

## CHI Weathers the Storm

Outside the sign for the Community Health of South Florida Inc. Marathon Health Center is a mangled piece of metal and unrecognizable. Its plastic contents were taken somewhere else by the fury of Irma's hurricane force winds. Yet the structure of the health center is intact and inside new life is brewing, quite literally. Firdes Ozdemir is just weeks away from giving birth to her first child and she is being examined by Dr. David Forest during her first post-hurricane Irma visit.

"It's a really big comfort, a safety, it feels like a big comfort for a woman like me who is 9 months pregnant," said Ozdemir.

She is one of many patients relieved to see the Marathon Health Center back up and running. The nearby hospital had been down due to destruction. For many, CHI's Marathon Center was a ray of hope amid so much loss.

"We had a patient who was so glad that our pharmacy had reopened after Irma," said Flor Sanguily, Logistics Manager. "At the commercial pharmacy, his medicine was more than \$400. But with our pharmacy, he was able to get it for \$75. We worked very hard to re-open all of our sites quickly because we knew our patients desperately needed



*Dr. David Forest examines Firdes Ozdemir at Community Health of South Florida's Marathon Health Center.*

access to our pharmacies and services."

It was an intensive effort by all staff to restore the health centers to services and be able to come back to work themselves. For nearly 10 staff members living in the Keys, the challenge was even greater. They had lost everything, their homes, their belongings.... Everything.

"It's difficult. Trying to reestablish your living quarters which have been underwater, roofs removed and all your personal belongings destroyed," said Rick Henderson, RN, Marathon Health Center site manager.

But for Henderson, returning to work was somewhat therapeutic as he struggled to cope with his own personal losses.

"I like being here, especially with my work and helping the others that have survived," he said. "It gives me a good feeling of purpose and well-being for helping everyone."

It was stories like these that made restoring services at all of CHI's 11 health centers and 35 school based centers a labor of love, wrought with urgency and intensity. CHI has been the safety net for the community for more than 45 years. For more than 30 of those years, Brodes H. Hartley Jr. has been at the helm as President and CEO of the non-profit, federally qualified health center. The former Army Colonel pushed to open services just one day after hurricane Andrew. Now 25 years later, Irma was pushing his patience. Power outages and downed trees prevented the main site, Doris Ison Health Center, from opening until two days after Irma. The following day, three more health centers reopened and the rest followed suit shortly after.

"CHI is the community's resource and we understand that comes with great responsibility," said Hartley. "Our staff persevered despite a very challenging situation. Together we used our own ingenuity and passion for patient care to overcome some tremendous hurdles."

# A Message from the President

On November 3rd we received encouraging news that U.S. Congressional leaders voted to extend funding for community health centers, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), National Health Service Corps and Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education Programs. The extension would fund these critical programs for another two years. This was a bi-partisan effort to ensure our most vulnerable patients would continue to have access to high quality healthcare. The bill will now go before the Senate. I am optimistic that the Senate will find bi-partisan support as well.

But we still need your advocacy efforts. Stay tuned to CHI's social media sites: Facebook and Twitter. Plus, you can also find updates and more information on the issue at [www.nachc.org](http://www.nachc.org).



Again, thank you all for your commitment and support,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brodes H. Hartley, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Brodes H. Hartley, Jr.  
President/CEO

## Grow with us!



## Pediatrics

(786) 272-2100

6 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

Extended Evening and Weekend Hours

Most insurances accepted

Sliding Fee Scale for Uninsured



Correction: In the prior newsletter edition it said CHI is estimated to have an economic impact of nearly \$125,000. That number should read \$125,000,000.

# South Miami Health Center Expansion

The South Miami Health Center is expanding to meet the needs of its patients. The 3rd floor just received a major renovation complete with colorful and relaxing lobbies, kid friendly exam rooms and more. Now pediatrics and behavioral health services will begin working out of the third floor. Primary care and dental services will remain on the second floor. In addition, Dr. Tanya Roman, Chief of Pediatrics, will be working full-time at South Miami. The board-certified pediatrician is proficiently skilled in the care of newborns, children and adolescents.

“I am so excited to be at South Miami,” said Dr. Tanya Roman. “This is a beautiful new pediatric center. It’s a wonderful place for kids to have everything done in one location. It is

comprehensive convenient care for kids.”

