

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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**UM/JHS PEDIATRIC MOBILE CLINIC & SANT LA CELEBRATES “COVER THE
UNINSURED WEEK” IN LITTLE HAITI:**

Van will visit Toussaint Elementary on Monday, May 1

Miami, FL (May 1, 2006) – This week, the nation mobilizes activists to organize around the issue of the uninsured in America. “Cover the Uninsured Week,” May 1 – 7, is sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to alert millions of people to the pressing needs of those living without health insurance.

One of the important players in our community around access to health for the uninsured is the University of Miami Pediatric Mobile Clinic. The Pediatric Mobile Clinic visits various locations throughout the county, administering much needed health care to uninsured children in Miami-Dade. Almost 70% of the children receiving services through the UM Pediatric Mobile Clinic are recent arrivals to the United States who do not qualify for public programs such as Medicaid or KidCare. This week, in honor of “Cover the Uninsured Week,” the mobile clinic will visit Toussaint Elementary School in Little Haiti on Monday, May 1, 2006. “So many members of our community have difficulty in accessing health care due to lack of insurance or the high costs associated in seeking preventative care. The Pediatric Mobile Clinic aids Haitian families in Miami-Dade County in administering much needed primary health care to uninsured children,” said Gepsie M. Metellus, Executive Director, Haitian Neighborhood Center, Sant La.

Sant La, the Haitian Neighborhood Center, and the UM Pediatric Mobile Clinic have worked closely with the Little Haiti Community Health Collaborative (LHCHC) to promote access to health care for uninsured Haitian families in Miami-Dade County. Through outreach on television, radio and through community health workers, the LHCHC educates the Haitian community about preventative health practices and aids residents in accessing health care.

The UM Pediatric Mobile Clinic is available to uninsured community members from 9:30 am to 2 pm on May 1. Parents must accompany their children to the doctor’s visit at the clinic. Toussaint L’Overture Elementary School is located at 120 NE 59th Street. Please call ahead to make an appointment; you can reach the appointment line at 305-243-6407.

The Little Haiti Community Health Collaborative is comprised of five organizations involved in connecting Haitians and Haitian Americans of the Northeast Corridor to health services: Sant La, the Haitian Neighborhood Center; Little Haiti Housing Association; Center for Haitian Studies; Haitian American Association Against Cancer; and the University of Miami Pediatric Mobile Clinic.

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