

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1, 2004



Dear Friends:

I am delighted to announce that the Children's Health Network has partnered with the Ronald McDonald House Charities® to bring our community a valuable asset – The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile! While we are expecting delivery of the Care Mobile in late-summer, we will formally unveil it in early November 2004.

There is a dire need for children in Southwest Florida to find a permanent medical and dental home. The Care Mobile will strive to connect such children to those permanent facilities while providing interim access to health care services. Intermediate services include screening, diagnosis, treatment, health care education, referral and follow-up for serious medical and dental conditions. By providing these services, the Care Mobile will ensure that a child in need does not go without proper medical attention before finding a permanent medical home.

We are the first community in Florida to be awarded the Care Mobile! The unveiling schedule will be rolled out in the next few weeks and we will notify you of additional events and programs.

If you would like to support this invaluable initiative, please fill out and return the enclosed donation card. Remember every donation helps a child in need.

Best wishes,

Tom

Tom Schneider
Chairman

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Advisory Council

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Snapshot

- The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program is the most comprehensive program of its kind, providing primary health care including screening; diagnosis; treatment; health care education; referral and follow up for serious medical and dental conditions to ensure children connect with a medical home
- The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is a model program with successful clinical and educational outcomes in 20 communities worldwide. The typical program provides clinical and educational materials, and medical and dental screenings and treatments to thousands of medically needy children each year. Collier County was the first community in Florida to begin this type of mobile medical and dental program

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The Children's Health Network

What We Do...

The Children's Health Network ("CHN") is a network of six pediatric offices located throughout Collier County. It was established in 1996 and is supported by Board-certified pediatricians, as well as skilled nursing and support staff, who specialize in the care of newborns, children and adolescents. The mission of CHN is to be a proactive force for increasing the community's access to pediatric medical and dental health care services.

CHN is part of Collier Health Services, Inc. ("CHSI") a private, not-for-profit "safety net" health care provider. CHSI member health care facilities provide basic primary and preventative medical and dental health care services. Founded in 1977, CHSI was formed for the purpose of improving the health of migrant and seasonal farm workers, rural poor, and other citizens of Collier County.

CHSI serves over 17,000 children each year. Children from birth to 14 years of age represent 57% of our patient base. Our patients are culturally and economically diverse. Over 95% of our patients are 200% below the federal poverty level.

Besides CHN, member health care facilities include: the Marion E. Fether Medical Center, Immokalee Family Care Center, Golden Gate Dental Practice, and Horizons Primary Care Center. Every CHSI health care facility is accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO) - the health care industry's GOLD STANDARD.



Jules Mijares



Elaine Legaul

New Additions

We have recently hired two full-time employees that will oversee the daily operation of the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile.

Ms. Julia "Jules" Mijares has been appointed the program coordinator for the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile. Ms. Mijares most recent position was with the Cleveland Clinic as senior office coordinator for all surgical secretaries and previously she was an administrative assistant to the Chief of Surgery. Ms. Mijares is originally from Miami, speaks fluent Spanish, and has spent her entire professional career in the medical field.

Ms. Elaine Legault will be the full-time nurse on the Care Mobile. Elaine is originally from Canada and speaks fluent French, which will help with Creole-speaking patients. Ms. Legault has been in Naples since 1992. Elaine is a registered nurse and is BLS (Basic Life Support) and PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) certified.

The mission of the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is to deliver "Hope on Wheels" and improve the health status of underserved children by providing quality health care services.

Sobering Facts About American Children

- ◆ There are currently more than 9 million children under age 19 that do not have health insurance in the United States
- ◆ One in three children will be poor at some point in their childhood
- ◆ One in four uninsured children has no regular source of health care or uses a hospital emergency department for routine care
- ◆ Uninsured children are 25% more likely to miss school than insured children
- ◆ Nearly 20% of uninsured children have untreated vision problems and thus fall behind in school because they can't see the blackboard
- ◆ The majority of uninsured children with asthma and one in three uninsured children with recurring ear infections never see a doctor during the year. Many are hospitalized for acute asthma attacks that could have been prevented or suffer permanent hearing loss from untreated ear infections
- ◆ One in six children will be born to a mother who did not receive prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, leading to one in 13 children born with low birth weight
- ◆ More than 51 million hours of schooling are lost annually due to the lack of dental care among children
- ◆ For every one child lacking health insurance, an additional 2.6 children lack dental insurance

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Snapshot

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- The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will operate year-round at various locations where low-income children live and have activities such as schools, day care sites, the Boys & Girls Club, sports fields, summer camps, etc.
- The Care Mobile will travel with its own medical/dental team including: a program coordinator; a dentist; a dental hygienist; rotating pediatricians; a nurse practitioner; and a registered nurse. Because many of Collier County's children experience language and transportation barriers, the Care Mobile team will be staffed with both Spanish and French speaking professionals -- and they will travel to where the children are in schools, community parks and neighborhoods
- In addition to connecting children to a medical and dental home, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will serve as a facilitator to families who wish to pursue the enrollment of their children in Medicaid

Save The Dates

**Thursday, November 4
VIP Reception**

**Friday, November 5
Official Unveiling**

**Saturday, November 6
Special Appearances**

We Need Your Help!

The desperate need for access to medical and dental health care — particularly for children — is increasing. As outlined in the September 2000 report by the Health Care Review Committee of Collier County, it was discovered that there were more than 4,000 to 6,000 uninsured children in Collier County. Today we estimate that number has increased to over 12,000! While the situation continues to grow, there are very little additional resources to deal with the problem. Collier Health Services Inc. (CHSI) is the largest provider of health and dental services to children in Collier County. With the opening of our new Horizons Primary Care Clinic in Golden Gate and the Neighborhood Health Clinic, adults now have additional health care resources, but there remains a large gap in services for underprivileged children. CHSI and the Public Health Department are the only dental offices in the county that routinely accept Medicaid patients. The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will begin to fill this gap in health care services to our most vulnerable residents — our children.

Thousands of children in Collier County are going without appropriate medical and dental care, and often only see a doctor in the emergency room. Potentially serious issues such as diabetes, asthma and dental disease are rampant among poor children and are going untreated for too long. The Care Mobile will increase the number of patients served and improve the overall health of children in Collier County.

Your support is greatly needed to help us run the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile. For additional information call Ms. Kara Snyder at (239) 658-3000 or return the form enclosed with your contribution. Thank you!

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Major Donors

- Naples Winter Wine Festival
- Community Foundation of Collier County
- United Way of Collier County
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida
- Fifth Third Bank
- Collier County Rural Health Network

The Advisory Council

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**Children's
Health
Network**



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