

NANAY Acquires Building for New Health Center Project

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NANAY is pleased to announce its new acquisition of a professional building in North Miami that it plans to use as the site of a Walk-In Health Center.

“NANAY is responding to the identified health care needs of our community,” says Joy Bruce, NANAY President and CEO. “Our goal is help decrease preventable illnesses, promote healthy lifestyle, provide affordable access to much-needed primary health care, and improve the quality of life of our medically underserved and uninsured elders and youth, regardless of their ability to pay.”

In Miami-Dade County, there are 328,670 uninsured individuals and 269,890 Medicare beneficiaries, of whom 29,050 are disabled. There is also an increasing number of newly arrived immigrants, particularly Asians, who are in need of access to primary health care. Low-income immigrants without health insurance often do not get preventive or primary care due to financial barriers, and end up being seen with relatively advanced stages of disease. Many have avoided treatment, delayed care, used lower cost unlicensed health care providers, and sometimes resorted to folk medicine providers.

NANAY aims to facilitate behavioral change, both from an individual and a community perspective, that will promote health, protect against preventable disease, and provide primary health and medical care for non-life threatening illnesses.



The proposed site of NANAY Health Center, located two blocks away from the NANAY Community Center, is a 4,950 sq ft professional building in North Miami that was purchased in partnership with the Filipino American Ministries (a faith-based organization), and with the help of Dr. Antonio Wong, Medical Director of Urgent Care Plus. Half of the building will be reserved for use of the Health Center. The other half will be used by the Filipino American Ministries, in

partnership with NANAY, for counseling, fellowship and other supportive services for the community.

A newly approved Closing the Gap grant from the State of Florida Department of Health, designed to increase immunization awareness and to provide free vaccines for children, will be used to support the initial operations of the Health Center. NANAY is currently also supported by the National Asian Women's Health Organization (NAWHO), APPEAL, Alliance for Aging for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, Alliance for Human Services and North Miami CDBG.

NANAY currently has a 25-seater bus for regular transport of clients to and from the Community Center. Another 15-seater bus with wheelchair access will be purchased through a recently approved grant from the Florida Department of Transportation.

The initial plan to start services in October-November will be delayed due to building renovation, "We are also still waiting for our occupational license," says Joy Bruce. NANAY is scheduled to appear before the North Miami City Council in October, and hopes to be able to open the Health Center for services before the end of 2003.