



Florida Association of Free Clinics Newsletter

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In This Issue

[Membership](#)

[Free Clinic Spotlight](#)

[FAFC News and
Happenings](#)

[Resources](#)



Greetings from the Health Council of South Florida

Mission:

To provide support, mentoring, networking opportunities and advocacy through a network that initiates collaboration and the sharing of best practices to improve access to health care for the uninsured in the state of Florida.

Dear Community Partners,

I am truly delighted to witness the outpouring of support from both Free Clinics and the community to vitalize the Florida Association of Free Clinics (FAFC). As FAFC strives to promote the value that Free Clinics bring to the communities they serve, we have received various contributions from medical professionals, companies and community-based organizations. I am pleased to announce that many of these offers are listed in the newsletter below. I invite you to share your experiences as a FAFC member, the resources you have utilized, and the results you have accomplished. Your valued feedback will serve to strengthen and improve the benefits we provide as an association.

In keeping with the theme of building FAFC, I have three exciting announcements. First, I would like to congratulate Mark R. Cruise on his appointment as Chair of FAFC's Executive Committee. Mr. Cruise's years of experience leading Free Clinic associations will undoubtedly bring an accelerated progression to our organization. Secondly, FAFC's Executive Committee members unanimously approved FAFC's Mission and Vision statements. Furthermore, the Committee members discussed and finalized the 2010-2012 FAFC Strategic Plan, a final copy of the Strategic Plan will be available shortly on HCSF's Free Clinic page.

As a last note, I am enthusiastic to be participating in the upcoming National Association of Free Clinics (NAFC) Fifth Annual Summit on October 18-20, 2010, in Ohio on behalf of FAFC. This annual summit is the only national meeting that brings together medical directors, clinical and pharmacy personnel, management level staff and volunteers from America's 1200+ Free Clinics. This summit is a powerful opportunity so I hope to see you there!

Peace,

Marisel Losa, MHSA

**FAFC Website
coming soon!**

**An Initiative
of the**

HCSF
Health Council of South Florida, Inc.

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FAFC, Founder
Health Council of South Florida, President & CEO

Membership is Open!

Florida Association of Free Clinics (FAFC) membership is open to independent, private, non-profit, community-based organizations that operate a volunteer-driven health care clinic providing primarily free service to the low-income and uninsured in Florida.

Potential FAFC members are required to complete the membership application form and the Free Clinics Statewide Survey. Upon completion of the survey, membership application and approval by the FAFC Executive Committee, members will receive a welcome letter and will be assigned a member ID number. The membership ID is necessary to access donated or discounted pharmaceutical and medical supplies as well as other valuable resource that the Association has to offer.

Please note that the membership dues are currently waived; however, for the purposes of sustainability, future membership fees may apply. To apply, please [click here](#) or contact Manivone Douangdara by phone at (305) 592-1452, ext. 120 or via email at manie@healthcouncil.org.

Free Clinic Spotlight

Flagler County Free Clinic



The Flagler County Free Clinic (FCFC) opened its doors in February 2005, with eight volunteers treating eight patients. Since then, it has expanded to 120 volunteers who see about 80 patients every other weekend and have seen a total of approximately 7,000 patients. Flagler County Free Clinic is a volunteer based clinic that provides free medical care, including dental extractions, to people who are uninsured and meet the federal poverty guidelines. The clinic provides a primary care practice for ongoing chronic illnesses such as hypertension, COPD, and diabetes. They are able to do on-site ophthalmology exams and operate

a dental clinic in cooperation with their local health department, one Friday each month. Additional support comes from Florida Hospital Flagler, which donates 30 lab vouchers, and Palm Coast Imaging that donates two CAT scans and two X-rays per month.

The inspiration for FCFC started with Faith Coleman, a nurse practitioner, who had no health insurance when she learned she had cancer, but she describes her battle with the illness as "one of the absolute greatest blessings" of her life. That experience led Coleman to approach Dr. John Canakaris, a local physician with 60 years of experience that had been treating the local indigent population for years. Ms. Coleman's purpose was to open a free clinic in their community to help other uninsured people in need of medical care. In 2009, due to her unyielding dedication and hard work, Faith Coleman was nominated and featured as a CNN Hero.

The clinic is located at 700 East Moody Blvd, in Bunnell, Florida. To learn more about FCFC, please visit their website at www.flaglercountyfreeclinic.com.

FAFC News and Happenings

FAFC Executive Committee Chair Announced

After an in-depth selection process, FAFc is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark R. Cruise as FAFc Executive Committee Chair. He is the founder and principal of Free Clinic Solutions and served for 9 years as Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Free Clinics. Mr. Cruise has been actively involved in the development of the National Association of Free Clinics and the Free Clinic Association Executives Council. Mr. Cruise will begin his chairmanship in the coming month.

