

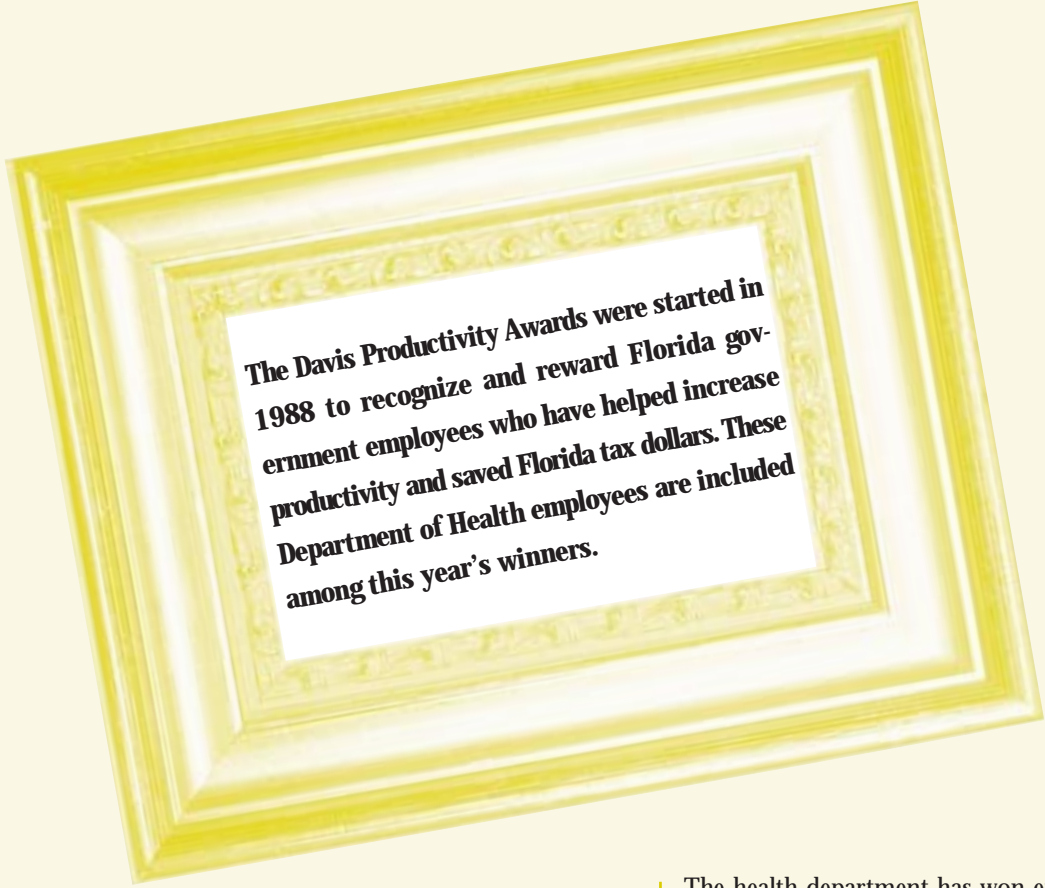
# the health advisor

Florida  
Department  
of Health

Mission: Promote  
and protect the  
health and safety of  
all Floridians.

Nov./Dec. 1999

The Department of Health serves Floridians and visitors with integrity, teamwork, accountability, professionalism, quality, caring and community partnerships.



The Davis Productivity Awards were started in 1988 to recognize and reward Florida government employees who have helped increase productivity and saved Florida tax dollars. These Department of Health employees are included among this year's winners.

## Distinguished Award, \$1500

RECONCILIATION DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (Bureau of Finance and Accounting, Division of Administration and Application Development; and Division of Information Resource Management) The team undertook the task of completing an automated reconciliation system.

## Notable Award, \$600

INFORMATION SECURITY TRAINING TEAM (Office of Performance Improvement) The team developed a multi-media training package used in training a large portion of department employees, saving travel and materials monies and training time.

## Notable Award, \$300

KEN RECH (Manatee County Health Department) Mr. Rech developed an inventory and reporting system for the Manatee County Health Department which tracks medications from the day ordered to the day used. This system saved valuable staff hours of manual data collection and tracking.

