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Legacy Community Health Celebrates American Pharmacists Month

Training the Pharmacists of the Future and Expanding Access to Care in Underserved Communities

HOUSTON (October 15, 2025) – When pharmacy interns at Legacy Community Health give free health screenings at community events, they're not just learning—they're saving lives. For many Houstonians, these encounters are the first step into care and a powerful reminder of the critical role pharmacists play in public health.

October is **American Pharmacists Month**, a time to recognize the vital contributions of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. This year's observance is complemented by **National Pharmacy Week, October 19–25, 2025**, which highlights how pharmacy teams advance patient care across the health system.

Unlike chain pharmacies, **Legacy is a nonprofit**. Every prescription filled helps fund programs that support patients living with **diabetes, hypertension, HIV/AIDS and other chronic conditions**.

This model allows Legacy pharmacies to:

- Connect patients to care
- Remove barriers to treatment
- Support underserved communities
- Train pharmacy students through immersive internships

"Pharmacy is where health care and community meet," said Robert Palussek, Chief Executive Officer of Legacy Community Health. "At Legacy, our pharmacies are about more than dispensing medicine—they're about access, education, and opportunity. Every prescription filled is an investment in the health of our community. Patients who choose Legacy aren't just

receiving their medications—they're helping us care for thousands of underserved neighbors while training the next generation of pharmacists to carry that mission forward.”

A Program That Shapes Careers

At the center of Legacy's pharmacy impact is its **Pharmacy Internship Program**, a cornerstone of services that blends education with community care. Each year, interns from the **University of Houston, Texas Southern University**, and other schools spend two to three years with Legacy as **paid interns**.

Unlike traditional internships, students are fully integrated into patient care. They:

- Administer vaccines
- Provide blood pressure and glucose screenings at health fairs
- Counsel patients on medication and disease management
- Work alongside providers as part of a team-based care model
- Counsel patients on how to monitor blood pressure and blood sugars at home
- Schedule patients to be seen in Pharmacist-Run Clinics
- Participate in Quality Improvement projects like Medication Utilization Evaluations
- Present posters at state and nation-wide conferences

This training has already shaped careers. Ariana Moorer, a current fourth-year student, has presented statistical data at national conferences based on her work with Legacy patients, while former intern Sarah Garcia Plouch calls Legacy her “North Star” and plans to return as a pharmacist.

Expanding Access for Houston Communities

While interns gain hands-on experience, Legacy's pharmacy teams are equally focused on removing barriers to care. Their services ensure health care is not only available but also accessible for Houston's most vulnerable residents.

Services include:

- Free prescription delivery up to 70 miles, plus statewide shipping
- Medication labels in 120+ languages, plus talking-label technology
- Sliding-scale pricing for uninsured patients through the federal 340B program
- Clinical pharmacy services, where pharmacists under agreements with 50 providers can prescribe, titrate, or taper medications for diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol, and Hepatitis C

Specialty Pharmacy Services for Complex Care

For patients with more advanced needs, Legacy's **Specialty Pharmacy** provides access to **high-cost, limited-distribution medications** that many retail chains cannot offer, including:

- Biologics for autoimmune diseases
- Hepatitis C treatments
- Injectables for osteoporosis

In addition, patients benefit from personalized help with **copay assistance programs** and **care coordination**, ensuring treatments remain both affordable and consistent.

A Prescription for Community Impact

By filling prescriptions at Legacy, patients support a **cycle of health equity**:

- Patients receive affordable, personalized care
- Students gain hands-on training as future pharmacists
- Communities benefit from reinvested revenue and expanded access programs

From free screenings at community health fairs to specialty medication support, **Legacy Community Health's pharmacies are redefining what pharmacy care looks like in Houston**. By investing in future pharmacists and expanding access for underserved populations, Legacy shows that every prescription has the power to change lives—for patients and the community alike.

As American Pharmacists Month and National Pharmacy Week spotlight the profession's impact nationwide, Legacy Community Health demonstrates what it looks like locally: **pharmacies that deliver access, equity, and opportunity—changing lives far beyond the pharmacy counter**.

For more information about Legacy Community Health's pharmacy services, visit <https://www.legacycommunityhealth.org/services/pharmacy/> or call 832-548-5000.

About Legacy Community Health

Legacy Community Health is a full-service, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) with more than 60 locations across the Texas Gulf Coast region. For over 40 years, Legacy has been providing comprehensive, quality health care to underserved communities. Services include adult and pediatric primary care, OB/GYN, behavioral health, dental, vision, and pharmacy. Legacy ensures its services are open to all, regardless of the ability to pay—without judgment or exception.