

Field Day means fun day!

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Little Austin Thomas takes on HCN employee Michael Suggs in a tug-o-war during the Family Field Day, Aug. 13, at Marion E. Fether Medical Center.

(Submitted photo)



IMMOKALEE — There was much fun on the field, Aug. 13, as Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida (HCN) celebrated National Health Center Week with a special Family Field Day at Marion E. Fether Medical Center.

The celebration highlighted the significant contributions made by National Health Centers in communities across the United States. The event was free and open to the public. Kids of all ages enjoyed traditional field day events such as gunny sack races, hula hoops, jump ropes, among other activities as well as a variety of information booths and free health screenings provided by HCN and other local agencies.

One of 1,128 Federally Qualified Health Centers, HCN was founded in

1977 to serve Immokalee's migrant farm workers and rural poor. Today, the network has grown to a \$35 million network with 330 employees and more than 40 providers serving 14 locations throughout Collier County. Last year, HCN served 39,000 individuals, including 27,000 children, making it the largest single provider of local pediatric care, caring for nearly half the children in Collier County.

By providing these families with a "patient centered home," HCN providers are able to follow their patients, ensure necessary treatment and provide preventative education that actually reduces long-term health care costs.

HCN does this with a staff of 330, including more than 40 providers serving 14 locations throughout Collier County including the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile. Vital partnerships with academic and philanthropic partners allow HCN to expand its reach thanks to medical students and staff from Florida State University College of Medicine and the University of Florida College of Dentistry.