NORMAN E. MILLER (Marion County Health Department) Mr. Miller developed a module for recording and tracking medical record charts at the Marion County Health Department. The module improves the current system by enhancing the client's demographic data.

## Exemplary Plaque

PUTNAM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT The Putnam County Health Department responded to one of the most rapidly spreading outbreaks of serogroup C meningococcal disease described in the U.S. The immunization campaign was organized in less than 24 hours. Over 13,500 people were immunized over a three-day period and almost 500 people were prophylaxed.

## Exemplary Certificate

ST. LUCIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT The St. Lucie County Health Department received state recognition for financial recovery and innovative service programs.

The health department has won eight state awards for achievements connected with their agency strategic plan.

## Commemorative Plaques

J.C. "TIM" HAYNES (St. Johns County Health Department)

NORTHEAST FLORIDA CONSORTIUM (Clay and Baker County Health Departments)

STEVEN WIERSMA (Bureau of Epidemiology)

TONY RICHARDSON AND CARLOS MENDEZ (Bureau of Sexually Transmitted Diseases)

SUZANNE E. MORGAN (Wakulla County Health Department)

BARBARA CAMPBELL (Indian River County Health Department)

RADIATION CONTROL CONNECTIVITY TEAM (Bureau of Radiation Control)

TAMPA AREA FIELD INSPECTION OFFICE (Bureau of Radiation Control)

ANNA LATRESE HART (Office of General Counsel)

ROGER LUNT, BARBARA HYDE, AND SUSAN MCDEVITT (Bureau of Network Operations, Children's Medical Services; and Agency for Health Care Administration)

DONNA J. WALSH (Orange County Health Department)

KAREN ASHBURN (Office of the Secretary)

## Certificates of Commendation

FULL MEDICAL LICENSURE UNIT (Medical Quality Assurance)

DORIS WHIDDEN, DEBRA KIMBERLIN, AND CHARLES PALMINTERI, MD (Charlotte County Health Department)

DONOVAN THOMPSON (Sarasota County Health Department)

BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER PROGRAM (Bureau of Family and Community Health)

BUREAU OF LABORATORIES (Miami Branch, Dade County)

DEBORAH STILPHEN (Santa Rosa County Health Department)

## 1999 Davis Productivity Awards

### Y

ORA CHRISTINE SMITH (Santa Rosa County Health Department)

SAMUEL WILLIAMSON (Santa Rosa County Health Department)

SCHOOL HEALTH NURSING TEAM (Santa Rosa County Health Department)

URSULA BAUER, TAMMY JOHNSON, AND NATALIE TACKETT (Bureau of Epidemiology)

ANNA HARRIS (Orange County Health Department)

PATRICIA BURJONY (Pasco County Health Department)

TRACY O'NEAL (Wakulla County Health Department)

BOARD OF MEDICINE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT (Medical Quality Assurance)

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAM (Leon County Health Department)

MAX HINKLE (Sarasota County Health Department)

ADONISIA BRATHWAITE (St. Lucie County Health Department)

SHIRLEY ABBOTT, KYLE LANDES, AND OWEN MOBLEY (St. Lucie County Health Department)

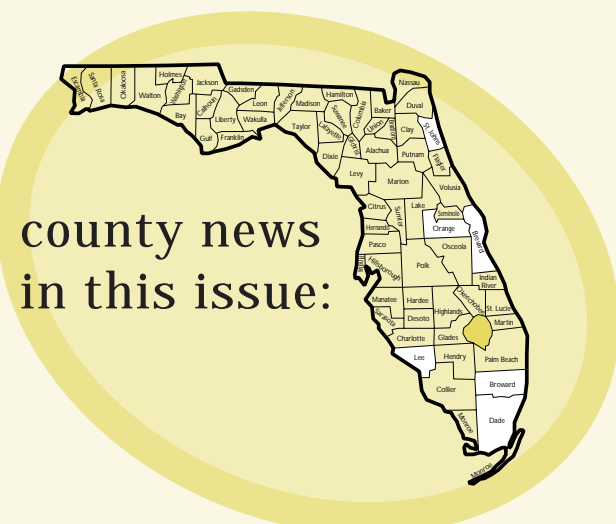
WIC NUTRITION UNIT STAFF (Bureau of Women, Infants, and Children and Nutrition Services)

