

Reflecting the Spirit of Christ by Providing Compassionate, Accessible Healthcare

Leigh Shoemaker: *Volunteer Coordinator*

When asked about her new role at Exalta Health, Volunteer Coordinator Leigh said simply: "I have always wanted to work at Exalta." She added: "This position is a great fit for me with my skills and background." We agree wholeheartedly. Leigh first got connected to Exalta Health a decade ago when her husband, Chris Shoemaker, spent some time with us



during his residency and then was hired as a staff physician. Already then, she knew that Exalta was a special place.

"Chris and I have always had a heart for the underserved," she said. "When we lived in Detroit, we volunteered at a medical clinic whose patient population

was the uninsured. Later, we moved back to Grand Rapids for Chris's residency, and we knew we wanted to be involved in a similar type of clinic."

In Exalta, she added, they found the perfect fit.

"Exalta Health is a special and unique clinic," Leigh said. "People can sense the love of Christ when they walk through the doors. This is a place where patients receive compassionate and high-quality medical and dental care, and I am proud to be a part of this clinic."

A Physician Assistant, Leigh started volunteering at Exalta on monthly female physical days seeing patients, and for the past year, she has also provided care for some of the refugees we serve, including unaccompanied minors.

Now, in her new role, she gets to connect her many talents for the benefit of Exalta patients.

"With my medical background, I have the benefit of understanding what types of specific skills are necessary for our different volunteer roles," she said.

She added that working with volunteers is a joyful experience.

"Our volunteers are the lifeblood of the clinic," she said with a smile. "Their passion encourages our staff and our patients. It is so much fun to share Exalta Health with new volunteers and to find a place for everyone to take part in our mission."

A Forest Hills Central graduate, Leigh came to faith at the University of Michigan after being part of Bible study through Campus Crusade. She and Chris met as high school seniors, were married in 2007 and have three children.

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ArtFeast11 Update:

Although a fixture in the events of Exalta Health, we have decided it's prudent this year to cancel Art Feast. This is a difficult decision, but a necessary one as we are presently short staffed and the ArtFeast requires a solid commitment of time and treasure to produce a quality event.

We will still proceed with the Golf outing on August 14 at Stonewater Country Club as well as our annual luncheon on the 11th of October at Meijer Gardens. We hope to see you there. Thanks for your understanding and your support.



If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Ed Postma, President of Exalta Health. You can reach him via email epostma@exaltahealth.org or phone 616-475-1363.

Andrew Triezenberg - *Dental Assistant*

My name is Andrew Triezenberg and I have been blessed to volunteer as a dental assistant at Exalta Health for the past 18 months. As a volunteer, I have the privilege of seeing Exalta's mission at work every time I walk through the doors. With my insights, I hope to share some of the things I love about Exalta and the ways I see our mission in action.

In my time volunteering, one thing that continually stands out is Exalta's commitment to serving God through healthcare. This is embodied by the team of friendly staff and volunteers who bring their own faith and service mentality to the clinic daily. As a volunteer, I get the privilege of seeing the various ways our team incorporates their own faith into their work. Some offer patients biblical encouragement and pray for patients going through trials. Others choose to express their faith with a willingness to hold a patient's hand and listen to their story.

In the dental department, I have been blessed to witness Dr. Daniel Armstrong's passion for serving God in the clinic. Not only does Dr. Armstrong offer biblical wisdom and encouragement to any patient that gives a listening ear, he is also notorious for expressing his faith through song. In fact, one of my favorite memories at Exalta came when Dr. Armstrong brought out his guitar and led staff and volunteers in a hymn sing before patients arrived. Looking back on this story, I believe it is an excellent representation of the passion volunteers and staff at Exalta have for serving God and sharing the gospel.

The passion to serve God in healthcare is also evident in the way Exalta Health lives out their mission to serve all who walk through their doors. Time and time again, I have witnessed our team at Exalta work tirelessly to provide quality care to patients regardless of their financial situation or life struggles. In the dental department, we see many patients who have not had dental care in years, or even ever. Still, staff and volunteers provide high quality care which both responds to patients' unique needs and educates them on their oral health.

Overall, I feel privileged to be a part of the team and mission at Exalta Health which is making an incredible impact on the West Michigan community daily.



Francisco Calderon:

Exalta Health Board Member, Treasurer

Francisco Calderon is Vice President, Business Intelligence for Family Promise of Grand Rapids, a nonprofit that works to help families experiencing homelessness. He's also in his second year on the Exalta Health board. And he sees strong parallels between the two organizations.

"Our goal (at Family Promise) is to get these families off the streets tonight," he said. "But beyond that we work to provide prevention services before families reach crisis and stabilization programs once they have secured housing to ensure they remain independent. Exalta Health can serve people in crisis but is also working to help people avoid the crisis, be that medical, dental or even spiritual."

Calderon added that both his day-to-day work and his service on the Exalta Health board share another similarity: they help satisfy his deep desire to make a difference in West Michigan.

"Giving back to the community is a huge component of who I am," he said simply. "What can I do to help?"

Born in Managua, Nicaragua, and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, he was taught from a young age about what it meant to give back, and, he added, what it meant to "do the next right thing."

"My parents made the decision when I was 11 years old to move to the States," he said. "And they had a What Would Jesus Do approach to life."

Recruited to the Exalta board by former Amway colleague and current Exalta president Ed Postma, Francisco admitted he "did his due diligence" before accepting Ed's offer.

"I didn't really know anything about it," he recalled with a smile. "As a data and analytics guy, I had to do my research."

He liked what he found.

"Being Latino and being very aware of the challenges the Latino population faces in West Michigan, I was pleased to see that Exalta serves so many Latino families, including children. I'm very proud of that and proud to be part of an organization willing to provide the services we do to anyone in need."



Exalta Health's Mission

Exalta Health serves the West Michigan community with compassionate, safe, equitable, accessible healthcare that demonstrates our Christian mission.

Exalta Health's Vision

A collaborative community where accessible quality healthcare promotes wellness for all.