



Florida Association of Free Clinics Newsletter

Issue: # 3

April / 2010

In This Issue

[Membership is Open](#)

[Free Clinic Spotlight](#)

[FAFC News and
Happenings](#)

[FAFC Resources](#)



Save the Date: F AFC Strategic Retreat

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.

With appreciated support from the Allegany Franciscan Foundation, the Health Council of South Florida has secured the services of Free Clinic Solutions to help facilitate the ongoing formation and development of the Florida Association of Free Clinics. The services are to include a needs assessment of clinics across Florida, particularly those in northern and central Florida. Additionally they will conduct an online survey of clinics statewide to obtain their ideas and input on the mission and goals of the F AFC. A summary report on findings from the interviews and survey will be produced and distributed. In addition, Free Clinic Solutions will convene and work with a small planning team consisting of key stakeholders, as well as clinic leaders from across the state, to plan and organize a statewide strategic planning session for the F AFC. All Free Clinics in Florida will be invited to participate in this daylong meeting. It is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 4th and will be held in a central Florida location to be announced shortly. Please save this date in your calendars, and keep an eye out for additional information.

**FAFC Website
coming soon!**

**An Initiative
of the**



Founded in 2006, Free Clinic Solutions is the nation's first and only firm providing consulting, coaching, training, and other support services exclusively to the Free Clinic sector. Mark Cruise, Principal and Chief Consultant, served for nine years as Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Free Clinics. We are extremely grateful to the Allegany Franciscan Foundation for their support, which has allowed us to take another major step forward in planning a vibrant and effective Florida Association of Free Clinics. Thanks to the Foundation's generosity, we are delighted that Mark Cruise from Free Clinic Solutions is going to be helping us. His experience and expertise in the field of Free Clinic association development is unmatched.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

You Are Appreciated!

Let us know what
you think about this
e-blast
[Click Here!](#)

April is National Volunteer Month, the Florida Association of Free Clinics and the Health Council of South Florida would like to thank all of the volunteers that donate their time and efforts. Through your dedication to those that are less fortunate, you help countless others. We truly appreciate all that you do to help the community

Membership is Open!

Membership to the Florida Association of Free Clinics (FAFC) is currently open with no membership fees. It 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.

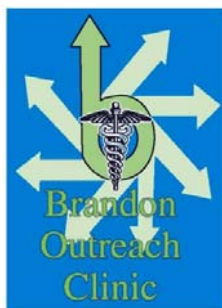
Potential FAFC members are required to complete the membership application form and the Free Clinics Nationwide Survey, which can be accessed at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BRXRCTW>.

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. [Click here](#) for current benefits.

Please note that there are no membership dues at this time; however, for the purposes of sustainability, future membership fees may apply.

To apply, please contact Manivone Douangdara by phone at (305) 592-1452 ext. 120 or via email at manie@healthcouncil.org.

Free Clinic Spotlight



Brandon Outreach Clinic

Since 1989 Brandon Outreach Clinic (BOC) has provided primary and diagnostic health care to individuals and families who are uninsured and do not qualify for government assisted health care programs. Free primary health care is provided at the clinic four days a week for those individuals who qualify under the clinic guidelines. The clinic is primarily staffed by volunteers from the community and is supported entirely by donations.

The clinic provides free specialty care through partnerships with local area physicians, diagnostic facilities and Brandon Regional Hospital. In addition, BOC also provides social service screening and appropriate referrals to other agencies. In 2009, the clinic provided over 2,500 medical visits for their patients and over 4,700 prescription medications.

At present, the clinic has only four part-time paid employees; an executive director, a nurse, and two case managers. In addition, the clinic has a collaborative agreement with the University of South Florida,

Department of Family Medicine/Public Sector Medicine Program and the College of Nursing. This agreement secures additional staff to provide medical treatment for the clinic. For more information on BOC please [click here](#).

FAFC News and Happenings

FAFC Website is Coming Soon!

HCSF staff is working with Tom Gomez, Program Management in Health Information Technology Initiative of NSF FIU-FAU Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Advanced Knowledge Enablement, to develop an informative and dynamic FAFC website. The FAFC website is expected to be launch in early May, 2010. The HCSF expects that the website will increase communication, resource development and collaborative opportunities for free clinic members and interested groups. Stay tuned!

