FSU med students learn important lessons

"We had an amazing week of service," said Dr. Javier Rosado, FSU Clinical Assistant Professor. "Our students touched the lives of the Immokalee community as they served literally hundreds of local migrant farm-workers."

As part of the FSU Cares program, the med students spent March 6-9 working with the Healthcare Network’s Ronald McDonald Care Mobile staff, setting up shop in parking lots, farm fields and churches. Through this experience, students were able to see firsthand the significant challenges faced by the working poor.

"They now better understand the importance of providing compassionate care," said Dr. Rosado. "As I reflect on the week, I am inspired by the resiliency of the patients we serve. Many are individuals that persevered despite some very significant challenges, and I now better understand how privileged we are to serve our patients."

He noted this opportunity would not be possible without the partnership of the Health-care Network.

"Their selfless efforts and compassion have taught the Immokalee community that we can be trusted with their healthcare," he said. "The Network’s staff has also been wonderful with our young, enthusiastic first-year students, welcoming them with open arms and helping to provide them with a memorable learning experience."

During the four days of outreach, students conducted vision and hearing exams, checked blood pressure and monitored vital signs aboard the Healthcare Network’s Ronald McDon-ald Care Mobile.

"That’s the most rewarding part about the process," said second-year student Genny Ocean, "because the people who can’t afford it are most times the ones who need the most help."

Ocean said the experience is inspiring him to go into primary care medicine and return to Immokalee for the school’s cross-cultural medicine rotation.

For more information on Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida and its Foundation, go online to www.healthcareswfl.org or call 239-658-3116.

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