

## CHI Unveils New State of the Art Mobile Dental Trailer

Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) held a formal unveiling of its new state of the art mobile dental unit by cutting the ribbon on the trailer in front of its corporate headquarters, 10300 SW 216 St. Miami FL 33190 on April 4th.

The new dental trailer features three operatories that will allow dental teams to do cleanings and other basic preventative services along with restoration and minor oral surgeries. It also has digital x-rays, the latest dental equipment, Wi-Fi and an educational TV system.

"I'm excited about this new opportunity that we have for this community," said Brodes H. Hartley Jr., President and CEO of CHI. "As you know, we always try to improve on the services that we provide to the community and take the services to the people. We are not just waiting for people to come to us."



*CHI's mobile dental unit allows dental providers to bring their services to the community.*



*CHI & community leaders cut the ribbon on the new dental trailer.*

The mobile dental unit will bring CHI's dental teams into neighborhoods and schools throughout South Florida. It is already in operation in communities where dental services are greatly needed.

"This is the next phase of oral healthcare for CHI," said Dr. Robert Johnson, Dental Director at CHI. "We can even get out and operate after a hurricane comes with expanded outreach to the community. It has a generator and can be self-sufficient."

Dr. Johnson said CHI purchased the dental trailer with help from a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for \$700,000 over two years. However, the costs to operate including equipment, and the pick-up truck far exceed the grant award.

Political leaders, board members and CHI staff attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and applauded after Hartley cut the large red ribbon.

"What a great opportunity for residents to get the much-needed dental care that they need in their own community and not have to worry about trying to find an office and transportation, etc.," said Peggy Bell, Cutler Bay Mayor.

Palmetto Bay Mayor Eugene Flinn said it will also be a great resource in South Florida.

"CHI has done such an excellent job of providing these needed services," said Mayor Flinn. "It's a great next step. I'm glad to see CHI continue to work hard to deliver services. They are a great asset to the community."

# A Message from the President

Teamwork makes the dream work! And that is certainly the case at Community Health of South Florida, Inc. Recently we recognized teams of healthcare professionals for their excellence in service and dedication to the organization and its mission. In March, we recognized National Professional Social Work Month. CHI has a strong team of social workers who work long hours and deal with difficult situations on a day and night basis. We want to thank them and thank our health information professionals for their commitment to accuracy and quality data. It's a tedious job but they take great pride in it. At the end of March, we celebrated Doctor's Day to thank CHI's compassionate team of high quality physicians.



April 23rd—29th was Volunteer Appreciation Week and we had our presidential volunteer service awards dinner. Our volunteers give of themselves without compensation. Their labor of love is much appreciated and they help us run this non-profit health care company. From board members to front line greeters: our volunteers are selfless and generous.

In April, we also took time to recognize our laboratory professionals: a smart and caring team that makes our lab department run smoothly. In addition, April marked the time to recognize the dozens of administrative professionals at CHI. They work hard and help the rest of us look good by doing a lot of work in the background. Finally, I want to thank our Nursing staff as May 6th—12th is National Nurses Week. Nurses are the bones of the operation here at CHI. Without them the body would fall apart-figuratively and literally. We thank them for being so caring and knowledgeable to us and to our patients. I encourage all of you to give these teams a sincere thank you for the work that they do.

Finally, I want to encourage you to join us with your family for two great events coming up at CHI's Doris Ison Health Center. On May 19th from 6pm to 8pm we will host our Women's Health Celebration with a stylish fashion show for moms and children. We will have dinner, health screenings and consultations, massages and fun for the kids. Then on June 14th we celebrate Men's Health Month from 6:30 to 8:30pm. We plan to have a fish fry, lots of games for the entire family and I hear we will also have the cheerleaders from a surprise professional sports team on hand to take pictures and sign autographs! Not to mention the men's event will also have a host of health screenings. Both events are free and open to the public. See you there!

