Imagine if you...

• Had to choose between buying groceries or paying for your medication.
• Took half doses of a needed medication to make your prescriptions last longer.
• Missed work because you became ill as a result of being unable to afford filling your prescription.

These scenarios represent reality for many individuals in Adams County. They make difficult choices every day about whether or not they can pay for their medication.

Just one of many stories about how Prescription for Caring helps neighbors in need.

Ron Smith was diagnosed with Lymphoma in January of 2019 and started treatment at WellSpan Adams Cancer Center. In month two of the battle for his life, Ron had developed a blood clot in his ankle. The clot required a new, expensive course of treatment. Ron’s insurance would only cover part of his vital daily injections to cure the blood clot, leaving Ron to pay $460 a month.

At the age of 82, Ron is living on a limited income. Ron was faced with an impossible decision – forego daily necessities so he could pay for the treatment he desperately needed or risk losing his life.

Imagine if you or someone you loved had to choose between groceries and life-saving medication.

Fortunately, Ron did not have to make this difficult decision thanks to the Adams County Prescription for Caring Program. This vital WellSpan Health program specifically meets the needs of people in our community who cannot afford the cost of their prescription medications. It helps them afford the treatment they need.

“If it wasn’t for this program, I would not have been able to afford the medication. It’s truly been life-saving,” says Ron.
It is a Challenging Cycle

Patients can’t afford prescriptions, so they skip or split doses, which can lead to an Emergency Department visit or inpatient hospital stay, which means they miss work, resulting in less pay, making it even more unlikely they can pay for their needed medications.

How it Works:

• Individuals must meet eligibility requirements based on specific financial criteria. A person eligible for state, federal or employer insurance must pursue this first before being enrolled.

• Patients may receive assistance in completing applications to receive free brand-name medications for a limited time.

• Financial counselors are available to assist patients in enrolling in any insurance for which they may qualify.

• A disease management nurse makes phone calls to those with diabetes and COPD to help them understand the importance of taking their medications, monitoring their condition and modifying their behaviors for healthy living.

For more information about other vital community programs in Adams County, please contact:

Kristin Vought, Director of Development
Gettysburg Hospital Foundation
P.O Box 3995 Gettysburg, PA 17325
P: (717) 337-4154 or Email: kvought@wellspan.org.

Medication Can Be Expensive
Consider these sobering statistics from a recent evaluation by WellSpan Pharmacy:

- The cost of prescriptions and diabetic supplies (i.e., test strips, lancets, glucometer) for one person for one year is $3,500 to over $10,000.

- The cost for a 30-day supply of heart medications can cost up to $1,200 for one medication. For those with insurance, the co-pay can range from $40 to $150.

- The cost for a nebulizer for asthma or COPD ranges from $15 to $150 not including the medication that is used in it.

The ADAMS COUNTY
Prescription for Caring program
provided $145,706 in medication costs in fiscal year 2019. We’ve provided over 2,900 prescriptions, helping on average 85 patients per month.