Free Clinics in Miami-Dade County: Their Role as Core Safety Net Providers

The FAFC and the Health Council of South Florida partnered with Dr. Margarita Cervantes to study and analyze the Free Clinics in Miami-Dade County and their role as core safety net providers, in order to better understand the available resources, gaps, and barriers present to the uninsured population. The study contains data and insights on Free Clinics in Miami-Dade County. Key aspects of the study relate to the challenges faced by the Free Clinics in the context of the current economic crises and their neglect in current debates on health care reforms, with an emphasis on the important function of the Free Clinics in Miami-Dade County and the specific challenges they locally encounter. Please [click here](#) for the Executive Summary of the study. Stay tuned for the full study release!

MedNet Program

FAFC would like to share an awesome fact from the Health Council of West Central Florida (the Health Council) on the MedNet Program. In 2009, the Health Councils' MedNet Program provided more in prescription drug services for patients accessing care at Community Health Centers of Pinellas (CHCP) than the amount of funds the federal government awarded to CHCP to provide primary care services to low-income residents in Pinellas County.

A breakdown of federal funds awarded to CHCP in 2009 vs. the value of prescription drugs secured by MedNet for CHCP patients in 2009 is provided below:

	\$ Value in 2009
Federal Funds Awarded to CHCP	\$990,000
Value of Medications Secured by MedNet for Use by CHCP Patients	\$1,276,397

MedNet is an important source of care for low-income uninsured residents in Poke and Pinellas Counties. The program helps people obtain prescription drugs from pharmaceutical companies that offer patient assistance programs.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Rugg, Executive Director of the Health Council of West Central Florida, Inc. at 727-217-7070 or via email at erugg@healthcouncils.org

Miami-Dade County Health Department Recognized Volunteers & Partners Reception at South Miami Hospital

The Miami-Dade County Health Department recently recognized its volunteers and partners during a reception at South Miami Hospital on Monday, March 22, 2010 for their many special efforts, valuable contribution and accomplishments. In the past year, approximately 2,336 health department volunteers and partners have provided over \$44 million in health care services to more than 84,000 uninsured and underinsured men, women and children in Miami-Dade County. They share their special talents and provide many types of services from direct medical or dental care to administrative support to our community.

The CAMPOS project is seeking patients for a study

Carlos Perez Benitez, Ph.D. at the University of Miami is seeking adult Latino patients for a federally funded study to develop a combined culturally adapted cognitive behavioral treatment for Latinos suffering from Medically Unexplained Physical Symptoms (MUPS) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Please note that they DO NOT require you to diagnose the patient with PTSD, they will conduct a thorough psychological assessment. The study is free of charge but only patients with health insurance may qualify.

For more information please contact the CAMPOS project directly at 305-284-6496 or email Dr. Carlos Perez Benitez at c.perezbenitez@miami.edu

Florida Breast Cancer Foundation

The mission of the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation is to end breast cancer through research, education, and advocacy. All monies raised and services provided stay in Florida to help Florida residents. They offer education and awareness programs whose sole purpose is to educate and create awareness regarding the latest information on breast health. They also provide a statewide toll-free number that offers access to numerous resources, an updated website that serves as an online breast cancer resource for Florida residents.

Annually, they offer community funding for innovative education programs and opportunities to Florida not-for-profit organizations. In addition, they fund major research at various Florida institutions - among them are: University of Florida/Shands, M.D. Anderson, Florida State University, and University of Miami. The purpose is to raise awareness and mobilize the population of Florida to ensure sufficient government funding for breast cancer research; quality care of all without fear of discrimination; and an environment free of carcinogens. Everything they do supports their mission and is funded by the revenues generated from the purchase of the End Breast Cancer license plate. To date, they have funded over \$3 million in research and education grants.

