



Geneseo Parish Outreach Center Inc.

Affordable Healthcare - Quality Service - Healthy Living

Newsletter



Find us on Facebook

www.gpocenter.org

GeneseoPOC@gmail.com

Our Pantry Coordinator

Foodlink Emergency Pantry—and a Salute to Another Donna*



Like all other institutions affected by the pandemic, the Pantry is of vital importance to the population served at the GPOC. Volunteer Donna Brian is the certified coordinator of the day-to-day operations of the

Pantry: ordering, taking inventory of stock, purging outdated items, serving as the contact person for Foodlink, and maintaining monthly statistics required for our designation as an emergency Foodlink operation. In addition, Donna serves as the point person for information related to the recent grant to purchase a large refrigerator to supplement the current freezer.

Donna has been working overtime lately. She is part of the skeleton crew that operates at the Center where clients may pick up groceries, frozen meats, bakery goods, and non-food items. In March, 100 bags from the Pantry were distributed, double the amount usually distributed each month. With schools and businesses closed and medically vulnerable clients reluctant to leave home to shop,

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GPOC COVID-19 Emergency

Operating Protocol

The Geneseo Parish Outreach Center has suspended weekly medical clinics since the second week in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are not an urgent care facility, and most of our volunteers are over age 65, many with pre-existing conditions that put them at additional risk for serious outcomes if they were to be infected.

Despite these restrictions, the GPOC continues to operate with one or two volunteers per day during the normal office hours, Monday through Thursday 9:00-Noon. Staff members use gloves, remain six feet apart, and sanitize work areas before and after use. They dispense prescription drugs and pantry items at the back door of the church; all other transactions are conducted by phone. If medication samples are not available, GPOC is paying for them at pharmacies by phone or mail. Clients may also contact the office to receive assistance in paying for emergency dental or lab work, doctor visits, or x-rays.

The Center anticipates an exponential rise in all requests and costs as individuals struggle with unemployment and loss of affordable insurance.

***Donna Flaherty
Executive Director***

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our Pantry is filling a vital need. Donna also distributed 12 emergency boxes packed at Foodlink to neighbors in need over the last weekend in March.

Current needs of the Pantry include the following:

Re-usable bags (in fear of spreading the virus, these bags cannot be refilled; the Center has to purchase additional bags, with the inventory soon to be depleted)

toilet paper	sanitizing wipes
hand sanitizer	hand soap
dish soap	shampoo
	laundry detergent
	toothbrushes

Your generosity is vital now. The GPOC knows that this is a difficult time for everyone. We hope that your past generous support will continue to assist our neighbors in need.

*In addition to being the caretaker of the Pantry, Donna has answered the call for PPE needs. She is making face masks for hospitals, doctors' offices, nursing homes and First Responders. At this point, Donna has made over 500 masks, 400 of which she has donated. She is now advertising on Facebook, filling a request from Livingston County United Way and receiving orders from law enforcement departments as far away as Georgia and Alabama. Although some supplies for these masks and elastic are in short supply, she will continue with this extraordinary effort so long as the need remains. Kudos, Donna!

Potential Clients:

Those with no insurance.

Those who are under-insured.

Those who cannot pay for medications or specialty care.

Introducing New GPOC Medical Volunteers

- **MD Ayesha Tasaddaq**, primary care provider, practices in Dansville at Tri-County Family Medicine.
- **PA-C Nadine Bailey**, primary care provider, works in the Cohocton office of Tri-County Family Medicine.

Both of these providers will help staff weekly clinics after the COVID-19 shutdown is over.

- **RN Danielle Caramut**, a critical care nurse at the U of R Medical Center, is currently volunteering in the GPOC office.
- **RN Carol Thompson** has recently retired from Tri-County Family Medicine. Although she has been volunteering for POC for several years as clinic nurse, she is now working in the office during the COVID-19 shutdown.

GPOC clients and fellow volunteers welcome these four women to our staff.



Hours and Fees

All services are by appointment only.

Call us for an appointment at: 585-243-3120

Monday through Thursday, 9-Noon

We suggest a \$5 donation for clinic visits.

A \$20 donation is suggested for adult (18 and older) job or school physicals.

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Donna Flaherty, Executive Director, Volunteer in Charge, before and since COVID-19



When Donna Flaherty assumed the role as Executive Director of the Geneseo Parish Outreach Center in July of 2017, she could never have foreseen the challenges she is now facing. Working with a skeleton crew each day of the GPOC

operations, she is juggling administrative and medical tasks along with nurses two days of the week and former Director Linda Weaver.

Donna came to the Center from Tri-County Family Medicine in 2005. As a PA she can diagnose, prescribe and see patients. She supervises an abundance of volunteers and other medical associates and acknowledges that a major strength of the Center is that there are numerous connections with other helpful agencies such as Catholic Charities and Chances and Changes. As a member of the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics across the country, the Center, also, has access to programs and resources that are valuable. She praises the Foodlink Pantry and appreciates the Center's contacts with the Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse and Livingston County Mental Health Counseling

In January Donna listed the usual challenges: money, increased budget, tremendous record-keeping and other administrative tasks. Today she faces the adjustment to providing clients with limited resources without clinic availability and only a few other volunteers to handle these challenges, not to mention the unusual outflow of financial resources.

On a personal level, Donna enjoys her life on a Sparta farm with a mini-horse, chickens, a duck, and

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Adopt-a-Shelf/Assist with Medication

As more individuals are temporarily unable to work, their ability to obtain food, personal hygiene items, and medications becomes more difficult.

Our pantry is well stocked, but we do not get a price break on items such as toilet paper, shampoo, and laundry soap. If you or an organization that you are a member of would like to adopt one of these items and keep the shelf for that item stocked, it would be most helpful. Just let us know which item you are adopting and we will let you know when it is running low.

