



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Giving Back to Improve the Community's Health During
National Volunteer Week, April 18-24**



Physicians, nurses and other medically licensed professionals can join community volunteers in improving the health of all Pinellas County residents. **National Volunteer Week, April 18-24**, celebrates the contributions of those who are generous in giving their time to help others.

The Pinellas County Health Department is fortunate to have the *Medical Reserve Corps*, citizens who perform services such as promoting healthier lifestyles, enhancing public health preparedness and improving health literacy. Almost 150 volunteers donate their time to assist staff. Through a partnership with WorkNet Pinellas, some volunteers learn employable skills that can help them find jobs in new areas.

The Pinellas County Health Department also coordinates the *Specialty Care Volunteer Network* that provides specialty services to uninsured clients. Chiropractic physicians and medical doctors who specialize in gynecology, ophthalmology, dermatology and other areas donate their time and skill to improve the health of the community. Nurses and other health professionals also donate their expertise at several Pinellas County Health Department locations.

Health volunteers provided \$814,611 in services and 14,342 volunteer hours to the community in 2009.

(more)



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“We are grateful for the energy, enthusiasm and dedication they bring to our programs,” said Claude Dharamraj, MD, MPH, director of the Pinellas County Health Department. “Many of our clients would not receive specialty services without these partnerships.”

Community volunteers interested in joining the Medical Reserve Corps and medical professionals who would like to give back by joining the Specialty Care Volunteer Network can call (727) 820-4125 or email Volunteer_CHD52@doh.state.fl.us for more information. For information about the Pinellas County Health Department, go to www.PinellasHealth.com.

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