

Magic Johnson's Visit a Slam Dunk at CHI



Magic Johnson captivates the crowd at the Doris Ison Health Center

His massive 6-foot-9-inch, 225 pound frame commands attention. But it was Earvin "Magic" Johnson's charisma that truly won over the crowd of more than 200 guests at the Community Health of South Florida Inc. Doris Ison Center. The former NBA All-Star took to the stage with a room full of screaming fans as if he never left the basketball court.

While his reception was festive, his message was quite sobering. Twenty-two years after he announced his HIV status, Johnson is still one of the greatest advocates for testing and protection today.

"I'm good for the virus and bad for it," Johnson explained. "Good because I'm doing well and I can go out and raise the awareness level and encourage people to get tested. But on the flip side, people see that I'm doing well so they get relaxed about HIV and AIDS. They get complacent. But the fact is a couple million people will die this year. Many will die today."

Johnson said AIDS/HIV affects everyone. Initially it was believed to be predominately found in the Gay and Caucasian communities. Times are changing.

"Now, it's an issue in the black and brown communities, especially the African American community," Johnson said. "Many still fear getting tested and they fear finding out the results. They are afraid of discrimination. Testing is imperative. It saves lives."

Since his retirement from basketball, Johnson has dedicated his life to educating others about HIV and eradicating the virus. He formed the Magic Johnson Foundation (MJF) in 1991 dedicated to empowering underserved communities."

CHI has about 400 patients with HIV/AIDS and has a comprehensive approach to treatment. This approach has proven to be very successful.

"About half of the patients in our HIV program are showing virus levels in their blood that are undetectable," said Colonel Brodes Hartley, President and CEO at CHI. "Nearly 75 percent show levels that are extremely low. So we must be doing something right and that something is coordinated care!"

CHI has a team that includes specialized doctors, nurses, case managers, pharmacy and outreach staff that will go so far as to drive to a patient's home if necessary, pick them up and bring them to their doctor's appointment.

"We make sure we are there with our patients every step of the way, as their reminders, their support staff and their medical team and medical home," added Hartley.

CHI provides individuals and families with HIV testing, counseling and much more. The nonprofit also gives those families medical, dental care, case management services, nutrition counseling and medication assistance.

To inquire about these services, contact CHI at (786) 272-2100.

Marianne Finizio is the Executive Vice-President for Clear Health Alliance, an HIV/AIDS Medicaid Plan. Finizio and her team are credited for bringing Johnson to CHI for the special event.

"Magic Johnson is a wonderful HIV/AIDS advocate for us. Our job is to get these patients into treatment and keep them there," said Finizio. "In the state of Florida, there are more than 100,000 cases of HIV/AIDS as of January 2014 and 26% are in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties alone. Add in Palm Beach County and it jumps to 51%! These statistics cannot be ignored."

A Message from the President

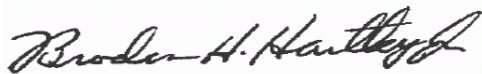
This is the month that we unveil our much anticipated, highly competitive, Teaching Health Center at Community Health of South Florida Inc. Fourteen medical residents are making this their home and we welcome them with open arms. It is an exciting program as CHI is the first federally qualified health center in Florida to have a teaching health center. The program is an opportunity for us to take our services to the next level. Teaching cements mastery of a subject and it also opens the door for all of us to learn new things.

We have put a very bright faculty in place for the teaching health center. I am confident these leaders in medicine will help the residents excel in community health. This is also an opportunity for us to have an enhanced medical staff. That allows us to see more patients and make it even more convenient for them to see a doctor. It has been a busy few months getting to this point. We have been interviewing residents and cleaning house, renovating our facilities to create more space for our new residents and to make the ambience nicer for our patients as well.

By popular demand, we are expanding our pharmacy at the Doris Ison Center. The pharmacy will have more windows and that will help us to assist more people at the same time. Efficiency and convenience are cornerstones of what we do here too. So we have also extended the pharmacy hours Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 10 PM. The pharmacy will still have free delivery for anyone who requests it. Patients can now also fill their prescriptions online through the CHI website at www.chisouthfl.org. They can even receive a text message from our pharmacy to let them know when their prescriptions are ready.

