health disparities are literally issues of life or death in Atlanta. Located in a Health Professional Shortage Area for primary care, dental care, and psychiatric care, the Good Samaritan Health Center serves uninsured and vulnerable communities in the Atlanta metro region.

Since opening in 1996, Good Sam has discovered that health care provision is only the first step in impacting health outcomes. In an effort to improve health outcomes within the community, Good Sam has developed the Full Circle of Health model encompassing medical care, dental care, behavioral health, health education, and healthy living in an integrated model.

1Virginia Commonwealth University, 2015
2U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Good Sam primarily serves patients living in English Avenue, Vine City, Washington Park, and Grove Park neighborhoods where over 25,000 nearby residents qualify for our services based on their income. Statewide Georgia has over 19% of uninsured adults, compared to the national average of 13.8%\(^1\). A quarter of uninsured adults report going without health care due to cost and 22% report being unable to afford the medication they were provided\(^2\). As a result, these individuals are less likely to receive preventive services, more likely to forgo followup visits and effective therapies for chronic diseases, and are more likely to be diagnosed with later-stage cancers\(^3\).

\(^1\)Sweeny, 2015
\(^2\)Kaiser Family Foundation, 2014
\(^3\)Institute of Medicine, 2009

GOOD SAM PATIENT SNAPSHOT

27,025 PATIENT INTERACTIONS IN 2015

Good Sam patients, who are the working poor, homeless, and those on Medicaid or Medicare, are families and individuals living at 200% or less of the federal poverty line. The vast majority of patients do not have any form of medical insurance.

\(^{1}\)Sweeney, 2015
\(^{2}\)Kaiser Family Foundation, 2014
\(^{3}\)Institute of Medicine, 2009
The foundation of care at Good Sam is evidence-based primary care. Primary care includes annual wellness exams, curative care for acute illnesses, and management of chronic diseases. The goal of primary care is to prevent illness, restore health, and prevent health deterioration.

Our on-site medical programs, with the support of volunteers, include
- Pediatric Program
- Prenatal Program
- Cancer Screening
- Radiology
- Laboratory Services
- Orthopedics
- Gastroenterology
- Neuro-ophthalmology
- Gynecology
- Orthotics and Prosthetics
- Cardiology
- Developmental Clinic
- Procedure Clinic
- Dispensary Services

Through off-site partnerships we offer
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Oncology
- General Surgery
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Urology

Friday Homeless Clinic
Every Friday at Good Sam we dedicate all of our resources to providing comprehensive services and a medical home to the homeless community. Transportation services bring patients from downtown and local homeless shelters Good Sam has partnered with. A team of staff and volunteer primary care providers, dental providers, counselors and psychiatrists provide comprehensive care and medications free of charge to everyone who comes.

Good Sam provides comprehensive dental services including prevention and education. The dental program is truly comprehensive including emergency care for relief of pain, infection and trauma as well as non-emergent exams and x-rays. Treatment planning is based on patients’ needs and optimal care standards and might include restorative care (fillings, crowns, veneers, on-lays), prosthetic care (bridgework, dentures), and specialty care (periodontal treatment, root canals, oral surgery, and TMD therapy). In addition to treatment, licensed hygienists provide oral hygiene care and education.
Mental health counseling has been a part of Good Sam’s services since the clinic’s opening. Access to mental health care is particularly critical in lower income communities. Mental health issues are five times more prevalent amongst individuals living in poverty. Living in an impoverished environment causes significant psychological stress leaving individuals with limited “bandwidth” for daily tasks let alone educational advancement.

Good Sam seeks to remove barriers to obtaining mental health care by offering low cost counseling services on-site. The counseling department provides mental health care to individuals, couples, and families in a judgment free environment that is inclusive of all races, ethnicities, and religions. The counseling department is expanding to offer additional community services. Psychiatrists offer diagnostic evaluations to determine appropriate mental and behavioral health diagnoses, medication stabilization and management.

Good Sam offers individual, couple, child/adolescent and family therapy in areas such as depression, anxiety, grief/loss, anger management, as well as issues stemming from trauma.

Health education is a growing service at Good Sam with the goal of impacting peoples’ health-related decision making beyond the wall of the center. Much of the Good Sam health education program focuses on nutrition including food purchasing, food preparation, and understanding the impact of food on the body. This program is augmented by the Good Sam Teaching Kitchen, a state of the art commercial kitchen designed for food preparation instruction.

Additionally Good Sam offers group medical classes in both English and Spanish focusing on topics such as healthy pregnancy, healthy childbirth, healthy parenting, kidney smart classes and diabetes education. These interdisciplinary programs involves the collaboration of the Registered Dietitian, Medical Doctors, Nurse Practitioners, Diabetes Educators, and Pharmacists who partner with patients.

1Schiller, Lucas & Pregoy, 2012
Another important factor to impacting social determinants of health outside of clinical care includes access to healthy food options as well as physical fitness. The mission of the Good Samaritan Urban Farm, which produces over 8,000 pounds of fresh produce on the on-site one acre plot, and Farmer’s Market is to grow quality produce for the patients and community members served by Good Sam and sell that produce at affordable prices.

The Eat Well Live Well program is a monthly class where participants learn about healthy eating and engage in hands-on cooking demonstrations. At the end of each class participants leave with a voucher for one month worth of certified naturally grown produce from the Good Sam Urban Farm and Market.

This year Good Sam, in partnership with Urban Perform, will be opening a full service on-site fitness center. Good Sam providers will have the ability to refer patients for affordable classes and workout sessions.
The implementation of Good Sam’s Full Circle of Health is made possible by three primary support systems:

**PARTNERSHIP**
Good Sam is connected with over 40 organizations who are addressing other determinants of health. Good Sam collaborates with them by providing our services to their clients as well as connecting our patients to their services.

**VOLUNTEERISM**
Good Sam has a team of dedicated volunteers whose services supplement and expand those offered by staff providers. Over 40 clinical providers provide $250,000 in hours on an annual basis. These providers make it possible for patients to receive affordable specialty care at Good Sam as well as increase Good Sam’s capacity to continue serving new patients.

**SCHOLARSHIP**
Good Sam provides learning opportunities for health professionals and students in an effort to raise up a generation of health care providers who understand the need for accessible, affordable care and the unique needs of uninsured patients. The Good Samaritan Institute convenes healthcare professionals, publishes cutting-edge research, and educates the next generation of providers to care for those in need.
Good Samaritan Health Center

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TEXT: GS 13 TO: 33733
or visit
GoodSamAtlanta.org/13years

Hours of Operation
Monday-Thursday ... 7:45am to 4:30pm
Friday-Saturday .......... 7:45am to 12:00pm

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