

The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida

Summer 2003 Grant Summaries

Dollar amounts are for one year, unless otherwise specified

Bayfront Health Foundation, St. Petersburg

Amount: \$100,000 over two years

Purpose: The Blue Foundation grant will be used to provide basic radiology and ultrasound services on-site at new free health clinic. This grant will also help provide comprehensive health education for low income and uninsured patients. The clinic, called the Mercy Project, is a collaborative effort between the City of St. Petersburg, Bayfront Medical Center and the Johnnie Ruth Clark Health Center. The Mercy Project, scheduled to open December 2003, will provide emergency and acute healthcare to residents in an area of St. Petersburg that is primarily comprised of low-income, minority and at-risk populations who do not have healthcare access.

Brevard County We Care Program, Brevard County

Amount: \$72,000 over two years

Purpose: The Brevard County We Care Program will use the grant funds to expand its primary healthcare services to include a program to help patients with diabetes. The program will provide equipment, supplies and education for low-income and uninsured people to teach them how to manage the disease. The funds from the grant will pay for testing equipment, supplies and start-up pharmaceuticals for the program. The We Care program will provide education that can be easily understood by their patient population, the needed equipment, supplies, medication and on-going support to ensure that uninsured diabetics can effectively and successfully manage their own treatment.

Elderly Interest Fund, Inc., Fort Lauderdale

Amount: \$25,000

Purpose: Grant funds will be used to expand the services of the Elderly Interest Fund's MediVan project, which will enable them to care for more patients. MediVan is a mobile health clinic that travels to low-income areas of Broward County treating uninsured patients, age 50 or older, who have an income of less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. The Blue Foundation grant will allow MediVan to hire an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) who will be able to see patients, should a volunteer physician not be available. The grant will also provide the funds for MediVan to offer an evening clinic once a month.

Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc., Casselberry (Orlando area)

Amount: \$49,000

Purpose: The grant will allow Hispanic Health Initiatives to continue its "Los Amigos/Buddies Program" which is an outreach, awareness and education campaign against Type-2 diabetes. The program was started in 2002 with a grant from The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida. Hispanic Health Initiatives' immediate plans are to recruit 200 diabetics, or individuals at high risk, and enroll them in the Los Amigos/Buddies program, which includes disease and nutrition education and exercise classes. Twenty volunteer lay health educators will also be recruited and trained as group leaders for a ten-month follow-up of participants. Targeting the Hispanic population, HHI will distribute educational material on risk factors, symptoms, prevention and control of diabetes to 2,500 people.

Judeo Christian Health Clinic, Tampa

Amount: \$75,000 over two years

Purpose: The Judeo Christian Health Clinic will use the funds from The Blue Foundation to hire a night clinic coordinator, purchase patient medications and strips for a coagucheck machine. The Judeo Christian Health Clinic provides free healthcare to the medically indigent of the Tampa Bay area. Three full-time and two part-time employees, along with many volunteer health professionals, conduct 14,000 patient visits annually. The night clinic coordinator will be a part-time position that will help strengthen the clinic's capacity to schedule and treat patients. A large portion of the clinic's budget is spent on medications, which is crucial for recovery and health maintenance. The clinic treats many patients who are on the blood-thinning medication Coumadin, and the grant will allow the clinic to establish a Coumadin clinic to monitor patients.

Mercy Hospital Foundation, Miami

Amount: \$100,000 over two years

Purpose: Mercy Hospital Foundation will use the funds to increase services at the St. John Bosco Clinic, by adding a nurse practitioner position and by purchasing needed medications for patient treatment. The St. John Bosco Clinic is a primary healthcare clinic, staffed by volunteer healthcare professionals and support staff, treating uninsured residents of the East Little Havana area of Miami-Dade County. With the addition of the nurse practitioner position the clinic will be able to treat more patients, including walk-in emergencies, and reduce the waiting time for appointments.

Mission House, Jacksonville Beach

Amount: \$15,399

Purpose: Grant funds will be used to purchase medical supplies, stock medications and purchase prescription medications for the homeless and medically indigent of the Jacksonville Beach area. Mission House is a grassroots, volunteer-led organization that provides critical services, including medical assistance to the homeless and uninsured of the Beaches area. This is the second grant awarded to Mission House from The Blue Foundation.

Shepherd's Hope, Inc., Orlando

Amount: \$85,000 over two years

Purpose: Funding from The Blue Foundation grant will enable Shepherd's Hope to provide an additional 1000 patient visits each year throughout their seven health centers in Central Florida. Shepherd's Hope provides primary healthcare services to the uninsured and underserved residents in the Orlando area. This region has a higher than average number of uninsured residents due to the high number of seasonal, casual and temporary workers in the tourism/service industry. The decline in tourism has prompted an increase in unemployment and underemployment, which has increased the need for medical care at Shepherd's Hope. Last year Shepherd's Hope treated 20% more patients than the year prior. The organization has 6 full-time employees to support its 800 medical professional and support staff volunteers.

United Ministries, Pensacola

Amount: \$10,000

Purpose: United Ministries will use the grant funds to purchase prescriptions and other necessary medications for the Escambia County uninsured through its Lifeline program. United Ministries will be able to pay for medications for 15 to 20 uninsured individuals each month. United Ministries' primary purpose is to provide emergency financial assistance for rent and utilities to families in crisis. The Lifeline program was developed after receiving an overwhelming number of requests for financial assistance with medication costs.

Volunteers in Medicine –Jacksonville (VIM-Jax), Jacksonville

Amount: \$25,000

Purpose: The Blue Foundation grant will provide the funds necessary to help construct and equip a pharmacy that will be a vital component of the VIM-Jax Clinic. VIM-Jax is a volunteer-run, free medical clinic that is being established to treat the working poor of Jacksonville. Clinic patients will be given prescribed medications they could not otherwise afford since medication is crucial for recovery. VIM-Jax will have the capacity to treat 8,300 uninsured adults and children annually. The VIM-Jax Clinic replicates a model that is widely accepted as a "best practice" for the delivery of high quality, low cost services to uninsured and underserved patients. VIM-Jax will be the 34th clinic of its kind, operating in 16 states.