

Friends OF HEALTH CHOICE NETWORK

Communities that care

Jessie Trice Project Plays Role In Cancer Breakthrough

HCN's Jessie Trice Cancer Prevention Project (JTCPP), along with a member center, Community Health of South Dade (CHI), is a partner in a remarkable research breakthrough regarding the effectiveness of spiral CT scanning to screen high-risk patients for lung cancer.

The results of a study coordinated by the International Early Lung Cancer Action Program (I-ELCAP) and published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, outlined the success of early detection through CT scans - a procedure that greatly increased the survivability rate for lung cancer patients.

The Jessie Trice Cancer Prevention Project established a prescreening community outreach program in which thousands of minority and underserved patients participated. The process identified high-risk patients and referred them to CHI. The Miami team was led by Cornell University Medical School, Jackson Memorial Health System and the University of Miami. The results of the program were featured nationally on NBC Nightly News. The findings may ultimately lead to new official guidelines on the use of widespread CT scans for lung cancer patients from the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health.

"The study shows that spiral CT scans can detect lung tumors early enough that they are much more likely to be curable through surgery," said Kevin Kearns, President and CEO. "We are proud to have contributed to a breakthrough that will ultimately save lives."



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Message from the CEO Helping to Solve the Health Care Crisis

In 2005, health care spending in the U.S. approached \$2 Trillion, or about 16 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP). By 2015, health care spending is expected to approach 20 percent of our nation's GDP.

Yet, studies have shown that up to 15 percent of health care spending (approximately \$300 billion per year) does nothing to improve overall outcomes - and may, in fact, be detrimental to health. Studies also show that \$100 billion per year can be saved with the use of Health Information Technology, such as electronic medical records. Despite these tremendous costs dedicated to health care, more than 45 million Americans are currently uninsured.

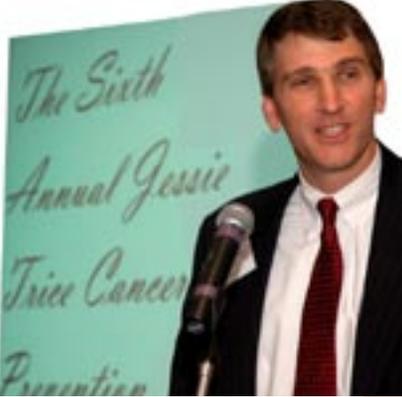
Few would disagree when I say the financing of our health care system is broken. The member centers of Health Choice Network must continue to play a key role in providing quality, affordable health care in our communities. As a Network, we are moving ahead with initiatives that will help to position our member centers to effectively fulfill their mission. A few of our key initiatives for 2007 include:

- Expand CareNet, our discount medical card program
- Establish school-based health centers (Health Connect in our Schools) at 72 Miami-Dade County public schools - see page 3
- Actively participate in HIT, including Health Information Exchange
- Continue to expand our community-based disease prevention programs, such as Healthy Body, Healthy Soul
- Develop strategic partnerships with managed care organizations that reward our Centers for providing quality health care and improving patient outcomes
- Establish a Fund Development program

We referred to 2006 as *Our Defining Year*. With the help of our centers, our Network has developed a visionary plan for the future. We can now refer to 2007 as our *Year of Action!*

- Kevin Kearns, President and CEO

Jessie Trice Gala Raises \$113,000 for Cancer Prevention Programs



President and CEO Kevin Kearns welcomes guests to the event.



Marvin O'Quinn, President and CEO of Jackson Health Systems, W. Jarrard Goodwin, M.D., Director of UM/ Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Hundreds of friends and supporters of HCN's Jessie Trice Cancer Prevention Project gathered to celebrate the Sixth Annual Gala Dinner at Hotel Sofitel in Miami. The event raised more than \$113,000 to support programs aimed at prevention and early detection of cancers in low-income minority communities through educational programs, screenings and follow-up care.

Awards were presented to the 2006 Cancer Heroes, individuals and organizations that have shown leadership in advocating for the medically underserved.

Guest speakers were Marco Rubio, Speaker Designate of the Florida House of Representatives and Dr. Jon Kerner, Deputy Director of the National Cancer Institute. A special thanks to our New Mexico and Utah partners who made the trip to support the program.