Cordially,

**Brodes H. Hartley Jr.**  
President/CEO

## CHI Visits Capitol Hill



*Brodes H. Hartley Jr., CHI President/CEO looks over the shoulder of Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL 24<sup>th</sup> District) as she looks at the CHI history book.*



*Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL 27<sup>th</sup> District) shows off the CHI history book presented to her by Brodes H. Hartley Jr.*



*(left to right) Monica Mizell CNO, Blake Hall, COO, Johnny Brown CHI Board Chair, Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL 26<sup>th</sup> District) and Brodes H. Hartley, Jr. President/CEO*

# Funding Healthcare for the Most Vulnerable Affects Us All

*By: Blake Hall, Chief Operating Officer, Community Health of South Florida, Inc.*

What would happen if you closed the doors to 2,800 community health center sites throughout the country? Lives would be needlessly lost, families would fall on hard times and the health of our nation would deteriorate. Yet that is exactly what is at stake if Congress doesn't vote to prevent the federal healthcare funding cliff from pushing us all over the edge. More than 70 percent of the country's federal funding for health centers is set to expire in October of this year.

Health is essential to success. A mother or father can't provide for the family and succeed at work or caring for the kids if their health is in jeopardy. Without access to quality healthcare, diseases spread amongst us.

For 46 years, Community Health of South Florida, Inc. (CHI) has been a beacon of hope for the uninsured and the insured in South Florida. We are one of nearly 1,300 Federally Qualified Health Centers that ensure access to healthcare to all, regardless of income, insurance status or ethnicity. No one is turned away.

Patients who often need care to treat something as simple as a common cold or as complex as diabetes currently receive the treatment they need thanks to the 49 Federally Qualified Health Centers across the state of Florida. In 2015, those centers served a total of 1.3 million patients.

CHI serves about 75,000 people every year from the Keys to Miami-Dade County. Thanks to our efforts, these patients have gained access to high quality medical, dental, OB/GYN, vision, behavioral health, laboratory, radiology and pharmacy services. Many of them comprise working and non-working residents; from seniors through childhood as well as homeless and migrant workers who would have no place to go to treat their most basic



*Blake Hall is the Chief Operating Officer at CHI*

health needs.

We rely on federal funds to meet the medical demands of the communities that have a high concentration of uninsured, under-insured and low-income patients. Now, the survival of these centers is at risk, if Congress fails to act.

For CHI, the funding cliff could mean as much as 14 percent, or more than 10,000 patients, could lose access to care. It could mean up to a \$10 million loss to a health system serving South Florida from 11 health center locations and 34 school-based sites.

Patients who are not properly treated often end up in emergency rooms and taxpayers absorb those expensive visits, at higher rates than health centers. CHI plays a vital role in keeping uninsured patients healthy and treating them before their conditions worsen.

Our patients are not just numbers. We know their stories and many of them are families or individuals who are on fixed incomes. Others have a wide range of challenges from heart disease to diabetes, mental health, or even chronic homelessness. Our doctors are aware of those issues and work with them to ensure they receive the best care. CHI even offers free transportation and free prescription delivery to those who request it.

We have had no choice but to be resourceful. Faced with a physician shortage nationwide, CHI opened a

teaching health center in 2013 to train and help attract/retain doctors and medical professionals in South Florida. Today, the program operates on almost 75% of its initial funding. The costs of faculty for the program and other necessary resources goes far beyond the funding. But the mission couldn't be more important.

That's why a reduction of federal funds would result in a negative diagnosis for our community. This impact could lead to layoffs, partial closures of centers and or services and less access to care for people who need it most. In addition, the ripple effects would be devastating to small businesses and their employees.

An economic impact study recently showed that CHI's contribution to the local economy was \$135.5 million in 2016, according to the Florida Association of Community Health Centers. That overall impact generated employment for more than 1,400 people in the South Florida area.

Every dollar spent in healthcare is an investment into our overall health. Community health centers have shown that they reduce disparities in care that greatly affect minorities and low-income Americans. They are also cost-effective. A study of Medicaid in 13 states showed health center patients had 24% lower costs (\$2,371 per patient) than those treated elsewhere.

