

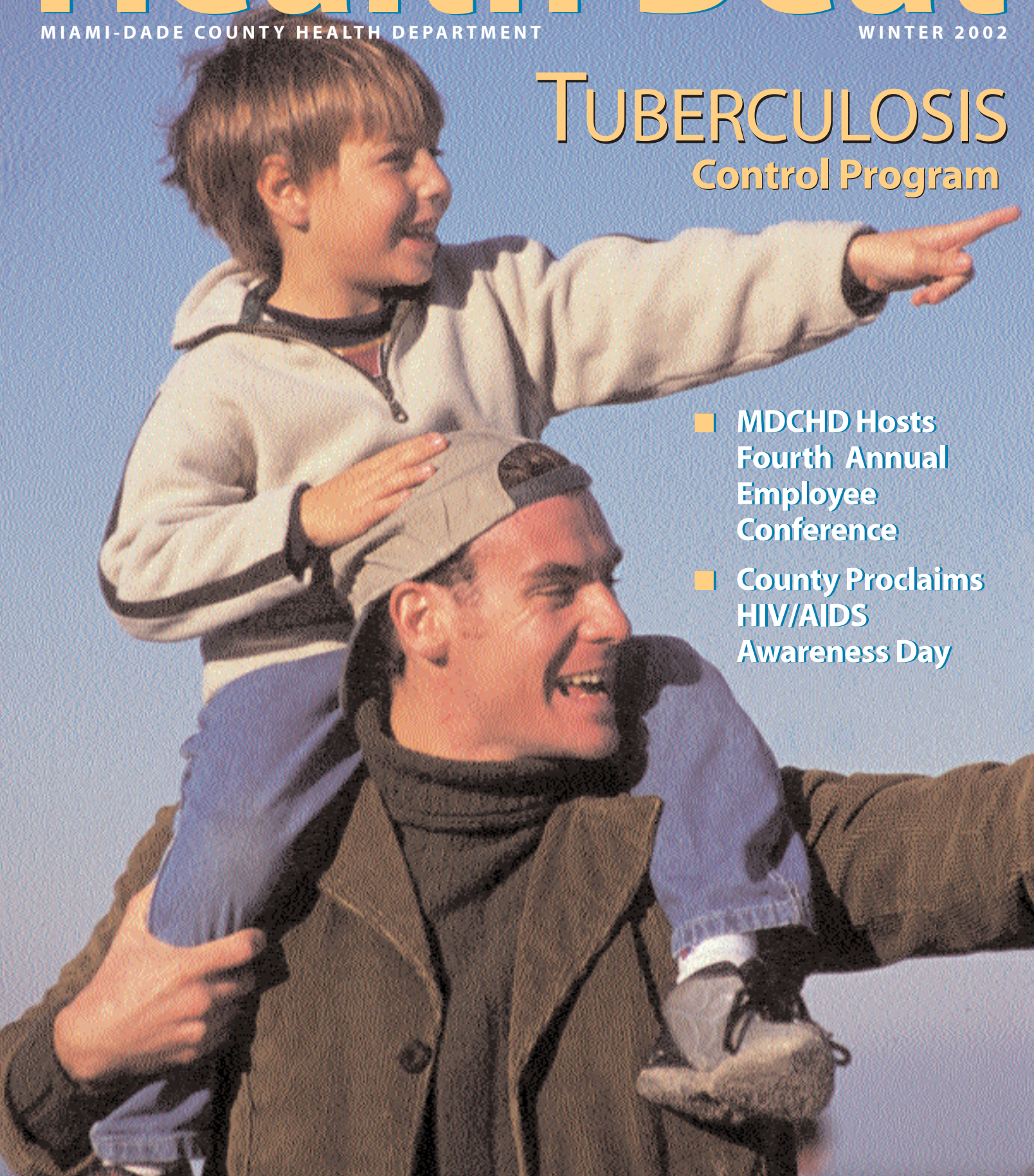
Health Beat

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WINTER 2002

TUBERCULOSIS Control Program

- MDCHD Hosts Fourth Annual Employee Conference
- County Proclaims HIV/AIDS Awareness Day



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A Message from the Director



James J. James,
M.D., Dr.P.H., M.H.A.

