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Eric Tornga, FNP-C

FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE TO PURPOSE: ERIC TORNGA'S JOURNEY AND THE HEART OF ALLENDALE FAMILY PRACTICE

BY: SARAH MARILYN

In a healthcare landscape dominated by large systems, independent practices like Allendale Family Practice stand as beacons of personalized, patient-centered care. Eric's journey into family medicine is rooted in a profound personal experience. Growing up, he witnessed the dedication of healthcare providers caring for his brother through a three-year battle with childhood cancer. This early exposure to compassionate care inspired his lifelong commitment to helping others, ultimately guiding him to family medicine.

INDUSTRY INNOVATION



INNOVATION WITH A PERSONAL TOUCH

Staying at the forefront of medical advancements while preserving personalized care is a balancing act that Allendale Family Practice manages with dedication. Recent innovations, such as partnering with Quest Diagnostics for in-house phlebotomy services and offering genetic testing, enhance patient convenience and care. "Our providers are always keeping up with the latest research and guidelines to ensure the highest level of care," says Eric.

One notable addition to their innovative services is the integration of non-invasive diagnostic testing through a partnership with ADM Diagnostics. This includes a cutting-edge scope mouthwash test, offering patients a simple and comfortable alternative to traditional diagnostic procedures. "Most people don't realize this test is non-invasive," shares Lee Brown, Account Executive at ADM Diagnostics. "It's a quick, easy mouthwash test that provides accurate results, enhancing both patient comfort and diagnostic efficiency."

RELATIONSHIPS AT THE HEART OF CARE

Exceptional care at Allendale means more than just medical treatment—it's about building genuine partnerships with patients.

Eric emphasizes the importance of understanding his patients' lives and challenges. One moment that



stands out to him was assisting a local patient with transportation barriers who suffered severe abrasions from a bicycle fall. Eric and his team went above and beyond providing frequent dressing changes.

The gratitude expressed by the patient underscored the

practice's commitment to compassionate, individualized care.



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ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY

Community is at the core of Allendale Family Practice.

Eric describes the community as an extension of the practice's family. "We love the community that we get to serve. Many of us live here and share the same values and commitment to making it better," he says.

Beyond the clinic walls, Eric invests his time in mentoring teens through his church, believing that guiding and supporting youth is foundational to community growth. "Being involved with students in our local church gives me a chance to encourage and support the next generation," he shares. The practice also seeks to align with community initiatives that promote overall well-being, from local health fairs to educational seminars.



BEST PRACTICES

BEST PRACTICES FOR BETTER CARE

Best practices at Allendale focus on providing holistic and individualized care. This includes integrating nutrition and wellness into patient consultations, encouraging preventive care, and fostering open communication. Eric and his team prioritize continuous learning and adaptability, ensuring their approach evolves with the latest healthcare insights. They also emphasize the importance of personalized treatment plans, ensuring each patient's unique circumstances are considered. "We strive to meet our patients where they are, addressing their specific needs and focusing on long-term wellness," says Eric.

THE STRENGTH OF INDEPENDENCE

Eric envisions a future where independent practices continue to thrive by adapting to patient needs and expanding services. "We aim to reach more patients and continually improve the services we offer," he shares. His advice to fellow healthcare providers is simple but profound: "Always remember to ask yourself why we are doing this and does it make sense? Get to the root cause. We cannot settle for 'this is the way we've always done it' in a rapidly changing world." Being independent means having the flexibility to innovate, build stronger patient relationships, and remain deeply connected to the community. It allows practices to prioritize what matters most: delivering high-quality, compassionate, and personalized care. As part of the Answer Health network, Allendale Family Practice continues to stand as a shining example of the impact independent healthcare providers can have, proving that when care is personal, it's powerful.