



FICS Board members L-R, Front: Dr. Alvin Wolfe (Chair), Matilda Garcia, Maria Antonieta Riveros-Revello. Back: Dr. Steve Dubb, Domingo Noreiga and Jack Levine, JD (not pictured Carlton Lewis, Pablo Sierra, Jr. and Tony Jenkins)

Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! This is our sixth year of operations and our newsletters have improved as we have grown. In this issue, we report on our **Blue Foundation Grant**, our **Project Prevention Model Program**, our **5th Anniversary Party**, held at the Lowry Park Zoo (Dec. 6, 2007),

Members of the Board of Directors, new partnerships and programs. **We welcome new board members Carlton Lewis and Dr. Steve Dubb!**

Thanks to outgoing FICS Board Member, Domingo Noriega! Domingo has been with our board for the past 4 years and he and his family have volunteered regularly at our events! We wish you the best!

Thanks to the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, FICS is getting a makeover – stay tuned for a new logo and marketing!



The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida and its Parent, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, are Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Saturday, JULY 26th 2008, 12-3 PM
TNC PRODIGY SHOWCASE
Town n Country Recreation Center,
5036 Hanley Road, Tampa FL 33634

Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida Combats Diabetes with Historic Grant

For many years, FICS has collaborated with **Redlands Christian Migrant Association** and **Suncoast Community Health Centers** to realize our shared goals of an improved quality of life for underserved immigrants, many of whom are farmworkers. After three tries, FICS was successful in securing funding from the **Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida** to pilot a joint



L-R Dr. Piguese (Med Dir. At Suncoast), Diana Lopez (Nursing Dir. At Suncoast), Benji de Jesus (FICS), Maria del Socorro Velasquez (FICS CAB member), Juan Gomez (FICS CAB member), Ana Sanchez (FICS), Josie Gracia (RCMA), Tony Jenkins (Blue Cross Blue Shield and FICS Board Member) and Alayne Unterbeger (FICS)

effort that utilizes health promoters, home visiting, lay education and clinic in-reach to help high-risk diabetes get their disease under control. Begun in January 2008, our **Sweethearts – Corazones Dulces** – and **Vivir Mejor** approach has been implemented in the community and in the Suncoast Clinics. In fact, we have already seen major progress in the first few months, with positive reports from Suncoast and RCMA staff and participants. Together, FICS, RCMA and Suncoast have made a commitment to share resources and pilot this program, which is funded at \$100,000 for one year. Our staff include Benji DeJesus and Ana Sanchez. **We are always interested in expanding our volunteer and Community Advisory Board, so please feel free to join us in monthly meetings!** Our next event is **Three Kings Day** in Wimauma, where there will be free health screenings, toys, food and fun! Please call Ana or Alayne at 813.249.8100 for more information. **¡Sí, se puede! Yes we can! Join us.**

The Numbers:

TOTAL DONATIONS 2007-8	\$27,032
Multicultural Family Center	
Sign Ins since 2005:	9601
HIV tests completed	217
Health Careers Expeditions 2008	82
Project Prevention Graduates	613
Prodigy Students (2007-8 only)	480
Summer Program (2008 only)	55
Sweethearts Program Diabetes Prev.	337

PROYECTO PREVENCIÓN

Project Prevention has now graduated 600 youth – and we are headed to our last year of programming under our SAMHSA grant.

Project Prevention staff and evaluator accepted a Special Recognition from the Centers for Substance Abuse Prevention at our meeting in Detroit, MI in June 2008 (pictured I-r, Claudia Richards, Chief, HIV Prevention/CSAP, Rose Kittrell, Director, Knowledge Applications and System Improvement/CSAP, Nadia Palomino, FICS, Alayne Unterberger, FICS, Manolo Hernandez-Martin, FICS, and Patricia Sabry, Federal Program Officer, SAMHSA/CSAP. Project Prevention has now expanded to ten total sites, including three schools, six parks and one apartment complex! Before the end of 2008, we are on target to graduate 800 youth from Project Prevention! We are enrolling now! Keep track of us through our MySpace/projectprevention or just drop in to the Center and we will have some surprises at the end of the year for Hispanic Heritage! Has Project Prevention made a difference in your life? Tell us: ficsnadia@yahoo.com

Project Prevention has now expanded to ten total sites, including three schools, six parks and one apartment complex! Before the end of 2008, we are on target to graduate 800 youth from Project Prevention! We are enrolling now! Keep track of us through our MySpace/projectprevention or just drop in to the Center and we will have some surprises at the end of the year for Hispanic Heritage! Has Project Prevention made a difference in your life? Tell us: ficsnadia@yahoo.com