With the holidays near and the end of the year approaching, it is my pleasure to extend Seasons Greetings to you and your families. Beyond our wishes that you will enjoy a wonderful Holiday Season and continue in health and happiness throughout the New Year, there is another thought more directly related to what we do every day and that is our accomplishments over the course of this year.

And what a year we have had! Winning the Governor's Sterling Award is a credit to the dedicated men and women of the Miami-Dade County Health Department who accomplished the lofty objectives we set for ourselves. In addition, we helped make Florida number one in the nation in terms of terrorism preparedness. And, we continued to do our every day activities in promoting the health and welfare of our communities.

Now we look forward to what the New Year will bring. The construction of the West Perrine Clinic will be completed and the community will have easier access to services while our staff will be housed in a modern facility. In addition, the construction of our Little Haiti Clinic will begin. These clinics provide for new partnerships and opportunities within the community and serve as a model for quality health care going forward. In the budget arena we will see additional county funding for enhanced public health services. These include continuation of previously funded projects and new projects in the areas of bio-preparedness, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and testing for communicable diseases at the County Prison system.

It's not easy to be one of the largest health departments in the nation. We have endured some of the most trying times in our country and have not wavered. As a team we have overcome many obstacles and have clearly demonstrated we are "the best" and have achieved our goal of becoming "A World Class Public Health System." Now we must maintain our focus and direction to continue delivering quality services through Miami-Dade County while continuing to prepare for an exciting future in an ever-changing environment.

It is with very mixed emotions that I write this message for the Winter Newsletter, my last as Director of the Miami-Dade County Health Department, for I have accepted a position with the American Medical Association which will allow me to continue my work on Public Health Policy and in the broad area of Homeland Security and Disaster Response at the national level. I feel compelled to follow this calling throughout which I can contribute more to both my profession and country. Yet I cannot shake off feelings of disappointment and loss in leaving Miami-Dade County, in particular our Health Department Team. Disappointment in not being able to continue to work with you in achieving the goals we have set forth. I have a sense of loss in parting with friends and colleagues who have supported me during the last two years. I will never completely be able to separate from Miami-Dade County and you will always occupy a special place on the list of things I hold most dear.

I want to thank Governor Jeb Bush and Dr. John Agwunobi, Department of Health Secretary, for all of their support and trust during my tenure as Director of the Miami-Dade County Health Department at the county level. Mayor Alex Penelas, Manager Steve Shiver, our Board of County Commissioners, and the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation have proven to be indispensable sources of support and encouragement in achieving our mutual goals. But most of all I thank you for having given me the opportunity of working together in Miami-Dade County.

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Recipient of the 2002 Governor's
Sterling Award for Excellence

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS FIRST SMALLPOX FIELD EXERCISE

The Miami-Dade County Health Department successfully conducted its first smallpox field exercise on September 30, 2002. The purpose of the event was to prepare us for a biological event. Preparation commenced by securing actors and actresses to fill the roles of smallpox victims, contacts, relatives, nurses and first responders. Make-up and costumes were obtained. In preparation for the event, two dress rehearsals were conducted with the actors.

A telephone call went out to the Director of the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control, advising her about the suspected case of smallpox.

The doctor was instructed to go to the hospital site where the smallpox suspect was held in isolation. Upon arrival to the site, the doctor was greeted by a nurse (in costume) and given pertinent patient information. The doctor suited up and interviewed the patient (postals covered the patient's body) before confirming a likely case of the smallpox.

The doctor contacted the Health Department Director, Chief of Emergency Operations (for call down), the Chief of Epidemiology in Tallahassee, and the head of the Health Department Surveillance Team.

The Surveillance Team, represented by one medical doctor, interviewed the family members (one ill in bed) utilizing the twenty (20) page Center for Disease Control smallpox questions.

In an alternate location, a smallpox immunization clinic was established, where a nurse interviewed and immunized two first responders: the paramedics.

Following the event, an awards ceremony was held. Awards were given to all participants, including the evaluators of the event.

A videotape entitled, "Smallpox: A Field Exercise" was sent to Health Departments around the state of Florida. The tape was accompanied with a twenty one (21) page booklet on how other Health Departments can create their own bioterrorism field exercise. To secure a copy of the videotape and booklet, please contact via e-mail, Mort_Laitner@doh.state.fl.us

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HOSTS STERLING OPEN HOUSE

On November 1, 2002, the Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD), winner of the 2002 Governor's Sterling Award, opened its doors for a Sterling Open House. The Open House was an opportunity for area business leaders to visit the MDCHD and learn organizational strategies that contribute to performance excellence. The Governor's Sterling Award is presented annually to Florida organizations that are role models for quality business practices.