Federal grants are a major source of funds and they help everyone stay healthy. That's why we urge Congress to continue funding health centers. Failure to do so would be devastating to individuals and families across South Florida. To many people, health centers are vital to their survival. Do your part by asking Congress to sustain Health Center Funding.

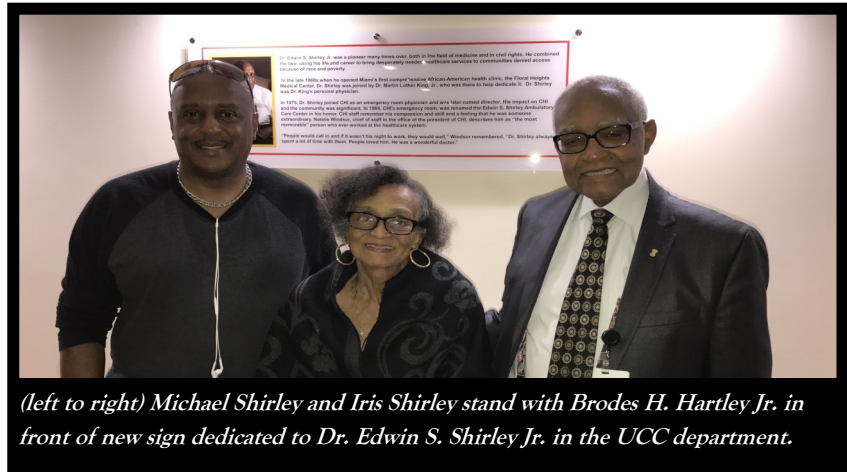
Visit [www.hcadvocacy.org](http://www.hcadvocacy.org) for more information.

# CHI Leaders Honored for Black History Month

Decades after he delivered babies and mended gunshot wounds in what used to be the emergency room at Community Health of South Florida Inc., (CHI) the widow of the late Dr. Edwin S. Shirley Jr. returned to the same area of the Doris Ison Health Center. This time her husband was being honored by renaming the area: the Dr. Edwin S. Shirley Jr. Urgent Care Center. As her son, Michael Shirley steadied her arm to walk forward for the unveiling of the sign, Iris Shirley shed a few tears.

“We are happy he was so well thought of here,” said Iris Shirley. “I miss him.”

Dr. Shirley and Odell T. Johns were both honored for their significant contributions to CHI. Both men invested their hearts, minds and long hours which turned into years of devotion to the non-profit health center. While they are both gone, they are certainly not forgotten as the current administration recently



*(left to right) Michael Shirley and Iris Shirley stand with Brodes H. Hartley Jr. in front of new sign dedicated to Dr. Edwin S. Shirley Jr. in the UCC department.*

dedicated new signs to each of the men in honor of black history month.

“These are pioneers who helped build CHI,” said Brodes H. Hartley Jr., CHI President and CEO. “They laid the groundwork for success. They made sacrifices. They had a vision and today their vision is a thriving reality.”

Odell T. Johns was Chairman of the CHI Board for 20 years and a powerful political broker in South Dade. He played a pivotal role in the establishment and the running of CHI throughout the first half of its history. He was outspoken and unafraid.

His daughter Linda Stevenson attended the sign dedication and helped to unveil the new boardroom sign.

“He worked very hard because he loved his community and he rarely got rest,” recalled Stevenson. “I’m just so honored. I’m just so honored!”

Both men made major strides in the healthcare community despite race relation tensions in South Dade and

the nation during their tenure. Dr. Shirley was secretly the doctor for the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a civil rights icon. Many of Dr. Shirley’s patients were so loyal to him that they would come in and if it wasn’t his night to work, they would wait overnight for him.

CHI’s Chief of Security Maurice Hamilton said he saw Dr. Shirley deliver two babies. “He was great. Everybody came in and used to ask for him. He worked the midnight shift,” said Hamilton.