Now that school is out, it's a good opportunity to get your children caught up on all of their health related issues: vaccines, well child check-ups, school physicals, dental exams and cleanings. CHI has a full array of pediatric friendly services. So, please remind others you know that our resources are here for them. Take good care of yourselves and your families. Good health is the infrastructure of a happy life.

Kind Regards,



Brodes H. Hartley Jr.



Coconut Grove Health Center
3831 Grand Avenue
Miami, Florida 33133
(786) 245-2700

Doris Ison Health Center
10300 SW 216th Street
Miami, Florida 33190
(305) 253-5100

Everglades Health Center
19300 SW 376th Street
Florida City, Florida 33034
(305) 258-6813

Marathon Health Center
2855 Overseas Highway, MM 48.5
Marathon, Florida 33050
(305) 743-4000

MLK Clinica Campesina
810 W. Mowry Drive
Homestead, Florida 33030
(305) 248-4334

Naranja Health Center
13805 SW 264th Street
Naranja, Florida 33032
(305) 258-6813

South Dade Health Center
13600 SW 312 Street
Homestead, Florida 33033
(305) 242-6069

South Miami Health Center
6350 Sunset Drive
South Miami, Florida 33143
(786) 293-5500

Tavernier Health Center
91200 Overseas Highway, Unit 17
Tavernier, Florida 33070
(305) 743-0383

West Perrine Health Center
18255 Homestead Avenue
Perrine, Florida 33157
(305) 234-7676

Colonel Brodes H. Hartley Jr. Celebrates 30 Years at CHI

When you ask Colonel Brodes H. Hartley Jr. when he thinks he will retire from his post as CEO and President of Community Health of South Florida Inc. (CHI), he smiles and replies, “Well, I don’t know when I will die.”

Hartley just celebrated his 30-year anniversary of working for CHI. After three decades there, he still loves coming to work everyday and his passion for the nonprofit health care company has only grown over the years. He has watched and nurtured CHI’s growth from two health centers when he signed on, to now 10 health centers. It’s a mission Hartley believes in: safe, accessible, compassionate and culturally competent, quality health care for everyone.

“There are never going to be enough resources to address the total health care needs of our communities,” said Hartley. “However, CHI has made great strides in expanding the comprehensive array of services that are available now to the people that we serve.”

Service is in Hartley’s blood; it’s part of his DNA. He recognizes that is not an easy trait to pass on to others. But his success lies in the role modeling that he has done for many.

“I enjoy what I do. I experience great pleasure in serving others,” he said. “That is a part of my legacy, stemming from my father who was a Baptist minister and pastored the Friendly Baptist church in Jacksonville, Florida, for 61 years until his death.”

It’s a giving personality that Hartley extends to numerous charities and organizations that he is active with year-round. That includes the Alpha Phi Alpha through the Beta Nu Chapter at Florida A&M University. The group’s motto is fittingly, “First of all, servants of all, we shall transcend all.”

That philosophy undoubtedly drove Hartley to keep CHI open after Hurricane Andrew. At the time, CHI was the only organization providing health services after the disaster in South Miami Dade. Homestead and Coral Reef hospitals were closed. As he reflects back on the time, Hartley said it was the most difficult situation he’s had to deal with at CHI.