Features of the Sterling Open House event were an address by John Pieno, President of the Florida Sterling Council, and

breakout sessions showcasing best practices in the areas of Employee Satisfaction, Process Management, Customer Satisfaction and Information



and Analysis/Benchmarking. JoAnne Kroesen, Director of Organizational

Development, presented the MDCHD's Performance Excellence Journey and specific strategies used to deploy quality initiatives throughout the MDCHD.

The Open House participants took back ideas and lessons learned that could be utilized in their organizations.

For additional information on the Sterling Quality Journey, please contact Lisa Winchester, MDCHD Office of Organizational Development at 305-513-3482.

Contributing writer: JoAnne Kroesen, C.H.N. Consultant/Director, Office of Organizational Development.

Mayor's Health Challenge Seeks to Make Miami Physically Fit

Start looking for your running shoes because the first annual Mayor's Health and Fitness Challenge is coming. The yearlong event will kick off Saturday, February 1, 2003 at Crandon Park in Key Biscayne. Families can choose to participate in up to thirteen events throughout the year. These events include health fairs, health screenings, motivational speakers, stress reduction workshops, nutrition classes and cooking demonstrations.

Physical fitness in Florida is becoming a major concern. From 1986 to 2001 obesity increased 94 percent in adults and 110 percent in young adults aged 18-29, according to data obtained from The Obesity Epidemic in Florida a report released by the Department of Health (DOH). To make matters worse, Men's Health Magazine rated Miami the least healthy of 47 cities they surveyed. Compared to other cities like New York, Philadelphia and Houston, Miami has the highest incidence of heart disease, cancer and suicide.

"Loosing weight is not the focus of the Mayor's Health and Fitness Challenge," says Alex Penelas, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, "instead we hope to motivate people to adopt a healthier lifestyle...eating better, exercising, and participating in health screenings is a great way to start," he continued.

An active lifestyle brings many benefits with it. For example, routine physical activity decreases the chances blood vessels will become narrow or clogged, thus lowering total cholesterol and blood pressure. Exercise also strengthens the body's immune system making you more resistant to illness. Your mental health can benefit from regular exercise too. Physical activity relieves stress helping you to concentrate better and focus your thoughts.

For more information regarding the Mayor's Health and Fitness Challenge call 305-278-4151. You can also view their calendar of events and other relevant information at their website: co.miami-dade.fl.us/fitness.

Florida Baptist Mobile Dental Ministry Visits South Florida

A number of years ago John and Marcia Moylan made a decision. They left their lives in Kissimmee behind to make sure people could smile. As Mobile Dental Coordinators, the Moylans run the Florida Baptist Mobile Dental Ministry, which came to Miami this year from October 22 to November 2, 2002.

The Moylans are not strangers to medical care. In Kissimmee, Marcia was a Critical Care Nurse while John worked in the Tourism industry. Seeking for another way to give back to their community, Marcia discovered the Mobil Dental Van while volunteering in a homeless ministry. Within three weeks the pair were on the road as Mobile Dental Coordinators for the Florida Baptist Convention. John and Marcia are trained as chair side assistants to the different volunteer doctors they serve with each day.

While in Miami-Dade County the Dental Van was staffed by volunteer dentists through the South Florida District Dental Association, which, for the last 20 years, has served this project. Dr. Isabel Noy and her assistant Julissa Delgado performed simple fillings and extractions on the day they volunteered.

Other dentists from various clinics worked in four-hour shifts performing similar tasks: Dr. Jose M. Martinez, Dr. Jose L. Salgueiro, Dr.

Wayne Berry, Dr. Carl Lowell, Dr. Lynda Colaiizzi, Dr. Ronald Rohan, Dr. Carlos Sanchez, Dr. Gary Lubel, Dr. Juan C. Erro, Dr. Jose Garcia and Dr. John Raffel. Within the van, two complete dental workstations are available to volunteer dentists. Each station is capable of performing any procedure from amalgams to composite



Volunteers Dr. Isabel Noy (Right) and her assistant Julissa Delgado (Left) perform a dental procedure on a patient

fillings to extractions.