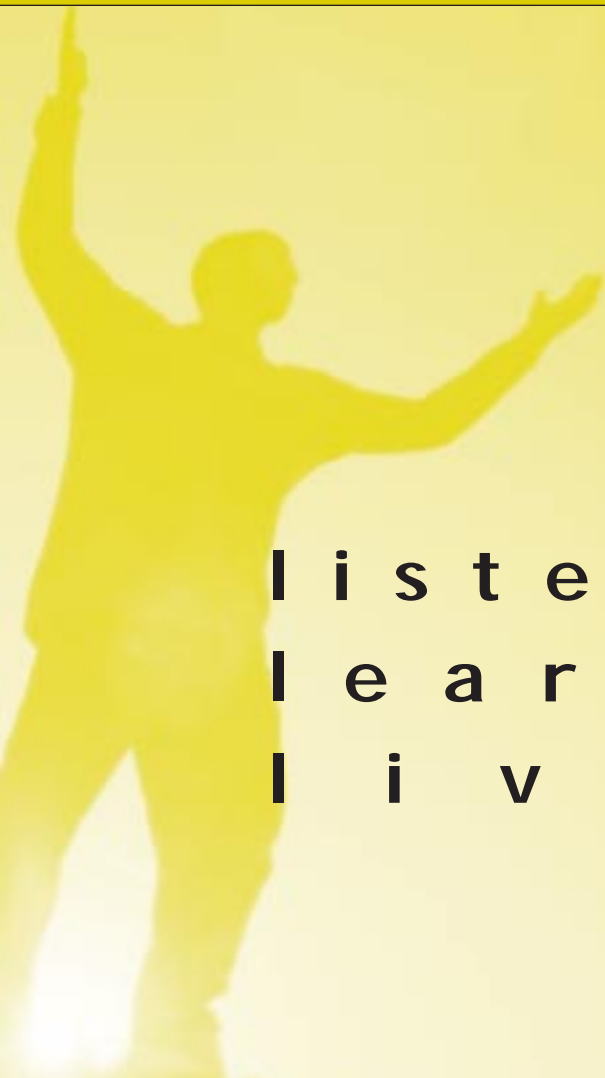
NO SCALPEL VASECTOMY PROJECT (Pinellas County Health Department)

EMS MATCHING GRANTS (Bureau of Emergency Medical Services)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION (St. Lucie County Health Department)

MORBIDITY REPORTING UNIT (Bureau of Sexually Transmitted Disease)





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prevention adds a new dimension to the challenges of prevention and education for health care workers and educators.

The good news is that the number of AIDS cases is declining, and more people are able to live longer and more productive lives with the HIV virus. The challenge this creates is an increased prevalence of HIV in the population — the more people who live with the virus, the greater the chance of spreading it becomes. For individuals at risk, this means that each risk behavior (e.g., having unprotected sex or sharing needles during IV drug use) carries an increased risk for infection.

Past prevention and education efforts have resulted in behavior changes in many individuals at risk and have slowed the epidemic overall. However, young people who have always known the reality of AIDS in their lives are becoming less concerned about infection than older groups who remember a time before AIDS. They may believe they no longer need to use condoms because protease inhibitors are so effective in treating HIV. The truth is, despite medical advances, HIV remains a serious and usually fatal disease that requires difficult and costly treatment regimens.

Most important in any discussion about HIV/AIDS in 1999 is that the long-term effectiveness of HAART is unknown. HIV may develop resistance to these drugs. The treatments which comprise HAART are complicated and involve large numbers of pills, perhaps causing even the most motivated patient to forget a medication or skip a dose at some point. HAART also causes a variety of side effects, which sometimes prompt patients to take a “drug holiday,” stopping their medication for a number of days or

weeks when they feel it's safe. It is not safe, and moreover, it is dangerous, because these drug treatments are less effective when the schedule is not followed. Also, someone who skips treatments may not only be harming themselves, but also others, since skipping treatments increases the possibility of drug resistance developing. That person could then conceivably pass a drug-resistant strain of HIV to others, resulting in a population of HIV-infected people for whom no treatment will be effective.

The conclusion is that although much progress has been made in the treatment of HIV, much remains unknown about the virus and the possibility of developing treatment to make it a lifelong, manageable condition. The best and most cost-effective way for

bringing the HIV/AIDS epidemic under control and saving lives remains prevention.