Both men had to graduate from the school of hard knocks in life. Stevenson said there were attempts to lynch her father, including the burning of a cross in the family’s front yard and shots fired at his car. But a lifetime of enduring such horrors made him a strong leader and a staunch advocate for the community.

“He was very tactful and sharp,” remembered Greg Ivey, CHI Mental Health Technician. “He was always attentive to the patients and staff. He walked the halls and every department that he went in he talked to the staff to make sure the patients were OK.”



*(left to right) Linda Stevenson gives the thumbs up after Brodes H. Hartley Jr. unveils the new boardroom sign in honor of Stevenson’s father, Odell T. Johns.*

# CHI Psychiatrist Wins National Leadership Award

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) recently awarded Dr. Carlos Salgado with the Geiger Gibson Emerging Leader Award. The honor is very significant as Dr. Salgado was selected from a pool of some of the best and brightest in healthcare nationwide.



*Dr. Carlos Salgado thanked his team at CHI as he accepted his award in Washington, D.C.*

Dr. Salgado is the Director of Psychiatric Services and Psychiatry Residency Program at Community Health of South Florida Inc. (CHI)

“I was very excited to find out I was even nominated for the award and the Geiger Gibson program is very prestigious” said Dr. Salgado. “They do a lot of great things.”

The humble physician gave credit to his team of supporters who cheered from the audience in Washington, D.C. at the

NACHC conference.

“It makes my work easy when I work with great people,” said Dr. Salgado. “I can credit any success I have because of the dedication and passion that others around me demonstrate.”

Dr. Salgado has been with CHI since 2015 and quickly worked his way up the ranks from psychiatrist to program director. He is responsible for the psychiatric medical training of 12 residents as well as teaching other

students. In addition, he provides direct care to approximately 200 pediatric patients a month and oversees the delivery of psychiatric care within his department of approximately 1,000 patient visits per month.

“He goes above and beyond for his staff and colleagues, his resident trainees and of course the young patients whom he serves daily,” said Dr. St. Anthony Amofah, Chief Medical Officer.

## CHI Board Member Recognized Nationally as Migrant Worker Advocate

Community Health of South Florida Inc. (CHI) board member Claudia Gonzalez is once again being honored at the national level. The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) will honor her with the 2017 Outstanding Migrant Health Center Board Member award in May at the Agricultural Worker Health Conference in Savannah, Georgia.

“I am so excited to receive this honor,” said Gonzalez. “It is easy to feel forgotten when you work with such an indigent group. Farm workers are in dire need of help and advocacy. To know that NACHC is aware of the issue

and fighting for the healthcare of migrants is very important.”

Gonzalez has been a consumer member of the CHI board since 2009. Consumer members are patients who also function as board members. In 2005, Gonzalez was pregnant and homeless. She was a CHI patient back then and

remembers the support. “I received wonderful healthcare even though I didn’t have money,” she recalled. “Today I have a healthy, handsome son and he will always be a CHI baby.”

She remains a loyal CHI patient and board member working to improve the organization and ensure access for all to healthcare.

In fact, Gonzalez was also recently appointed to the National Advisory Council on Migrant Health of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). She was one of just 15 people selected from across the country to serve on the council.



*Claudia Gonzalez has been a CHI Board Member since 2009.*

# New Study Suggests Younger Generations At-Risk of Colon and Rectal Cancers

When a 19-year-old male patient came into Dr. Russell Robinson's office complaining about intestinal problems, he thought it would be something simple. As a precaution, Robinson, a primary care physician at CHI's Tavernier Health Center, ordered more tests and found that the man's problems were worse than expected. The grim results – colorectal cancer – surprised and troubled both Dr. Robinson and his patient. His patient was in an age group that is not normally associated with having a high-risk of colorectal cancer. But a new cancer study suggests this age group is at a higher risk than in previous decades.

"I've seen a case or two, but it's something that scares me. I don't ever want to miss anything like this," Robinson said.