Project Prevention has now expanded to ten total sites, including three schools, six parks and one apartment complex! Before the end of 2008, we are on target to graduate 800 youth from Project Prevention! We are enrolling now! Keep track of us through our MySpace/projectprevention or just drop in to the Center and we will have some surprises at the end of the year for Hispanic Heritage! Has Project Prevention made a difference in your life? Tell us: ficsnadia@yahoo.com



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov

5th Anniversary Party



On December 6, 2008, FICS held our 5th Anniversary Party at the Lowry Park Zoo. The event was attended by 80 people, and we were entertained by twenty amazing athletes from Capoeira Ao Volta Do Mundo and we danced the night away with the Freddy Montes y Su Son Band. FICS staff did a retrospective on our progress (see photo of staff members below left).

We would like to thank everyone for making this event not only unforgettable but also successful. Special thanks go to Lowry Park Zoo's Chef Chad Lusk, University Area Community Development Center, Suncoast Community Health Centers and board members! Our 6th Annual Anniversary Party will be held on Thursday, December 4th 2008 so mark your calendar now!



TC Prodigy Has Record Year!



FICS is very pleased to celebrate Prodigy's achievements this year!

First, we had two wonderful Showcases. Second, we well exceeded our goals, expanded our programming to both Timberlane and Town N Country Parks. Third, we added some truly excellent teachers to our staff! Do you want to learn CAPOEIRA? You can with our teachers Eduardo Torres and Rebecca Davis from Capoeira Ao Volta Do Mundo. How about Latin Drums? We have the

BEST teacher in Mr. Freddy Montes, who also has a band Freddy Montes y Su Son. Art? We have two art teachers, Vivian Fisk and Jan Radovan! Ok, so you like to move your hips? Come learn from Carolina Garcia, who also teaches at USF and Hillsborough Community College! Prodigy is free and we have open enrollment! ¡Prodigy es ¡BUENO, BARATO y BONITO!

Rito Valdez is 2008 Exemplary Father of the Year



Mr. Rito Valdez, owner of Wimauma Staffing, was nominated by wife Guillermina Valdez because “He is a good father who has always been attentive to his children and has taken the initiative to succeed. He has worked extremely hard to be able to support his children in their studies. He is involved in his children’s

activities, especially when he can support the community, which he does as a sponsor for soccer games.” “Es un buen padre que siempre ha estado

pendiente de sus hijos y siempre se ha preocupado por seguir adelante. Se ha esforzado mucho trabajando para el día de mañana para que los niños continuen estudiando y que el pueda apoyarlos. Se envuelve en las actividades de sus hijos en futbol y le gusta apoyar a la comunidad como patrocinado de las partidas de fultbol y mucho mas. Rito is pictured with two of his three children (l-Amanda, r-Wendy) and his wife Guillermina.



Rito was recognized at the **Seventh Annual Exemplary Father of the Year Event**, part of the Pocos Hijos Para Darles Mas/Vivir Mejor program, which has now recognized a total of 22 males who go above and beyond in their dedication to making South Hillsborough County a better place. This year’s celebration was held in conjunction with the Ruskin Family Support and Resource Center and their annual Father’s Day Celebration. This was a very good match and we thank the staff and volunteers at the Family Support and Resource Center for their generosity. We look forward to celebrating many more male leaders in South County! Food and other sponsors of the day include: Ana’s Restaurant, Panadería Garcia, Home Depot and Wal-Mart. **¡¡¡Felicidades, familia Valdez!!!!**

FICS Partners with Turkey Creek Middle School on Gang Prevention



Maria Orbita with Noe Contreras, Turn Around Student of the

Alarmed by “Reds” and “Blues,” troubled 6th graders who tag the school and school property, fights and general discontent, **Turkey Creek Middle School’s** principal Mr. Mayo this spring partnered with FICS to conduct a semester-long **All-Stars Prevention Program** during the 6th period of every day with 18 youth. All of the youth graduates are Mexican or Latino in origin and identified by school officials as high-risk for gang involvement. All-Stars is recognized as



Maria Orbita with Marco Santiago, Winner of Highest Points

a Model Program for Prevention by the Centers for Substance Abuse Prevention (DHHS) and the Office of Juvenile Justice (Tanglewood Research, Inc.). The All-Stars benefitted by having guest speakers

and personal attention by FICS staff. Special thanks go to: 1) **Lt. Jeannette Asuncion, National Guard Drug Reduction Program**, who presented to a packed gym which included All-Stars, on the dangers of early entry of gateway drug use; 2) **Mr. Tony Morejon, Hillsborough County Hispanic Liaison**; and 3) **Mr. Gus Halwani, USF Neuroscience Program**. We consider all of the fourteen of the youth graduates true All-Stars and we know you are making hard choices every single day! ¡Sí, se puede! Yes, you can! We will be there next year! **Thank you Mr. Mayo, Ms. Rivera, Deputy Kevin and Ms. Altheizer.**