Built in 1999, the Mobile Dental Van brings quality dental care to those unable to afford or commute to traditional dental clinics. Dentistry professionals aided in the van's design, which travels around Florida enlisting local dentists to volunteer at each stop. "We are fortunate that the volunteer services program has the commitment of the dentists who give of their time to improve the health of others," stated Maria Ortega, the Volunteer Services Coordinator for Miami-Dade County.

For more information regarding the Mobile Dental Van call (800) 226-8584, extension 8251.



The Mobile Dental Van brings quality dental care to those unable to afford or commute to traditional dental clinics



Marcia and John Moylan, Mobile Dental Coordinators for the Florida Baptist Mobile Dental Ministry, pose next to the Dental Van

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HOSTS THE FOURTH ANNUAL EMPLOYEE EDUCATION CONFERENCE



Do you know “...good people are doing great things?” Well, after this year’s Employee Education Conference, you have to know. Our Fourth Annual Employee Conference on October 3rd and 4th at the Radisson Mart highlighted many of the accomplishments and contributions Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) employees made towards improving public health outcomes within our communities. This year, the MDCHD is especially proud of becoming the first health department in the state to win the Governor’s Sterling Award for 2002.



“The employee response this year has been very positive and overwhelming,” said Carol Wright Tanner, Director of Workforce Development and Conference Chairperson. “In reviewing the conference evaluations, you can feel the excitement and energy. What a wonderful place to work,” she continued.

Over 1000 employees attended the annual conference to celebrate their achievements and promote future success. A PowerPoint presentation of MDCHD programs helped to measure our progress in delivering quality health services to our customers. Displays set up in the Radisson’s banquet hall lobby helped to increase employee program awareness within the MDCHD.



Our advancements in combating bioterrorism came across as a skit portraying MDCHD’s response to a smallpox outbreak. Through the lighthearted rendition, employees gained a better understanding of the new procedures in place to contain and combat infectious diseases used in a terrorist attack.



“The employee response this year has been very positive and overwhelming,” said Carol Wright Tanner

New to the conference this year were breakout sessions allowing employees to choose from several topics the MDCHD offered such as: Stress Management, Career Development, Personal Budgeting and Generations in the Workplace. These sessions gave employees a chance to make the conference a unique experience.

Now we look forward to the Fifth Annual Employee Conference so we can again demonstrate our willingness to assist the residents of Miami-Dade County.

Contributing writer: JoAnne Kroesen, C.H.N.
Consultant/Director, Office of Quality Management



MDCHD Promotes HIV/AIDS Awareness and Education

In the twelve years since its discovery, AIDS has become one of the deadliest diseases in history. Last year alone AIDS claimed the lives of 3 million people worldwide and 40 million are now infected with either AIDS or HIV, according to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS.

With no cure or vaccine yet developed, education is the greatest weapon against this deadly disease. The Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) continues its campaign of awareness and education. During Hispanic Heritage Month the Department placed special emphasis on the epidemic in the Hispanic community. Over 24,000 Latin Americans are currently infected with the AIDS virus in Miami and 7,233 are reported to have contracted HIV, according to the Office of HIV/AIDS surveillance program.



Left to Right: Evelyn Ullah, Nancy Humbert, Latrina Williams, Kira Villamizer and Dr. Luis Miguel Garcia presenting the Hispanic HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Proclamation



Spanish News 41 interviews Oswaldo Curbelo, Coordinator for Educations Management Services from the Hispanic AIDS Awareness Program, regarding the "Infórmate Ya!" initiative



Initiatives by the MDCHD educate the community about how to prevent, treat and live with HIV and AIDS. Among these initiatives is "Ride The Bus..." a campaign developed during Black History Month where teams conduct HIV education and promote voluntary HIV counseling and testing at bus stops and on buses throughout Miami-Dade County. Their primary goal is to reduce the number of new HIV infections within Miami-Dade from an estimated 1,600 per year to 1,200 per year, with particular focus on the elimination of racial and ethnic disparities in these new HIV infections.

