



Friends of Health Choice Network

FALL • 2009

Jessie Trice Health Promotion Ninth Annual Benefit On October 7

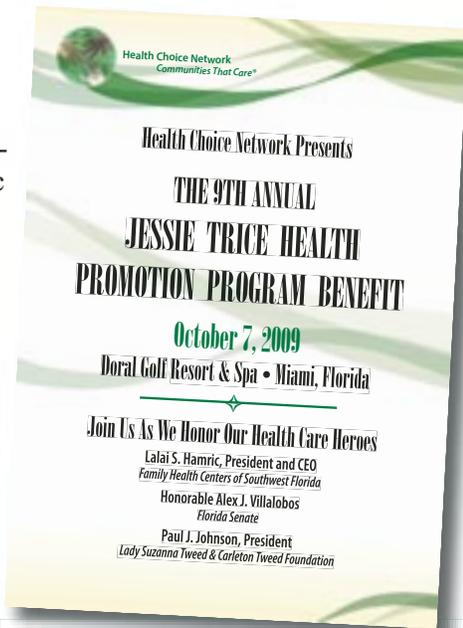
The newly expanded Jessie Trice Health Promotion Program will hold its annual benefit dinner on Wednesday, October 7 at the Doral Golf Resort and Spa, 4400 N.W. 87th Avenue in Miami.

The event will include a cocktail party, dinner, awards presentations and a silent auction. The keynote address will be presented by Tom Van Coverden, President and CEO of the National Association of Community Health Centers.

Health Care Heroes to be honored include Lalai S. Hamric, President and CEO of Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida; the Honorable Alex J. Villalobos, Florida Senate and Paul J. Johnson, President of the Lady Suzanna Tweed & Carleton Tweed Foundation.

Join us as the Jessie Trice Health Promotion Program continues to reduce health care disparities in minority populations. With its broader goals, the Program is investigating and implementing innovative approaches to address diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, pediatric asthma and behavioral health.

The cost is \$100 per person. For reservations and sponsorship information, please call (305) 599-1015, Ext. 8080 or visit us at www.hcnetwork.org.



Message from the President and CEO

Community Health the Cornerstone of National Health Care Reform

As the national debate over reforming our health care system continues, some politicians and government leaders are championing a proposal to establish federally qualified community health centers as a public system to compete with private insurers.

Why community health centers? Because the building blocks of these networks already exist across the country. There are 1,200 community health centers serving over 18 million patients with quality, affordable health care to patients in need, while saving communities and taxpayers billions of dollars in health care costs.

“Existing Community Health Plans have a proven record of serving uninsured populations and keeping costs down,” wrote Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island.

We at Health Choice Network could not agree more. Our participants across the nation continue to efficiently provide high quality care to more than a million patients. By adopting cutting-edge electronic health record technology, our participants will further increase their efficiencies, reduce errors and improve operations. Let’s work on insuring that community health centers are an intracare part of health care reform.

Across the Network, we remain busy with new projects and programs, including:

- Continued roll-out of the Intergy upgrade for all of our participants.
- Prestige Health Choice is now in four Florida counties and expected to expand into three more, adding to its membership of nearly 20,000.
- It’s back to school for Health Connect in Our Schools in 78 public schools in Miami-Dade.

Thanks to the dedication of our staff and the support of our participants, HCN is celebrating 15 years of service. Congratulations to all! See you at the ninth annual Jessie Trice Health Promotion Benefit on October 7.

Sincerely:
Kevin Kearns, CEO

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Hundreds Gather for HCN's 15th Annual Educational Session



Keynote speaker author Fred Lee

Amid the tropical splendor of southwest Florida, more than 200 attendees gathered in Bonita Springs for the 15th Annual Boards of Directors Educational Session. Under the theme of *Improving Health in our Communities*, this year's event was the largest ever and provided a relaxed setting for the HCN family to meet, learn, review and plan for the exciting months ahead. New this year was a nationally-recognized keynote speaker, vendor display area and poster presentations from member centers. The weekend included committee and Board meetings, a welcome gathering, dinner and panels featuring nationally-known health care experts. HCN President and CEO Kevin Kearns made a "State of the Network" address. Fred Lee's keynote presentation on customer service was sponsored by Health Foundation of South Florida.



The retreat included a first-time poster presentation



Lalai Hamric was honored for 40 years of service to community health.



A filled ballroom listened to the entertaining keynote address by Fred Lee



Finance and operations was one of the classes offered prior to the start of the Educational Session.



More than 60 dentists, assistants and hygienists attended the dental workshop, held in conjunction with the Educational Session.

NETWORK ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade announced that **Community Health of South Florida (CHI)** was the winner of the 2009 South Florida Worksite Wellness Forum and Award for mid-size companies. CHI was honored for its "commitment to employee wellness and for programs that produced positive health outcomes."
- President Obama recently presented **Dr. Pedro Jose Greer** with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Greer is the founder of **Camillus Health Concern** and Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs at the Florida International University School of Medicine.
- The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) announced that **Agape Network** has been accredited for a period of three years.
- **Citrus Health Network** recently celebrated its 30th anniversary and received recognition at the HCN Educational Session.
- **Camillus Health Concern** also marked its 25th anniversary in September 2009.
- New participant **Choptank Community Health System (CCHS)** went live in June with the Intergy Management Practice System.



Participants Celebrate National Health Week

HCN participants joined together to mark National Health Center Week with events and activities that brought attention to the important work of community health.

