



# HEALTHYBITS

Healthy Bits – A Newsletter Published by Community Health of South Florida, Inc.

## CHI GIVES COVID-19 VACCINES TO YOUNGER KIDS AND BOOSTER SHOTS TO ADULTS

Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) is dedicated to keeping the community safe and healthy. In line with CDC guidelines, CHI is now administering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-17 years old. It is also providing vaccinations and booster shots for those 18 and older.

"This expanded eligibility for lifesaving vaccines moves us closer to ending the pandemic," said Patricia Philippe, Director of Education, Infection Prevention and Control.

CHI is also providing the additional dose for adults of the COVID-19 vaccine. This third dose is for those who received their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at least 6 months prior.

"At CHI, we are here for you. Whether you are bringing your children to get the first dose or to get tested for COVID-19," said Philippe. "We have all the options ready for you whenever you need them."

Patients and community members have been turning to CHI for more information about the vaccines, what to expect, and who is eligible for an additional dose. Philippe answers some of the most asked questions:

### Why children should get vaccinated for COVID-19?

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can help protect children ages 5 years and older from getting COVID-19. Vaccinating children can help protect family members, including siblings who are not eligible for vaccination and family members who may be at increased risk of getting very sick if they are infected.

Vaccinating kids can help keep them in school and help them safely participate in sports, playdates, and other group activities.

### Who should get booster COVID-19 shots?

Adults should get a booster shot. The risk of severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age and can also increase for adults with underlying medical conditions.

At CHI, patients can find all three vaccines: Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson. CHI is also offering three COVID-19 tests (the PCR test, rapid test, and antibody test) in several of its locations.



CBS 4 News Anchor Elliott Rodriguez received the COVID-19 booster shot at the Doris Ison Health Center.

Patients can make their appointment or walk into any CHI health center location. For more information about COVID-19 vaccines and testing, please visit [chisouthfl.org/covidvaccine](https://chisouthfl.org/covidvaccine) or call (305) 252-4820.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



After nearly 40 years with this outstanding organization, this will be my last CEO message. I am retiring at the end of 2021. It's an emotional moment for me, on a professional and personal level after pouring my heart and soul into CHI for so long.

As I look back at the milestones of my tenure here, I am so proud of what we've been able to accomplish for the people of South Florida.

I arrived at CHI on May 14, 1984 after the Chairman of the Board, Odell Johns, recruited me as Executive Director. At the time, there were just two centers: The Doris Ison Health Center and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Clinica Campesina Health Center. The staff was comprised of county and CHI employees working side by side, a challenge in itself, that eventually we overcame.

These were difficult times. Most of CHI's funding back then was coming from the county and annual budget hearings were trying.

I also learned that sometimes out of the ashes, new life can bloom. In 1992, Hurricane Andrew destroyed our community. But it provided an unexpected opportunity to expand healthcare. As a result of federal dollars, we were able to open health centers in the Everglades and South Dade farm worker communities. In addition, we were able to purchase the Martin Luther King, Jr. Health Center annex building and open a new site in Naranja. That was the beginning of phenomenal growth for this organization. Then, with the Affordable Care Act, opportunities for new access points became available. We leveraged that funding to open centers in West Kendall, South Miami, and Coconut Grove.

Also worth noting, in 2007 we expanded into the Florida Keys for the first time, at the

invitation of Fisherman's Hospital. Then, under the Affordable Care Act, we were able to establish a center in Tavernier. This led to the mantra of "we are always in a growth mode!"

Beyond new locations, I am proud of the new services that we have added over time. Today we provide a comprehensive array including primary care, pediatrics, OB/GYN, behavioral health for children and adults, dental, vision, pharmacy, a mobile dental unit and mobile medical van. We are accredited by the Joint Commission for primary care and behavioral health. We are recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance as a patient centered medical home. Plus, we have received numerous awards and recognition for the outstanding services that we have been able to provide to the community: the healthcare hero award from Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, recognition of phenomenal growth by Chamber South, and many more.

As I prepare for my retirement, I am confident of the continued excellence of service with the new President and CEO, Blake Hall. He has been with the organization for more than 16 years and has extensive knowledge of CHI and federally qualified health centers. In fact, he was recently appointed as secretary of the board of the National Association of Community Health Centers.

I will always have a special place in my heart for CHI and take pride in my continued affiliation with it.

Warm Holiday Wishes,

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

Brodes H. Hartley, Jr.



# CHI Celebrates with Golden Anniversary Gala

The audience erupted in applause after Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava designated September 25th, 2021 as Community Health of South Florida, Inc. Golden Legacy Anniversary Day. It was one of several awards and proclamations celebrated at CHI's 50th anniversary gala.

