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## **1st of its Kind Charitable Pharmacy Opening in Branson**

My Neighbors Charitable Pharmacy announces Executive Director

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Branson MO: My Neighbor's Charitable Pharmacy (NCP) will open its doors at 1232 Branson Hills Parkway February of 2023. The Pharmacy, which is the first of its kind, is targeted to serve individuals in the region who lack access to medications due to insurance or income.

In 2021, the Missouri Legislator created rules making a Class Q charitable pharmacy possible. The unique classification, based on providing access to medications for qualifying patients, allows for a pharmacist to work directly with providers as well as patients to obtain prescription medications. This relationship between the provider, pharmacist, and patient, assists in an improved level of disease management which may otherwise be unobtainable.

"The presence of a charitable pharmacy in the region will have a major impact on the health and wellness of our community.. Research in this field shows that for those that have access to medication, not only do they have better measurable health outcomes, like lower blood pressure, blood sugar, or cholesterol, but they are also less likely to go to the hospital or to have a heart attack or stroke." said Dr. Heather Lyons-Burney, Board Chair of NCP. "Our goal is to provide our neighbors with the ability to take their medications as they are prescribed and work together to keep them well."

Patients who qualify, based on income and lack of prescription insurance, will pay a monthly administrative fee for their pharmaceuticals. "We will not charge for the medication. The monthly fee goes to help support the cost of our staff. This is a system we have had in place when the pharmacy was a medication room at Faith Community Health and we found it to be a successful program." said Dr. Lyons-Burney. "We have relationships with pharmaceutical companies as well as other charitable medication distributors. We are able to obtain the medications for little or no cost. The majority of the charitable pharmacy's expenses are in operations."



The charitable pharmacy has identified Dr. Henry Irvin, PharmD as Executive Director and Pharmacist In Charge (PIC). Dr. Irvin's experience includes leadership roles at Walgreens in Branson West and Faith Community Health. Dr. Lyons-Burney continues, "I've worked with Henry for over 2 years at Faith Community Health, I'm confident in his ability to build the pharmacy so it can support our growing community, specifically those that may not otherwise have access to life giving medications."

"Everyone has seen the cost of medication rise, often making it impossible for people to control their chronic conditions or treat a simple infection," says Dr. Irvin. "The lack of access to medications leads to disease complications and unwanted hospitalizations. Our ability to provide a resource for medications and disease management information in our community is a huge step forward in keeping our neighbors healthy."

The charitable pharmacy will be located next to the relocated Faith Community Health, which will be moving to the site as renovations are being completed. "Our partnership with My Neighbors Charitable Pharmacy will have a ripple effect throughout the Ozark's community," said Kyle David, Executive Director of Faith Community Health. "The pharmacy will work with patients who qualify for services at the clinic, but is able to service patients who may have seen a provider outside of the clinic. By caring for all who qualify, NCP is a values aligned partner to our clinic."

Renovations for the pharmacy are underway and expected to be completed in late January or early February. For more information, visit [www.MyNeighborsCharitablePharmacy.org](http://www.MyNeighborsCharitablePharmacy.org).

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Photo Attached: *Dr. Henry Irvin, PharmD*  
Graphic Art: *Neighbor Pharmacy Logo*