



MEDIA ADVISORY

*Distributed March 24, 2003
For March 26, 2003*

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Advocates for Uninsured Begin Statewide Strategy Discussions

\$50,000 Grant Funds Statewide Policy Forums; First Forum in Orlando

**Wednesday, March 26
7:00 p.m.**

What: The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's philanthropic affiliate, awarded a \$50,000 grant to Communities in Charge to help sponsor four statewide policy forums aimed at identifying new ways to expand access to health care for uninsured Floridians.

The Blue Foundation and the other sponsors of the first "Covering Florida: Expanding Access to Health Care for the Low-Income Uninsured" conference will kick-off the event at a welcoming session in Orlando for approximately 75 community leaders.

Who: Communities in Charge-Jacksonville is one of 17 non-profits to receive funds from The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida's Fall 2002 grants awarded in December. Other sponsors for the policy forums include: Winter Park Health Foundation, Jessie Ball duPont Fund and Communities in Charge-Jacksonville through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Why: The growing number of uninsured in Florida poses a real economic threat to our state (more than 2.8 million non-elderly persons are without insurance). The conference will bring together community leaders and health care experts to share information and begin to examine the uninsured issue from a state perspective.

When: 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Where: Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport, inside the main Orlando airport terminal

Photos: Community leaders discussing issues; check presentation

Interviews: Sponsors and participants of the Covering Florida conference.