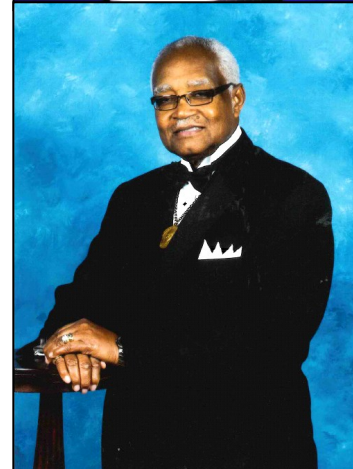
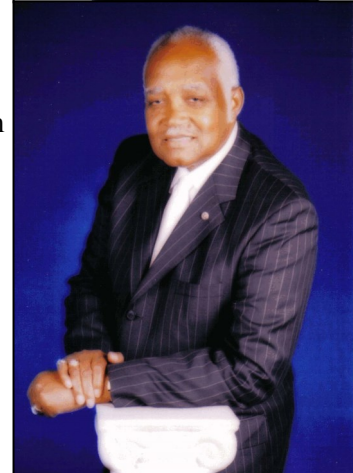
“We had significant damage to windows and doors at the Doris Ison Center and we had to remove carpet and clean up the water and debris,” Hartley remembered. “But the infrastructure was in tact and as staff began to clean up the building, patients began to arrive. Dr. Pricilla Knighton, who was assisting with the clean-up stopped to take care of patients. This is exemplary of the type of professionals and staff that we continue to have at CHI, who go beyond what might be expected of persons in their positions.”

In fact, when asked about his greatest accomplishment at CHI, Col. Hartley points to the staff that he has assembled from a variety of different backgrounds with specialized skillsets to cater to a diverse patient population.

It’s a staff rich in resources that he says he plans to grow in the coming years. His vision includes development for his employees with a continuation in the journey to excellence training with the Studer Group and supplemented with Sterling development.

Along with expanding the CHI service area and opening new health centers, Hartley also is looking forward to growing the Teaching Health Center program that will begin in July.

“There are still challenges ahead as we look at the changes that are precipitated by the Affordable Care Act and of course, CHI must adapt to these changes and support the transformation of our health care system in America to serve greater numbers of recently insured clients.”



Leading the way: 2014 Nurses Week Tribute



By: Crystal Lopez, LPN

Health care is a field that is constantly changing, adapting, and innovating ways to keep our world healthy. Nurses are now stepping out of their comfort zones and acting as catalysts like never before, rallying for evolution and improvement. Nurses are helping to pave the way toward new technologies that will improve quality of care, helping resolve emerging issues in a world where people are living longer. Yet preventable, chronic diseases are at an all-time high. That is why 2014 is all about honoring our flag wavers, our trailblazers that are leading their patients, colleagues, and organizations in the right direction. It is easy to see how in health care, nurses are leading the way and deserved special recognition during Nurses Week, held May 6th-12th.

I have had the honor and privilege of being a part of the team at Community Health of South Florida Inc. (CHI) for four years. When I became an LPN in 2009, I had a very specific desire in mind: to touch the hearts and hands of the sick and needy and bring care to those who needed it most. I didn't want to just give out Band-Aids and deal with superficial issues with simple fixes. I wanted to get my hands dirty and be in situations where getting the patient better was going to take lots of blood, sweat and tears. I know that my efforts would have a lasting impact on the life of that

person. I wanted a challenge, not routine. I found the perfect place two months after I sat for my boards and here I am, still rolling with the punches. Some of the patients have been here for years, and some are new faces but the challenges are the same. Being a nurse at CHI has helped me have a sense of fulfillment, knowing that I have touched at least one person's life for the better.

At CHI we celebrate not only nurses, but our nursing team; our registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and patient care technicians that drive us forward every day. To say our nursing team is incredible is an understatement, they are superstars.

Our patient care technicians are the soldiers in the trenches, assessing and identifying issues before the patients even see a nurse or provider for the first time. They are our investigators and regulators, gathering the information necessary and keeping us in line as to where the rest of the team is going and what comes next. licensed practical nurses are our main support. They are the lollipop carrying, smile inducing beacons in Pediatrics and the teachers and support systems in Primary Care. They listen to the little dilemmas, fix the small cracks, and are the glue that keeps the team together while also providing direct patient care. Our registered nurses are our keepers, watching, assessing, and stepping in when the situation gets critical. They provide a wealth of knowledge that the rest of the team depends on for success. Regardless of the position, our nursing team is helping CHI move toward new horizons, accepting ever-changing roles and becoming active contributors and innovators in the health care system.