It's important to remember, particularly since World AIDS Day 1999 is focused on young people, that every new generation needs the information to help them avoid risk behaviors that could lead to HIV infection. Known as Primary HIV Prevention, this is a strategy in which the goal is to keep people from becoming infected in the first place. Secondary HIV Prevention, on the other hand, is conceived with the goal of keeping people who are HIV-infected healthy by teaching them to avoid opportunistic infections and stop the progression to full-blown AIDS. Secondary HIV prevention is also aimed at educating HIV-infected people on how to not infect other people. In both cases, a strategy aimed at making the right choices is most effective — as with any other health crisis or illness, no matter how easily treated, prevention is preferable, and prevention requires education of every generation.

It's important to remember, particularly since World AIDS Day 1999 is focused on young people, that every generation of young people needs the information to help them avoid risk behaviors that could lead to HIV infection.

Since 1988, December 1 has been observed as World AIDS Day. In the years since the first observance of World AIDS Day, many changes have occurred not only in the HIV/AIDS epidemic itself, but also in the way we

view the virus and the people who have it. Highly active anti-retroviral therapies (HAART, also known as combination therapy) have been successful to a large degree in suppressing the HIV virus in infected people, sometimes to undetectable levels. This has sparked a re-evaluation of HIV as a fatal disease, with many people arriving at the conclusion that HIV is no longer a serious health threat. This conclusion is incorrect, dangerous, and ultimately leads to the latest step in HIV education, combating complacency.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the availability and apparent success of treatment, mostly HAART, has lulled people into believing that preventing HIV infection is no longer important. This relaxed attitude about HIV

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## Florida nurses honored with variety of awards in 1999

The 57th Annual Public Health Nursing Leadership: Consultants, Administrators, Supervisors, and Educators (C.A.S.E.) Conference was held on May 25-28, 1999 in Daytona Beach, Florida. The Awards and Scholarship Committee, chaired this year by Steve Mason, R.N., Nursing Director, Monroe County Health Department (CHD), and staffed by Doris Putnam, Duval CHD; Linda Ryan, Martin CHD; Barbara Laidlaw, Sarasota CHD; and Margaret Awad, Gadsden CHD, gave three awards and one scholarship to four outstanding nurses.

### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE OF THE YEAR

**Martha Poorbaugh, R.N., Senior Community Health Nursing Supervisor** was awarded Public Health Nurse of the Year. Martha has worked in public health nursing for 19 years and is currently the Healthy Start Coordinator at the Martin CHD. As the Healthy Start Coordinator, she has implemented an innovative program that teaches responsible fatherhood for adolescent males who are sexually active, and she has established a public health nursing visitation program at a male residential facility for youthful offenders. Besides her work with Healthy Start, she is actively involved with childhood immunizations, school health, and health promotion for the residents of Martin County.

### OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP: NURSING SERVICE

This award is given to a public health nursing leader who has within the last two years planned, developed, or executed a unique or experimental program addressing a significant public health problem, or has been recognized by the community for their contribution to the field of public health.

**Mary Beth Drawbaugh, A.R.N.P., from Hendry/Glades CHD,** was presented with this year's award. She is an active team member, leader and participant in public health clinics and the community. Her leadership style is to develop working partnerships that interface with community organizations to optimize resource utilization to better serve rural communities. Drawbaugh has demonstrated her leadership ability to facilitate team process, in order to problem solve. She is currently involved in a community/health department initiative to increase family planning services, while decreasing barriers, for sexually active teens.



### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICE

This award is given to a nurse who has served in the field of public health nursing for a minimum of 10 years and whose documented contributions to the community's health has a far-reaching or ongoing significance.

**Mary Faith Patterson, R.N., Community Health Nursing Consultant with the Division of Family Health Services,** at Headquarters in Tallahassee, is the recipient of this year's Public Health Nursing Service Award. Patterson has worked in public health nursing for the past 16 years. During her years in public health, she has chaired the Nursing Section of the Florida Public Health Association and has been a nursing consultant at both the district and state level.

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

**Terry Ogilby, R.N., Nursing Director, DeSoto CHD** was awarded the Public Health Nursing Scholarship to assist her in expenses while attending the University of South Florida, Public Health Leadership Institute.

