

THE PATIENT'S NAVIGATOR

November 2021
Access Now - a program of the Richmond Academy of Medicine

Visit our Website



Total number of patients seen since Access Now began
16,461



Total current number of specialty care volunteers
1,144



Total reported value of donated care since Access Now began
\$59.2 million

Thank you for your service to Access Now



Access Now is grateful for the more than 1,000 volunteers who donate their time and talents each year. We especially wish to thank three Board members whose terms expire this year:

Dr. Joseph Boatwright (2015-2021)

Dr. Omar Watson (2019-2021)

Jeff Cribbs (2016-2021)

Also, we are proud to welcome new Board members:

Dr. Clifford Deal, Richmond Surgical
Dr. Mark Townsend CCO of Bon Secours Richmond
Dr. Anita Patel, Associated Podiatrists
Dr. Andy Thanjan, Gastrointestinal Specialists

Access Now: 'an amazing experience'

Axel Camacho is one of the thousands of Virginians who lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. When a health condition flared up, he had no insurance. "I didn't know what to do and as the pain and discomfort increased, so my desperation and frustration," he says.

Fortunately, Access Now was able to help, scheduling him an appointment with Dr. Peter White at OrthoVirginia. Today, Camacho is living pain free. "I was almost incapable of walking or just standing up at church," he recalls. "And now I have a normal life.

"I am very grateful to Access Now for their empathy with me during my time of desperation and for the help they were able to



offered me throughout the donations and volunteers workers. God bless you and keep the good work. We the people need you.”

Meet our Board: Debbie Trainer



The Access Now Board is comprised of dedicated volunteers who support our mission and guide our future. **Debbie Trainer, Ph.D.**, serves as our Board Secretary. She explains why she volunteers her time and talents with Access Now.

How does your background relate to Access Now?

I worked as a cancer researcher, I had enjoyed lobbying for medical-related issues, and I had set up science labs in several elementary schools. When we moved to Richmond in 1992, the Richmond Academy of Medicine Alliance [which closed its doors earlier this year] reached out to me and I got involved in organized medicine, ultimately serving as president of the MSV Foundation, and I recognized the impact that foundations like Access Now have on our communities.

What made you decide to join the Access Now Board and why have you stayed?

I initially joined the Access Now Board as the representative of the RAM Alliance, then became a regular Board member to continue to advocate for the unique role that the Board serves in fulfilling unmet health care needs in the Richmond area.

What do you think is the most important component of Access Now?

What really impresses me most about Access Now is the staff. They treat everyone with compassion and dignity, and they are advocates for folks who aren't used to having an advocate.

Our staff identifies the needs and problem-solves how to meet those needs. I'm so impressed with their ability to connect all the moving pieces, coordinating physician recruitment and garnering community awareness, support, and funding.

What else would you like to tell us?

Access Now makes sure we have a healthier community, working toward correcting imbalances in the system. Patients must navigate a complex and ever changing health care system and staff helps them do that with the invaluable support of our many volunteer physicians.

Access Now checks all the boxes when you look at how a nonprofit should operate. It's got a strong mission and a robust base of operations.

Remembering a longtime volunteer



A longtime member of our Access Now family, **Dr. Kenneth Cookus**, passed away on Sept. 29. [Click here](#) to read the obituary.

A Nebraska native, Dr. Cookus attended the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine. Following two years of residency in foot surgery, Dr. Cookus practiced for 20 years in Winfield, Kan., and in 1986, moved to the Richmond area and practiced until his retirement in 2015.

His commitment to serving all patients in Central Virginia was evident in the care he provided to countless Access Now clients. He was known for his medical skill, generosity and bedside manner.

Happy Holidays!

Access Now wishes all our patients, clinics, donors and volunteers the happiest of holidays.

To give our fabulous staff some time off, we'll be closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 3.



The gift of giving with Amazon Smile



Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "Access Now, Inc." as your charity and activate **AmazonSmile** in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Access Now, Inc." as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

Make a donation

Access Now

(804)622-8145

accessnow@ramdocs.org

<http://www.AccessNowRVA.org>

The Access Now Board of Directors and staff thank the following for their generous support:

Bon Secours Richmond Health System
Commonwealth of Virginia
HCA Virginia Health System
MEDARVA Surgery Centers
Metropolitan Health Foundation
OrthoVirginia
Richmond Academy of Medicine
Richmond Academy of Medicine Alliance Foundation
Richmond Memorial Health Foundation
Rotary Club of West Richmond
The Overton and Katharine Dennis Fund
The Harrison Foundation
The Jenkins Foundation
TowneBank Richmond Foundation
Tuckahoe Orthopaedics
Tucker Cardiology Associates, P.C.
United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg
VCU Health
Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
Virginia Cardiovascular Specialists
WaWa Foundation