

Inaugural Graduation Makes History for CHI

The Brodes H. Hartley Jr. Teaching Health Center graduated two residents during its inaugural graduation and white coat ceremony on June 20th. Dr. Hilary Gerber and Dr. Patricia Nuñez are the first to finish the program. Dr. Gerber has already passed her boards, a significant accomplishment for her and for Community Health of South Florida, Inc. Dr. Nunez will officially finish her residency in December, but walked across the stage in celebration with Dr. Gerber.

"Today marks a major milestone for CHI," said Brodes H. Hartley Jr., President and CEO. "the seeds that we planted three years ago are blooming!"

Back then, CHI was the first teaching health center at a community health center in the state of Florida. The graduation was significant for the federally qualified health center because when it started the

process to become a teaching health center the project seemed overly ambitious.

"At first it seemed to be mission impossible because we were told of the long wait and the long process in order to become accredited and if we had to wait that long we would miss the opportunity for the grant," recalled Hartley.

But the team pulled together and built the program with the help of partners like Larkin Community Hospital. Sandy Sosa, Larkin CEO, spoke to the graduates.

"I hope you will tell everyone to take this road less traveled," she said.

By 2020, the nation is expected to face a major shortage of physicians. Programs like this help grow and retain doctors where they are needed most.

As Gerber received her certificate and a standing ovation, her two boys watched in admiration.

"I think it's amazing. I know she's done a lot here and I know it was pretty hard," said 12 year- old Zachary Thomas. "I think it was pretty cool that she got an award and she got to graduate."

Dr. Gerber told the audience, that many ask her how she was able to



(L to R) Barbara Trost, GME Programs Mng., Dr. Elizabeth Philippe ADME, Dr. Susan Manella DME, Dr. Hilary Gerber graduate, Brodes H. Hartley Jr. President/CEO, Dr. Saint Anthony Amofah, CMO, DIO.

accomplish so much as a single mother. "The truth is that I juggle," said Dr. Gerber. "I drop the ball and sometime they roll under the couch. None of this would have been possible without my family."

As two graduates leave the program, five more entered it that night with a special white coat ceremony.

"The white coat symbolizes the virtues of altruism, responsibility, duty, honor, respect and compassion," said Dr. Saint Anthony Amofah, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Academic Officer. "It inspires confidence and trust and today we place our confidence and trust in the five new residents who will wear these white coats."



*(L to R) New residents:
Dr. Kelly Mudon, Dr. Michael Taylor,
Dr. Jacob Lyon and Dr. Julia Ray.*



A Message from the President

The graduation of our first class of residents from the Brodes H. Hartley Jr. Teaching Health Center is a milestone for this organization and one that should make us all proud. The historic event is a truly amazing accomplishment. Even before graduating, Dr. Hilary Gerber passed her boards! In addition, Dr. Howard Pratt is our first resident to be accepted into a child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship program. This is the key to getting him additional board certification in this sub-specialty. Beyond that, the start of our third class of residents continues to build upon our success.



This speaks to the strength of the program and the professionals who built it and keep it growing. I am humbled to have the program named after me by the CHI Board and my colleagues. I hope that my vision and devotion to teaching will help the Teaching Health Center continue to flourish.

It is the time of the year when many families are turning their focus back to education as we round out the summer. Community Health of South Florida, Inc. kicks off another exciting National Health Center week August 12th- August 19th. We use these events as a vehicle to bring our high-quality services to the community and help educate families about the importance of preventative care. CHI and community health centers like us play a significant role in ensuring access for all to health care. Our fairs offer free health screenings, school supplies and entertainment for the whole family. We also host school physical day at all of our 11 sites with free vaccines and a physical for just \$30. This year we are also holding special events to recognize our law enforcement officials who risk their lives for us every day and often help bridge the gap by bringing people in for behavioral health and medical care at CHI. We are also planning a special recognition for our religious leaders. Aside from the spiritual strength that they bring us, many of them also educate our communities about the importance of healthcare and the services that CHI provides. They say "it takes a village," and together we are making big things happen.

Sincerely,

Brodes H. Hartley Jr.
President/CEO



NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK **FREE** FESTIVITIES JOIN US AND BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY



August 12 Back to School Health Fair at the **Doris Ison Health Center** 10300 SW 216 St. Miami FL 33190 10am-2pm Free health screenings, backpacks, school supplies, family fun, entertainment and lunch.

August 12 School Physical Day for Monroe County at **Tavernier Health Center** 91200 Overseas Highway, #17 Tavernier, FL 33070 from 8:30am to 12:30pm and at **Marathon Health Center** 2855 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050 from 10am-2pm. School physicals just \$30 and Immunizations are Free!

August 16 Migrant Health Fair at **Everglades Housing Community Center** 19308 SW 380 St. Homestead, FL 33034 from 10am-2pm. Free health screenings, backpacks, school supplies, family fun, entertainment and more.

August 18 Chapman Partnership for the Homeless Health Fair 28205 SW 124 Court, Homestead, FL 33033 (closed to the public) 10am-2pm

August 19 School Physical Day for Miami Dade County at all CHI health centers in Miami Dade from 8:30am to 12pm. School physicals just \$30 and Immunizations are Free.

