

The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida

Fall 2002 Grant Summaries

Dollar amounts are for one year, unless otherwise specified

Alzheimer's Community Care, Inc., West Palm Beach

Amount: \$71,400 over two years

Purpose: Alzheimer's Community Care, Inc. will use The Blue Foundation's grant to expand their Family Consultant Program into the Hispanic community. By hiring a bilingual (Spanish/English) registered nurse with dementia-specific experience, Hispanic families caring for their Alzheimer's-inflicted loved ones will receive necessary support. Currently, English-speaking family caregivers receive care management, education, referrals, crisis intervention/prevention and support through the Family Consultant Program. With these dollars, Hispanic caregivers with the same needs will receive the education and support they need.

Clearwater Free Clinic, Clearwater

Amount: \$50,000

Purpose: The Clearwater Free Clinic will use the grant funds to continue providing patients with care from a full-time family practice advanced registered nurse practitioner. This nurse practitioner brought long-awaited access to pediatric care for the low-income, uninsured residents of Clearwater. Since the position was added, the nurse has provided invaluable continuity of care and patient visits have increased by 40%, improving overall health outcomes. The grant will continue the services of the nurse practitioner so that pediatric patients will not be turned away or provided inconsistent care.

Communities in Charge, Jacksonville

Amount: \$50,000

Purpose: Grant funds will be used to conduct four statewide health policy forums to identify new ways to expand access to health care for uninsured and underserved Floridians. Forums will include representatives from all major Florida communities in order to identify key issues, develop collaborative statewide strategies and affect change. Every major metropolitan area of Florida has an established coalition of nonprofit agencies, services and providers that work to coordinate health care for its uninsured. The missing link is a statewide collaborative discussion and effort to streamline services and provide better care for all uninsured in the state. These forums will work to close that gap.

Family Central, Inc., Fort Lauderdale

Amount: \$55,000

Purpose: This grant will continue the Healthy Directions program, piloted last year with an inaugural grant from The Blue Foundation. Healthy Directions allows an advanced registered nurse practitioner to visit nine subsidized childcare facilities and provide personalized health care to low-income children. The nurse identifies children who need immunizations, medical assistance, or early intervention health services and refers these children for the appropriate treatment. The nurse then links the child with a primary care provider and facilitates referrals and follow-up care. The most important aspect of the program is the personal relationship the nurse develops with parents and teachers to ensure proper implementation of prescribed treatments and to provide health education.

Florida Hospital Foundation, Orlando

Amount: \$43,653

Purpose: In order to address the health care needs of underserved and uninsured residents, Orange County's Florida Hospital Foundation will use these grant funds to establish a non-urgent After Hours Clinic. The After Hours clinic will be able to provide consistent, appropriate care for uninsured families with non-emergency conditions and chronic diseases. Emergency rooms often cannot provide proper care for those ailments so patients are treated inappropriately, but more expensively. The After Hours clinic will also provide care managers to assist with resources, education and referrals for uninsured families.

Foundation for Rural Excellence (FREE), Palatka

Amount: \$24,000

Purpose: FREE is using The Blue Foundation grant and peer pressure to improve health among high school students in rural Northeast Florida. Funds will sponsor the "Youth for a Healthier Lifestyle" conference where 250 high school students from 13 school districts will attend education and training about key health issues that affect young people today. As part of the conference, six-person teams from each participating school will then determine the major health issues, create an action plan and carry out that action in their own schools. This program promises to empower students to make positive lifestyle choices and give youth an active role in improving the health of their community.

The Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Pasco, Inc., New Port Richey

Amount: \$39,800

Purpose: These grant funds will help continue operating the only free Hepatitis C clinic in Florida. Funds will offset expensive Hepatitis C laboratory fees and payroll expenses of two vital clinic employees. The Good Samaritan Health Clinic uses a minimal staff and an extensive network of physicians and nurses to provide free health care to low-income, uninsured residents of Pasco County. While the clinic provides an array of services for many critical illnesses, their free Hepatitis C diagnosis and treatment are unique and invaluable. The Blue Foundation's grant will help The Good Samaritan Clinic grow with the expanding need in their community.

HEP-C Alert, Inc., North Miami

Amount: \$44,560

Purpose: Grant funds will be used to help establish the Coinfection Connection, a collaborative project between two well-established South Florida health service non-profit organizations. Coinfection Connection will provide integrated care for low-income and uninsured people in Dade and Broward Counties who have been diagnosed or are at-risk of getting Hepatitis C, HIV, or both. The collaborative program will focus on prevention, early detection, and health education for people afflicted with Hepatitis C and/or HIV.

