

Riechel Reports.... SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK TO OPEN THE SECOND FOOD PHARMACY IN CALIFORNIA

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SAMARITAN HOUSE AND SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK EXPAND COLLABORATION TO OPEN THE SECOND FOOD PHARMACY IN CALIFORNIA

Low-Income Patients with Diabetes Can Now Fill Prescriptions for Healthy Food at the Redwood City and San Mateo Free Clinics

What:

Samaritan House and Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties are opening their second Food Pharmacy, thought to be the second Food Pharmacy in California, at the San Mateo Free Clinic. The organizations opened the first Food Pharmacy earlier this year. Low-income patients with diabetes can “fill” prescriptions for free nutritious food for themselves and their families. The Food Pharmacy concept is an innovative solution to provide access to healthy food via a written prescription from a primary care physician. Patients are able to pick-up their food prescriptions on a weekly basis right at the clinic where they receive their medical care. Each Food Pharmacy projects to serve 100 families with a total distribution of more than 7,200 bags of groceries annually. Second Harvest will keep the Food Pharmacy stocked with fresh produce and other healthy foods and provide nutrition education including cooking demos, recipes and nutritional information.

When:

Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 11 a.m.

Where:

Samaritan House's San Mateo Free Clinic, 19 W. 39th Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403

Why:

Low-income communities have higher rates of diabetes. The Hunger in America 2014 study showed that one-third of Second Harvest's client households have a member with diabetes, three times the national average. A healthy diet is critical for keeping diabetes under control and avoiding serious complications from the chronic disease, yet many low-income patients with diabetes don't have access to nutritious foods, including fresh produce. It's often too expensive and out of reach, while high-sugar, high-fat foods are cheap and easier to get. The Food Pharmacy gives patients with diabetes at the San Mateo Free Clinic access to the high-quality nutritious foods they need to stay healthy.

Who:

Bart Charlow, CEO, Samaritan House

Dr. Jason Wong, Samaritan House Medical Director of Health Care Services

Kathy Jackson, CEO, Second Harvest Food Bank

SAMARITAN HOUSE CONTACT:

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Best,

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