Parents can bring their child to the pediatrician and the pediatric dentist on the same day at this location. Not to mention, they can see their own primary care doctor. The third floor is also the new home for behavioral health services for both adults and children. The South Miami Health Center makes everything easy and even has free valet parking.

CHI also recently beefed up its extended hours for pediatrics to ensure that all of its health centers with pediatrics have evening and or weekend hours to accommodate more working parents. To make an appointment call (305)252-4820.



*Dr. Tanya Roman, Chief of Pediatrics, will now be based out of the South Miami Health Center.*

## Awards and Recognitions



*President / CEO Brodes H. Hartley Jr. was inducted into the Florida Federation of Alpha Chapters Hall of Fame. (Alpha Phi Alpha) (center with award)*



*Environmental Services employee Julio Coronado received the ACTION Hero award for his “can do” attitude and always going out of his way to help. (Left to right Brodes H. Hartley Jr., Pres./CEO, Julio Coronado, Flor Sanguily, Logistics Manager)*



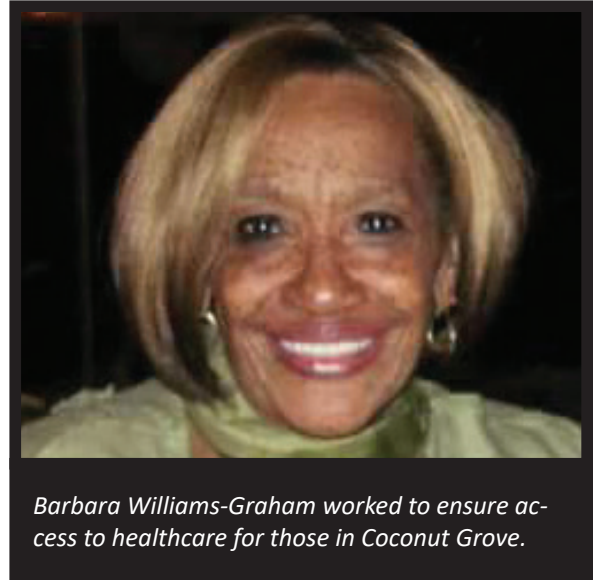
*Dr. Oscar D. Pozo, a psychiatrist at the Doris Ison Health Center received the lifetime achievement award from the Nicaraguans American Medical Association. (center with award)*

## Community Advocate Was Dedicated To Healthcare For All

Barbara Williams-Graham was considered a guardian angel to the Coconut Grove Community, as she was giving, selfless and a big proponent of ensuring access for all to quality healthcare. She passed away on September 11, 2017.

“Ms. Williams-Graham lived her life serving others and speaking up for those who needed help,” said Brodes H. Hartley Jr., CHI President and CEO. “She was instrumental in helping to form a bridge between the Helen B. Bentley Health Center and Community Health of South Florida, Inc. We are indebted to her for being a champion for healthcare.”

Williams-Graham began her career in the early 70s and worked for Miami’s Equal Opportunity Program Inc. and later with the Community Action Agency. She also served on Community Health of South Florida Inc.’s Advisory Board in Coconut Grove. The community advocate helped to develop the Helen B. Bentley Community Health Outreach and Referral Program. As a result, she was given the United Way American Values Award. Williams-Graham was a member of the Greater St. Paul AME Church. Also known affectionally as, “Speckled Red” she was recently inducted into the Coconut Grove Sports Hall of Fame.



*Barbara Williams-Graham worked to ensure access to healthcare for those in Coconut Grove.*

She is survived by her son, Corey Harrell, and her companion, Horace J. Graham.

## Dental Assistant Lived Life To Its Fullest



*Maria Del Carmen Tejada passed away in September leaving her family at home and at work in mourning.*

CHI is saddened by the loss of its dental assistant, Maria Del Carmen Tejada. She was a hardworking, dedicated and responsible employee. Tejada was born in Oaxaca, Mexico and a loving mother to three children. She is described by her family as giving, strong and compassionate. Her humor was known to put a smile on the faces of those who knew her.

“She was a highly valued and respected member of our team and the effects of her passing are already being felt here by fellow team members and management,” said Roxana San Roman, CHI Dental Office Manager. “Maria was passionate about her family, about her work and her life. She always strove to do her best, to live life to the fullest, and appreciate the richness of human experience.”

Tejada is survived by her children: Stephanie Tabares, Yazid Tejada and Omayra Tejada.

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