Nearly 400 people attended the premiere fundraising gala at the Double Tree by Hilton, Miami Airport and Convention Center. It raised nearly \$150,000 for the Children's Crisis Center, a 24-hour in-patient facility for kids with severe behavioral health issues.

"My heart swells with pride as I watch what this healthcare team has accomplished over 50 years," said Brodes H. Hartley Jr., CEO. "The excellence of our staff, doctors, nurses and other professionals is astounding. This is a special evening where we can reflect and celebrate."

Staff and local leaders also honored Hartley as he announced his retirement at the gala. After 37 years at the helm of the organization, CHI has grown from two to 12 health centers with continued expansion in the pipeline, thanks to his leadership.

Miami-Dade County Commissioner Kionne McGhee and former Miami Dade County Commissioner Dennis C. Moss presented a proclamation, designating September 25th, 2021, as Colonel Brodes H. Hartley Jr. Day.

"The Colonel has served as a war hero, as a teacher, as a segregation door buster during his days at FAMU," said Commissioner McGhee. "I call upon the people of Miami-



(left to right) Former Commissioner, Dennis Moss, CHI CEO, Brodes. H. Hartley Jr., Commissioner, Kionne McGhee, and Miami-Dade County Mayor, Daniella Levine Cava, stand together as they announce September 25th, 2021 as Community Health of South Florida, Inc. Golden Legacy Anniversary and Colonel Brodes H. Hartley Jr. Day

Dade to join me in applauding this distinguished gentleman, thanking him for putting our community at the forefront of his life's work."

CHI also honored former Commissioner Dennis Moss with the prestigious Dewey Knight Jr. award for public service linked to his tireless dedication to CHI.

The evening took a look back at the five decades of service for the organization. From special videos to multiple speakers, the audience learned about the milestones in the rich history of CHI. The new history book titled **Standing in the Gap**, by Kitty Dumas, was also unveiled and gifted to all attendees.

"This book chronicles the compelling story of how healthcare intersects with the struggle for access and civil rights," said Blake Hall, CHI President. "It helps memorialize

the hard work of 50 years of service from our staff, our board and the countless community leaders who banded together to make the high quality, comprehensive healthcare organization."

**If you missed the celebration, you can watch the video of it at [chisouthfl.org/gala](https://chisouthfl.org/gala)**



Blake Hall, CHI President, and his wife, Jocelyn Hall stand together as they enjoy the CHI 50th Anniversary Gala.

# Glen Rice Celebrity Golf Tournament Raises Funds for Children's Crisis Center

Nearly 100 golfers and celebrities teed off at the Biltmore golf course on October 7, 2021, swinging away for a special cause. For the first time the tournament took place at the elite, upscale, Biltmore Golf Course. Guests enjoyed a day full of fun complete with 18 holes of golf, lunch and a dinner awards celebration.

Participants helped to raise more than \$100,000 for the Children's Crisis Center. A worthy cause said celebrity golfers such as former Major League Baseball pitcher, Livan Hernandez, and former NBA All Star Glen Rice.

"Ever since I came to Miami, when I was drafted by the Miami Heat, I've had a devotion to give back to the community," said Rice. "CHI is doing great things for the community and trying to help those who are less fortunate and I'm all about that."

The tournament included teams from local businesses as well as individual golfers.

"I want to thank everyone for making this day possible," said Brodes H. Hartley, Jr., CHI CEO. "We are definitely swinging for a great cause. What a beautiful day of partnership and philanthropy!"

CHI President, Blake Hall, played golf and reflected on the day's big wins. "This is a win for children who are struggling with their own mental health. The support from this tournament will change lives and that's a big deal. It means together we can heal our community."

**If you'd like to donate, please visit <https://chisouthfl.org/give/> or call (305) 252-4853.**



(left to right) Glen Rice, former NBA All-Star, Livan Hernandez, former Major League baseball pitcher, Michel Valdez and Ryan Keltz stand together as they golf at the Glen Rice Celebrity Golf Tournament.



(left to right) Anthony Acevedo, CHI Foundation President, Brodes H. Hartley Jr., CEO, Larry Renouf, Elias Feanny, Gaston Rodriguez, Kenny Sowma and Glen Rice hang together as the 1st place foursome winners receive their prizes.

## 'Tis the Season

Join us for our family-friendly  
Holiday Festival & Drive-In Movie Night

December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6p.m. - 9p.m. at  
the Doris Ison Health Center!



For RSVP please visit [chisouthfl.org/holidayfestival](https://chisouthfl.org/holidayfestival)