

FACT SHEET

PROJECT ACCESS

Palm Beach County Medical Society Services

Providing healthcare to the uninsured

Together We Can Make A Difference!

Project Access Spotlight

I am **Giselle Miranda** and this is my new story...

On March 31, 2017 I was diagnosed with breast cancer, a diagnosis that changed my life as well as my perspective, my thoughts, my character and my whole being. I felt fear, anxiety, emptiness, pain, and sadness as I did not know where to go or how to find care. One day my friend got me in



Giselle Miranda and Dr. Ben Han.

touch with Dr. Humberto Caldera who is part of the Project Access program, and that is when my blessings began. I am grateful that Project Access has given me all of their support during my recuperation process as well as the immense help from four wonderful doctors that I would like to recognize here:

- **Dr. Humberto Caldera**, the Oncologist who arranged my chemotherapy treatments
- **Dr. Julian Berrocal**, the Breast Surgeon who carried out my bilateral mastectomy.
- **Dr. Jose Navarro**, the Plastic Surgeon who will carry out my breast reconstruction.
- **Dr. Ben Han**, the Radiation Oncologist who arranged my radiation treatments.

Now I can say that I am a breast cancer survivor because of this prestigious institution that does an incredible job in searching for health specialists who by their good will save lives like mine.

Thank you greatly Project Access for your efforts, for making me feel a part of you, for opening up so many doors and for your great gesture in helping more people have hope for life. God bless you all!

The Heart of What We Do— Specialty Care Coordination

Helping committed patients connect with compassionate doctors and dentists is the foundation of our work. Our care coordinators work with patients to assist them in navigating a sometimes complex health care system. Please consider helping us by becoming a volunteer.



- Project Access connects uninsured patients with volunteer physicians and health care providers who provide pro bono care through a simple, organized system.
- Physicians and health care providers are protected by sovereign immunity when treating Project Access patients through the Florida Department of Health's Volunteer Health Care Provider program.
- Project Access first screens patients for programs such as Medicaid or Palm Beach County Health Care District programs. Only those who do not qualify for any health coverage are eligible for Project Access. Patients must be residents of Palm Beach County and have an income less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Participating physicians are eligible for up to 5 CME every two years for providing pro bono care.
- Every physician and health care provider determines their own amount of patients they are willing to see. There is no minimum commitment. Project Access provides patients with access to diagnostic services, lab services and inpatient and outpatient treatment and procedures at our 9 partner hospitals across the county.
- Your office receives an informed and engaged patient and all the information needed for the patient's care at the time of the visit. We have a strict no-show policy for patients.

Why Our Mission Matters!

Here are two insights from our care coordinators:

I love working with patients to help them access much needed health resources. It is extremely rewarding to know the difference we make in the lives of so many.

— Project Access Community Connections Coordinator

It's the overwhelming generosity of our volunteer physicians and health care providers that allows Project Access to have such a tremendous impact here in Palm Beach County. They are the true heroes of this program.

— Project Access Director

Project Access Is Here to Help

Many health care professionals in Palm Beach County provide charitable care for the less fortunate residents in our community. However, without a system in place providing support services, these providers can be left feeling frustrated, and the process may be inefficient and ineffective.

The Project Access program is here to help. Project Access's unique case management process offers health care professionals an efficient way to donate their services to patients in need. Patients are screened for appropriate diagnostic testing and lab work before the patient is scheduled with a specialty care provider. Referrals are carefully managed to ensure that caring for charity patients is shared fairly across our volunteer network throughout the community. Providers are recognized for their contribution, and most of them choose to continue participating with Project Access year after year.

Project Access helps:

- Strengthen and organize the charity care provided by PBC health care providers
- Improves the health of the low-income uninsured in Palm Beach County
- Cultivates collaboration among safety-net clinics, specialty providers and community resources
- Reduces inappropriate Emergency Room usage
- Minimizes the cost of per-patient charitable care
- Engages the health care system to work more efficiently and systematically

Meet Dr. Larson — Our Project Access Chair

Andrew Larson, MD, is the chair of Project Access. A member of the Florida Medical Association, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a fellow of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, Dr. Larson is on faculty at the University of Miami as part of their affiliate teaching staff and regularly works with medical students and residents at JFK Medical Center. In 2008, Dr. Larson served as treasurer of the Palm Beach County Medical Society board of directors, and in 2013, he led the organization as president. Currently he serves on the board of Palm Beach County Medical Society Services and is a founding and continuous member of the Project Access program. Dr. Larson has provided nearly a dozen charitable surgical procedures as well as consultations to 59 Project Access patients. His contributions have resulted in impactful, life-changing events for his patients. In 2009, he was named the "Project Access Surgical Physician of the Year." Dr. Larson welcomes inquiries from physicians considering volunteering for Project Access. Contact him at projectaccess@pbcms.org.



Volunteer Pledge Form

Yes! I want to sign up for Project Access and I will:

Volunteer to provide free care to Project Access patients in my office as a specialty physician — Area of specialty:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital | <input type="checkbox"/> Surgical Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ancillary Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Cut out or copy and send to:

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West Palm Beach, FL 33406
For more information please call Lauren Stoops,
Program Director, at (561) 433-3940 x119 or
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Name _____
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Signature _____ Date _____