MDCHD's Office of HIV/AIDS is considering offering this outreach program once every three weeks, instead of monthly, due to its immense popularity. In addition to this program, the department plans to provide literature on how to properly use lubricants and free HIV testing cards in Spanish and Creole. The HIV/AIDS program continues to aggressively provide awareness and education to the Miami-Dade County Community. Miami-Dade County is a partner in this effort.



TB, Who are We? Where are we located?

Who are we?

The goals of the Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program are to identify and treat all persons with active TB disease, to identify, locate, examine and treat all infected contacts to active cases, and to ensure that persons with tuberculosis infection who are at a high risk for progressing to disease are identified and receive treatment, thereby preventing future occurrence of tuberculosis disease in Miami-Dade County.

While TB is an ancient disease, it is also one of the worlds deadliest. Each year, over 2 million people die of Tuberculosis worldwide. TB was once the leading cause of death in the United States but thanks to medical advancements in the 1940s, treatment of patients with TB became possible.

In calendar year 2001 MDC reported 291 cases of TB. This is approximately 25% of Florida's total reported cases.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND:

Currently the TB Program consists of a total of 63 employees. These employees are assigned to one of the three TB clinic sites. The sites are located at 1350 NW 14 Street (Buildings 2,8, and 9), Quail Roost Clinic serving the population in the southern end of the county located at 12330 Quail Roost Drive, and the little River Clinic at 300 NE 80th Terrace.

The TB Control program is made up of four major components Clinical Services, Field (Outreach) Services, Surveillance Services, and Administrative Support Services.

LATENT TB INFECTION:

All high-risk patients for TB including contacts to active cases of TB, who are referred to one of our clinics are evaluated. This includes an assessment examination, x-ray and further laboratory tests if needed. Once active TB is ruled out the patient is assessed for Latent TB Infection (LTBI) Treatment. LTBI treatment is 9 months of isoniazid therapy, with routine encounters with a nurse to ensure that the patient is not having problems and is on course to complete LTBI treatment.

TB CASE MANAGEMENT:

The TB Nurse Case Managers are responsible for the patient as soon as the patient is identified as either a suspect or diagnosed case of TB. The Nurse Case Manager is responsible for the patient's care from beginning to completion of treatment. Both the Nurse Case Managers and Health Service Representatives provide what is known as Directly Observed Therapy (DOT). DOT is the administration and or, observation of a patient taking medications in accordance with the physician's orders. This can be done in the clinic, patients home, work site, or at a prearranged location in the community.

FIELD SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

The Health Service Representatives also perform patient interviews, and carry out contact investigations. The one thing that all cases of TB have in common is that they were once a contact to an active case of TB. Therefore, performing contact investigations and ensur-



ing that contact referrals are made are very important in combating TB. Other activities are workplace screening, public health education, TB outreach to correctional facilities, drug treatment centers, Community Health Centers, and the homeless population.

Through the combined efforts of the Miami-Dade County Health Department's TB Control Program and similar programs around the globe it is hoped that one day TB may be eradicated worldwide.

Where are we?

The Tuberculosis Control Program is located near Jackson Memorial Hospital at 1350 N.W. 14th Street, Building # 2, Miami, Florida 33125. For more information on this program please call 305-324-2462.

Refugee Health Assessment Program Partners With Clinics To Provide Transitional Medical Services For Refugees

Over the past three months, the Refugee Health Assessment Program has been developing a partnership with the Borinquen Health Care Center and Dr. Rafael A. Peñalver Clinics to provide transitional medical services for refugees.

The Dr. Rafael A. Peñalver Clinic, located in Little Havana, and the Borinquen Health Care Center, located in Little Haiti, provide medical and dental care for the entire family. In addition to serving the medical needs of the community, the Dr. Rafael A. Peñalver Clinic also serves as an educational, cultural and social haven for the Little Havana community. While the Borinquen Health Care Center offers patients both scheduled and walk-in appointments. Added services from these two clinics allow eligible Cuban and Haitian refugees, entrants, parolees, resident aliens, asylum applicants, or those granted asylum to acquire health care assistance. Applicants for these services must reside in Miami-Dade County and are eligible to receive their health assessment in the United States within the first 90 days of arrival.

These services improve the health of the new arrivals, protect the community, and promote the final goal of economic self-sufficiency. It also aids families and individuals with effective resettlement in a short period of time following entry into the United States.

