

## “Help is Here Express”™ bus to assist uninsured get free, nearly free, medicine

by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources

Bus will stop at St. Charles Medical Center at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Mar. 28Bend, Oregon “ The “Help is Here Express” bus will be in Bend on Wednesday, March 28, stopping at St. Charles Medical Center at 2500 NE Neff Rd. from 10 to 11 a.m. to help uninsured Americans find programs that provide prescription medicines for free or nearly free. Since its launch in April 2005, the bus tour -- sponsored by America’s pharmaceutical research companies -- has visited all 50 states and more than 1,000 cities to raise awareness about patient assistance programs. The “Help is Here Express” is part of the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA), a national effort that has helped more than 3.5 million patients, including nearly 50,000 in Oregon. The “Help is Here Express” is staffed by trained specialists able to quickly help low-income, uninsured or under-insured patients access more than 475 patient assistance programs, including more than 180 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies. When the “Help is Here Express” moves on, patients in need can visit PPA’s easy-to-use Web site ([www.PPARX.org](http://www.PPARX.org)) or call the toll-free phone number (1-888-4PPA-NOW) where trained operators field calls in more than 150 languages. In Oregon, 36 social service organizations, health care providers, and patient health groups have partnered with America’s pharmaceutical research companies to implement an innovative program for providing Oregonians with access to programs that can help them obtain prescription medicines.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 28, from 10 to 11 a.m. WHERE: St. Charles Medical Center, 2500 NW Neff Rd., Bend, Oregon. The bus will be located in the “D” parking lot near the main street to the hospital.WHO: Jeff Gilbert, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)

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