



PATIENT ACCESS FUND ENDOWMENT

Research estimates that medical care only accounts for 20% of the factors that produce healthy outcomes for patients. The other 80% of factors influencing good health are widely referred to as Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and include a patients' health-related behaviors, social factors and environmental factors¹.

For example, a patient who lacks access to transportation may be unable to get to a follow up appointment, or after a visit to the emergency department no means to get home. Picking up a prescription may prove impossible. Patients experiencing food insecurity may be forced to choose between buying food or paying the rent. These factors have also contributed to more than 50% of readmissions to the hospital, an alarming statistic.

Increasingly, medical professionals at Emerson Hospital are witnessing these challenges among their patients. Food insecurity, lack of transportation, homelessness, no family support, inadequate income – all are contributing to inadequate medical care for these people and unfortunate and expensive re-hospitalizations. To address these concerns, Emerson Hospital proposes the creation of a Patient Access Fund Endowment.

To produce adequate annual resources to meet the needs of Emerson's patient population, we propose an endowment goal of \$1 million. Based on hospital policy, this amount would yield approximately \$40,000 annually – a 4% annual draw on the fund.

Distribution of these funds would be under direction of the Care Management Team of Emerson Hospital. The Care Management Team works with patients, families and the clinical care team to assess, plan, facilitate and advocate for patient services. Qualifying patients would receive support in the form of a voucher or gift card. The overarching goal is to provide patient access to those with barriers to appropriate care.

If you are interested in supporting the creation of the Patient Access Fund Endowment, please contact Karl Kussin at (978) 287 3081 or kkussin@emersonhosp.org, or Melissa Saalfield, at: (978) 287-3583 or msaalfield@emersonhosp.org. Gifts may be made as outright cash donations, gifts of stock, or pledged over five years.

Thank you for your consideration. Your tax deductible gift will support Emerson Hospital's efforts to provide needy patients with resources to restore their health.

¹*Social Determinants of Health 101 for Health Care: Five Plus Five*, National Academy of Medicine, Washington, D.C., October 9, 2017.