Tallahassee Democrat.

Gadsden County partners sponsor 'Faith Health Delivery' initiative

Penny A. Ralston Special to the Tallahassee Democrat
Published 3:20 p.m. ET Jul. 2, 2021 | **Updated 3:21 p.m. ET Jul. 2, 2021**

Gadsden County is "Resurrecting a Healthier You" through the Faith Health Delivery Initiative, with 16 churches taking the leadership.

Funded by the American Heart Association, Faith Health Delivery has sponsored two events already in the Havana area.

On June 12, three churches — Citadel of Praise Church of God in Christ (COGIC), Rich Bay AME Church and Metropolitan Cathedral of Truth — collaborated in the Havana area to implement the first mobile "Doctor Van" visit that included COVID-19 vaccines (Moderna & Pfizer), blood pressure screenings, diabetes testing, mammogram information, and educational materials, provided by the Gadsden County Health Department.

Vaccines: Leon County COVID-19 vaccine tracker: 41% of people fully vaccinated as gap with state grows further

On June 19, two churches in the Concord area — New St. John AME Church and New St. Mary Missionary Baptist (MB) Church — partnered for the second mobile "Doctor Van" visit. In total, 55 people have attended, including 18 people who were vaccinated. Within those vaccinated numbers, 14 were youth or young adults.

Faith Health Delivery will continue with on-site health services every Saturday, starting July 10 and ending Aug. 14. Each event will be held from 9:30 a.m. - noon at the following church sites.

Church sites offering medical care

July 10 (Dogtown) Greenshade AME Church, 8152 Salem Road, Quincy

July 17 (Chattahoochee) Elizabeth AME Church, 2853 Lincoln Drive

July 24 (St. John) St. John COGIC, 3490 Bainbridge Highway, Quincy, in partnership with St. John AME Church

July 31 (Sawdust) Bear Creek MB Church, 3476 Old Federal Road, Quincy, in partnership with Macedonia MB Church

Aug. 7 (Havana) Old Jerusalem MB Church, New Jerusalem MB Church & Mt. Zion AME Church (location to be announced)

Aug.14 (Shiloh) Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church, 51 Shiloh Church Road, Quincy, in partnership with Bostick Temple Christian Center

Those planning to attend can sign up by calling 850-329-0685 or emailing GCHDMailbox@flhealth.gov. However, walk-ons are welcome the day of the events.

The purpose of Faith Health Delivery is to implement a campaign to raise awareness about reconnecting to health care. The project includes awareness announcements, a Town Hall (held on May 26), and the on-site delivery of health services to churches in Gadsden County via a mobile van throughout the summer. The project seeks to reach unincorporated communities in the county.

Most of the churches involved are affiliated with Health for Hearts United, a collaborative of churches in Gadsden and Leon Counties that have received training and ongoing capacity building to reduce cardiovascular disease risk and other related health problems through church-based health programs.

Collaborators on the project include the Gadsden Community Health Council, the Gadsden County Health Department, FSU College of Medicine and the UF-FSU Clinical and Translational Science Institute Community Engagement Committee.

The 16 collaborating churches and their locations include:

Bear Creek MB Church (Sawdust)

Bostick Temple Christian Center (Shiloh)

Citadel of Praise COGIC (Havana)

Elizabeth AME Church (Chattahoochee)

Greenshade AME Church (Dogtown)

Macedonia MB Church (Sawdust)

New St. John AME Church (Concord)

New St. Mary MB Church (Concord)

Old Jerusalem MB Church (Havana)

Metropolitan Cathedral of Truth (Havana)

Mt. Zion AME Church (Havana)

New Jerusalem MB Church (Havana)

Rich Bay AME Church (Rich Bay)

Shiloh PB Church (Shiloh)

St. John AME Church (St. John)

St. John COGIC (St. John)

For more information about the project, please contact Dr. Penny A. Ralston, Professor & Director, FSU Center on Better Health & Life, at pralston@fsu.edu or 850-841-0407.

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