

Serve for Service

A Collaborative Payment Option for Care

“How do I serve everyone who needs care, even if they can’t afford it, and still pay my bills?”

This question has nagged at my heart ever since I started running a business. I love helping people experience the amazing health benefits NUCCA care can offer, but sometimes paying for this service just isn’t in their budget.

Through the years I’ve given care at no charge in extreme circumstances. This created two problems. It was a strain on my business and the patient seemed to place the same value on the care as what they paid for it. They missed appointments and didn’t protect their correction. So you can imagine how much it actually helped them. That’s right, not much!

Then it hit me. Money certainly holds value, and so does time and talent. If I give my time and talent I’m usually paid money. What if I was paid back in time and talent? Since I already surround myself with talented people who give me their time, how about paying it forward?

Here is how it works...

For every hour you serve at a place that helps people who are worse off than you are I will credit your account \$50.00. You can pay this way for up to \$500 of care. That’s it. Your time pays for mine.

I have a few rules though.

1. You need to serve those less fortunate than you. Local examples are Food at First, Salvation Army, Overflow Thrift Store, Emergency Residence Project, Boys and Girls Club, etc. You will not get care credit for volunteering for something that serves your family. For example, volunteering for your son’s class field trip doesn’t count.
2. When you serve at the charity, you need to have your time verified with a signature from the coordinator or manager. The time sheet is attached. Many charitable organizations are used to verifying time served.
3. Care from Read Health Center will be given after your volunteer time is completed. Your volunteer hours will start accumulating when this payment option is initiated. Prior service hours will not be counted.
4. Service hours are non-transferrable except if a parent or legal guardian is seeking care for their dependent child.
5. No other discounts can be applied to the fees being covered with service hours.
6. This idea is born from the understanding that when you feel most low in life, a sure way to pick yourself up is to serve others in need. We may ask you for feedback about how this program helped you. We would love for your honest opinions after your experience.

I have to put a limit on how much payment I can accept this way. Each month, Read Health Center will have a cap of \$1000 in "Serve for Service" payments from our patients each month. Once this cap is met, any additional service payments will be applied to the next month.

For example, if on May 25th we have already credited a total of \$950 of "Serve for Service" payments to other patient's accounts; this would leave only \$50 remaining for the month of May.

You have served 5 hours and therefore accumulated \$250 in "Serve for Service" payments. Only \$50 of that can be used for your care until May 31st. If your office visit on May 25th cost \$60, and with our policy that payment is given at the time of service, you would pay the difference of \$10 at that appointment. On June 1st, \$200 will be available to use for your ongoing care.

- Dr. Barbara Read
Read Health Center, Inc.

_____(Initials) I understand that Read Health Center, Inc. initiated this offer and as such can be revoked at any time the owner of Read Health Center, Inc. deems prudent.

_____(Initials) I understand that this program is in place to serve those who are seeking care and cannot afford the financial responsibility for the care they need. By initialing this line I am stating that I have a need for an alternative payment due to financial hardship at this time.

_____(Initials) Read Health Center, Inc. has the right to verify my service hours by calling the organizations where I served.

_____(Initials) The \$50 per hour of volunteer service is only redeemable for services at Read Health Center, Inc. It will not be reimbursed as cash.

I understand and agree to the terms of this program.

Signature

Date

