

THE PATIENT'S NAVIGATOR



Summer 2023
A PROGRAM OF

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please click the button below:*

Make a Donation



Total number of patients seen
since **Access Now** began:
18,238



Total current number of specialty
care volunteers:
1,177



Total reported value of donated
care since **Access Now** began:
\$71.0 million

Statistics are current as of July 31, 2023.

2022 Access Now: Another Year Making A Difference!



Access Now recently published its 2022 Annual Report, the title of which perfectly captures the essence of this beautiful program's spirit: **"Together, we make a difference."**

We and thousands of patients, their loved ones and friends are extraordinarily grateful for the compassionate care of **1,063 physician volunteers**, who provided care for **2,193 low-income, uninsured patients**. **The generosity of our many donors** is absolutely inspirational and is essential for the continuance of the program. Thanks to all!

Read Access Now's 2022 Annual Report

Please Click Here to
Support Our Cause

Please have a look at the report (button at left), which provides a glimpse into the entire workings of Access Now, from the perspective of physicians, patients, and donors. Our dedicated staff serve to link together those in need with those who can provide, coordinating **8,700+ office appointments and procedures**, medical services worth over **\$7.3 million**.

Meet Our Board: J. Diego Baltodano, MD

Juan Diego Baltodano, MD has been a gastroenterologist with **Gastrointestinal Specialists, Inc. (GSI)** since 2013. He received his Doctor of Medicine in 1999 from the Universidad de Costa Rica. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine in 2003 at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY. In 2008, he completed his fellowship in gastroenterology at SUNY Upstate Medical University, and since then he has practiced gastroenterology at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Va.

In his free time, Dr. Baltodano enjoys outdoors and sports. As a matter of fact, he was exercising on his Peloton bike during this telephone interview!



How does Access Now relate to your everyday medical practice?

Specifically, my specialty is prevention of colorectal cancer and also early intervention on the broad spectrum of GI problems. Those are my goals. Access Now helps those who wouldn't necessarily have those options.

What is Access Now's most important function?

Reaching out to the population in need as much as we can to help people.

Why did you decide to join the Access Now Board?

I joined to make contributions, from my background and the position that I am in, to help Access Now, which in turn helps the population that needs to be helped.

What effect does Access Now have on the community?

It's absolutely a success! If there is just one patient that has been helped, it makes a great impact. But it's not been just one. People who would not have access to any type of medical care whatsoever have been helped. It is doing what should be done.

What else would you like to tell us?

Unless you really get involved with Access Now, you don't realize just what all is going on behind the scenes, the work that goes into serving our uninsured population. Thank you to everyone who makes it happen!

Meet Our New Program Manager: Leny Diaz

Access Now recently hired a new **Program Manager, Arlenys "Leny" Diaz**, who joined the team earlier this month and will help oversee Access Now's operations to ensure that uninsured patients in Central Virginia get the care they need. She's excited to be on board and in a position to help those most in need in our community.



"Access Now's awesome," Leny exclaims. "It's very rewarding to be part of an organization that coordinates such important services for people who can't afford medical services or get health insurance."

Helping others has been a calling for from her earliest days, when as a child she hoped to one day be a part of the medical field. A mom to four, she has fifteen years of medical experience, including nine years in primary care offices and six with specialties. She's approaching four years of managerial experience.

Like the rest of Access Now's staff, Leny is bilingual, important because about 77 percent of Access Now's patients speak Spanish as a first language.

She also has a personal connection to the hardships Access Now's patients often face.

"I wish I would have known about Access Now years ago! My husband could have benefited from it back in the day, when he was uninsured and incurred big medical debts.

"I'm always here for my patients and am ready to do whatever I can to get them the medical services they need!"

Access Now and Dr. Isaac Wornom Help a 14-Year-Old in Need

A Success Story for a young man with male breast enlargement.

Isaac L. Wornom III, MD FACS

In the winter of last year, I received a phone call from a friend who is a retired orthopedic surgeon and a RAM member about the teenage son of a couple who did work for him and his wife with **severe male breast enlargement** or **gynecomastia**. I treat many men with this problem, and it is often a cosmetic condition that has no medical implications. This situation was very different. This young man had full C to D cup breasts that were **extremely painful**. His family also had **no money or access to medical care**.



I recommended they take him to the **CrossOver Ministry** for an evaluation. He was seen there and had a full medical work up with findings of no other signs of feminization. Through **Access Now** he was seen by a pediatric endocrinologist who did hormone testing on him to rule out a testicular, pituitary, or adrenal tumor all of which can be causes of this condition. These tests were all normal. Surgery was recommended for his gynecomastia by CrossOver and the pediatric endocrinologist, and he was referred to me through Access Now.

I performed surgery on him at **MEDRVA surgery center** six weeks ago with a **double mastectomy** and **free nipple graft**. He now has a chest that looks like a man. It is flat and he has small looking nipples, not large breasts with giant nipples. His pain is gone. He and his family are very happy and he is ready to go back to high school this fall unencumbered by his breasts both physically and psychologically.

The free clinic system combined with Access Now which exists here in central Virginia leads to these kinds of successful treatments every day for patients that could not otherwise afford or have access to them. **We are a fortunate community indeed to have this system in place.**



**"Access Now has been a miracle...
They've saved my life!"**

– Mayra, Access Now patient

Access Now continues to receive top rating

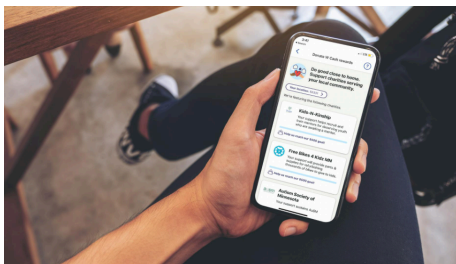
Access Now is proud to have earned a **2023 Gold Rating** from the **National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics Quality Standards Program**.

NAFC Quality Standards elements include policies and procedures related to the following areas: Administrative, Enhanced Access and Continuity of Care, Identifying and Managing Patient Population information, Planning and Managing Care, Providing Self-Care Support and Community Resources, Tracking and Coordinating Care and Measuring and Improving Performance.

Access Now serves thousands of uninsured patients in the Richmond area, connecting them with specialty providers who volunteer their time to ensure that no one goes without care.



Access Now benefits from myWalgreens donation program



Here's a new way to support us: Access Now is one of only three area nonprofits selected for the **myWalgreens** donation program.

Walgreens partnered with **in/PACT** and **The GoodCoin Foundation** to help implement the program across the country.

Members of the myWalgreens loyalty program will be able to earn and donate Walgreens Cash rewards to Access Now. This program will be available through the Walgreens mobile app and online at Walgreens.com.

We hope the inspirational news shared here has brought a smile to your face today. Should you feel so moved as to consider a donation, please scan the QR code at right.

Any amount will go a long way in helping Central Virginia's uninsured find the medical treatment they need. Thank you for your support!



Access Now

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

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