

NEWS RELEASE

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California Hospital and Health Care LA IPA to Use Samaritan to Help Patients Overcome Barriers to Housing



Los Angeles, Calif. – Dignity Health - California Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) recently partnered with Health Care LA (HCLA) to provide homeless patients with memberships to Samaritan, a platform that gives members direct financial and social support towards housing and life goals. Members get a Samaritan smart wallet from case managers or patient navigators, sharing life goals and breaking them down into needs and action steps. From there, members gain financial and social support from a team of supporters to meet needs, while earning bonuses for taking action steps towards goals.

More than 50% of Samaritan members measurably improve access to care, housing, employment and other categories. These outcomes are linked to significant reductions in hospitalizations, ED visits and jail time, among other public services. Members are not required to have a bank account, cellphone, address, legal documentation, or insurance; they can use their smart wallet to redeem funds with case managers and local merchants, as well as securely store critical documents. Samaritan guarantees that over \$100,000 will be placed into the initial 200 patients' hands, with a goal to exceed \$200,000 by May 2023.

“Through our collaboration with HCLA, we are so excited to be able to make a truly meaningful impact on an otherwise disenfranchised and vulnerable population,” says Alina Moran, CHMC’s Hospital President. “With the unique capabilities of the Samaritan platform, we can better serve our local communities, while helping them with critical healthcare needs and life goals.”

“We are excited to launch a program to meet our patients where they are by providing meaningful support for their journey toward self-determination,” shares Sabra Matovsky, HCLA IPA CEO.

“We’re here to help people gain the ‘raw materials’—money and a team of support—that they can use to rebuild hope and reach their own housing goals,” says Jonathan Kumar, founder of Samaritan.

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About Dignity Health California Hospital Medical Center

Founded in 1887, Dignity Health California Hospital Medical Center is a 318-bed, acute care, nonprofit hospital located in downtown Los Angeles. The hospital offers a full complement of services including a Level II trauma center, the Los Angeles Center for Women’s Health, obstetrics and pediatric services, and comprehensive cardiac and surgical services. The hospital shares a legacy of humankindness with Dignity Health, one of the nation’s five largest health care systems. Visit www.dignityhealth.org/californiahospital for more information.

About HCLA IPA

HCLA IPA is a nonprofit IPA serving 34 health centers and community clinics in the Los Angeles area. As of January 2022, HCLA serves over 600,000 Angelenos, virtually all of whom are enrolled in government programs such as Medi-Cal, Medicare and Covered California. HCLA IPA is governed by a 15 member board of Federally Qualified Health Center CEOs.

About Samaritan

Despite the undeniable visibility of the problem, it is not being seen that deeply marks someone experiencing homelessness. [Samaritan](#) exists to help people gain the social and financial support needed to find a home. To sponsor a Samaritan Member in LA, [download the Samaritan app](#) or [contact Samaritan](#) to arrange a demo for your organization.