Mark Your Calendar:

2 nd Wednesday/Month	Volunteer Orientation
4 th Wednesday/Month	Community Advisory Board TNC Meeting
July 26, 2008	Summer Brilla Show
December 4, 2008	FICS' 6 th Anniversary
January 3, 2009	3 Kings Day, Wimauma

For more information:

www. Ficsinc. Org,  call 813.249.8100 or

 email Alayne@tampabay.rr.com

English as a Second Language and GED Classes are now being offered FREE on site at FICS every day in partnership with the Hillsborough County School District. Call Leyda, our instructor, at 813.317.6651.





Summer is Here....Health Careers, Summer Program and How You Can Help!

Can you believe it is already 90 degrees outside? Seems like just yesterday that we were enjoying our 70 degree highs. FICS is busy with summer and, as in years past, we are calling on you to make a real difference through your donation of time and/or funding to positively impact the lives of hundreds of young people! Our schedule this summer is:

7:30 AM to 6 PM. **A donation of \$25 will support one child, including daily Food and Snack for a week! Please consider helping us out!!**



CONGRATS to FICS Multicultural Family Center Super stars!

The following students got three or more A's or E's on their final report cards:

- ☆ Joshua Cespedes,
- ☆ Jonathan Cespedes,
- ☆ David Lopez,
- ☆ Tatiana Nieves,
- ☆ Kimberly Pellet,
- ☆ Xavier Pellet,
- ☆ Brianny Rosario
- ☆ Jordan Rosario

Thanks....¡Mil Gracias! Thanks to you, we had a record year, raising a total of \$27,031.85,

with \$15,963.79 in cash donations and \$12,705.85 in in-kind donations, *at right, Garcia's Bakery in Wimauma donated pastries for Father's Day! (YUM)*

- | | | | |
|--------|---|--------|--------------------------------------|
| \$5300 | Carlton Lewis, as Local Hero, Bank of America | \$1752 | Bob Conigliaro, Casper's Corporation |
| \$1100 | Maria Antonieta Revello, MA | \$600 | Jack Levine, JD |
| \$2000 | Starbucks/ Westshore Mall (Michael Cross) | \$560 | Tony Dodd, Cici's Pizza |
| \$ 500 | Chili's Restaurant, Hillsborough (Kevin Montgomery) | | |



Less than \$500: Business Donors: Ana's Mexican Restaurant (Wimauma), Club 15, Inc., Home Depot (Sun City Center), Mark Ptolomey (AOR), Panaderia Garcias (Wimauma), Paris Hair (Alexandra Laimina), Suncoast Community Health Centers, University Area Community Development Corporation (UACDC), Walmart (Sun City Center) & Wal-Mart (Tomas Perez -TNC).

Individual Donors: Ignacio David Acevedo, Randall Alvarez, Richard Appelbaum, Patrick Atkinson, Jessica Becker, Alejandro Bidot, Pascual and Zoriada Bidot, Ricardo Blanco, Gina and Jay Bonewit, James Boyd, Glenn Brown, Nick Bruno, Priscilla Cardoso, Paul and Nilda Chandler, Dr. Barbara Clark-Alexander, Michael Cross, Lizanahi Cruz, Sara Deats, Tony Dodd, Dr. Steve Dubb, Susan Easter, Oriana Eversole, Dr. Dexter Frederick, Matilda García, Teresa Gonzalez-White, William Hogan, Dr. Douglas Holt, Dr. Antoinette Jackson, Tony Jenkins, Patricia Kemp, John Land, Carlton Lewis, Marleny Lopez, Maribel Marmol, Samuel Marmol, Monica Martinez, Nilsa Martinez, Ramon Martinez, Sonia Medina, John Napor, Tamara Nemirovsky, Domingo Noriega, Margarita Pagan, Nadia Palomino, Dorothy Parker, Shannon Patten, Dr. Dennis Penzell, Adjani Piñero, Yairi Rivera, Robert Rodriguez, Matthew Rogg, Geovany Rojas, Daniel and Angela Ruth, Ana Sanchez, Fernando Santos, Amy and Ken Sturrock, Evelyn Sumner, Luis and Leyda Tenorio, Dr. Alayne Unterberger, Earl Wiggins, Dr. Alvin and Barbara Wolfe and Joe Zuñiga.



FICS
PO Box 16745
Tampa, FL 33687

Nonprofit
Organization
US Postage
Paid
Tampa, FL
Permit # 7