CHI Honors Its Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care Parents

At the age of just 15, Jessie (named changed to protect his identity) brought nearly everyone in the crowd to tears. He paced back and forth as he told the audience his story, passionate about his journey and the obstacles he's had to overcome in his young life thanks to the help of his foster father.

"My parents had used drugs when I got taken away," recalled Jessie. "I went to one foster home. But I was still the same person. I was a bad person, doing things I wasn't supposed to do. I came to Walter's home and he changed my whole perspective of life. He showed me a whole different world that I never knew was possible."

Now after two years in Community Health of South Florida, Inc.'s (CHI) specialized therapeutic foster care program (STFC) Jessie is reunited

with his biological parents and living a healthy life. He is still very close to his foster father, Walter Cabral and spends time with him. This success story was one of many told at the first annual brunch to honor CHI's foster parents. The organization has a total of 24 specialized therapeutic foster homes, double the number from previous years and now CHI is considered the largest therapeutic foster care program in Broward and Miami Dade Counties.

"This event is designed to show you, at least in some small manner, how much we appreciate what you do day in and day out for these children," said Brodes H. Hartley Jr., CHI President and CEO.

The STFC program is designed for kids who need intense therapeutic services. Many are victims of



Allyson Peckins, Department of Children and Family Services and Alina Navarro, Foster Parent of the Year.

domestic violence, neglect, abuse and abandonment. CHI trains its team of foster parents to handle severe emotional outbursts and trauma with the hope of healing these broken families.

It's not a job for the weak. Yet many of the foster care parents have played a role in this labor of love for years, including Nelia and Alfredo Iglesias, both in their 80's.

"We have to be patient and loving and be there for the children when they need it," said Nelia Iglesias. "You give love and discipline."

Some end up adopting their foster child, such as CHI's foster parent of the year, Alina Navarro.

"If they can just learn one thing from each one of us, their lives will be better for it," said Navarro. "I want to thank the staff. All of you guys are amazing."



CHI's foster parents, staff and community partners take a photo after the foster care brunch.

CHI Recognizes Veteran Employees for Their Service

Community Health Center of South Florida, Inc (CHI) recognized its Military Veterans for their service to our country and to CHI. More than 20 of these brave men and women in all departments such as family medicine, security, human resources, and more have brought their talents to help fight for quality and convenient care for the residents in South Florida. CHI's President and CEO, Brodes H. Hartley Jr., served in the military for almost 30 years and recognizes the benefits of a military background in the workforce.

"Veterans bring integrity, tenacity, values and dedication to work," said Hartley. "They fought for freedom and so much more. As a result, they have a great appreciation for what we have here in our communities and at work at CHI."

Many of the CHI Military Veterans said they pull from lessons learned during their service and apply them on the worksite. Maurice Hamilton Sr., is Chief of Security at CHI. Hamilton has been with the organization for 29 years and served in the Air Force from 1983-1989. Starting as an Airman 1st class and ending his service as a Sergeant.

"The hardest part for me was basic



(left to right)
Gregory Ivey, psycho-social rehabilitation counselor,
Sentel Mays, human resources recruiter,
Armando Hall, laboratory manager.

training. But after it was done I understood why I had to go through it," said Hamilton.

The discipline and strategy for life threatening situations have integrated well into applications for his everyday duties on the job.

Sentel Mays shares Hamilton's opinion. Mays is a Human Resources recruiter at CHI. Mays served in the Air Force from 2010-2016 and worked in areas of maintenance, personnel, and accounting. He started as an E1 and ended his service as a Senior Airman known as an E4.

"My biggest obstacle was basic training but I learned discipline, chain

of command, organization, and communication," said Mays. "I use those skills today to impact the community in a positive way at CHI."

CHI is proud to recognize these individuals and is honored to have them as part of the team. CHI offers veterans preference in hiring. CHI would also like to thank military veterans nationwide for their contribution and the many that have lost their lives, but have impacted the lives of others.

CHI Salutes its Military Veteran Employees

Roxana Y. Brehm
Rolando Colon
Shae J. Dunbar
William D. Flores P.A.
Kenneth T. Geffrard
Armando Hall
Maurice M. Hamilton Sr.
Brodes H. Hartley Jr.
John Hazuka
Aldo F. Hechavarria
Gregory J. Ivey
Jamil R. Jabbar
Addie L. Jones
Alexander J. Lacount
Guetty Louison
Sentel X. Mays
Aaron Moore
Joseph T. Morelli M.D.
Anthony C. Ramos
Fred Thomas



*Feeling sick but the doctor is closed?
Visit CHI Urgent Care Centers
2 Locations Near You Open Late*

Doris Ison Health Center
10300 SW 216 St.
Miami FL 33190
(305)252-4880
Mon.-Sun. 3pm to 10pm

Martin Luther King/Clinica Campesina Health Center
810 W. Mowry Dr.
Homestead FL 33030
(305)242-6006
Mon.-Fri. 3pm to 10pm

Accidents, falls, cuts, flu, sore throat, rashes, infections and more!