We want to acknowledge and thank all the donors who supported the 2007 Annual Campaign. We could not have done it without you!

Thanks to our donors we are able to provide quality health care services to the homeless and medically indigent people of our community.

For us, 2007 was an incredible year of growth for the Health Care Center for the Homeless. We received a $1.1 million federal grant that allowed us to increase our capacity to provide primary medical care and behavioral health services for the homeless. This grant also created a new service for us, our new mobile medical unit. This mobile medical unit will enable us to be more aggressive in bringing our services to the community, thus increasing our ability to reach the homeless who are currently unable to access our services.

As we reflect on the past year and the many lives we have touched, I am proud of the role that the Health Care Center for the Homeless plays in our community. We are at the forefront and poised to embrace the challenges that come with each new day. We at the Health Care Center for the Homeless have always embodied the human spirit in its purest form, which is ready to serve any of us, our new mobile medical unit. This mobile medical unit will enable us to be more aggressive in bringing our services to the community, thus increasing our ability to reach the homeless who are currently unable to access our services.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue “To provide quality health care services that improve the lives of the homeless and medically indigent people in our community”. Thank you HCC! Thanks for making 2007 a phenomenal year!

For your health,

Bakari F. Burns, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

Deer Friends
At the Health Care Center for the Homeless we are celebrating our 15th year of providing quality health care services to the homeless and to those in need in our community.

From our humble beginnings when we provided classic boxes one or two nights a week for the homeless, to the opening of the Orange Blossom Family Health Center in 2006, we have embraced a personal philosophy to provide the highest quality of care to all community residents in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

For us, 2007 was an incredible year of growth for the Health Care Center for the Homeless. We received a $1.1 million federal grant that allowed us to increase our capacity to provide primary medical care and behavioral health services for the homeless. This grant also created a new service for us, our new mobile medical unit. This mobile medical unit will enable us to be more aggressive in bringing our services to the community, thus increasing our ability to reach the homeless who are currently unable to access our services. We care and are poised to embrace the challenges that come with each new day. We at the Health Care Center for the Homeless have always embodied the human spirit in its purest form, which is ready to serve any of us.

Thank you for your support of our very important work!

For your health,

Bakari F. Burns, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

Facts About Homelessness and the Uninsured

• In a given year it is estimated that over 8,000 to 9,000 individuals experience homelessness in the tri-county area of Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties and that on any given day the average number of homeless persons ranges between 3,000 and 4,500.

• 20% of the homeless population is chronically homeless (most with substance abuse addictions, mental health issues, physical disabilities or a combination of such) while approximately 80% are episodically homeless due to unforeseen circumstances.

• Women with children are the largest growing group of homeless individuals.

• Children make up 28% of the homeless population, based on national and regional analyses.

• Catastrophic illness is one of the major causes of homelessness.

• 45% of the homeless are employed.

• According to figures released in August 2007, 47 million people or 15.8% of the total U.S. population were uninsured.

• There are over 80,000 uninsured individuals in the Central Florida area.
Our Mission:

"To provide quality health care services that improve the lives of the homeless and medically indigent people of our community."

History of Our Organization –

The Health Care Center for the Homeless (HCCH) is a 501(c)(3) founded in 1993 by Dr. Rick Baxley, a volunteer physician who saw the need to provide quality health care services to the homeless population in Orlando. Initially sharing a space at the Coalition for the Homeless, we began our work by providing evening clinic hours one or two nights a week. In 1995, HCCH received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to provide primary health care to the homeless in the Tri-County area of Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties. In 2008, HCCH was granted funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Primary Health Care to increase the center’s capacity and financially support the provision of primary and preventative health care services for the homeless. HCCH is the sole provider of health care services for the homeless population in the Tri-county area. HCCH takes a multi-disciplinary approach to delivering quality health care services. This approach combines aggressive street outreach with integrated systems of primary care, oral health, mental health and substance abuse counseling, case management, and social services.

The HCCH operated out of three separate locations for many years. In 2006 we opened the Orange Blossom Family Health Center and this enabled us to double our capacity. In 2007 HCCH received a $1.1 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Primary Health Care. This funding enabled us to increase our medical capacity and to create a mobile medical unit, which is called the HOPE Mobile Medical. This 37 foot mobile unit is equipped with two exam rooms and waiting area, and is staffed by a physician assistant and a medical health counselor. This program is targeted at the homeless population in Orange, Osceola, Seminole counties. In 2008, we completed our Phase II construction which added four new exam rooms, medical and behavioral health offices and the demand for our services continues to grow.

Pediatric Care – Poverty and homelessness does not discriminate based on age. Domestic violence often affects innocent children and their health needs can be overlooked. At HCCH, our full time pediatrician provides services that include: well child check-ups, immunizations and assistance to help new mothers meet the needs of their babies and become better parents. Our pediatrician visits area shelters and other community partners to provide medical care. This outreach along with services provided at the Orange Blossom Family Health Center is giving kids a healthier start in life.

Vision Services – We offer eye exams and distribute glasses free of charge. Our Vision Center is the only source of optometric services for the homeless in Central Florida. Through a partnership with the Lions Clubs International and LensCrafters we are helping many homeless and at-risk care of the precious gift of sight. We also screen patients for visual related diseases that result from diabetes and other chronic illnesses.

Dental Services – Dental Services at the Orange Blossom Family Health Center is provided by a team made up of full and part-time dentists, hygienists and dental assistants. The rest of the work is done by dental volunteers. We provide a wide range of dental services including emergency dental care, oral screenings, cleaning and restoration work, referrals for surgery, and in some cases, we provide dental implants. We have also published a pediatric dental program for children. We believe good dental care can give a patient a great smile but it also builds confidence - a key ingredient needed in securing employment in our service driven economy.

Upcoming Plans

Phase III Expansion – The Health Care Center for the Homeless is applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for our Phase III Expansion. The Orange Blossom Family Health Center was designed in 3 phases. Phase 1 was the ambulatory center; Phase II was the current medical and behavioral health expansion. Phase III, which is planned for the near future, will be our dental expansion. During phase 3, the administrative suite, which is already planned, will be converted to dental operations and a new administrative suite will be added on to the building. We hope to receive the funds from Orange County under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. If funded construction could begin in about a year.

Denture Program – using the same model as our successful Femmes de Coeur Mammography Program, the Health Care Center for the Homeless hopes to establish a Denture Sponsorship Program. Currently partial and full dentures are covered on a limited basis by small grants or through private pay sources. Establishing a denture sponsorship program, funds would be raised to provide dentures for patients of the Orange Blossom Family Health Center. A great smile is certainly a confidence builder, but it is necessary to obtain employment in the service driven economy of the Central Florida area.

HCCH Values – We are committed and obligated to provide the highest quality health care to all community residents in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. We treat all patients with a truly caring attitude and are aware of the changing needs of the community and strive to be responsive to those needs. We embrace human differences as bonds not barriers and believe that quality health care should be universally accessible to all.