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FLORIDA KIDCARE CELEBRATES CHILDREN'S WEEK

Healthy children mean a brighter future for Florida

TALLAHASSEE – Florida KidCare on April 12-16 will participate in Florida Children's Week as a statewide partner. Children's Week is the largest statewide civic-education event for children and families in Florida, with events in all 67 counties and thousands of families traveling to Tallahassee to advocate for children. As a partner, Florida KidCare will host booths during the Capitol festivities and local events throughout the state to reach families with uninsured children

"Florida KidCare is proud to be a long-standing partner of Children's Week," Florida Healthy Kids Corporation (FHKC) Executive Director Rich Robleto said. "The health of our children is so important and allows them to perform better in academics and all kinds of after-school activities. We are looking forward to the opportunity to meet the thousands of children, parents and officials that are participating in Children's Week this year."

Children with health care coverage are far more likely to receive preventive medical, dental, vision and hearing care – all of which is covered under Florida KidCare. These early health measures can fend off serious illnesses and costly medical bills. Healthy children also perform better in academics and athletic activities.

"Children's Week is a great opportunity to remind Floridians about the importance of ensuring children have access to affordable and quality health care," said Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) Secretary Thomas W. Arnold. "The Agency is pleased to partner with our sister agencies and the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation to help inform Florida families of their health care options."

In addition to festivities at the Capitol, Florida KidCare will participate in the following Children's Week events around the state:

BROWARD COUNTY

Broward County Health Department

Annual Healthy Kids Day

(Sponsored by YMCA of Broward County. Florida KidCare application assistance available)

April 17

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

3161 Taft St.

Hollywood, FL 33021

Health Fair

(Sponsored by Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. Florida Kidcare application assistance – Spanish and Creole available)

April 17

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

420 NW 8th Ave.

Pompano Beach, FL

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Charlotte County Family Services Center

Neighborhood revitalization project

(landscaping and painting two homes of low-income residents)

April 17

8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Starts at the Family Services Center, but then volunteers go to assigned house

Community Garden Project

April 10 -24

Hours may vary each day

Family Services Center – Boys & Girls Club

<http://www.charlottecountyfl.com/HumanServices/FamilyServices/PaintYourHeartOut/>

Child Health

Florida KidCare displays, information and application assistance

April 12- 16

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

7280 S. Tamiami Trail

Venice, FL 34293

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

Escambia County Families Count

Pensacola News Journal Health Fair

(Distribute information on Florida KidCare and provide Application Assistance)

April 17

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Pensacola Junior College

1000 College Blvd.

Pensacola, FL 32504

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Project Patchwork

Annual Hands Across the Bay Event

April 10

12 - 4 p.m.

The Pier

800 2nd Ave.

St. Petersburg, FL

LAKE COUNTY

Lake County Board of County Commissioners

Florida KidCare information/application assistance booth

April 12

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Housing and Probation Office

1300 S. Duncan Drive

Bldg E

Tavares, FL 32778

YMCA Healthy Kids Day

(Florida KidCare application assistance available)

April 17

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

1465 David Walker Rd.

Tavares, FL

MANATEE COUNTY

Volunteer Manatee

Rib Fest

(Sponsored by Gulf Coast Rhythm and Rib Fest, benefiting United Community Centers. Florida KidCare application assistance, appearance by Florida KidCare Clowns)

April 11

11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Manatee County Fairgrounds
1402 14th Ave. W
Palmetto, FL 34221

Big Brother Big Sister Blast
(Florida KidCare application assistance available)
April 17
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
5500 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.
Bradenton, FL 34211

MARION COUNTY

Childhood Development Services

2010 Parents and Children's Day 2010

(Bounce house, children's activities, Florida KidCare registration, VPK registration, refreshments and more)

April 17
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
1601 NE 25th Ave.
Suite 900
Ocala, FL 34470

POLK COUNTY

Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee Highlands and Polk

City of Winter Haven Employee Health Fair

April 16
7 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Winter Haven SE Complex
210 Cypress Gardens Blvd.
Winter Haven, FL

2010 Health Education & Safety Fair

April 20
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Carver Recreation Center
520 S. Idlewood Ave.
Bartow, FL

SARASOTA COUNTY

Sarasota County Health Department – Sarasota

Florida KidCare displays, information and application assistance

April 12- 16
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
2200 Ringling Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34234

Sarasota County Health Department – Venice

Florida KidCare displays, information and application assistance

April 12- 16
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
6950 Outreach Way
North Port, FL 34287

Sarasota County Health Department – North Port Health

Florida KidCare displays, information and application assistance

April 12-16

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
6950 Outreach Way North
Port, FL 34287

VOLUSIA COUNTY

Healthy Communities

Volusia County YMCA

(Activities for families and children, Florida KidCare information and application assistance – English and Spanish)

April 17

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Four Towns YMCA

Deland Family YMCA

Port Orange YMCA

For more information about these events and other local events, visit the Florida KidCare Community Calendar at www.floridakidcare.org.

FHKC is one of four Florida KidCare partners. A public-private organization, FHKC was created by the Legislature in 1990 and is a part of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. FHKC provides health insurance for children ages 5-18.

Florida KidCare, created in 1998, is made up of four entities (FHKC, Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Children and Families, and Department of Health) that collectively provide four categories of high-quality, low-cost health insurance for children from birth through age 18 (Medicaid, MediKids, Healthy Kids and Children's Medical Services Network). Some families pay \$15 or \$20 a month for coverage, but many pay nothing at all. Full-pay options are available for families with children ages 1-18 above 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Children enrolled in the program receive regular doctor's visits, dental check-ups, immunizations, emergency care and much more.

Florida KidCare enrollment is open 24/7. Families can apply online at www.floridakidcare.org or call 1-888-540-KIDS.

For information about Governor Charlie Crist's Cover Florida Health Care initiative to provide low-cost insurance for Floridians ages 19-64, visit www.CoverFloridaHealthCare.com.

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