



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Samaritan House Unveils Newly Renovated Free Medical Clinic in San Mateo

*Expanded Facility Features New AI-Enhanced Diagnostic Technology and
World-Class Healthcare Access for Underserved Communities*

San Mateo, CA - August 21, 2024 — [Samaritan House](#), the leading anti-poverty organization in San Mateo County, today announced the grand reopening of its newly renovated and expanded Free Medical Clinic at 19 W 39th Ave in San Mateo. The revitalized facility represents a significant step forward in providing comprehensive healthcare services to the community's most vulnerable residents. *Media is invited to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and tour the new facilities. Former U.S. Representative Jackie Speier and Samaritan House CEO Laura Bent are among the dignitaries scheduled to speak.*

The modernized clinic boasts an array of enhancements designed to improve patient care and operational efficiency. Key upgrades include an expanded waiting room and reception area, a modernized dental section with three chairs, a larger gynecology exam room, and an additional standard exam room. The renovation also connected two previously separate halves of the clinic, allowing for more streamlined patient flow and improved staff coordination.

"This renovation reflects our commitment to providing dignified, first-class care to those who need it most," said Laura Bent, CEO of Samaritan House. "By expanding our capacity and upgrading our facilities, we're not just improving healthcare access; we're reinforcing our belief that everyone deserves high-quality medical attention, regardless of their ability to pay."

The clinic's technological advancements are particularly noteworthy. A new AI-powered diabetic eye camera, developed in collaboration with Stanford Hospitals, enables efficient screening for diabetic retinopathy. Additionally, a virtual reality headset for visual field tests enhances ophthalmological care. These innovations and increased access to vital medications through a partnership with Dispensary of Hope significantly boost the clinic's ability to provide comprehensive care.

Dr. Baldeep Singh, Medical Director at Samaritan House, emphasized the impact of these improvements: "The integration of cutting-edge technology and expanded facilities allows us to offer a level of care that rivals private practices. This is particularly crucial for our patients, many of whom face significant barriers to accessing healthcare elsewhere."

The renovation also addresses the growing need for mental health services. A dedicated space for mental health consultations, in addition to an expanded behavioral health team, underscores Samaritan House's holistic approach to patient well-being. The organization plans to continue expanding its mental health services in the coming year.

"The newly renovated clinic is more than just a medical facility; it's a beacon of hope and a testament to what's possible when a community comes together," Bent said. "We're not only treating illnesses; we're empowering individuals to take control of their health and, by extension, their lives."

The Importance of Free Community Clinics

According to the National Association of Free Clinics, community clinics serve about 2 million patients in the U.S. annually. Of these visits, 93% of patients are without health insurance. Both the Samaritan House Redwood City and San Mateo clinics offer comprehensive health care free of charge and are largely staffed by volunteers. Over the last year, Samaritan House held 8,000 patient visits across both locations.

Samaritan House is part of an important network of Free clinics that have the advantage of being flexible and responsive to emerging healthcare and social needs. By focusing on the segments of the population most in need and those who face barriers to care, Samaritan House can reach individuals who would otherwise go without essential medical services or end up in emergency rooms at an average cost of approximately \$1300 per day.

As Samaritan House celebrates its 50th anniversary, the clinic's reopening marks a significant milestone in its ongoing mission to combat poverty and improve lives in San Mateo County. The organization continues to adapt and expand its services to meet the evolving needs of the community, reinforcing its position as a crucial resource for thousands of residents facing economic challenges.

Email Liza Batallones at liza@batallonesmedia.com for high-res images of the new clinic and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

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About Samaritan House

For nearly 50 years, Samaritan House has been leading the fight against poverty in San Mateo County. We are the only organization that delivers the full breadth of essential services and personalized support to the working poor. By ensuring our 26,000 clients are fed, clothed, healthy, and housed, we help them create their own stability and remain an active, successful part of our community. After all, an enduring community is only possible when every person has the resources they need to live. That's why Samaritan House brings together individuals, companies, schools, faith-based and other organizations to provide free services that empower our neighbors. We are dedicated to Fighting Poverty. Lifting Lives. Learn more at samaritanhousesanmateo.org/50years .