In addition to the 1999 C.A.S.E. awards, two other Florida nurses were also honored in their own communities.

### LEE NURSE AWARDED HIGHEST KIWANIS HONOR

**Jackie Vaughn, R.N., B.S., Senior Community Health Nurse at the Lee CHD,** has been awarded the highest civilian recognition given by the Kiwanis International Foundation, a 300,000 member service organization comprised of professionals in 79 countries.

The Tablet of Honor was presented for Vaughn's work in greatly raising the immune Nurse p. 4

## Immunization records linked statewide

All records in the local immunization module, for children ages newborn–12 are being added to the registry on a county-by-county basis.



The Bureau of Immunization began operating an Immunization Registry in May 1999 that now includes nearly 70,000 children from five test counties: Collier, Flagler, Jefferson, Madison and Volusia. These five county health departments can

now update, add, and share immunization records by accessing the registry.

All records in the local immunization module, for children ages newborn–12 are being added to the registry on a county-by-county basis. A system is currently under development to automatically add all Florida-born children. This will make it easier for healthcare providers to find children needing immunizations.

"It's working beautifully," says Dennis Hollingsworth, registry technical support staff with the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis. For example, "when we first added the immunization module databases from the five test counties to the registry, we found a client with a partial record in Madison who had moved to Collier. The records were reconciled, ownership placed in Collier, and now there is one complete record."

For Health Clinic Management System (HCMS) users, the immunization registry is a seamless addition to the immunization module. The module prompts users to search the registry only when the client is not found in the

local system. To find a client in the registry, the user must know the client's last name, first initial, date of birth, and sex.

Behind the scenes, the system does a better job of recognizing potential duplicate records and requiring staff to reconcile those records. In addition, even if an exact match is not found, the registry will give "close matches" so users can be absolutely sure they do not accidentally create a duplicate client. As more counties are added, immunization histories will be consolidated. This will be especially important for improving immunization services to children whose families move frequently, change providers, or regularly seek services in two or more counties.

To have the local immunization database added to the registry, a county must meet three requirements. First, the county must use the immunization module. Second, the computer system must operate in an NT systems environment, and third, the county must reconcile all potential and actual duplicate records in the HCMS system. Susan Lincicome, project director, says, "It's more important than ever to reconcile all potential and actual duplicate records found within each county's HCMS system. In some areas, like Hillsborough/Pinellas or Broward/Dade, this will be a challenging undertaking. Therefore, we will not add any county to the registry that has a high level of actual or potential duplicate records within the county's own database. Those records will contaminate the database." For the other two requirements, the fifty-five counties using the module should be transferred to an NT operating system by the end of the year.

While linking all health department immunization records is an exciting step, even bigger plans are on the horizon. Florida's Immunization Registry will eventually be open to all private sector licensed healthcare providers who offer childhood immunizations. These providers will be able to access the registry using an Internet link. "Adding private provider access will help us fully benefit from the potential of the immunization registry," says Henry T. Janowski, Chief, Bureau of Immunization. "The private sector gives over 70 percent of the vaccinations to children under two, and over 60 percent of all childhood immunizations. We look forward to having the private sector working with us to maximize immunization levels and protect Florida's children."

—Rae Hendlin

## CDC honors Florida teens

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has named winners of the 1999 "The Truth Unfiltered" youth media contest designed to encourage young people to creatively communicate tobacco and health information through the media. A plaque has been awarded to Sanford Middle School, Sanford, Florida for their students' outstanding participation in the youth media contest.

"Messages written by teens are a truly effective way for teens to communicate among themselves about the dangers of smoking," said CDC Director Jeffrey Koplan. "This is the fourth year of the CDC contest and it is always encouraging to see young people's eagerness to participate."

More than 3,000 submissions were received from public and private middle and senior high schools around the nation. Awards were given for best news story, feature article, editorial/commentary, editorial cartoon, TV and radio public service announcement (PSA), web site design, poster, essay, and educational video.

The contest grand prize winners — one from middle school and co-winners from high school — visited New York in mid-September for a VIP tour of MTV studios. In addition, several first place winning entries will be included in the CDC's national tobacco control Media Campaign Resource Center or promoted nationally on various Internet sites.

