

## CHI CELEBRATES GRAND RE-OPENING OF MARATHON HEALTH CENTER



*CHI leaders flanked by community leaders celebrate the ribbon cutting at the newly renovated Marathon Health Center.*

A crisp, cool evening in Marathon didn't keep hundreds of people away from the grand re-opening celebration at Community Health of South Florida, Inc.'s Marathon Health Center.

The new state of the art center at 2805 Overseas Highway MM 48.5, Marathon, FL 33050 received a makeover from the inside out to provide a pleasant, serene atmosphere for patients at a convenient location. It is just next door from CHI's old Marathon Health Center.

President and CEO, Brodes H. Hartley, Jr. cut the ribbon surrounded by local leaders.

"This is a momentous occasion that brings me great joy," said Hartley. "It was important to us that we ensure the people of the middle Keys have a beautiful medical home with the convenience of all the services that they need in a modern, sleek facility."

Leaders like Marathon Mayor, Steven Cook, toured the facility for the first time to see the dental operatories, family medicine, pediatrics and OB/GYN exam rooms, behavioral health telehealth room, laboratory, pharmacy and more.

"To see all of the work that you guys have done, I'm just amazed," said Mayor Cook. "It's so nice to have a choice for healthcare, something that actually improves the fabric of our entire community."

Daniel Samess, CEO of the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce was also on hand for the ribbon cutting.

"This is what the Marathon Chamber is all about in this community: expanding and improving our healthcare solutions and tools for our visitors here," said Samess. "I really am proud of CHI and the upgrades they made to the beautiful building."

The million-dollar renovation is thanks to a Health Resource and Services (HRSA) Grant to expand dental, behavioral health and pharmacy services.

The grand re-opening celebration included the talented musical stylings of John Bartus and delicious food from Irie Island Eats. Everyone seemed to have a great time.

"What a beautiful event and perfect evening," said Marianne Finizio, Vice President of Community Relations and Business Development at CHI. "I enjoyed watching the CHI team proudly showing off our new facility. It was a great introduction for our community and many of our partners throughout the county to see and learn more about the wide array of services that CHI offers in the Keys."

# A Message from the President



One of my greatest inspirations has always been Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was a man of service and advocated for all people. He gave of himself to speak out for those in need. In the 1960's, he was quoted as saying "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhumane because it often results in physical death." Today, his words still ring true. But the options for access to care have changed. Today I'm proud to say that organizations like Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) are closing that gap to care and ensuring that everyone - regardless of race or income level has access to high quality, compassionate healthcare.

In February, we celebrated leaders such as Dr. King, by doing a Black History Month speakers bureau series on ending health disparities among African Americans. Our doctors spoke at four churches and our outreach team conducted free health screenings to help educate the community about key issues such as hypertension, diabetes, smoking, high-cholesterol, depression and HIV/AIDs. If you missed those events you can still catch one of our doctors speaking at Bethel Church on March 15th during the 9am service. The address is 14440 Lincoln Blvd., Miami, FL 33176.

As we roll into 2020, our vision is to continue advocating for equality in healthcare. We have ordered a new custom mobile medical unit to provide primary care and behavioral health access to the homeless and the hard to reach communities. The new unit will take our services to people outside of our health center walls. This will be our second mobile unit. Our mobile dental trailer treats about 3,000 adults and children a year at schools, daycare centers and communities throughout South Florida.

The recent ribbon cutting for our newly renovated Marathon Health Center was a welcome addition to the Middle Keys community. Plus, we are planning on opening centers in Key West's Bahama Village and in Key Largo. This continued growth is part of our commitment to ensure everyone has access to healthcare.

Greetings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brodes H. Hartley, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brodes H. Hartley, Jr.  
President/CEO

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# CHI CARES FOR HUNDREDS OF KIDS WITH FREE DENTAL CLEANINGS



Julianna Tajiboyajpacaj, 6 years old, gets her teeth cleaned and examined at CHI's Give Kids a Smile Day

Not many children rejoice about going to the dentist. But for six-year-old Julianna Tajiboyajpacaj it was a welcome treat.

“She was very happy to be here,” said Felipa Ajpacaja, Julianna’s mom. “She enjoyed it!”

