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Community Pharmacy program coming to North Sarasota Library

The North Sarasota Library, 2801 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota, will host the outreach program of the Community Pharmacy of Sarasota County Inc. every Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. starting Feb. 25.

The Community Pharmacy dispenses up to a 60-day maximum supply per year of free medications to eligible patients. No narcotics or controlled substances are available through the Community Pharmacy program. Trained volunteers assist patients in applying for help from pharmaceutical manufacturers' free prescription assistance programs where the medications are delivered by mail to the patient's home or physician's office every three months for up to one year.

The on-site pharmacy portion of the program is located in Nokomis and dispenses prescription medications, medical supplies and over-the-counter items, including diabetes meters and strips, cold and cough medicine, pediatric medications, adult diapers and other items. Couriers will transport the prescriptions and supplies to the North Sarasota Library on a weekly basis.

"The Community Pharmacy is a great program designed to reach people who may not otherwise have access to these types of services," said Sarabeth Kalajian, general manager, Sarasota County Library System. "This program is a perfect complement to our Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP) kiosks, which offer free access to health and wellness information."

The Community Pharmacy is dedicated to providing free medication and professional pharmaceutical care to qualified [uninsured and working-poor Sarasota County residents](#). Clients must complete an application for services and provide proof of residency and income and be able to demonstrate need. Since 2008, the agency has dispensed and advocated for more than \$1.5 million worth of prescription medication, over-the-counter medications and medical supplies. The offices are staffed entirely by community volunteers.

Those helped by the Community Pharmacy include people who have lost their jobs, homeless persons and the working poor who cannot afford prescription insurance or pharmacy co-payments.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about the Community Pharmacy program at North Sarasota Library.

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