### GRAND PRIZE WINNERS

**Courtney Cafaro** and **Sergey Rakhmanov** at Armwood High School in Seffner won first place in the TV PSA category for their claymation video production and were selected as the grand prize winners for the senior high school division.

### BROADCAST JOURNALISM

Television PSA, Senior High Division, 1st Place: **Sergey Rakhmanov** and **Courtney Cafaro**, Armwood High School, Seffner  
Middle School Division, 3rd Place: **Tiffany Williams**, Southside Middle School, Jacksonville

Web Site Design, Senior High Division, 1st Place: **Julian Tomas Morales**, LaSalle High School, Coconut Grove  
2nd Place: **Justin Arnone**, Western High School, Ft. Lauderdale

Poster, Senior High Division, 2nd Place: **Emily Brock**, Martin County High School, Stuart  
Middle School Division, 2nd Place: **William McFarland**, Sanford Middle School, Sanford

### NAME YOUR IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY

The Bureau of Immunization wants you to help name the Immunization Registry. A name will make it easier to educate consumers and healthcare practitioners about the registry and its benefits. Select one of the names below or send your own creative suggestion. The results will be posted in a future issue of the Health Advisor. If your suggestion is selected you will be named and will receive a certificate highlighting your contribution.

### VOTE FOR ONE OF THE NAMES BELOW

i State Health Online Tracking System (SHOTS or FL-SHOTS)

i State Wide Immunization Registry Linkage (SWIRL)

i Florida Immunization Registry Statewide Tracking System (FIRSTS)

i Linked Immunization and Vaccination Electronic System (LIVES or FL-LIVES)

Or send your own suggestion! Send your response via email to [ester\\_lehmkuhl@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:ester_lehmkuhl@doh.state.fl.us)

## Health departments selected for national project

Three Florida County Health Departments were selected by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to participate in the review of a new health-planning tool developed by NACCHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): St. Johns County, Orange County, and Lee County. Through the review process, NACCHO and the CDC will be able to refine the planning and assessment package to better meet community needs. When finalized, the Assessment and Planning Excellence through Community Partners for Health model will assist communities in implementing a community-wide strategic planning process for community health improvement.

Dr. James Walker, director of the St. Johns County Health Department, noted, "The Florida Department of Health is taking steps toward requiring county health

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Dr. James Walker, director, St. Johns CHD

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Forty sites covering a broad range of sizes and demographics were chosen from across the nation to participate in the review. The St. Johns and Lee County Health Departments are included in the 29 sites designated for broad community participation in review of the planning instrument. Eleven sites, including Orange County, were selected to conduct only an internal staff review of the package. Work on the project will begin in early November. The project is expected to take eight to ten weeks to complete.

## Broward achieves 100% fluoridation

**BROWARD CHD** The City of Pompano Beach became Broward County's last community to adopt fluoridation of its drinking water when its City Commission voted 4-1 on July 14, 1998 in support of this public health initiative. Treatment equipment installed at the city's

water plant was started up on August 4, 1999, which brought to 35 the number of plants (100%) serving fluoridated water to an estimated 95% of Broward County's total population of 1.4 million. Dr. Richard Ames, Dental Executive Director of the Broward County Health Department was given the honor of initiating the start-up at the dedication ceremony.

The history of fluoridation in Broward County began in March 1972, at which time Dr. Ames was instrumental in getting the issue of fluoridated water on the National Primary ballot in Broward County. By a majority of approximately 2 to 1, voters supported this straw vote question, which prompted the Board of County Commissioners to adopt County Ordinance No. 72-17 on November 21, 1972 "requiring introduction of fluorides in all public water supplies in Broward County, Florida."

The initial implementation of fluoridation in Broward County took place on

October 29, 1974, when Dr. Ames "flicked the switch" to start adding fluoride at the Palmdale, Inc. water plant that served an unincorporated area located to the east of Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. The first municipality in Broward County to start adding fluoride was the City of Plantation, which began on December 16, 1974. It took the following 25 years to add the remaining water systems, one by one, to reach the 100% fluoridation milestone. This required efforts on the part of the Broward County Health Department to promote grass-roots support, and to get either commission/council adoption of fluoridation ordinances or city referendums approving adoption.