FAFC Web Portal is Under Development

FAFC is collaborating with data program managers at FIU to develop an informative and dynamic FAFc web portal. The web portal will serve as the central hub for members and interested parties to connect and communicate. It is expected to increase communication, resource development and collaborative opportunities for Free Clinic members. Beyond communication, this site will allow for much needed standardized utilization data collection allowing for accurate analysis of services delivered by Free Clinics. The results of the utilization data can be presented to inform and educate decision makers on the value and cost saving of Free Clinics.

In the meantime, you can visit the informative FAFc webpage in HCSF's website, which can be accessed at www.healthcouncil.org/freelinics.asp to browse through FAFc newsletter archives, news, publications, free clinic related links, special offers, grant opportunities, membership information and application.

Growth of Uninsured Putting Pressure on Jacksonville Care Centers

The economic downturn and persistent increases in the cost of health insurance premiums have contributed to a recent growth in the uninsured without a corresponding increase in affordable medical services for those lacking coverage. The problem is worsening. With unemployment still hovering around 11 percent in Jacksonville and newly unfunded COBRA subsidies ending unemployment benefits for

the jobless, more people are turning to indigent care clinics and emergency rooms. The situation is not only hitting hospitals' bottom lines, but pressuring a delicate balance of safety-net services unable to absorb the shock. To read more please [click here](#).

National Association of Free Clinics Summit

The National Association of Free Clinics (NAFC) Fifth Annual Summit will be held on October 18-20, 2010, at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel, in Cleveland, Ohio. On October 20th, NAFC will be offering sessions focused on health care reform and free clinics! The agenda will include informative sessions on health care reform, resource development, clinical, management and leadership issues and more. For a full agenda, registration, and hotel information [click here](#).

Miami Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos

The Hispanic/Latino population is one of the nation's fastest growing population groups. Despite its rapid growth, there is limited research and data on the personal lifestyle practices and health conditions of Latinos. As a result, the National Institutes of Health- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NIH-NHLBI) have launched a six and a half year epidemiological study of health and disease among the U.S. Latino populations - The Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos (HCHS/SOL). SOL is being conducted at four Field Centers located at the University of Miami Medical Campus and at universities in San Diego, Chicago and the Bronx, NY. A total of 16,000 eligible adults representing the Hispanic/Latino Community in these four locations will take part in this study. Of these, 4,000 men and women will be from Miami-Dade County!

For more information and calendar of events, please click here [click here](#) or contact Brendaly Rodriguez-Rosemond via email at brodriguez@psy.miami.edu.

Resources

Discounted and/or Donated Medical/Pharmaceutical Products

Many of the discounted/donated resources listed in the newsletter below are offered exclusively to FAFC members. To apply for membership, please [click here](#).



Steede Medical has partnered with FAFC to provide high quality consumable supplies to free clinics at very reasonable costs. Steede Medical is a distributor/wholesaler for about 90% of the disposable medical supplies on the market. FAFC memberships grants access to a range of products including free meters and subsidized low cost, quality test strips. The new catalog of products is now available and ready to be shipped to those who are interested. To request a catalog, please contact Jorge Pereira at (305) 597-0607 or via email at jgpereira@steedemedical.com or contact@steedemedical.com. For more information about Steede Medical, please visit their website at www.steedemedical.com.



A Passion to Help. The Ability to Deliver.

AmeriCares is a nonprofit disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization that provides immediate response to emergency medical needs and supports long-term humanitarian assistance programs around the world. In the United States, AmeriCares provides medications, medical supplies and other relief on an ongoing basis to healthcare clinics serving the poor and uninsured. AmeriCares aims to help healthcare partners deliver quality care by filling critical resource gaps, including essential products that are unavailable or financially inaccessible. FAFC will be sending out monthly offers exclusively for members. Please note that all requests must be submitted directly to AmeriCares. To learn more about AmeriCares please visit their website at www.americares.org.



Direct Relief USA is a nonprofit working with more than 1,100 clinics in all 50 states, providing them with free medications and supplies for their low-income and uninsured patients. Direct Relief USA strengthens America's safety net of community clinics and health centers by providing them with free medicines and medical supplies. A division of Direct Relief International, Direct Relief USA, was formed in 2004 to deliver resources in the U.S. and build the capacity of safety net clinics that provide services to the nation's medically underserved populations.

Direct Relief USA launched their Safety Net Inventory Support program to provide ongoing inventory support to the nation's safety net providers by delivering no-cost pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. All of the products are donated by pharmaceutical companies, free to their clinic partners, and shipped free via FedEx through in-kind donations. Clinics submit requests for donated products via Direct Relief's online network. Direct Relief's pharmacists review and adjust requests as necessary based on patient population. Due to the nature and availability of product inventory, Direct Relief cannot guarantee that every request will be filled in its entirety but best efforts are made to accommodate requests. The products are then sent out of Direct Relief's warehouse in Santa Barbara, CA directly to the clinic.

If you are interested in joining their network and take advantage of available benefits, please contact Katie Lewis by phone at (805) 964-4767, ext. 145 or via email at KLewis@directrelief.org. To learn more about Direct Relief, please [click here](#).

