

Feb. 29, 2008

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MEDIA NOTE: The March calendar of events is provided at the end of this news release.

Health In Motion on the road for one year – celebration events planned

There will be two celebrations of the Sarasota County Health Department's 40 foot mobile medical unit, Health In Motion's first full year on the road visiting locations throughout north Sarasota, Laurel, Venice, Englewood and North Port each month. The first celebration event will take place on Monday, March 10 at 11 a.m. at the Selby Goodwill GoodNeighbor Center (Goodwill Job Center), 1781 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way in Sarasota. A second celebration event is scheduled to take place at the Sandra Sims Terry Community Center, 509 Collins Road in Laurel, a community north of Venice. These events which are free and open to the public will feature a birthday banner with written comments from those served through the medical mobile unit, as well as refreshments and door prize giveaways.

Community interest in the Health In Motion Mobile Medical Unit's services has been increasing especially in North Port where there are now three sites. As part of a special outreach in March, Health In Motion will be present at the North Port Community Expo at North Port High School, 6440 W. Price Boulevard on Saturday, March 8 from 9 a.m. to noon. The mobile medical unit will also be at the Sarasota Housing Authority at 1912 N. Orange Ave. in Sarasota on Friday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to Noon.

The Health In Motion staff provide basic health services to residents with Medicaid, without health insurance or who do not have transportation. No appointment is needed. The services offered include blood pressure, and diabetes screening, HIV testing, pregnancy testing, tuberculosis skin testing, adult immunizations, health education, and eligibility screening as part of assisting people in locating a permanent health care provider. Senior Friendship Center volunteer physicians and the Sarasota County Health Department's medical director, Dr. Kieran Smart, provide basic medical care on a rotating basis when the mobile unit visits the Salvation Army each Thursday. A registered nurse is available at all other Health In Motion locations.

Some services will be free; other services will be offered on a sliding fee scale based on income. Community agencies such as Community AIDS Network (CAN), and Coastal Behavioral Healthcare will also provide specialized services.

Health In Motion is supported in part by a two-year grant from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice which funds the staffing and medical equipment needs.

Those who would like a schedule of dates, routes and services can call the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000. Residents can also download a copy of the calendar by visiting the Sarasota County Health and Human Services website, www.sarasotahealth.org.

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March Schedule of Events (Health In Motion) - PAGE TWO

North Sarasota

Monday, March 3, 17 and 31; 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Fredd Atkins Park

Southwest corner/ U.S. Highway 301 and Dr. Luther King Jr. Way, Sarasota 34234

Monday, March 3, 17 and 31; 1 to 3 p.m.

La Canasta Market

2268 Fruitville Road, Sarasota 34237

Thursday, March 6, 13, 20 and 27; 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Salvation Army

1400 Tenth St., Sarasota 34236

Health In Motion's first birthday celebration begins at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 10 at this location

Monday, March 10 and 24; 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Selby Goodwill GoodNeighbor Center (Goodwill Job Center)

1781 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Sarasota 34234

Monday, March 10 and 24; 1 to 3 p.m.

Newtown Estates Park

2800 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota 34234

Friday, March 28; 10 a.m. to Noon

Sarasota Housing Authority

1912 N. Orange Ave., Sarasota 34234

Laurel

Health In Motion's first birthday celebration event begins at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19 at this location

Wednesday, March 19; 3 to 5 p.m.

Sandra Sims Terry Community Center

509 Collins Road, Laurel 34272

Venice

Tuesday, March 18; 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Goodwill Center Rialto

650 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice 34285

Tuesday, March 18; 1 to 3 p.m.

Grove Terrace

201 Grove St. N., Venice 34285

Englewood

Tuesday, March 4 and 25; 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Goodwill Center

410 Indiana Ave, Sarasota 34223

Tuesday, March 25; 1 to 3 p.m.

Elsie Quirk Library

100 W. Dearborn St., Englewood 34223

March Schedule of Events (Health In Motion) - PAGE THREE

North Port

Friday, March 7; 9:30 a.m. to Noon

St. Nathaniel's Episcopal Church

(In conjunction with USDA Food Distribution Program)

4200 S. Biscayne Drive, North Port 34287

Saturday, March 8; 9 a.m. to Noon

North Port Community Expo

North Port High School

6440 W. Price Boulevard, North Port 34286

Wednesday, March 12 and 19; 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Wednesday, March 5 and 26; 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wal-Mart Super Center

17000 Tamiami Trail, North Port 34287

Wednesday, March 12; 1 to 3 p.m.

Riley Chase Apts.

1015 Panacea Blvd., North Port 34289

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