Robinson's patient illustrates a troubling trend among millennials and GenXers. A new study by the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute show a drastic increase in the diagnosis of colon or rectal cancers among people in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. The study also found that millennials, those born in 1990s, will have double the risk of colon cancer and four times the risk of rectal cancer than those born in 1950.

While the study does not say what is contributing to these alarming statistics, Dr. Robinson continues to tell his patients to follow a well-balanced, healthy diet.

"For instance, the [American] diet is high fat, low fiber and full of fried foods. High temperatures cause free radicals that damage the intestinal tissue," Robinson said.

Young patients are advised to talk to their doctors about any changes they notice in their bowels, which may include rectal bleeding, or frequent constipation or diarrhea.

Some of those changes are visible inside a colon and people could see the signs firsthand when they walked through a giant inflatable colon placed inside the lobby of CHI's Doris Ison Health Center in March. Nurses and doctors walked patients and others through the colon to discuss the problem and prevention practices. The American Cancer Society loaned the colon to CHI to help educate people about colorectal cancer.

Twenty-two-year-old Alexandria Muzzo took the tour inside the colon. The CHI patient said she learned valuable information in light of the fact that there is a history in her family.

"The giant colon is weird but curious," said Muzzo. "You never know when you are going to get it (colorectal cancer). I might get a test for it.

CHI gave out 30 free screening tests on the same day. CHI patient,

Karen Jones was one of the first to do it.

"Try it just go on and try," said Jones, "It's not hard, it's easy."

Young patients are advised to talk to their doctors about any changes they notice in their bowels, which may include rectal bleeding, or frequent constipation or diarrhea.

Dr. Robinson says people should incorporate more leafy green vegetables and high-fiber fruits such as cranberries or pomegranates and avoid red or processed meats.

"Remember, the sooner you make a diagnosis, the better the chance for survival," Dr. Robinson said.



*CHI Nurse/Care Coordination Manager, Iliana Rodriguez, RN, BSN takes two women on a tour of the giant colon and explains the dangers of colorectal cancer.*

# Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament is a Hole in One

More than 100 golfers hit the links and pledged nearly \$60,000 in sponsorships for the annual Glen Rice Celebrity Golf Tournament. The event raised money for Community Health of South Florida Inc. (CHI) to build a new children's crisis center.

"It means a lot," said Glen Rice, Former NBA star and the tournament headliner. "It will help the kids. To be able to have them go and be able to talk to people, point them in the right direction, make sure that they understand that they are not forgotten. Someone is always going to be there to help."

Rice has been volunteering his name and time for the tournament for years and vows to do it forever. His passion and commitment to the cause was contagious as companies and individuals pledged to help fund the crisis center and make the project a reality for children suffering from abuse and severe behavioral health issues.

"We think it's important to participate and contribute to the community," said Roger Obeso, a golfer from the Bank United team.

"As a parent of two children, I have a daughter who is 10 years old and my son is four. I think anytime that we can give back to those children who haven't had the blessings that we have had going up it is particularly more important to us. You want to give people at a young age a fighting chance in life."

CHI President and CEO Brodes H. Hartley, Jr. doesn't golf anymore but spent his time speaking to the players to encourage ongoing support for the



*The Winning Team: Gary Anderson, John Zito, Brodes H. Hartley, Jr. President/CEO, Johnny Brown CHI Chairman of the Board, Ketajh Brown and Abe Levy CHI Foundation President.*

program.

"I am proud of the success of the golf tournament and appreciate the community's support," said Hartley. "Families should not have to travel dozens of miles when their child is in a behavioral health crisis. And currently that's the case for far too many families. That's why CHI has vowed to build this children's crisis center."

CHI has a comprehensive behavioral health services department with both adult and pediatric services at multiple locations. It has garnered national attention for its integration of medical providers embedded in its behavioral health department. Recently, CHI became only the 2<sup>nd</sup> federally qualified health center in the country to be designated as a behavioral health medical home.

