



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida Awards Philanthropic Grants *Twelve Florida Non-profits Receive \$623,073***

Jacksonville, Fla. -- The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida recently awarded \$623,073 to 12 non-profit Florida health clinics and community outreach programs. The funded programs care for a variety of Floridians who do not have access to appropriate healthcare options in their community. The Blue Foundation's Winter 2003 grants allow these programs to address serious healthcare issues such as diabetes, cervical cancer, mental health and access to prescription drugs. Grant winners were chosen from 163 proposals submitted to The Blue Foundation during the Winter 2003 grant cycle.

"These 12 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 Winter 2003 grant recipients are listed below with the dollar amounts of their grants. Grants are for one year, unless otherwise specified:

- Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs, Inc., Brooker, \$67,035
- Clearwater Free Clinic, Clearwater, \$50,000
- Community Connections, Inc., Jacksonville, \$65,113 for two years
- Diabetes Coalition of St. Lucie County, Port St. Lucie, \$50,000
- Good News Care Center, Florida City, \$75,000 for two years
- Good Samaritan Health Clinic of Pasco, Inc., New Port Richey, \$34,000

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- Hamilton County Council on Aging, Inc., Jasper, \$58,827 for two years
- Migrant Association of South Florida/Caridad Health Clinic, Boynton Beach, \$50,000
- Neighborhood Health Clinic, Inc., Naples, \$10,210
- Nemours, Pensacola, \$20,000
- We Care Manatee, Bradenton, \$42,888 for two years
- WomanKind, Inc., Key West, \$100,000 for two years

The new awards mark \$3.3 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 66 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 primary focus on community health clinics and grassroots outreach programs 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 Summer 2004 cycle are due March 17, 2004. 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](http://www.bluefoundationfl.org).

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