

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10/30/2006

Contact: Christine Powers, CARES
727-510-4265

Contact: Janet Wing, Florida Medical Clinic
Foundation of Caring
813-780-6693

WHO: The Florida Medical Clinic Foundation of Caring in Zephyrhills will present CARES with a \$6,000 check for the purchase of two vehicles to transport elderly participants to the CARES Adult Day Health Services Centers in New Port Richey and Dade City. The check presentation and unveiling of the vehicles will take place on Friday, November 10, 2006 at noon. Hyundai of New Port Richey & Partners also rose to the occasion and selected CARES as their charity of choice for the month of August and awarded \$3,750 as well as acquired just the right vehicles for this elderly population. Other CARES community partners and individual donors raised and contributed a total of \$4,850 toward the vehicles' purchase.

WHAT: The CARES Adult Day Services participants and families are grateful for the gift of transportation. Adult Day Services are a unique experience for older persons who have special needs such as medical monitoring and supervision or Alzheimer's disease. The service provides care to these seniors, respite for their caregivers and options to working caregivers. Adult day services in reality enhance the quality of life for more than just the participant. It serves the caregivers and the community too.

WHY: The CARES Adult Day Services now has the ability to transport seniors to enable seniors to remain in their homes and delay their risk of institutional placement. A couple that lives in Dade City who are in their 80's married for 57 years are facing multiple health problems. She is entering the late stages of Alzheimer's and he is facing end of life issues. His multiple illnesses and being on oxygen 24 hours had made it impossible for him to drive her to the center. He desperately needed time for rest and doctors. Both were at risk for institutional placement. With the adult day services transportation, she attends the program 3 days a week and he gets the much need rest for his health. They now are able to remain living at home.

Another 77 year old Hispanic gentleman with dementia lives with his daughter. She works 5 days a week and is raising her own family. Public transportation would only pick him up 4 days a week. It was creating a hardship on the daughter to bring him to the center, get her child to school and be to work on time. Thanks to FMC Foundation of Caring, the ability to transport has lightened her burden and picks him up at his front door.

Sheri Schwab, President of the Florida Medical Clinic Foundation of Caring stated, "The Foundation of Caring selects organizations that reach out to the neediest and most vulnerable populations, such as children, Alzheimer's patients, abused women and the disabled. We are pleased to be able to assist in transporting seniors who have physical disabilities, memory loss and other medical conditions to a program that provides an opportunity for them to remain in their homes with their families."

The CARES Adult Day Services has expanded the use of transportation to include a very special element- intergenerational programming. The center is collaborating with the Dade City Head Start Program to provide "*Rocking Grannies*." The "Rocking Grannies" project provides a monthly visit to the babies and toddlers that attend the Head Start Program in Dade City. Participants read, sing, hold and rock our future generation giving them the TLC of a grandparent. A special quality we bring to this project is the above 77 year old dementia gentleman, who speaks, sings and reads to the toddlers in Spanish. The giggles and laughter as well as the unconditional bonds brings both generations together for a brighter future.

WHERE: CARES Crescent Enrichment Center
13906 5th Street
Dade City, Florida 33525

WHEN: Friday, November 10, 2006
Noon

Public is welcome. Refreshments will be served.