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NEWS RELEASE

(For immediate release)

FAIRFIELD MEDICAL CENTER BEGINS SCRIPTASSIST PROGRAM TO HELP PATIENTS WITH THEIR PRESCRIPTIONS

LANCASTER, Ohio (November 3, 2009) – Fairfield Medical Center is proud to announce the start of a new program called ScriptAssist. This program is offered and administered by Fairfield Medical Center but funded by Fairfield Medical Center's Foundation. ScriptAssist is designed to help those that cannot afford their prescriptions.



Misty Richardson, ScriptAssist Coordinator, commented, "Many drug companies have patient assistance programs where patients can apply for their name-brand medicines but the enrollment process is often overwhelming and very time consuming. That is where we come in to provide assistance and speed up the process." As a ScriptAssist Coordinator, Richardson will help patients find the appropriate program, handle all of the paperwork and take care of the refills and re-enrollments. She will also meet with patients, interview them for eligibility and start the processes

of getting them enrolled for free or discounted medications.

The program will begin in phases. The first phase will start in November for only hospital patients and Emergency Department patients. In January of 2010, Fairfield Medical Center will then include physician office referrals. During the second half of 2010 we will reach out to the community for assistance. Richardson noted, "We just really feel that it is essential to start this program very slow and we thought that rolling it out in stages was the best course."

Participation requirements:

- Must have an established Fairfield Medical Center physician or be a patient at Fairfield Medical Center.
- No prescription insurance coverage or coverage has been exhausted.
- Household income level must meet the pharmaceutical companies income guidelines.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), poor adherence to treatment of chronic disease is a "worldwide problem of striking magnitude." The WHO estimates that in developed nations, half of patients do not take medicines for chronic diseases in the prescribed manner. After initiating this new program, Richardson says that she hopes to see more medication

compliance as a result. All questions about the program can be directed to Misty Richardson, ScriptAssist Coordinator, at (740) 687-8860.

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