



**Space Coast
Volunteers in Medicine**

Huge Turnout for Opening of Volunteer Clinic
Clinic to provide free medical and dental care to the uninsured of Brevard County

Palm Bay, Fla. — According to Space Coast Volunteers in Medicine Executive Director, Paul Ringenberger, it was one of those days. “It seemed that everything that could go wrong that morning was going wrong. From event coordination to weather, it looked like we were in for a disastrous ribbon cutting and opening. Then my Dental Director, Gene List, arrived in mid-afternoon, calmed my anxiety, said a brief prayer and reminded me that our program was too important to be sidetracked by a little bad weather and last minute problems. As he was saying that, the sky cleared, the sun came out and every problem began to be resolved. Say what you will- we knew our faith-inspired program had been blessed once again.”

The new clinic is dedicated to providing free medical and dental care to uninsured residents of Brevard County. Space Coast Volunteers in Medicine clinic will accept patients who earn less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level and have no insurance. The clinic will be staffed by volunteer physicians, other health care professionals, and members of the community willing to donate their time and skills to helping those in need. All services will be free of charge, supported through grants, donations and fundraising events. No tax dollars will be used to fund the clinic.

Added Ringenberger, “We had a great event with over 175 people in attendance. Joining us were special guests Pam Gillespie from Congressman Posey’s office, Dr. Richard Roberts, President of the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, Dr. Todd Sagin, Board Member from Volunteers in Medicine, Jim Barfield, President of Luke and Associates, Palm Bay Mayor John Mazziotti, Dr. Heshmati of the Brevard County Health Department, as well as dignitaries and guests from throughout Brevard County. It was a huge success.”

The Space Coast Volunteers in Medicine clinic is the first of many new free health clinics that will benefit from grants provided by a new signature program of the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation called *Family Medicine Cares*. The AAFP Foundation is collaborating in this program with Volunteers in Medicine, a non-profit organization that helps develop sustainable, locally supported free clinics in underserved communities throughout the United States.

“As family doctors, we know how important it is to have access to quality primary care to prevent illness, detect and treat problems early, and coordinate complex care. As fellow Americans, we stand with those in the Space Coast area who find themselves in need,” said Richard Roberts, M.D., J.D., president of the AAFP Foundation.

A Founders Society program called ‘Five Hundred for \$500’ has been launched at Space Coast VIM, seeking five hundred donors to donate \$500 each to the program. Though recently started, over 75 donors have accepted the challenge and joined the Founders Society. Complimenting the program will be naming rights to various rooms and lobbies in the Palm Bay Clinic. Stated Ringenberger, “We just received a pledge of \$5000 from Dr. Mitchell Greenberg and the Florida Chiropractic Association.”

Residents of Brevard County may review eligibility requirements by going to the clinic website at: www.spacecoastvolunteersinmedicine.org or calling 321-914-2715 for an eligibility screening. All services are free of charge.

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Space Coast Volunteers in Medicine

1460 Baytree Drive, NE
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321-914-0915

For Details on Eligibility: 321-914-2715

www.spacecoastvolunteersinmedicine.org

About the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation

The Foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Its primary mission is to advance the values of family medicine by promoting humanitarian, educational, and scientific initiatives that improve the health of all people. For more information, please visit www.aafpfoundation.org.

About Volunteers in Medicine

Volunteers in Medicine is dedicated to the development of a national network of free clinics emphasizing the use of retired and practicing medical and community volunteers to improve access to health care for America's uninsured.

www.volunteersinmedicine.org