The Connie and Priscilla Mack Cancer Advocacy Award was presented to The American Cancer Society (Broward and Miami-Dade Chapters).



(L) Marco Rubio, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives and Dr. Jon Kerner, Deputy Director of the National Cancer Institute.



(L) Col. Brodes Hartley, Jr., Chair of the HCN Board and CEO of Community Health of South Dade presents the Host Sponsor Award to Paul Stinson of Emdeon Practice Services.

Meet Our New Member Centers!

Agape Family Ministries

Claudio M. Perez, CEO

Agape Family Ministries include Agape Women's Residential Program and Agape Mother and Child Addiction Reunification Program and Outpatient Community Services. These non-profit centers create a compassionate and rational environment promoting personal responsibility through a full range of services and therapeutic care. A holistic approach includes partnerships with families, schools, law enforcement, medical professionals and community organizations. Located at 22790 SW 112 Ave. Miami, Florida 33170 (305) 235-2616

Institute for Child and Family Health

Robert D. Nolan, Ph.D., Executive Director

The Institute for Child and Family Health (ICFH) is a private, not-for-profit organization providing behavioral health, rehabilitation and prevention services to children, adolescents and families of Miami-Dade for more than 60 years. It is one of the oldest and largest community mental health centers exclusively dedicated to the well being of children and families in Florida. ICFH serves over 7,000 children, adolescents and families per year

and employs more than 300 mental health professionals. Located at: 15490 NW 7th Avenue, Miami Suite 200 (305) 688-3541.

Borinquen Health Care Center

Gamaliel Rivera, President and CEO

Borinquen Health Care Center provides a wide variety of adult and pediatric care including OB/GYN, mental health, HIV/AIDS, dental, radiology, laboratory and on-site pharmacy and optical services. Main site location, 3601 Federal Highway North, Miami, FL 33137 (305) 576-6611, fax: (305) 576-0008.

Bayview Center for Mental Health

Robert Ward, CEO

Bayview Center, located at 12550 Biscayne Boulevard in North Miami, primarily provides mental health and substance abuse treatment on an outpatient basis. Special services include DUI/DWI offenders and co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders, therapy and residential treatment. Services are provided in English, Spanish, Creole and Portuguese. Fees are charged on a sliding scale basis. For information, (305) 892-4600.

Around the Network

Senior Flu Shots Attract HHS Secretary to EOFHC

Mike Leavett, Health and Human Services Secretary, visited an Economic Opportunity Family Health Center (EOFHC) location to promote National Influenza Vaccination Week, Nov. 27 - Dec 3.

Catch the holiday spirit, not the flu, was the Secretary's slogan as he visited Jessie Trice Center for Community Health along with Assistant Secretary for Aging Josefina Carbonell, Miami-Dade County Health Department Administrator Lillian Rivera, RN, as well as Thamar Labrousse, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of EOFHC and Annie R. Neasman, President & CEO of EOFHC.

Health Choice Network member centers have been providing free influenza vaccinations to elderly patients for the past three flu seasons.

CHI Hosts Event For New Mothers, AIDS Day Observance

Community Health of South Dade has been busy promoting good health through a variety of events and activities.

In recognition of World AIDS Day, CHI hosted its Annual Health Awareness Fair and Community Appreciation Festival. The event was held at the Doris Ison Center and the keynote speaker was Damaris Cruz, an Outreach Specialist with the Broward County Health Department. World AIDS Day was established by the World Health Organization in 1988, and serves to focus global attention on the devastating impact of AIDS.



Wilson Washington, CHI's VP of Behavioral Health lights a candle for World AIDS Day

Their Comprehensive Prenatal Care Program hosted a baby shower for 30 pregnant moms in Naranja. The event included games, refreshments, lots of gifts and cutting a cake.

In recognition of "Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day," CHI and partner agencies sponsored Health Awareness Fairs at Martin Luther King Jr. Clinica Campesina in Homestead and Doris Ison Health Center. Other events included "Taking it 2 the Streets," a live WTPS radio show broadcast from Doris Ison Health Center.