For more information about Florida Breast Cancer Foundation contact Muriel Sommers, (954) 454-4156 or email:

Muriel@FloridaBreastCancer.org

Nights of Empowerment and Safety for Teens (N.E.S.T)

Project NEST (Nights of Empowerment and Safety for Teens) is a weekly drop-in center dedicated to assisting homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth in the Miami area to reach their full potential in a safe and supportive environment. It is located in downtown Miami at the First United Methodist Church of Miami (400 Biscayne Blvd) and open Monday nights from 6pm - 10pm providing youth up to 25 years of age with a variety of services - hot nutritious meals, mental health counseling, a resource center, reproductive health care and other basic health care services including HIV and STD testing and counseling as well as educational counseling and GED assistance, ID assistance, and a range of other services that the youth will need. The goal is to promote dignity and independence in all who enter by offering consistent comprehensive support under one roof.

For more information about Project NEST contact Anna Lellelid at (305) 721-7777 or email: annalise.lellelid@gmail.com

HRSA Announcement: Bureau of Primary Health Care Risk Management Initiative

The Health Resources and Services Administration is pleased to announce the launch of a new health care risk management resource for the Health Center grantees and Free Clinics. This web site and associated online offerings will be administered by the ECRI Institute, an independent non-profit, dedicated to safety and risk management for health care organizations. [Click here](#) for more information about the risk management web site and how to access the web resources.

FAFC Resources

Volunteer Opportunities

Florida School of Medicine Clinical Preceptorship

Florida International University (FIU) Wertheim College of Medicine has currently a Family Medicine's Primary Care Experience Clinical Preceptorship, where FIU students will learn from and serve our community. Through this preceptorship, medical students are assigned an afternoon a month to work with a community-based physician, where they will observe and appreciate the dynamics of communication, the patient-doctor relationship, continuity of care, and the primary health care delivery system. We are excited for the Free Clinics to be part of this preceptorship opportunity.

If you are interested in hosting an FIU student at your clinic, please contact Alina Perez-Stable by phone at (305) 348-0627 or via e-mail at apstable@fiu.edu

Opportunity for Free Clinics Workforce Expansion!

We firmly believe that a combination of experienced, innovative individuals and a great initiative such as FAFC will help strengthen our community. In an effort to explore and identify opportunities for students and interested volunteers who would like to help, FAFC would like to know your current staffing needs.

If your clinic is in need of volunteers, please contact Manivone Douangdara at (305) 592-1452 ext. 120 or by e-mail at manie@healthcouncil.org

Grant Opportunities

Allegany Franciscans Ministries announced the availability of 2010 Tau Grant funding for nonprofit organizations working to increase access

to health care and create healthier communities in the Miami-Dade region. Tau grants support services for persons who are marginalized, economically poor, or have limited access to health care and health information. Funding is available to support innovative and creative programs or aspects of programs that promote healthy behavior, help create healthy environments, and enhance health care delivery. Grants may be requested up to \$5,000. Complete Tau grant applications must be received by 12:00 PM on the following dates in order to be reviewed during that cycle: April 9, or October 8, 2010. For more information, please [click here](#)

Florida Breast Cancer Foundation (FBCF) is currently offering education grants of up to \$10,000 for innovative projects in the areas of breast health and breast cancer education, outreach, and support toward services not otherwise available to the medically underserved populations of Florida. Grants are available for up to one (1) year. Those interested in applying to the FBCF for funding should complete the application following all of their guidelines and requirements. Application deadline is May 28, 2010. Please [click here](#) for more details and applications.

Discounted and/or Donated Medical/Pharmaceutical Products Steede Medical

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 out in the market. Through membership with the FAFC, access is granted to a range of products including free meters and subsidized low cost quality test strips. Additional free medical supplies are available to members please [click here](#) to see the list. For more information about Steede Medical, please visit their website at www.steedemedical.com or call (305) 592-1667

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.

Thank you for your generous support!

Vacant Clinic for Rent

The vacant clinic is located on 1922 Red Road. The clinic is 5 minutes from Miami Children's Hospital and 10 minutes from Downtown Coral Gables and the Palmetto Expressway. The 1,600 square foot clinic is in excellent move in condition with 5 examination rooms, a waiting room, office, kitchen and lab area. The monthly rent including taxes and water is \$2,728.50 a month.

The tenant will have to pay the electricity. The prospective tenant may contact Florence Corey at (305) 261-5558 or (305) 665-9611. In addition you may also contact Toufic Zakharia at (305) 803-2462.