



Sarasota County Health Department | Florida Department of Health
scgov.net | 941-861-5000 | Comcast 19/Verizon 32

Dec. 15, 2010

Media contact: Dianne Shipley, 941-861-2852; cell 941-302-1058;
Dianne_Shipley@doh.state.fl.us

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: The two longest-tenured volunteers, Doug Williams (begins 10 years of service in January 2011) and Françoise Vadon (begins 20 years of service, also in January 2011), who together contributed more than a half million dollars worth of volunteer hours during their combined years of service, will be available for interviews highlighting their experiences on Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 10 a.m. at the Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota.

‘Season of Sharing’: Sarasota County Health Department volunteers contribute over \$5 million in service hours

In this “Season of Sharing,” the Sarasota County Health Department (SCHD) recognizes the contributions of its 251 volunteers who serve at seven sites throughout the county. Additionally, the SCHD has oversight of the Senior Friendship Centers’ medical and dental clinic volunteers. Collectively, these volunteers provided 29,623 hours in essential roles over a one-year period, saving taxpayers \$5,334,025.

“Our volunteers are invaluable, especially now when we are seeing a steady increase in the number of uninsured residents needing health care,” says SCHD director Bill Little.

These volunteers fill a variety of roles, including clerical support, language translators, nurses, physicians, dentists and other professionals who assist in clinic roles and with public health initiatives such as the Health In Motion Mobile Medical Unit. There are currently 58 trained and licensed health professionals with credentials who serve as Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers, augmenting the existing response efforts during a major public health threat or disaster. Roles may include staffing emergency shelters and assisting at medication dispensing centers in response to public health emergencies. The MRC volunteers also assist with other public health initiatives throughout the year.

The Sarasota County Health Department provides sovereign immunity protection to its medical volunteers. This extends to the medical volunteers who work at Senior Friendship Centers.

The two longest-tenured volunteers who together have donated more than half a million dollars worth of volunteer hours in their combined nearly 30-year tenure at the Sarasota County Health Department are:

Doug Williams, who was awarded the Governor's Point of Light Award in June 2004, has served as a language translator in the health department's clinics at the 2200 Ringling Blvd. location. He will be starting his 10th year of service, and already has contributed \$173,472 in service hours.

Françoise Vadon also has served as a language translator in the health department's 2200 Ringling Blvd. location. She will begin her 20th year of service at a value of \$346,944.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Pauline Santor at 941-861-2822. Contact Tammi Ketcham for details about the Medical Reserve Corps by calling 941-861-2906, or visiting the Sarasota MRC website, www.mrcsarasota.org.

-end-