"The Joint Commission accredits and certifies health care organizations and other programs nationwide as symbols of quality and commitment to

meeting certain performance standards" explained Dr. St. Anthony Amofah, CHI Chief Medical Officer. "Very strict criteria must be met to receive this designation."

The Behavioral Health Medical Home designation emphasizes a team-based approach to care that includes a primary physician, behavioral health physician, nurses, therapists, pharmacists and others.



*Join us for CHI's free women's health celebration!*  
Mommy and Me Fashion Show, Dinner, Massages,  
Health screenings including Pediatric and OB/GYN doctor consults,  
Give-aways, Boutique items for sale, photo booth, Face painting,  
Balloon maker and more!

May 19th at 6pm-8pm  
Doris Ison Health Center  
10300 SW 216 St.  
Miami FL 33190



For more information call (305)252-4853

# CHI Loses an Icon in Medicine and Patient Care

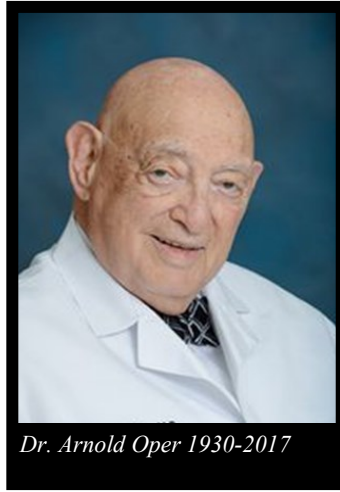
Dr. Arnold Oper, a beloved medical director and passionate caregiver who worked for more than two decades at Community Health of South Florida Inc. (CHI), passed away on February 21, 2017.

He was 87.

Dr. Oper worked in the healthcare profession for more than 60 years and his unique approach to healthcare often earned him praise among staff members and patients. He often used humor and kindness to help ease his patients — many of whom had been diagnosed with Hepatitis C or HIV. In addition, he held numerous leadership roles on local and state boards and received accolades and awards for his achievements in medicine.

“Dr. Oper was a top clinician dedicated to the craft of medicine and most importantly to his patients,” said Dr. Saint Anthony Amofah, CHI Chief Medical Officer. “He knew how to use humor to lighten the mood when it was needed most and he had a magnetic personality. Even as his health was deteriorating, Dr. Oper wanted to be at work, it made him feel alive, it gave him purpose, saving lives in a way saved his own life for quite some time.”

CHI’s President and CEO Brodes H. Hartley Jr. said Dr. Oper was his



personal doctor and shared his passion for teaching others. “He was an educator and helped to train the next generation of healthcare professionals,” said Hartley. “The students loved him and he was good at what he did and he will be sorely missed by this organization.”

Dr. Oper graduated from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine in 1957. He completed his residency at the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn in 1958. Dr. Oper then served in the United States Air Force Medical Corps as a captain from 1958-1960.

From 1960 to 1984, he built and operated a successful 77-bed general community hospital in Opa Locka. He sold it to the Public Health Trust in 1984. He was also known as “The Buffalo Doctor.” Back in 1992, he gave

up raising buffalo in Dade County after selling his last one to Jane Fonda. One year later, he started working at CHI.

He was soon promoted to director of family medicine.

“Dr. Oper loved what he did. He was more than a boss, he was a father to me,” said Mimi Williams, executive secretary at CHI who worked directly for Dr. Oper. “He cared about his patients and treated those with Hepatitis C and HIV. He loved people and he was an icon.”

In interviews, Dr. Oper often expressed passion for his profession.

“I believe it is important to love what you do for a living,” Dr. Oper often said. “I get up every morning and say, ‘Today is a happy day.’ I enjoy bringing up the spirit of the ones around me.”

When he wasn’t working, Dr. Oper could be found sailing through the Intracoastal Waterways or the Atlantic Ocean. He loved the open air and often took his staff members with him, so that they could also experience his passion for the sea.

Dr. Oper is survived by his five children and seven grandchildren.

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