Another opportunity for serving is to assist our clients with prescription expenses. In March alone we experienced a 500% increase in prescription-assisted expenses. Based on current demand, by the end of April we will have incurred a typical year's worth of prescription costs.

Listed below are the costs of four of the many drugs our clients need. Each represents costs for one individual per month.

- **Lantus**, a long-acting insulin commonly used to treat diabetes: \$223-\$744, depending on the dose the patient requires. The Lantus calculation is based on a patient using 30 units per day on the low side to 100 units per day on the high side.
- **Trulicity**, a newer non-insulin drug for diabetes which is injected weekly: \$689.
- **Symbicort**, combination inhaler for asthma or COPD, taken 2 puffs twice a day: \$295.
- **Spiriva**, an inhaled drug for asthma or COPD, taken 2 puffs daily: \$439.

Sample donation and reminder: \$223 is equivalent to helping one person who needs 30 units of Lantus per day secure his/her much-needed medication. If clients need to choose which bills to pay, they may stop taking their medication to save money. This decision would weaken them and could cost us all in higher emergency room costs.

If you or your organization can support shelf items and/or medications, please respond to the GPOC ASAP with your wishes.

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her husband of 36 years Jonathan. They may add another more child-friendly mini-horse for a nearby grandchild to learn to ride; she would learn to drive the cart herself. Among their four grown children are four grandchildren, three families in the Rochester area and one in the state of Washington. She is, also, closely connected with her church, the Hattery Christian Fellowship.

As Executive Director, Donna continues to recognize that her role, while stressful, is satisfying and rewarding. The goal of the GPOC is to help people, accepting whatever they can afford to "pay back" on good faith, never turning anyone away. Her "Wish List" as of January? A mobile unit, and space for a dental chair and hygienist. Today? Perhaps a return to a "new normal."

Clients and fellow volunteers are blessed to have Donna Flaherty at the helm during these difficult times.

GRANTS

The GPOC is thankful for the following grants which will help our community during this Corona virus emergency.

The United Way of Livingston County has granted the GPOC \$7500 from their emergency funds for our efforts in assisting patients with their needs. This money is in addition to our established UW grant of \$28,500.

The National Association of Free & Charitable Clinics has approved a grant request of \$5,000 to assist in your outstanding COVID-19 relief efforts in your community.



Food & Goods Donations Needed

Partner with



Personal Care Items not covered by food stamps, such as the following:

- ◆ shampoo
- ◆ toilet paper
- ◆ deodorant
- ◆ tooth paste
- ◆ laundry detergent
- ◆ dish soap
- ◆ hand soap
- ◆ feminine hygiene products
- ◆ incontinence briefs

Geneseo Parish Outreach Center is an Emergency Foodlink Pantry

The Geneseo United Methodist Church provides the GPOC with a safe home space for our volunteers and clients.



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Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of York-Leicester for their donation of \$900.00 to help support the Parish Outreach Center's mission to provide medical services to those in need. President Glenda VanRy presents their generous check to Linda

Donate to The Geneseo Parish Outreach Center

The Parish Outreach Center is a 501(c)(3). It is dependent upon the support of the community that surrounds us. Our mission is accomplished through the generous donations of time, money and equipment from our supporters.

Donations, fundraisers, in-kind donations and foundation supporters are welcome.

You may participate in several ways:

- ... donate "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one.
- ... remember GPOC in your will or bequest.
- ... consider matching gifts from employers.

To learn how you or your organization can help us to help others, please call us. 585-243-3120

- **All donations are tax deductible**
- **United Way donations can be made to number 2471** 
- We use **PAYPAL** to provide a secure transaction. Go to www.gpocenter.org and use the **PAYPAL Donate Button**.

Services we provide for our clients

At Geneseo Parish Outreach Center

- Primary adult and pediatric care
- Medication assistance
- Health education
- School and employment physicals
- Insurance navigation
- Spiritual direction (upon request)
- Grief support (upon request)

At our partner/referral organizations or agencies

- Laboratory screening
- X-ray services
- Women's health
- Mental health services
- Dentistry
- Vision and hearing evaluations
- Services provided by Livingston County Department of Social Services
- Services provided by Livingston County Department of Health (ex. immunizations)
- Services provided by Catholic Family Services



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From Lisa Beardsley
Senior Public Health Educator
Livingston County Department of Health

March 30, 2020

COVID-19 Community Partner Update

**Reliable Information:**

- Governor Cuomo has been speaking daily. Watch the press conferences at www.governor.ny.gov
- Livingston County DOH Website www.livingstoncounty.us/1207/COVID-19
- NYSDOH website www.health.ny.gov
- CDC website www.cdc.gov

**Situational Update:**

- A State of Emergency remains in effect as COVID-19 continues to spread.
- Livingston County COVID-19 numbers continue to increase. You can view the new map on our website www.livingstoncounty.us/1207/COVID-19
- County Government remains operational, please call the Department or program you need as they have limited their physical contact.
- Resources are available by visiting www.thelcn.com and click on the map or call 2-1-1 or www.211lifeline.org
- Livingston County Mental Health has created a help line for community members who need someone to talk to during these stressful times. This is free and confidential. Please call 243-7251 Monday through Friday from 9:00 am -5:00 pm.

**Prevention Tips:**

There is currently no vaccine to prevent the COVID-19 infection. The best way to prevent infection is to follow these tips:

- Wash your hands often.
- Cover your cough with your elbow.
- Do not touch your face.
- Practice social distancing. Stay six or more feet away from others. Stay home as much as possible. Limit your trips to the store.
- Call your doctor if you feel sick.

Please call 1-877-280-6775 for more information.



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