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The State of Florida Department of Education awards **chs** Healthcare's
Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Program
Migrant Health Professional of the Year Award

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October 2007 Immokalee, FL - The State of Florida's Department of Education recently named CHS Healthcare's **Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Program** (RMCM) as one of two Florida programs to receive the honored Migrant Health Professionals of the Year Award. The Migrant Education Program is a federally funded program that provides supplemental education services to migrant children. The Florida Department of Education will forward the names of the 2007 state award winners for consideration at the national level.

Jules Mijares, Program Coordinator, and Yudelkis Ruiz, Dental Assistant, accepted the award for the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Program at the annual Florida Migrant Education Conference in Orlando on October 2, 2007. The Care Mobile is a state-of-the-art vehicle built specifically for the delivery of pediatric healthcare services directly to underserved children in their own neighborhoods. This unique mobility allows the Care Mobile to reach children and families where they live and have activities, such as: schools, day care sites, preschools, after school programs and festivals.

CHS Healthcare has developed the Care Mobile Program with clinical and educational services tailored to the specific needs of our community. The purpose of the Program is to provide these children with certain medical and dental screenings and treatments, as well as providing education and information. The primary goal of the Care Mobile Program is to identify children with unmet healthcare needs and be a point of entry into a regular pattern of healthcare by connecting the child and his/her family to a permanent medical and/or dental home.

The CHS RMCM Program has been a catalyst for much of the influx into Collier County of new investments in health care for needy children, directly attributable to findings from Care Mobile screening activities in the first/second years of the programs operation in our community. For example, a new dental clinic in East Naples (\$1.5 million) and a new Pediatric Dental Residency Program on Edison Campus (\$9.5 million). Both programs involve Naples Children and Education Foundation (NCEF) and the Dental Residency program also includes \$4 million from the State of Florida.

The mission of the Care Mobile Program is to "Deliver Hope on Wheels" and improves the health status of underserved children by providing quality health care services. To date, the Care Mobile Program has touched the lives of over 7,000 children.

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