

# COLLABORATING FOR HEALTHY LIFESTYLES



**Dan Bosley** lights up when talking about his Farmacy program. Farmacy is a partnership between non-profit AdkAction and Keeseville Pharmacy, where they team with local farmers to bring healthy food to people in the rural communities around Keeseville, N.Y., near the Canadian border. Dan is the owner of Keeseville Pharmacy and has both his pharmacy and the Farmacy located in the same building.

Dan loves the cyclical nature of the program's benefits. Local farmers benefit by selling more produce. The people in his local community benefit by receiving healthy fruits and vegetables they wouldn't normally access easily (Keeseville doesn't have a year-round grocery store). By eating healthier, the pharmacy's patients can live healthier and, hopefully, longer lives.

"It is near impossible to have an impactful conversation about high blood pressure or diabetes with a patient without discussing diet,"

Dan says. "I try to get all of our pharmacy's patients to understand the impact of nutrition on their health."

Dan hopes that other independent pharmacies consider launching a food-pharmacy program like his. He's shared his journey with others at conferences and in one-on-one settings. (*America's Pharmacist*<sup>®</sup> profiled Dan in the December 2019 issue, available at [bit.ly/pharmerdan19](http://bit.ly/pharmerdan19).)

"One of the biggest mistakes with independent pharmacy is not collaborating with other independent pharmacies and sharing the great ideas they have," Dan says. "Take Farmacy, for example. Most pharmacy owners don't realize that they can probably secure grant money from their local health department to make it go. They just need to ask and then deliver results."

CPESN<sup>®</sup> USA willingly shares best practices across its pharmacy network. And, in the case of COVID best practices, CPESN USA

collaboratively shared with all community-based pharmacies.

"That is what CPESN USA does best," Dan says. "The pharmacists in CPESN networks share best practices and their inventive ideas. It is a big reason why I joined and remain in CPESN Upstate NY."

If you have a great example of the inventive spirit of independent pharmacy you'd like to share, please do so. Send your best practices to [jwilliams@cpesn.com](mailto:jwilliams@cpesn.com) and we'll share your innovation for all independent pharmacies to see.

"Just look at the innovation coming out of independent pharmacy!" Dan says. "We do it all while filling most of our prescriptions below cost and being assessed unknown fees via the PBMs."

Imagine the inventiveness that could be generated by independent pharmacies if they didn't bear that burden. ■