

# DELIVERING BETTER HEALTH

Black-owned pharmacy's prescription delivery program scores with seniors

BY LAYLA FARMER  
THE CHRONICLE

When she opened Medicap Pharmacy on Liberty Street in the fall of 2005, Owner Beverly Graham says she had one mission in mind: serving the community.

"I wanted to provide things that weren't available in this community that people could find on the West side of town. That was one of our goals," said Graham, 57. "When the opportunity (to open the store) presented itself, I prayed over it, and I'm blessed to be here. I feel like I can fix some of the things (that were lacking in the area)."

Graham made sure her store would include many of the amenities and services that she noticed were lacking in many of the pharmacies in East Winston, like a drive-thru. After more than three decades in the industry, Graham says she has become well versed in the challenges her customers face in getting the medications they need. For many of them, especially those who are disabled or elderly, getting transportation to and from the pharmacy to pick up the vital prescriptions was an obstacle, she noted.

Three years ago, Graham launched a special delivery program with those customers in mind. She hired a part time driver who delivers medications to seniors age 60 and up and those with physical disabilities that make it difficult for them to pick their prescriptions up in person. All others who wish to take advantage of the program are charged a \$2 fee per delivery. Deliveries are made to anywhere within a four-mile radius of the pharmacy, and will arrive on the same day that they are requested, provided that the client has refills on their prescription and calls before 10:00 a.m., Graham says. Those who have utilized the program, an average of 10-12 people each week, have praised it, she reported.

"The ones that we deliver to seem to love it," he declared. "It's convenient for them, especially those that are disabled."

But Graham feels there are many more people in the community who could benefit from the program if they were aware it existed.



Beverly Graham stands in front of Medicap Pharmacy on Liberty Street.

Photos by Layla Farmer



Margaret Damon

"We simply want to offer that service," she said. "I feel like there's a need. We just haven't gotten the word out yet."

Gwendolyn Greene has her prescriptions delivered as often as three times a month. Greene, a retired educator, has arthritis in her knees and a condition called neuropathy in her feet and legs that sometimes makes walking painful and difficult. Greene says she is glad to have an alternative to braving the elements in her car in bad weather or having to run errands when she isn't feeling up to it.

"I kept putting it off, and once I went I was just so happy to go," she said of making the switch to Medicap. "You feel secure knowing that if its raining or if it's a day your legs



Gwendolyn Greene uses the service.

aren't walking too well, they deliver."

Seventy-nine year-old Margaret Damon calls the delivery service "the greatest blessing that I have received."

"At all times ... if I need my medicine, all I have to do is call and it will be delivered," said Damon, who retired in 2007 from the Department of Social Services' Child Protective Services department.

Damon, who suffers from type 2 diabetes, is caring for Thomas Damon, her husband of 61 years, who is battling cancer. Though the couple has children who live nearby and look in on their parents often, Mrs. Damon says she is grateful not to have to burden them with trips to the pharmacy.

"That's a load off of me, because I can't leave my husband alone; somebody has to be here with him," she com-

mented. "It's so wonderful that the pharmacy delivers."

Damon says she was unaware that Medicap offered the service until one of her doctors told her about it. Now, she recommends it to friends every chance she gets.

"I recommend Medicap to every person I talk to because of what they've done for me," she remarked. "I am so grateful and I don't take it for granted. I appreciate everything they do for me."

To reach Graham and her staff, call 336-631-0093.

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