Full physical exams, electrocardiograms, blood pressure assessment, radiology, pharmacy services, laboratory analysis, x-ray interpretation, cardiopulmonary evaluation, abdominal and pelvic exams, and treatment for parasites are now available thanks to the clinic's partnerships.

Case management at the Refugee Center is responsible for the review of abnormal labs, scheduling appointments, following up on patient visits, and, if a patient requires continual treatment, referrals to primary care facilities.



Diverse language backgrounds of Refugee Center staff allow clients to be treated in a native language they are comfortable with.

Through the combined efforts of the Miami-Dade County Health Department and the Dr. Rafael A. Peñalver and Borinquen Health Care Center, we hope to serve the refugee population of Miami-Dade County and work towards their resettlement in the United States. For more information please call (305) 643-7300.

Contributing writer: Teresa E. Fernandez, Administrative Assistant III, Refugee Health Assessment Program

Congratulations, employees of the month!

Congratulations to the outstanding employees who were recognized for their exemplary performance and professionalism for the months of October and November. Our sincere thanks and gratitude for all the hard work you have put forth to make Miami-Dade County a healthy community.

October



Dr. Juan Lopez,
TB Control

November



Estela Garcia-Mesana,
Healthy Start

Congratulations To:

- Onelia Fajardo, Program Director at the Refugee Health Assessment Program, for the completion of her Doctorate in Business Administration
- Jackie Bassi for being featured in Miami-Dade Community College's "Successful Alumni" ads
- Evelyn Ullah, Director of the Office of HIV/AIDS, who was presented with the Community Leadership Award by Mayor Alex Penelas at the South Florida AIDS Network Third Annual World AIDS Day Luncheon 2002

Victory Day Educates Families on Healthy Living

On November 9, 2002, more than 10,000 youth and their families spent the day at the Miami-Dade County Fair and Expo Center, participating in Victory Day 2002.

The purpose of Victory Day was to provide youth the opportunity to make healthy choices as they mature into adulthood. Victory Day accomplished this by linking youth with mentors, prevention and education information, outreach services and career development opportunities. These resources were available along with live music acts, sports personalities and entertainment geared towards the youth of our community.

"We met our goal of providing youth the opportunity to link with needed services to achieve a personal victory," said Roland Gonzalez, Chairperson of the event. "We must continue to host community-based activities where the children and families of our community can receive needed information and assistance in an environment that is enjoyable and non-threatening."

The Miami-Dade County Health Department was a main sponsor, along with the Office of Mayor Alex Penelas, the Department of Children & Families, Miami-Dade County, Children Services Council, United Way of Dade County, the Dade County Public School System and many private businesses.

A VIP reception, sponsored by PhRMA-America's pharmaceutical companies, was held on site. Many of the sponsors, including the Miami-Dade County Health Department, were present and received awards for their support of youth outreach and intervention services.



Victory Day sponsors are recognized onstage



(right photo) Arnoldo Aguilera (Left) and Maria Ortega (Right) distribute KidCare information at a booth on Victory Day

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 Produced by MDCHD Office of Public Health
 Information, Legislative and Community Affairs



Miami-Dade County Increases Allocation to the Health Department

Each year Miami-Dade County Health Department (MDCHD) representatives go before the Board of County Commissioners to present a budget request for the department. The Office of Public Health Information, Legislative and Community Affairs coordinates this effort. Monies allocated and formally approved on that day by the County Commission and the Mayor provide additional funding for public health services at the Miami-Dade County Health Department. Funding for this year from the County Commission total \$2,070,588. The programs funded this year are:



Neighborhood Improvement	\$167,062	Public Health Sanitary Nuisance Program	\$101,616
Public Health Safe Streets	\$102,165	Rodent Control	\$400,000
Hepatitis A, B, C Prevention	\$189,326	Public Health Response Teams – CHAT	\$349,928
Immunization Van	\$90,831	AIDS Crisis Response	\$150,000
RARE Expansion / Project Share	\$135,000	Bioterrorism Response	\$158,000
Tuberculosis	\$70,160	Ride the Bus	56,500
Testing for Communicable Diseases in the County Prison System	\$100,000	Grand Total	\$2,070,588

The MDCHD would like to thank the Mayor Alex Penelas, Manager Steve Shiver and the Board of County Commissioners for their continued support of public health. Their contributions provide for enhanced public health services.