

## NCEF Healthcare Initiative

Since 2006, NCEF has invested \$6,167,646.10 into the community.

### The Issue

Access to medical care is a critical issue for rural and low-income communities within Collier County. Barriers such as awareness, transportation and access to healthcare can make it difficult for children and families to receive the critical care they need. Primary care is critical to maintaining positive health. Through routine check-ups, primary care professionals are often the first to see early signs of disease, behavioral health issues and other health concerns in children. Without consistent access to care, the medically underserved postpone necessary care and forego preventive care; families are more likely to use emergency rooms for primary care and be hospitalized for health conditions that could have been avoided. Social and economic determinants of positive health include lack of housing, unemployment and food insecurity.

Primary healthcare for families is critical for child development, beginning with pregnancy. Without quality prenatal care, a pregnant woman is 10.9 times more likely to have a baby die and 5.6 times more likely to have a baby born with low birth weight. Research has shown that \$1.00 of preventative care can save \$6.00 of additional costs over the lifetime of a premature baby. Low birth weight breeds other significant problems including organs that are not fully developed, which can lead to lung problems and vision loss. These babies are 20 times more likely to die in their first year of life according to March of Dimes.

### Fast Facts

- **Nearly 70%** of the uninsured population is poor or near-poor, and the proportion of children in poverty not receiving any healthcare each year is twice that of higher-income children.
- An **estimated 343,000** Florida children were uninsured in 2019, the second highest number in the nation\*. As of 2022 **8.8%** of children in Collier County lack health insurance compared to the national average of 7.5%.
- Healthcare Network, one of NCEF's Initiative Partners, serves **more than 50,000** patients annually - including over **60%** of the children and **40%** of the expectant mothers in Collier County.

*\*Data from Center for Children & Families (CCF) of the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute and the Institute for Research on Poverty – University of Wisconsin-Madison.*

### Collaborative Successes

- Through strategic brokering and partnerships and a \$2,000,000 investment matched dollar for dollar by Florida State, NCEF successfully introduced a fully

renovated Primary Care Clinic at the Isabel Collier Read building in Immokalee, Florida. Since inception the medical campus has welcomed **over 244,000 pediatric visits**.

- In June 2020, Healthcare Network's Nichols Community Health Center opened in the Golden Gate community with NCEF support. NCEF's contributions provided critical medical supplies and furniture for pediatric services, as well as the hiring of two Pediatric Nurse Practitioners for the center, providing access to **over 86,000 pediatric patient visits** since opening.

### Meet AP, Age 3

AP was 3 years old when he went for a checkup. Upon examination of his heart, the doctor noticed a "click." AP was otherwise healthy and had no previous medical issues. He was playful and happy during his examination and very interactive. "Clicks" on cardiac examination are almost always pathologic and need further evaluation rather quickly. AP was referred and seen the same day by a cardiologist who noted that he had a mass on his mitral valve. He was immediately referred to a tertiary care center where he was hospitalized and had surgery to remove the mass. Thankfully, AP was diagnosed quickly as he had a very high risk of the mass dislodging and potentially causing a stroke or even death. Today, AP is happy and healthy with a completely normal heart.



### How your dollars make a difference:

**\$50,000 supports a diabetes navigator** that connects children with diabetes to critical resources and services

**\$25,000 provides 4 nonverbal children** with the gift of communication

**\$10,000 provides 50 children** with complete health screenings

**\$5,000 enables underserved Immokalee students** to attend 5 medically-focused field trips

**\$2,500 provides 10 children** with primary care visits

**\$1,000 provides equipment** necessary to conduct diabetes screenings



## Strategic Initiative Partners