Local clinical studies confirm the benefits of water fluoridation in significantly reducing dental caries. With the achievement of 100% fluoridation, the ability to promote strong and healthy teeth in the entire population is enhanced.

For more information, contact Richard K. Ames, DDS, BCHD Dental Executive Director, at 954/467-4842 or Thomas K. Mueller, P.E., BCHD Environmental Engineering Director, at 954/467-4829.

—Thomas K. Mueller



### Did somebody say Ronald?

**MIAMI-DADE CHD** Recently Miami-Dade had a very welcome visitor to one of our clinics — Ronald McDonald. During the visit, he spent time with the children who had come to the clinic for physicals and immunizations. He also distributed food coupons and playthings that the children could enjoy, making them feel more comfortable in what is often an unpleasant environment.

The Miami-Dade CHD has long believed in the power of partnerships. These partnerships have enabled us to provide better services to the many people who need it. We look forward to the continuation of our partnership with McDonalds as we continue to protect the health of the children in our community.

— Barbara Adkinson

### Community partnerships work

**BREVARD CHD** On September 30, 1999, Dr. Heidar Heshmati, Director of the Brevard County Health Department, received a surprise recognition for accomplishments from Dr. Glenn Bryan, President of Florida Medical Association. During the opening of the Florida Medical Association, House of Delegates, Dr. Bryan recognized Dr. Heshmati for outstanding public health services through partnerships with the medical community, dental society and school board, which are:

**The Brevard County Volunteer Adult Dental Clinic**, now four years old, provides dental care to indigent clients, 21 years of age and older through the partnership of the Brevard County Dental Society, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners and the Brevard County Health Department. Currently, 83 dentists are volunteering to treat patients.

**The WE CARE program** provides specialized medical care by volunteer physicians throughout the county. Clients are referred to WE CARE through the PATH Clinic (Primary Access To Health). PATH provides care to indigent patients through the partnership between the Board of County Commissioners and the area hospitals, who provide all laboratory and radiology testing, and the Brevard County Health Department. This program is listed by the U S Government as a "Model that Works."

**All school children are provided access to medical services** through a partnership between the Brevard County Health Department and the Brevard County School Board. The health department employs and administrates either a nurse, LPN or health support technician for 76 of the 77 schools in Brevard. This is a "one-of-a-kind" program in the state.

### Florida SAFE

The Strikeforce Against Fraudulent Enterprises (SAFE) is a cooperative effort by state agencies, including the Department of Health, to combat white-collar crime in Florida. One SAFE initiative is a database located at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement containing every type of complaint information received by participating agencies. Initially, the database will contain only information subject to public release; however, once legal issues regarding confidentiality restrictions are addressed, all complaint and investigative information could be entered into the database. Only agencies that participate in the SAFE initiative will have access to the data. Once fully operational, the database should be a powerful tool for state agencies needing to check the backgrounds of individuals and companies we regulate or do business with. Secretary Brooks strongly supports the SAFE initiative and encourages all elements within the department to contribute to and make use of the complaint database. The DOH point of contact for SAFE is Van Page, Director of Investigations, in the Office of the Inspector General, 850/413-9499 or SC 293-9499.

— Van Page

#### Nurse from p. 2

nization rates for children in Lee County over the past seven years. She has had a \$1,000 gift made in her name by a donor in gratitude for dedicated support of Kiwanis.

#### REGISTERED NURSE PRACTICE AWARD

The Florida Nurses' Association presents the 1999 Registered Nurse Practice Award to **Priscilla "Paddy" Faucher, R.N.** Early in her career Faucher practiced in a critical care setting as a staff nurse before determining that she wanted to redirect her nursing path to prevention of illness rather than treatment once patients are in crisis. Since 1977, Faucher has provided public health services through the Orange CHD. Her mother, a registered nurse, has mentored her all along her journey, which has led to a career respected by nursing colleagues, public health colleagues, and those for whom she has cared. In addition to fulfilling her role at the Health Department, Faucher finds the time and energy to volunteer at the Homeless Clinic in Orlando, be active in District 8 activities, and be an activist within her community.

### the advisor

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Robert G. Brooks, MD, Secretary

Please send stories for the March/April issue, preferably on disk or by e-mail, to Kay Green by February 1, 2000.  
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