

# Friends OF HEALTH CHOICE NETWORK

*Communities that care*



## HCN Launches New and Expanded Website

Health Choice Network (HCN) is proud to announce the launch of its new and expanded website as well as the introduction of OURnet, a user-friendly internal intranet to serve HCN staff and members.

Under development for six months, the new website provides a broad range of background on HCN and its members, as well as information about community health, HCN services, recent and upcoming events, publications, important links and employment opportunities.

While the website presents a new HCN face to the public, OURnet is a valuable internal tool for HCN staff and members to access information, documents and forms, receive alerts and communicate with other employees.

**Visit us at [hcnetwork.org](http://hcnetwork.org).**

### *Inside Friends*

Jessie Trice Cancer Prevention Benefit	2
Iowa/Nebraska Joins HCN	2
National Leaders Visit Miami Member Center	3
Member Center Expands to Florida Keys	3

### *Message from the President and CEO*

## Support From Washington Shows Importance of Community Health

The holiday gifts came early this year when the Health Resources and Services Administration awarded nearly \$100 million in grants to community health centers (CHC) across the nation. One third of the grants were to expand the use of health information technology (HIT) and the rest was provided to expand the health centers reach in high-poverty areas.

Health Choice Network received \$750,000 to expand electronic health records among our member centers. The award shows that HCN continues to be acknowledged as a leader and innovator in a field that has proven to better serve the safety and quality of health care delivery in community health. Other associated CHCs receiving HIT expansion funds are Utah Health Choice Network's Wasatch Homeless Health Care (\$495,000) and Community Health Association of New York (\$750,000).

Congratulations to our member centers who were recipients of grants to improve and expand access to care in the high poverty areas they serve: Iowa/Nebraska (INConcert Care – HCN, \$80,000); Kansas Association of the Medically Underserved (Kansas HCN, \$80,000); Borinquen Health Care Center (\$347,833); and Community Health of South Florida (\$358,333).

These grants also underscore the importance of grassroots advocacy efforts. By contacting our local, state and national legislators and informing them of the critical needs served by community health, we can continue to receive these much needed funds.

I must again thank the hard-working staff and Board of Directors of our Network. I can't express enough how much I appreciate the dedication, creativity and perseverance that has brought us to where we are today. Thank you for standing beside me as we march forward into 2008!

*-Kevin Kearns, President and CEO*



# Heroes Honored at Seventh Annual Jessie Trice Cancer Prevention Benefit

Nearly 350 supporters and friends of Health Choice Network's Jessie Trice Cancer Prevention Program gathered at the Hotel Sofitel Miami to celebrate the life of a health care pioneer while saluting individuals and organizations who have shown leadership in advocating for the medically underserved of our community.

The Seventh Annual Jessie Trice Cancer Prevention Benefit featured the presentation of the Connie and Priscilla Mack Cancer Advocacy Award to Marvin O'Quinn, President of the Public Health Trust; the Jessie Trice Heroes Award went to John Schelble, Former Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Carrie Meek and Congressman Kendrick Meek and the Health Body, Healthy Soul Special Recognition Award to Alina Perez-Stable, Former Executive Director of Camillus Health Concern.

The keynote address was given by Pascal Goldschmidt, Dean of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and a tribute to cancer survivors was presented by Kevin Kearns, President and CEO. Cancer survivor and singer DeCarla McBean entertained the crowd with her moving version of *Wind Beneath My Wings*.

(L-R) Valencia Batiste, daughter of Jessie Trice; guest speaker Claudia Henschke, M.D.; Marilyn Holifield, Mark Smith; Marvin O'Quinn, recipient of the Connie and Priscilla Mack Award; Lalai Hamric, Vice Chair of the HCN Board. Below: a poster shows a *New England Journal of Medicine* article about a cancer research breakthrough in which the Jessie Trice program participated.



## Host Sponsor a Software Innovator

Sage, a leading supplier of business management software and services to 5.5 million customers worldwide, was the Host Sponsor of the Seventh Annual Jessie Trice Cancer Prevention Benefit.



Within Sage's Healthcare Division, they provide software specifically designed for community health centers, including Medical Manager and Intergy, a product that allows CHCs to create and manage electronic health records.



(L) HCN Board Chair Brodes Hartley, Jr. presents the Host Award to Mark Ryan of Sage.

## New Member INConcertCare Serves Iowa, Nebraska

Health Choice Network welcomes INConcertCare, a Primary Care Association (PCA) representing 15 community health centers in Iowa and Nebraska as a new member. INConcertCare served more than 134,000 patients across their two-state region last year, according to Ted Boesen, Executive Director and member of HCN Board of Directors. Ron Kemp is Chairman of INConcertCare.

INConcertCare recently received a federal grant for health information technology planning. The organization's main offices are located in Urbandale, Iowa. For more information, call (512) 244-9610 or visit their website, [www.ianepca.com](http://www.ianepca.com).



