

WE CARE Volunteers for Health

Building strong and healthy communities

Spring
2010



TONYA HAWTHORNE, DO
Founder and President of NFHF

MRC WELCOMED A SPECIAL GUEST TO THE FEBRUARY TRAINING MEETING

At age 19, Dr. Tonya accepted her first missionary assignment teaching at a school for hearing impaired children in the Philippines. By the time she graduated from Bible College she knew she wanted to be a doctor. After 3 1/2 additional years of undergraduate work, she began medical school for another four years of study and three more years of family practice residency.

During her residency training in 1993, she worked in a medical clinic in the Dominican Republic for a month. The culmination of all those years of education and training came together. In 1998, Dr. Tonya gave up a very comfortable medical practice in Clearwater, Florida to become a medical missionary and founded New Frontiers Health Force. New Frontiers is an organization that provides free health care in developing countries and in our local community.

"I am just someone who has taken her God-given talents & used them to make a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate."

Dr. Tonya was honored with the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Presidential Citation of Recognition & Appreciation Award by Dr. Anthony Ottaviani at their annual meeting in March 2008.



This award was for the work Dr. Tonya does through New Frontiers Health Force and how it embodies the spirit of Osteopathic Medicine.



At NFHF's Annual Benefit in 2004, Dr. Tonya received the President's Call to Service Award - the highest level of awards given for volunteer service established by President George Bush.



Created by
La'Shon Anthony,
visuals4u.com
(our volunteer
designer)



MRC Joined Response to H1N1 in Pinellas County Florida

The Medical Reserve Corps in Pinellas County was an integral part of the County Health Department community response to H1N1. The diverse membership enabled a variety of activities to be supported or solely provided by the members of the MRC and general organizational volunteers.

The Public Health Preparedness team developed a comprehensive approach to the H1N1 situation. MRC and Volunteer Services were an integral part of this team. MRC volunteers were rostered for the provision of vaccinations to the community in priority order starting with the schools. Qualified MRC Volunteers were added to the public health teams as needed to ensure adequate staffing of the teams.

Additionally volunteers, both MRC and others, assisted with the sorting and stocking of the supply boxes that would accompany each team. The boxes were prepared each morning for the next day and restocked as they returned. The management of all the consent forms was a huge task. Volunteers provided some support to this activity as well as volunteers and staff working side by side.

The task of contacting all physicians in the county, providing services to the priority group to receive H1N1 vaccines, was assigned to the MRC Volunteers. A list was created; a script and volunteers were rostered for this task. A 'call center' was established for two weeks, 8 hours a day. Volunteers handled this call center to ensure physicians knew how to order the vaccine through the County Health Department. (This is not how they would normally order vaccines.) The volunteers called and often faxed the information needed to approximately 3,288 physicians. There were many follow-up calls made as well. This project generated a savings of \$5,700.00 of staff time as well as collecting valuable information. Each call generated additional information, such as fax numbers, email addresses, and practice manager names that formed the foundation for a new database to be created. This will enable the County Health Department to contact these physicians in the future by automated fax or emails.



Health Care Volunteers and Disaster Response — First, Be Prepared

Medical volunteerism is challenging, but it can be personally and professionally rewarding as communities recover and rebuild. Resilient communities respond to a disaster and recover quickly. This resilience requires the ability to mobilize a rapid local response, including assistance from health care volunteers. Rather than assisting only in early response, potential volunteers should consider making a long-term commitment and partnering with an established organization that responds to a variety of events (catastrophic and minor, short term and long term). Prior planning at the personal level, including advance registration as a volunteer, not only affords health care providers opportunities to serve in a disaster but can also help to build resilience in their own communities. To read the full article, go to <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/NEJMp1001737?query=TOC>.

Watch
for
our
MRC
message
moving
around
the
county

Created by our
volunteer designer,
La'Shon Anthony, at
visuals4u.com

