



Published November 27, 2017

[Click Here](#) to Read the Original Post on LinkedIn

## **All In Chicago: Spreading the Message to Improve Health Locally with #MessagesForMeds**

*You will find Grant Van der Voort at CommunityHealth every week, fulfilling his ambition to become a qualified physician to provide care in his community.*

In 2017, Grant enrolled as a medical student at Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine. As part of the program, he spends Monday evenings at CommunityHealth's Lederman Family Health Center, receiving on-site training and further developing his clinical expertise. Becoming a medical student, Grant started volunteering at CommunityHealth as a Spanish interpreter in 2015. For Grant, whether he's interpreting or training to be a doctor, it has always been about providing for the patients.

During a mission trip to Mexico, Grant was shocked and saddened by the lack of accessible health care of those he met; the issues facing some individuals were numerous. Additionally, there were no medical professionals in close proximity, medication wasn't accessible or affordable, and there didn't appear to be any solutions being proposed at a state level. It was an eye-opening experience, and one that Grant did not forget.

Upon returning to the U.S. and researching the state of healthcare within Chicago, Grant was disappointed that the same issues he witnessed in Mexico were also prevalent locally. He became determined to make a difference and started volunteering his time at CommunityHealth. Throughout his time at CommunityHealth, Grant has fulfilled his desire to better the lives of those around him, and his experiences have helped him continue to learn and grow while giving back locally.

From Grant's time spent both in Mexico and at CommunityHealth, he knows that accessing medication is one of the biggest obstacles to maintaining good health for low-income and uninsured individuals. Grant has been a leader in this year's #MessagesForMeds campaign, raising over \$2,000 thus far and aiming for more by #GivingTuesday.

[Messages For Meds](#) is CommunityHealth's volunteer-driven fundraising campaign to offset the medical costs associated with patients' health care needs. By personally contacting friends and family and asking them to spread the message and donate, the campaign aims to raise at least \$25,000.



Grant's passionate message about his belief in access to care has clearly resonated with his supporters. The incredible generosity of those giving to Grant's campaign has touched not only Grant, but also the many lives of patients here at CommunityHealth. He said, *"Ultimately, I give back because I feel a real connection with the patients I see at CommunityHealth. I see Messages For Meds as a way to improve the quality of life of those I come into contact with."*

*We are so grateful to Grant – and all of the volunteers who have shared their message and fundraised for this year's [#MessagesForMeds campaign](#). It is so important for the whole Chicago community to come together, to be *"all in"* on the effort to ensure that every Chicago resident has access to the right health care, in the right place, at the right time. To learn more about this year's #MessagesForMeds Campaign or to contribute visit [www.givegab.com/campaigns/messages-for-meds](http://www.givegab.com/campaigns/messages-for-meds).*

*Are you all in? Visit [www.allin-chicago.org](http://www.allin-chicago.org) to learn more about CommunityHealth's All In™ campaign. #AllInChicago*