CHI has been providing care to residents of South Florida for more than 40 years and we have seen phenomenal growth over these four decades, with our Nursing Team at the helm. A heartfelt thanks to the nurses and PCTs who are no longer a part of our team, but helped pave the way for progress and success and the RNs, LPNs, and PCTs who are part of the team now moving us forward in incredible ways.

CHI's Nursing Team Week Celebration



CHI Celebrity Tournament Scores Big For Children's Center Vision

One hundred and fifty amateur and seasoned golfers gathered at Shula's Golf Club in Miami Lakes on April 4th to participate in the Community Health of South Florida Inc. (CHI) Celebrity Golf Tournament. The event is held annually to raise funds for a Children's Crisis Center to be located in South Miami-Dade next to the Doris Ison Health Center.

"There is a real need for a service like this in the south end of Miami-Dade," said Colonel Brodes Hartley Jr., CEO/President of CHI. "Currently, families must travel all the way to Hialeah for crisis stabilization services. That's just not right. CHI has a mission to fix this problem."

Super Bowl champ, Robert Bailey and former NBA All-Star Glen Rice kicked off the event the night prior at an exclusive VIP reception at Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay.

CHI physicians and staff mingled among an impressive display of Mercedes-Benz vehicles, and a bountiful feast of food, while a saxophonist set a soulful mood for the evening.

The next morning they all gathered at Don Shula's Golf Club to challenge themselves in a little friendly golf rivalry.

"It's a lot of fun. I am here every year," said Rice. "Don't tell anyone, but I might even cheat once in awhile! But it's all in fun and for a great cause."

Generous participants and sponsors contributed nearly \$60,000 for the much anticipated Children's Crisis Center.





CHI Sports Beat



The undefeated Nightmares have done it again, taking home a second title from the CHI basketball tournament! The Nightmares captain, Edrey Santos, has unofficially changed their team name to The Dream Team! They finished their undefeated flawless season winning the Championship Title against the Execs recently. The Nightmares have dominated the Employee Basketball League and deserve the title. They were the 2013 Season 1 champs. The team has so much chemistry and even makes it look easy. At one point, Santos was salsa dancing on the court. Congratulations Nightmares! You deserve the crown!

Meanwhile, the CHI Ballers softball team has had some challenges this season in their Friday night mixed league. But they have a lot of heart. The 12 employees on the team promise to practice and come back strong next season with the hopes of winning the championship. Persistence pays off Ballers, go get'em!

Congratulations CHI



CHI leaders accept the High Growth Award from Chamber South.



Colonel Brodes H. Hartley Jr. (center) accepts the Bronze Award from Miami Today. His son, Brodes Hartley III, and Hortensia Hacker congratulate him.

GIANT COLON TEACHES TESTING IMPORTANCE AT CHI

Abelardo Feliciano approached the odd-looking, cylindrical object and peered inside. He then curiously stepped forward and found himself standing inside a giant colon.

It was colorectal awareness month. Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) along with The American Cancer Society displayed this interactive prop in the lobby of the Doris Ison Health Center to illustrate the signs of cancer and teach prevention and care.

Inside this giant display, Feliciano's mind flashed back to August 2007. This is when he was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer.

His shocking diagnosis came at a most inopportune time. His wife was in the hospital dealing with her own complications and he did not want to add to her burden. He decided to keep this news from his family until his wife had recovered and was out of the hospital.

But fate intervened with more bad news.

With his wife still in the hospital and reeling from his own recent news, Feliciano received a call informing him his father had passed away from Alzheimer's. With a new cancer diagnosis, kidney stones and his wife in the hospital, he traveled to his father's funeral in Puerto Rico.

With heaviness in his heart and his life still in turmoil, a beleaguered Feliciano later returned home to begin his cancer treatment at CHI with Dr. Elizabeth Philippe.

"I first came to CHI in 2003 and have never left. I could not match the level of care anywhere else," beamed Feliciano. When I heard the news of my cancer, Dr. Philippe was the only doctor I considered."

