

Building Partnerships for a Strong Foundation

by Donnie Calhoun, PD

You may recall from the December 2015 issue that my "In List" for this year included partnerships, commitment, prudence, and makeovers. During my tenure as president of the National Community Pharmacists Association Foundation, I would like to increase the number of companies, associations, foundations, and government agencies that have an alliance with the NCPA Foundation. Maintaining current funding relationships and developing new program partnerships are essential to helping the NCPA Foundation prosper and meet the needs of NCPA, its members, and the public.

Successfully achieving goals requires teamwork. The NCPA Foundation is always seeking partners to establish initiatives that offer NCPA members an opportunity to creatively highlight their value to the communities they serve and to support programs that encourage independent ownership. Please contact the NCPA Foundation if you are interested in supporting the programs highlighted below or to discuss a new public outreach initiative that may be of significance to independent pharmacists.

Bone Marrow Donor Drive: More than 1,000 individuals have been added to the national bone marrow registry as a result of donor drives conducted at independent pharmacies across the nation throughout the year. To inquire about sponsoring this program, please contact ncpaF@ncpanet.org.

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Disaster Relief: The main components of the NCPA Foundation's disaster aid program are the Disaster Relief Fund, which provides immediate cash aid to independents recovering from calamity; the Pharmacy Disaster Support Center at www.rxdisaster.com; and programming at the NCPA Annual Convention related to preparedness, response, and recovery. To learn about funding opportunities, email ncpaF@ncpanet.org.

Dispose My Meds™: This is a turnkey public safety and environmental program that educates the public and provides resources to help communities and independent pharmacies promote responsible and safe medication disposal. More than 1,600 NCPA member pharmacies are participating in this popular outreach program, and so far they have collected more than 200,000 pounds of unused and expired medications. Email ncpaF@ncpanet.org to learn about sponsorship opportunities.

Health Awareness Campaigns: Sponsoring a health campaign is an effective way to engage community residents, promote your company, garner media attention, and edu-

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cate the public about a particular health topic such as allergies, skin cancer, or smoking cessation. To discuss sponsorship ideas, email ncpaf@ncpanet.org.

Scholarship Program: The NCPA Foundation takes great pride in supporting high-achieving pharmacy school students who dream of pharmacy ownership. The number of scholarships awarded annually is based on corporate sponsorship. Last year, more than \$90,000 in scholarship aid was awarded to students with a demonstrated interest in independent ownership. Please contact ncpaf@ncpanet.org for sponsorship details.

Since 1953, the NCPA Foundation has preserved the legacy of independent pharmacy through programs to improve the success of independent pharmacy, community health awareness campaigns, scholarships to NCPA student members, and disaster aid and resources to help independents recover as quickly as possible after an unexpected event. This is all made possible through donations from individuals and companies. I am grateful for the support of current donors and hope to bring new funding partners onboard over the next few months. ■

Donnie Calhoun, PD, is NCPA Foundation president and was NCPA president in 2013-14.