At Harris Field in Homestead, FL, **Community Health of South Florida** sponsored a health fair that attracted hundreds for physical exams, screenings and free t-shirts.

In addition to open houses and educational events, **Broward Community and Family Health Center** held a "shadow the doctor" activity during National Health Center Week. Local and state politicians picked up stethoscopes and put on white coats to follow physicians at the health center.



A youngster receives an oral exam at CHI's health fair.



(L-R) Florida State Rep. Hazelle Rogers and West Park Vice Mayor Thomas Dorsett with BCFHC President and CEO Rosalyn Frazier.

New Center Opened

Premier Community HealthCare Group (PCHG) held a grand opening to celebrate National Health Center Week at their new center in New Port Richey, FL. Premier received federal stimulus funds to construct and open the new center. The \$1.22 million over two years represents 33 percent of the total budget.



Premier Community HealthCare Group CEO Kim Schuknecht (second from left) helps cut the ribbon at their New Port Richey center.

Thrift Store to Benefit Miami Beach CHC

Savvy shoppers can find bargains galore while supporting the uninsured at The Coop, a thrift store opened by Kathryn Abbate, President and CEO of Miami Beach Community Health Center, and two friends.

Paula O'Neil, Kathryn Abbate and Joan Gordon started The Coop thrift store to raise money for the Miami Beach Community Health Center.



Prestige Sponsors Florida's Largest Back to School Event



Some of the estimated 30,000 people who attended the event enter the Amway Center.

An estimated 30,000 people - double what was expected - attended the Prestige Health Choice Healthy Heroes Back-to-School Bash event. Officials noted the attendance exceeded the

recent *American Idol* event. Thousands lined-up at the Amway Arena for free immunizations, backpacks, school supplies and entertainment. All 10,000 backpacks were distributed, according to Executive Vice President Doug Cook. "Hundreds received physicals and vision screenings from our Orlando Health Centers. Now operating in four counties in Florida, Prestige has more than 20,000 members and has applied to expand into Orange, Seminole and Pasco Counties.

New Participants

Choptank Community Health System

Located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Choptank Community Health System (CCHS) is a private, non-profit community health center providing primary health care services in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties. CCHS is accredited and provides a full range of primary medical, dental and behavioral health services regardless of ability to pay.

Genesis Community Health

A brand new organization, Genesis Community Health is a 501(c)3 Christian health center located in Boynton Beach, FL and scheduled to be fully operational later this year or early 2010. Genesis will offer family and internal medicine and expand to include dental and other services. They hope to attain federally qualified health center status. "We look forward to learning from Health Choice Network members while implementing the full range of HCN services" said CEO Tom Rose.

Valley Health Systems

Valley Health (VH) is an integrated network of primary health care centers and public health programs that provides comprehensive medical services to southwestern West Virginia and Southern Ohio. Valley Health provides family practice, internal medicine, pediatric services, adolescent care, OB/GYN, dentistry, laboratory, pharmacy, x-rays, and ultrasound. Valley Health also offers specialty programs to better meet the needs of its communities.





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A proud member of the
 National Association of Community Health Centers

Stimulus Funds Result in BCFHC's New West Park Center

Broward Community and Family Health Center's West Park Center opened in July thanks to funding from federal stimulus dollars. The 4,300-square-foot facility includes eight exam rooms, waiting areas, lab and a health information management office.



Rosalyn Frazier (L) joins the crowd of dignitaries as they cut the ribbon for the West Park Health Center.

In April, U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited BCFHC to announce the \$1.5 million funding. Because stimulus funding is only for "shovel-ready" projects, the new Center had to be operational within a rigid 120-day timetable. "It was a daunting task, but thanks to the hard work of a lot of people, we made that deadline," said Rosalyn Frazier, President and CEO of BCFHC.

Umair Javed Named Employee of the Year



(L-R) President and CEO Kevin Kearns, Umair Javed and Board President Brodes Hartley, Jr.

Umair Javed, Level II Software Support Technician for three years, has been named 2009 Employee of the Year. The announcement was made at the Boards of Directors Educational Session. Umair was recognized for professionally and politely handling software questions and problems from HCN participants. He sometimes responds to emergency calls after hours and on weekends. An excellent trouble-shooter, he usually solves the problem quickly. "We receive regular on-line training from the software manufacturers," he said. A native of Pakistan, Umair grew up in South Florida. He and his wife, Sara, are expecting their first child.

Participating Centers

Agape Network
 Bayview Center for Mental Health
 Borinquen Health Care Center
 Broward Community and Family Health Center
 Camillus Health Concern
 Choptank Community Health System
 Citrus Health Network
 Community Health Centers of Pinellas
 Community Health of South Florida
 Comprehensive Community Care Network
 Family Care Health Centers
 Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida
 Family Medical and Dental Centers
 Flint Hills Community Health Centers
 Genesis Community Health
 Health Care Center for the Homeless

Helen B. Bentley Family Health Center
 INConcertCare
 Institute for Child and Family Health
 Jessie Trice Community Health Center
 Miami Beach Community Health Center
 New Horizons Community Mental Health Center
 New Mexico Health Choice Network
 Premier Community HealthCare Group
 Suncoast Community Health Center
 Tampa Family Health Centers
 Valley Health Systems
 Utah Health Choice Network

Patrons

American Cancer Society
 Sage Software Healthcare Division
 H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute
 South Florida Hospital and Healthcare Association