

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Nancy Freeman
CHS Healthcare
239-658-3126
239-776-6809

Mijares of CHS Healthcare Wins National Award

CHS Healthcare (CHS) is pleased to announce Ms. Jules Mijares, of CHS, has been named the winner of the Outstanding Migrant Health Public Service award. The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) will present her with this national award in San Diego, California, at the 2010 National Farmworker Health Conference this week. Mijares was nominated and won this honor because of her efforts in the migrant community. She has led the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® program (RMCM) to exceed expectations and, by doing so, she has touched the lives of thousands of underserved children and their families in our community.

The Care Mobile is a signature CHS program that began in November 2004, in partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities®. It was a first for Southwest Florida. The RMCM is a mobile pediatric medical and dental office that serves children who lack access to healthcare. The goal, once services are provided, is to make sure these children are connected to a permanent medical and dental home.

Mijares, the program's first employee and coordinator, worked to garner community support and acceptance of the mobile health concept. She was the link to the community. By doing this, she built the network of relationships that have been crucial to the continued success of the program.

In 2005, the Care Mobile Program received recognition from Collier County for providing relief when Hurricane Wilma devastated Immokalee, and in 2007, the Care Mobile Program received the coveted Migrant Professional of the Year Award from the Title I migrant education program. This award was given in recognition of the positive impact the program has made, under Mijares's direction, on the lives of so many migrant children in our community.

In the beginning, the Care Mobile started with a single coordinator; Jules Mijares became the face of a new, unknown program in the community. She was the first contact in the community and more importantly, this woman personally, one by one, took the hand of thousands of underprivileged children and introduced them to the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Program. She created trust in the program and turned a doctor's appointment into a positive experience. How many of us can say *we personally* touched the lives of thousands of children? Jules Mijares can! Now, five years after the Care Mobile first appeared in Collier County, you will find her managing a wildly successful residency program, in partnership with UF College of Dentistry, and an award winning Care Mobile program that ensures seamless follow-up, first class customer service, and the promise of high quality, affordable dental care. Mijares's compassion and dedication to the underserved children in our community continues to be unwavering, and the example she sets for all who are fortunate to know her is truly inspiring.

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