Ajpacaja said her daughter often complained of toothaches. But the financial expense of going to the dentist was a challenge for the family that recently moved to South Florida from Guatemala. So, when she saw the Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) flyer for Give Kids a Smile Day, offering free dental cleanings and exams, she knew where she would take Julianna.

“It is a very big help, said Ajpacaja. “I used to take my daughter to a dentist, but because I can’t afford it, we haven’t been. Coming here and getting that service for free meant a lot.”

It turns out that Julianna had a cavity in nearly every one of her teeth. And she is not alone, many of the children seen on February 7 at the six participating health centers were in desperate need of dental work.

“It’s heartbreaking and rewarding,” said Dr. Sheri Watson-Hamilton, CHI’s Director of Dental Services. “I felt like we really were able to get some of the kids that probably haven’t

seen the dentist since their teeth came in.”

CHI cared for nearly 200 kids on Give Kids a Smile Day.

Dr. Watson-Hamilton said her team also saw children with serious underlying issues with their periodontal health.

“We saw three kids that had advanced juvenile periodontitis,” she said. “That is advanced bone loss where they will need to have those teeth removed.”

In all those cases, including Julianna’s, the CHI team made follow-up appointments and linked some to specialists to ensure their dental needs are cared for moving forward. As many of those families were uninsured, CHI outreach teams were on hand that day to help enroll families into insurance and other benefit programs to help them out. Those who were uninsured are also able to take advantage of CHI’s sliding fee income-based scale which assigns payment pricing based on one’s income.

For more information on CHI’s dental services go to <https://www.chisouthfl.org/services/dental-services/> or call (786)272-2100.



The South Miami Health Center Dental team is all smiles as they prepare to care for children on Give Kids a Smile Day. (L to R) Lucille Danta, DFSS, Lisa Campbell DDS, Alejandra Miranda DDS., Juliette Calderon-Rodriguez, Dental Assistant, Sandra Pilla, Dental Assistant.

# HOW TO SAVE A CHILD WITH A GAME OF GOLF



*It's a team effort for Glen Rice and friends as they golf to raise money for a children's crisis center.*

Nearly every day, the Crisis Center at Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) sees a child brought in by his or her parents or school police because of a mental health breakdown. Usually the child is at risk of harming themselves or others. It's a particularly difficult situation because the adult Crisis Unit at CHI is not equipped to see kids. So, it might be hours before that child is transferred to a children's crisis facility with an open bed.

If the thought of bringing your child to an adult crisis center is frightening to you, it is that and more for the parents of nearly a thousand children put in this position every year. With their child's emotional health spinning out of control, many of these parents are grasping for a turning point, a place that can make a meaningful urgent change in their child's behavioral health when all seems hopeless. This moment in time can be the difference that sets

them on a healing path for life or further compounds a severe problem.

It might seem like a stretch to say that golf could be the solution. But when dozens of golfers and celebrities tee off at the Biltmore golf course on April 3, 2020, they will be swinging away for this very cause. The annual CHI Glen Rice Celebrity Golf Tournament will help fund the building of the first children's crisis center in southern Miami-Dade County.

"These children can't wait any longer," said Brodes H. Hartley, Jr., President and CEO. "We have to join forces and ensure they have access to quality, comprehensive, compassionate intensive behavioral healthcare."

The tournament will include teams from local businesses as well as individual golfers. It's a fundraiser that promises to be a day to remember. The lush, Bermuda grass fairways of

the Biltmore championship course with laser leveled tees will offer 18 holes of golf with lunch and an entertaining awards dinner at the end of the day.

In the past, celebs such as Glen Rice, Scottie Pippen, Mercury Morris and others have enjoyed supporting the CHI tournament as they know its always a relaxed, fun day with an important goal in mind, to save the minds of young fragile children.

"I am so proud to be a part of this fundraiser," said Glen Rice. "I do it because I know that CHI does enable kids to heal their hearts and minds. This is something that affects all of us. Together we need to make a change."

If you'd like to meet Rice and community leaders who want to golf for the children, register at [chisouthfl.org/golf](http://chisouthfl.org/golf) or call (305)252-4853.



[www.chisouthfl.org](http://www.chisouthfl.org)

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