Dr. Philippe said Feliciano's case is one that everyone can learn from.

"This was a perfect example for the importance of colorectal screening," said Dr. Philippe. "Mr. Feliciano had no symptoms at all. He was at the recommended age to have a screening. So he did, but was not expecting the results he received."

The American Cancer Society recommends screening beginning at the age of 50 for both men and women. There are several testing methods available which should be repeated every 5 to 10 years.

"Screening can detect colon cancer early when it's easier to treat. It can also sometimes find polyps so they can be removed before they turn into cancer," informed Dr. Philippe. "However, colon cancer is still the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the third leading cause of cancer death in both men and women in the United States. Screening is vital. It absolutely saves lives."

Although the American Cancer Society reports that colon cancer rates have dropped 30 percent in the last 10 years in people 50 and older, Florida is expected to diagnose about 10,230 new cases of colorectal cancer in 2014.

"Dr. Philippe cared for me all through my cancer treatment. Because of her, I am cancer free today. Dr. Philippe saved my life. She's the best doctor I have ever had," Feliciano said holding back tears. "She saved me not just physically, but emotionally too, at a time when my life was in shambles. I consider her and CHI family."

Success stories such as Feliciano's are possible with proper care and prevention. To make an appointment to see a doctor and get tested at CHI call (786) 272-2100.



Abelardo Feliciano and Dr. Elizabeth Philippe stand inside a giant walk through colon at the Doris Ison Center

Second Annual Women's Health Expo a Success



April Eldemire, LMFT, a behavioral health consultant at CHI, spoke on domestic violence at the Women's Health Expo.

Nursing student, Stephanie Edward watched in approval as another woman gave herself a breast exam while fully clothed. Meanwhile, Kimmy Woods learned how to correctly perform a self breast exam using a hand-held model with three abnormalities. It's an experience many took advantage of at the 2nd Annual Women's Health Expo at Community Health of South Florida Inc.

"I learned the actual position to go in and what to feel for – not just lumps that might be benign," said Woods.

From breast exams to JAZZercise, the event included a wide array of resources and valuable information. There were health screenings, weight loss tips, cancer prevention information, makeup application, massages and much more.

The line up also included three speeches from CHI health experts. April Eldemire, a licensed mental health and family therapist talked about the key ways to tell if your relationship is toxic. She shocked the crowd with the statistic that more than 9,800 cases of domestic violence were reported in Miami-Dade County in 2012.

"Domestic violence is rampant in our community and occurs regardless of age, sex, race, sexual orientation, education level or socioeconomic status," said Eldemire. "If you're being abused, know that you are not alone and there is help available."

Dr. Molrine Tracey, CHI's Director for Obstetrics and Gynecology also spoke to women about the common warning signs of

cancer that many tend to ignore. After her speech at least eight women realized that they were experiencing those signs and immediately scheduled appointments to see Dr. Tracey.

"That's what this is all about, educating women so that they can catch cancer in its tracks," said Dr. Tracey. "The longer we wait, the harder it is to cure."

Mary Ann Worts, a registered nurse and CHI's Director of Education and Infection Prevention and Control, also had a host of valuable advice for the crowd when she spoke encouraging women to take charge of their own health care.

"You are the driver of your health care," Worts said. "Empowering yourself and taking responsibility for understanding, questioning and following through with your health care is the most important factor in your well being."



A fairgoer receives a free makeup application from a Beauty Schools of America student.

2nd Annual Men's Health Expo

On Wednesday, June 11, 2014 CHI will host the **2nd Annual Men's Health Expo** from **6:30 PM to 8:30 PM** at the **Doris Ison Health Center**, 10300 SW 216th Street, Miami, FL 33190. It will also include free health screenings, massages, refreshments and speeches on "How to Train Like a Pro without Being One", "Dispelling Medical Myths about Prostate Cancer" and "Are you too Macho for Mental Health?" But the Men's Expo has an exciting draw for the guys: **Inferno Miami** cheerleaders and football players! **The event is free, but registration is required by calling (305) 252-4853.**

