

The Blue Foundation

FOR A HEALTHY FLORIDA



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Susan B. Towler, APR
(904) 905-6803
Susan.Towler@bcbsfl.com

The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida Awards Philanthropic Grants *Ten Florida Non-profits Receive \$556,399*

Jacksonville, Fla. -- The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida recently awarded \$556,399 to 10 non-profit Florida health clinics and community outreach programs. The funded programs range from prescription medication assistance to diabetes education to mobile clinics that literally drive quality healthcare to the doorsteps of Floridians who need it the most. Grant winners were chosen from 198 proposals submitted to The Blue Foundation during the Summer 2003 grant cycle.

"These 10 grants represent the significant positive impact The Blue Foundation is having on increasing access to quality health-related services for uninsured and underserved Floridians," said Susan Towler, executive director of The Blue Foundation. "We are accomplishing our goal of providing caring solutions through grants that will educate, train and improve the lives of individuals and families throughout Florida."

The Summer 2003 grant recipients are listed below with the dollar amounts of their grants. Grants are for one year, unless otherwise specified:

- Bayfront Health Foundation, St. Petersburg, \$100,000 for two years
- Brevard County We Care, Brevard County, \$72,000 for two years
- Elderly Interest Fund, Broward County, \$25,000
- Hispanic Health Initiatives, Orlando, \$49,000
- Judeo Christian Health Clinic, Tampa, \$75,000 for two years
- Mercy Hospital Foundation, Miami, \$100,000 for two years
- Mission House, Jacksonville Beach, \$15,399
- Shepherd's Hope, Orlando, \$85,000 for two years
- United Ministries, Pensacola, \$10,000
- Volunteers in Medicine, Jacksonville, \$25,000

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The new awards mark \$2.75 million in contributions The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida has provided to Florida non-profits since the foundation began in March 2001. The impact of the 54 total grants presented so far touches all of Florida's shores and meets the diverse healthcare needs of Floridians living in the many communities in between.

"The Blue Foundation looks for innovative programs that advance the health and well-being of uninsured and underserved Floridians," Towler said. "Our new primary focus on community health clinics and grassroots outreach programs will provide greater resources and attention to those initiatives that serve our neediest populations."

The Blue Foundation, the philanthropic affiliate of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF), provides grants to support programs that increase access to quality health-related services for uninsured and underserved Floridians. The Blue Foundation annually awards up to \$1 million in grants. Grant applications for the Winter 2003 cycle are due Sept. 2, 2003. For more information on the proposal process, please call 1-800-477-3736 ext.63215.

The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida is a separate, philanthropic affiliate of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida incorporated in the state of Florida. The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, and its parent, BCBSF, are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies. For more information concerning The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, please visit its Web site at www.bluefoundationfl.org.

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