

Palm Healthcare Foundation invests \$2M in county health initiatives

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Palm Healthcare Foundation, Inc. was founded in 2001 when it took over the functions of Good Samaritan Foundation and St. Mary's Hospital Foundation.

Since its establishment as a community health care planning, education, and support organization, the foundation has provided nearly \$75 million toward supporting organizations with health initiatives in **Palm Beach County**. This year alone, it has invested \$2 million in local nonprofits that work toward improving residents' health.

Patrick McNamara, the foundation's president and CEO, said, "We are known as a public charity foundation. What that means is, basically, we are a grant-making institution but we also raise funds, are in fund development and garner public support when it comes to our annual operating budget. We also partner with other entities in order to raise funds. We have a good and growing number of donors to the foundation."

The vision of Palm Healthcare is to provide all county residents with the chance to obtain a healthful lifestyle and maintain that status. This is accomplished by bringing leaders and residents together on serious health-related concerns in order to obtain maximum results. According to the foundation's website, "With philanthropic support, we work to achieve transformative health solutions, advocate for our most vulnerable residents and lead change for generations to come."

Behavioral health is one of the critical issues the foundation addresses through community-driven, multi-year, place-based initiatives. For instance, there is the Healthier Lake Worth initiative that works to promote awareness of behavioral health issues and seek solutions that will lead to a heartier community. A \$200,000 grant from Palm Healthcare was awarded to Healthier Lake Worth to assist in their efforts.



Patrick McNamara, CEO of Palm Healthcare Foundation
(Palm Healthcare Foundation/Courtesy)

Diabetes is another key health concern. Palm Healthcare granted Jupiter Medical Center \$200,000 to use in the Healthier Jupiter program that targets diabetes prevention and management.

Palm Healthcare's six healthier initiatives are: Healthier Neighbors (serving Riviera Beach and northern West Palm Beach), Healthier Delray Beach, Healthier Jupiter, Healthier Lake Worth, Healthier Glades and Healthier Boynton Beach.

"Each community chooses from one of three focus areas of our foundation, based on data and current community health needs that often go unaddressed in our current clinical care system," McNamara said. "These three areas are diabetes prevention and management, behavioral health and family care giving.

"Our purpose is to continue that same sort of community health need that nonprofit hospitals served previously," he said. "We are to continue to serve those community health needs and, in particular, the under-served and low-income folks."

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