Jeppesen VisionQuest, Inc., Collier and Okeechobee Counties

Amount: \$25,000

Purpose: This grant will expand the "Reach Out" program that provides free vision exams and corrective eyeglasses for elementary and middle school children who have failed vision screenings. Approximately 250 Collier and Okeechobee County children will receive eye exams and glasses on-the-spot from the Jeppesen VisionQuest Van. Volunteer optometrists and limited staff take the mobile van to targeted schools where uninsured and underserved children have failed eye exams and parents have not followed up with obtaining corrective eye glasses for their children. For many kids, this is the first time they will be able to see clearly, which means they will have a better chance to succeed in school and life.

Lee Memorial Health System, Fort Myers

Amount: \$40,000 over two years

Purpose: Funds will allow two registered nurses to provide health screenings, education, monitoring and referral services to two Lee County communities currently underserved. This grant will expand Lee Memorial Health System's Parish Nurse Outreach Effort to communities where neighborhood churches cannot afford a Parish Nurse program. This two-year grant will allow two impoverished Lee County communities to receive access to quality health care where it did not exist before.

Leesburg Regional Medical Center Chronic Disease Management, Leesburg

Amount: \$41,580

Purpose: This grant will be used to develop a diabetes outreach and education program to serve the uninsured and underserved minority population in the Leesburg area. Certified Diabetes Educators will develop materials and programs to be distributed in local churches, health clinics and other community centers. The Community Diabetes Outreach Program will help diabetics better manage their disease and will help uninsured residents of Leesburg better detect the early signs of diabetes in themselves and their family members.

The Migrant Association of South Florida, Boynton Beach

Amount: \$49,128

Purpose: Funding will provide free diabetes screening, treatment, monitoring and prevention services to low-income, uninsured migrant adults and children who would otherwise go untreated at the Caridad Health Clinic. The Migrant Diabetes Project will provide primary care services, lab work, vision screening and medications. Nutrition education and meal planning will be incorporated to prevent further complications with those identified at risk. Special attention will be paid to the increasing number of children presenting risk factors of getting diabetes.

Nemours, Pensacola

Amount: \$64,261

Purpose: This grant will fund home telemedicine units to increase and improve health care for children newly diagnosed with critical illnesses. These specialized units offer an audio and video connection with health care providers. Parents of critically ill children can more accurately monitor their child's health statistics and become better educated about medications taken at home. Overall health for these critically ill children will improve by health providers and parents working more closely together to potentially avoid emergency room visits.

Orlando Regional Healthcare Foundation, Orlando

Amount: \$87,580 over three years

Purpose: This grant will expand the Teen Xpress mobile health care program by funding two nurses to provide triage and health screenings at two high schools in low-income, at-risk neighborhoods in Orange County. Teen Xpress is an established mobile health clinic that has provided access to 24-hour physical and mental care to disadvantaged youth who otherwise wouldn't receive any health services. The two nurses funded by The Blue Foundation's grant will provide additional one-on-one health care to teens, help coordinate each patient's care, refer to subspecialists, and connect the youth with possible insurance programs.

Sacred Heart Health System, Pensacola

Amount: \$50,000

Purpose: These funds will expand the Medication Education Delivery System (MEDS) program started with a grant from The Blue Foundation last year. MEDS targets elderly and African American underserved in the Pensacola area and provides them one-on-one assistance with their medication needs along with education about their medication options, disease prevention and overall wellness. This grant will allow MEDS to expand into more rural areas surrounding Pensacola, positively impacting thousands more who are underserved.

The St. Petersburg Free Clinic: Health Care Services, St. Petersburg

Amount: \$40,000

Purpose: This grant will help the St. Petersburg Free Clinic provide educational materials and training seminars about prescription medications to its patients. The clinic primarily serves uninsured, minority patients who have few options for a health care home. Through the clinic's Health Education and Resource Center, these funds will expand the staff's ability to educate patients and therefore create better health outcomes. With better education, patients will have the ability to monitor themselves more accurately, therefore increasing healthy living behaviors.

We Care Network, Capital Medical Society Foundation, Tallahassee

Amount: \$10,000 over two years

Purpose: This two-year grant will pay for prescription medication for uninsured residents below the Federal Poverty Guidelines in the Tallahassee area. The Capital Medical Society Foundation established the We Care Network where 315 specialty physicians donate their time and expertise to provide free medical care to low-income residents in four surrounding counties. This medical care is jeopardized, however, if the patients do not have the money to pay for necessary medications. The Blue Foundation's grant fills that need, helping the We Care Network provide more comprehensive medical care and improving the quality of life for their patients.