FamilyWize Prescription Drug Discount Cards

The FamilyWize prescription drug discount card is being distributed by United Way of Miami-Dade. For individuals with no health insurance, or who need medications not covered by their insurance plan, this card could lower the cost by an average of 35%. There are no age, income or residency restrictions, no limit on how many times you can use it, and no waiting to get a card. United Way of Miami-Dade has joined more than 820 United Ways in all 50 states. The goal of this partnership is to save \$100 million in consumers' prescription drug costs over the next 4 years. To look up drug prices, participating pharmacies or to print additional cards for family, friends and co-workers, please [click here](#). For more information, contact Jeff Hawley at 305-646-7086 or via email at hawleyj@unitedwaymiami.org.

TechSoup-The Technology Place for Nonprofits

TechSoup is a nonprofit serving nonprofits. TechSoup is a project of TechSoup Global, a San Francisco-based nonprofit. Since 2002, their low fees have saved over 100,000 nonprofits more than \$1 billion. TechSoup's online product donation service connects nonprofits with technology product donations from more than 40 leading corporate and nonprofit technology partners including donor partners like Microsoft, Adobe, Cisco, Intuit, and Symantec. TechSoup distributes donated and deeply discounted technology products to eligible nonprofits. You can place requests for product donations online, and there are no registration or membership fees to request products through TechSoup. To learn more about TechSoup and how to receive donations, please [click here](#).

In-kind Assistance of New and Used Medical Equipment and Supplies

If you have any medical equipment or supplies in your possession that you are not utilizing whether new or used, we'd like to put it to a good use in one of our member Free Clinics. Medical donations provide our clinical facilities with essential supplies. Your donation will directly benefit someone who desperately needs it: people with limited or no insurance coverage. If you would like to make a donation of used and/or new medical equipment or supplies, please contact Manivone Douangdara at (305) 592-1452, ext.120 or by e-mail at manie@healthcouncil.org.

Financial Aid/Guidance for Patients with Breast Cancer

The Gift of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation provides financial support to low-income women with breast cancer by assisting them with monthly bills such as electric, gas, phone and groceries, during their course of treatment. Information about offered financial assistance may be obtained by contacting the Gift of Hope at: Gift of Hope, 9858 Clint Moore Road, C 111 #249, Boca Raton, FL 33496, or calling 561-271-9955. They can also be contacted via email at help@forthehope.org.

Grant Opportunities

Health Care Services - City Of Miami Partner Opportunity: "New Access Point"

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services has announced the availability of up to \$250 million in grants for the "New Access Point" program to deliver primary health care services for underserved and vulnerable populations under the Health Center Program. This grant can address the health care needs of the homeless population in your community. A new access point is a new full time service delivery site that provides comprehensive primary and preventive health care services. For more details, please contact Tiffani Redding at tredding@hrsa.gov. **Deadline: November 17, 2010.**

**** Additionally, the City of Miami is interested in partnering with organizations who are pursuing the New Access Points grant CFDA 93.527.** The City is interested in providing its expertise and resources for a mobile intervention unit to address the medical needs of homeless, and particularly chronically homeless individuals. The City has identified a model that seems in line with the grant priorities and is estimated to cost approximately \$263,000 for two years. The City would be interested in being a subcontractor to provide this service, managing all components of staffing, operations, vehicle acquisition and upkeep. If

your organization would be interested in adding this component to your proposal, please do not hesitate to contact the City to begin a proposal preparation.

For more info, contact Lazaro Trueba, Assistant Program Administrator, City of Miami Homeless Assistance Program at Ph: 305-960-4991, Fax: 305-960-4977, Email: ltrueba@miamigov.com.

The South Florida Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, is now accepting applications for grants for fiscal year 2011 - 2012

The Affiliate is proud to announce the release of the April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012, Grant RFA (request for application). Applications for breast cancer and breast health programs from nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies and educational institutions in Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties are eligible.

They run one of the most innovative, responsive grant programs in breast cancer today. Their Affiliate is proud to have sent over \$480,000 to Komen National for research in fiscal year ending March 31, 2010. In addition to funding research, the Affiliate funds non-duplicative, community-based breast health education and breast cancer screening and treatment projects for the medically underserved in Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties. In the last fiscal year, they awarded \$1.2 million to local community programs.

Their next grant cycle runs from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012. Eligible applications must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, November 30, 2010**. Announcements of funding will be made on April 1, 2011. For more information or to apply, please [click here](#).

Health and Health Care: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is accepting calls for proposals. RWJF awards grants for projects in the United States through Calls for Proposals that target specific health issues. The Foundation also funds unsolicited proposals that address the Foundation's Building Human Capital, Pioneer, and Vulnerable Populations program areas. The Building Human Capital program area focuses on assuring that the nation has a well-trained workforce in health care. Unsolicited proposals are reviewed throughout the year. Award ceiling and deadlines vary between grants, for more information, please [click here](#).

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The HCSF and FAFC work diligently to ensure that messages are professional and visually appealing. Please be advised that formatting (font, color, alignment) may appear altered or distorted due to display options from your email provider / software.