School-based Health Connect Makes a Difference

The HCN Health Connect in our Schools Network, funded through the Children's Trust, continues to make progress. Additional schools have joined the program, bringing the total number of HCN adopted schools to 72. Participating community health centers have committed more than 36 health teams composed of a Social Worker, Nurse and Health Aide. To date more than 6,000 students have visited the HCN operated health suites.

Data collected from each health team show the most frequently cited reasons students are seeking services for first aid, stomach aches, routine exams, counseling and immunization follow up.

Below is an excerpt of a story submitted by **Yshatia Codrington**, a medical assistant at Helen B. Bentley Family Health Center and a team member at F.S. Tucker Elementary. She is pictured with a mural she painted in the school's health suites. The mural helps to lift the spirits of children while encouraging healthy eating..

When I first began working in the health suites at F.S. Tucker Elementary, I met an 8-year-old student I grew to admire and love. She came into the clinic with shortness of breath from asthma and was wheezing uncontrollably. She managed to keep a small smile on her face while our team assessed the situation. After the treatment she talked to us about her condition and what triggers her asthma. We said we were very proud of her for being so brave. She replied "My mom is very proud of me." I smiled and said "I would be too."



After she went back to class, the office staff told us her mother had died a few days earlier. I was stunned. I wanted to hold, comfort and help her in any way I could. We spoke to her father about her medications and treatments. He said their Medicaid would soon expire and that he wasn't currently working. We referred him to our team social worker who helped him get back on track. The father took the necessary first steps. I sensed the same bravery that I saw in his daughter's eyes.

As time went on, the little girl often stopped by to thank us and chat about school. I told her she didn't have to keep saying thank you. She said, "Yes, I do. Not too many people helped me the way you did." As I held her in my arms, I realized that I was there because of kids like her. Since then we've had many talks about her asthma. She is an astonishingly brave little girl with a heart as pure as gold.

She made us see that children need us in the schools and we play important physical and emotional roles in their lives. We help keep them healthy and they remind us that we do make a difference.

Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strength and resolutions -Kahlil Gibran



9064 N.W. 13th Terrace
 Miami, FL 33172
 (305) 599-1015
www.hcnetwork.org

Concern Award Brings \$25,000 to EOFHC

Dr. Fatima Zafar of Economic Opportunity Family Health Center (EOFHC) has been awarded the Health Foundation of South Florida's *Concern Award* for 2006. Recipients of the Concern Award exhibit a deep sense of concern for the community and make a noticeable difference in the quality of life for South Floridians. As a winner, Dr. Zafar received a \$25,000 grant to present to a nonprofit health related organization of her choice and Dr. Zafar chose EOFHC. Chantal Herron nominated Dr. Zafar.

Alex Romillo Named to Health Information Advisory Board

Alex Romillo, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer of HCN, has been named to the Board of the South Florida Health Information Initiative (SFHII). He also actively participates in the Florida Health Information Network (FHIN) and serves on its Technical Advisory Group.



HCN Hosts Governor's Advisory Panel

Health care professionals and health technology industry leaders from throughout Florida gathered at Health Choice Network to



attend a two-day conference hosted by the Governor's Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Board and Florida Agency for Health Care Administration.

The topic of the conference was to discuss the status and development of Florida's

Health Information Network (FHIN). The FHIN is a public and private initiative to create a statewide health information network for the transmission of electronic health information among physicians, hospitals and other authorized entities.

Member Centers

- Agape Family Ministries
- Bayview Center for Mental Health
- Borinquen Health Care Center
- Broward Community and Family Health Center
- Camillus Health Concern
- Citrus Health Network
- Community Health Centers of Pinellas
- Community Health of South Dade
- Economic Opportunity Family Health Center
- Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida
- Family Medical and Dental Centers
- Health Care Center for the Homeless
- Helen B. Bentley Family Health Center

- Institute for Child and Family Health
- Miami Beach Community Health Center
- New Mexico Health Choice Network
- Premier Community HealthCare Group
- Tampa Community Health Center
- Utah Health Choice Network

Patrons

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