

THE COLUMBUS-ATHENS SCHWEITZER FELLOWS PROGRAM

Purpose: To facilitate service projects to benefit the Columbus and Athens communities, and simultaneously develop emerging professionals who have the skills to address unmet health-related needs throughout their careers.

THE ALBERT
SCHWEITZER
FELLOWSHIP®
*Addressing Health Disparities
by Developing Leaders in Service*

ImproveRx Use through Mental Health Outreach

Purpose

Andrea and Godsfavour partnered with Southeast Inc. Healthcare Services to address the health of patients with serious and persistent mental illnesses (SPMI).

Southeast Inc. Healthcare Services provides behavioral and physical health services to over 10,000 patients each year.

Target Population

- The majority of patients at Southeast have documented mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression, with about 25% reporting experiencing adverse drug events, homelessness and substance use issues.
- Patients take multiple medications and are at a high risk for medication non-adherence.
- This population endures a life expectancy that is 10-25 years below the general population due to multiple comorbidities, high rates of tobacco use, and lower socioeconomic status.

Goals

- Improve the use and understanding of medications in SPMI patients for both their psychiatric and medical needs.
- Reduce and prevent occurrence of adverse drug events.
- Assist with management of diabetes, COPD, and other medical chronic conditions.
- Create a sustainable, one-year service position for future student pharmacists at the site.

Outcomes

- Completely reviewed medications and provided medication action plans to 45 individuals to improve medication use.
- Implemented topic discussions to provide patient education on management of common medication side effects.



- Provided pill boxes/blister packs to improve medication adherence in 71 individuals.



- Improved inhaler administration techniques for asthma and COPD in 18 patients.



- Administered 250 flu vaccines to reduce Southeast patient's flu-induced doctor visits and hospitalizations.
- Recruited a pharmacy student to sustain our project at Southeast after our fellowship year.



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“Start early to instill in your students awareness that they are on this earth to help and serve others; that is as important to pass on to them as knowledge.”

—Albert Schweitzer, PhD, MD

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