## Nancy Pelosi, Kendrick Meek Visit Miami's EOFHC

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and U.S. Reps. Kendrick Meek and Debbie Wasserman Schultz recently visited Economic Opportunity Family Health Center's Jessie Trice Center in Liberty City to promote passage of Florida's Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

CEO Annie Neasman, Board Chair Dr. Patricia Seabrooks and Chief Medical Officer Fatima Zafar, M.D. hosted the dignitaries along with several other Miami-Dade and Broward County-based Community Health Center CEO's. Speaker Pelosi emphasized the importance of the passage of the SCHIP to provide health coverage to 10 million children in the U.S.

"Children need every advantage to be great in life. The board and staff at EOFHC are committed to creating the ultimate healthcare experience for every child," added Annie Neasman.



*(L-R) David Williams, CEO Annie Neasman, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Board Chair Dr. Patricia Seabrooks, Chief Medical Officer Fatima Zafar, M.D. and U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek.*

## Miami Beach Community Health Center Honored

The Miami Beach Community Health Center has recently received several awards:

- The City of Miami Beach Hispanic Affairs Committee recently named MBCHC as the recipient of this year's Hispanic Heritage Month Award in the Social Service Category for "substantial contributions to this City's Hispanic community."

- The Alliance for Human Services gave MBCHC an Honorable Mention at their Annual Non-Profit "Making a Difference" luncheon in the category of Community Service.

- The South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce presented CEO Kathryn Abbate with the Community Service Advocate of the Year Award at their 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Sunshine Awards on November 2.

## Health Connect in Our Schools Expands Service

Now in its second successful year, HCN's Health Connect in Our Schools (HCiOS) is now in 72 public schools serving more than 80,000 students.

The program is a partnership between the Children's Health Trust and five HCN member centers in Miami-Dade County. By utilizing health information technology and electronic health records, instituting strict reporting, establishing evaluation methods and providing the latest training to school health providers, HCiOS has made a positive impact on thousands of students, providing them with high quality and easily accessible health care.

## Kansas Names Cathy Harding Executive Director

Cathy Harding has been appointed Executive Director of the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU). She is currently Vice President of Development and OTC of Consulting Services for Ozark Tri-County Health Care Consortium.

"The Board of Directors is delighted that KAMU will have the opportunity to benefit from Cathy's multiple years of experience in community development, health center operations and primary care association interactions," said Lougene Marsh, President of the Board.

## CHI Awarded Two Grants to Serve Monroe County

Through a grant from the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) and the Health Foundation of South Florida, CHI received a total amount of \$949,191 to provide high quality, accessible healthcare to the residents of the Florida Keys. The grant award will help support staff salaries, equipment and startup costs. The Marathon Health Center is located at 2855 Overseas Highway (mile marker 48.5).



*CHI staff gather to celebrate the grand opening of the Marathon Health Center.*



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## New Mexico Implements New Intergy EHR Software

La Familia Medical Center's Healthcare for the Homeless recently implemented Intergy EHR, Sage's next generation electronic health record software. The upgrade is allowing the Center to increase patient flow and access to care.

With the assistance from HCN, the integration effort of this efficient new program was led by La Familia CEO Rick Adesso, Medical Director Dr. James Lutz and Director Elizabeth Reynolds. La Familia Medical Center now has the ability to track multiple patients, open multiple charts, electronic lab portal, process electronic prescriptions and access Quality Care Guidelines all in one easy to use application.

## Founding Member Center is Renamed Jessie Trice Community Health Center

Now in its 40th year of providing quality health care to the residents of central Miami-Dade County, Economic Opportunity Family Health Center has announced a new name: **Jessie Trice Community Health Center**, honoring the memory of their former director and a renown community health pioneer.

## HCN Receives Award From HRSA



*Elizabeth Duke, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, recently presented HCN with a Certificate of Appreciation for our visionary leadership in substantially*

*enhancing the primary and preventive care in the health center delivery system through effective use of Health Information Technology. Presenting to Mr. Kearns for Administrator Duke is Dr. Dennis Williams, Deputy Secretary of HRSA.*

### Member Centers

Agape Network  
Bayview Center for Mental Health  
Borinquen Health Care Center  
Broward Community and Family Health Center  
Camillus Health Concern  
Citrus Health Network  
Community Health Centers of Pinellas  
Community Health of South Florida  
Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida  
Family Medical and Dental Centers  
Health Care Center for the Homeless  
Helen B. Bentley Family Health Center  
INConcertCare  
Institute for Child and Family Health

Jessie Trice Community Health Center  
(formerly EOFHC)  
Kansas Health Choice Network  
Miami Beach Community Health Center  
New Horizons Community Mental Health Center  
New Mexico Health Choice Network  
Premier Community HealthCare Group  
Tampa Family Health Centers  
Utah Health Choice Network

### Patrons

American Cancer Society  
Sage Software Healthcare Division  
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute  
South Florida Hospital and Healthcare Association  
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center