

CareLink Press

Strengthening Individuals → Healthier Families → Community Health

June 2020



3rd Quarter Events

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EDITORS NOTE:

Welcome to our inaugural issue of CareLink Press. We are so excited to invite you inside these pages to discover who CareLink is and how we bring better health to our patients and Paulding County residents. Our mission is to serve as a community health, dental and wellness clinic providing low cost, high quality medical care and support resources to the residents of Paulding County who are in need. In our short 6-year history the pioneers' vision of what CareLink could be have cultivated a rich journey that even the bumps and hiccups experienced along the way couldn't dampen the reality of today. You will learn more about this later. CareLink Press is a quarterly newsletter that will share a variety of insightful articles from new services that are currently in development to community events highlighting wellness programs including Diabetic Education, Physical Therapy, and Mental Health issues. In the 'Spotlight' segment you will get to know our volunteer doctors, nurses, and front office staff, in addition to our partners whom we couldn't survive without. I know you will enjoy the profile on Chairman Rita Norris. She is a dedicated, compassionate, and no-nonsense caregiver who is the rudder that keeps our boat on course! Thank you, Rita!

Freida St. Germain

The CareLink Story

CareLink of Northwest Georgia, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization governed by engaged citizens, business owners, healthcare professionals, and members of the faith-based community in Paulding County. The vision for CareLink has persisted in the hearts and minds of many Paulding County residents for years. Through hard work, perseverance and dedication, that vision is now a reality. In the fall of 2014, a team of concerned community members embarked on a journey to form what we now know as CareLink of Northwest Georgia, Inc.. The goal in mind as a comprehensive and sustainable community resource center is to provide long-term health and wellness services leading to healthier lives, healthier families and thus, a healthier community. Opening in November 2018, CareLink is Paulding County's **ONLY** 100% volunteer run non-profit primary care medical clinic. **CareLink is open Tuesday and Saturdays from 8:30-12:00 by appointment only.** We serve Paulding County residents between the ages of 18 – 65 who have no insurance. Our patients are charged a \$25 cash payment for their first visit, which includes both completion of the necessary paperwork and their first doctor's visit. Follow-up visits can range from \$10 cash (for 75% of our patients) to \$75 cash (1% of our patients) depending upon their financial situation identified in the Federal Poverty Guidelines. In partnership with WellStar Health System, CareLink was created to provide healthcare and other necessary resources to our county's uninsured and underserved residents. We are confident that through the provision of safe and compassionate high-quality care we will effectively strengthen individuals, families and the Paulding Community at large enabling all residents to live a happier, healthier lifestyle.

Become a Volunteer!!

If you have been looking for a way to give back to your community in Paulding County, consider joining our team. From all walks of life our volunteers have a passion for helping those in need and we need you! There are opportunities for medical and front office staff. Contact us at:

www.carelinkga.org or 678.903.5103



SPOTLIGHT ON CHAIRMAN RITA NORRIS

Rita was born on a farm in eastern Kansas, the oldest of seven children. She received a degree in Finance from the University of Maine, Orono ME as a non-traditional student.

In her professional career she worked for Bank of America and its predecessors (NCNB and NationsBank) running operations in the credit card division in the mid-Atlantic states. She retired as a Sr. Vice President. Not ready to quit working, she took a job as Vice President for SunTrust Bank in Atlanta, charged with starting a quality program for the entire bank. In 2007, the department was dissolved, and Rita moved to Paulding County to begin life as a 'retiree'. Rita has "worked" as a volunteer ever since.

She volunteered with Helping Hands for 6 years and with Kennestone Hospital for 11 years and at Wellstar hospice supporting the Paulding County Nursing Home for 5 years. Since 2016 Rita has volunteered with CareLink in various roles, most recently as the Board of Director chairperson. When asked, what she likes to do for fun? – "well honestly, I like to work and be busy. I've been with my husband, Bob Clark, for 38 enjoyable years. I enjoy reading, cooking and playing bridge, but I love to work most. With some of the work I've tried, I've had a friend tell me there are meds to address this :), heard but not listened to.

CareLink has been the most enjoyable volunteer opportunity that I've ever had the privilege to be part of. I am fortunate to feel that I have been very blessed with my life to date.



CareLink to Reopen Soon!

CareLink staff look forward to serving our patients again soon. Since temporary closure in March our doctors and nurses have met the needs of our patients using Telemedicine. A BIG thank you to Dr. Atkinson, Dr. Bourne, Dr. Garriss, Nurse Mansfield, and Rita Norris for their diligent care providing continued service during this time. When opened the clinic days and hours of operation will be Tuesday and Saturdays from 8:30 to 12:00 by appointment only. We have missed our patients and look forward to seeing you soon!



CareLink Happenings

CareLink Receives Donations

At CareLink we are mindful of the importance of good stewardship of our resources. And we are always thankful when we receive donations from outside sources. CareLink has received two donations that will go a long way in helping us prepare to reopen CareLink. Both donations are PPE (personal protective equipment) to ensure that all our wonderful volunteers will be as protected as possible. By protecting our volunteer providers, nurses and front office personnel, we can dedicate ourselves to protecting and improving the lives of Paulding County residents and families. The first donation was 20 Face Shields made by the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce and their volunteer teams. The Paulding County Chamber of Commerce has demonstrated strong leadership and support of their members and county residents throughout these trying times in providing virtual events, informational sharing virtual meetings and a strong presence. Thank you! The second donation was all things necessary to protect our volunteers - gowns, shoe covers, gloves and face masks. This donation was made possible by MedShare, a wonderful non-profit in Decatur, GA, with a tag line 'Improving the quality of life of people and our planet'. This donation was coordinated by GA Charitable Care Network dedicated to supporting Free and Charitable Clinics throughout GA. This is another excellent source for CareLink.



DID YOU KNOW?

Research has shown that eating a small 1.6 oz. bar of dark chocolate everyday is good for you. It reduces stress hormones like cortisol and other fight-flight hormones. The cocoa is rich in antioxidants called flavonoids. Enjoy a bar today!

Chocolate doesn't ask silly questions – chocolate understands

Our Corporate Sponsors



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678-903-5103 and www.carelinkga.org
Clinic Hours
Tuesday and Saturdays 8:30 – 12:00**

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