

PRESS RELEASE – TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries Temporarily Closes Magnolia Location under Financial Challenges

TOMBALL, March 19, 2019 –TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries announced Monday that it had temporarily closed its new primary care clinic and lab in Magnolia because of financial hardship.

“We are terribly disappointed about this situation, especially for our patients,” said Timika Simmons, TOMAGWA’s interim CEO. “We have several high acuity patients with complex needs who will have difficulties transporting to another medical location for treatment and prescriptions.”

A skeleton staff of one or two persons will be onsite half a day once a week during the closure to help patients access their medical records, provide medications, and help identify alternative resources if they are unable to commute to the Tomball or Waller locations.

After a frantic two weeks of sorting out the Magnolia clinic’s finances to keep it running, Simmons immediately notified the Board of Directors that the resources were just not there, and that the painful decision had to be made immediately or staff would not be paid for their work.

Patients will still be able to contact TOMAGWA for medical records and appointments in the same way they’ve always been able to. “We implemented the use of an EMR some time ago to manage our patients that receive care at more than one of our locations. This has always allowed us to offer the best in continuity of care,” said Dr. Linda Flower, Medical Director, for all of the TOMAGWA clinics. “We are still a fully functioning medical facility with the ability to provide care out of our Tomball and Waller locations,” said Flower.

“With the temporary closure, expenses will be cut significantly enough to allow us time to retrieve some of the pending receivables and reengage our donor base in the area,” said Simmons. “The temporary closure puts TOMAGWA in a better place to be able to restructure and develop a solid sustainability plan to go forth in a fiscally healthier manner.” said Simmons.

“We are committed to managing the ministry as well as we do the work of the ministry,” said Kevin Rudolph, President of the TOMAGWA Board of Directors. “With a solid sustainability plan supported by the Magnolia community and an effective economy of scale in place, the Magnolia clinic has the potential to thrive and follow in the footsteps of the original Tomball location.” said Rudolph.

The Magnolia clinic opened in the spring of 2017. In 2018, the clinic’s individual patient count was 300, and more than 3,300 patient visits were provided.



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About TOMAGWA HealthCare Ministries

TOMAGWA is a Christian ministry providing quality health care, offering hope, and restoring dignity to uninsured, low-income families and individuals in northwest Harris, Montgomery and Waller counties. TOMAGWA serves over 3,100 individual patients and provides more than 22,500 patient visits annually. For more than thirty years, TOMAGWA has grown into a major medical facility offering primary care, dental, vision, lab, pharmacy, and case management services. TOMAGWA has over 45 collaborative partnerships within the greater Houston metropolitan area including medical providers, acute and post-acute medical facilities, churches, colleges, universities, businesses, corporations, civic organizations and non-profits. Learn more at www.tomagwa.org.