

Bakari F. Burns, Chief Executive Officer, Health Care Center for the Homeless, Inc.

Bakari F. Burns is the Chief Executive Officer of Health Care Center for the Homeless, Inc. (HCCH), a non-profit organization that provides primary medical, dental and vision care as well as outpatient behavioral health counseling at the Orange Blossom Family Health Center.

Mr. Burns is an Orlando native with a distinguished career in non-profit healthcare work. An honors graduate of Jones High School, Mr. Burns received a B.S. in Health Care Management from Florida A&M University. Beginning as an intern, he worked several years at Bond Community Health Center in Tallahassee, Florida before returning to FAMU to earn a Master of Public Health Degree. He continued to work at Bond advancing from Management Analyst to Chief Financial Officer to Chief Operating Officer and then interim Chief Executive Officer.

In October of 2003 Mr. Burns had the opportunity to fulfill his dream of returning to Orlando and giving back to the hometown that means so much to him. When he first assumed the responsibilities of CEO at HCCH, the agency was stuck in a stalled capital campaign to renovate their building on North Orange Blossom Trail. Within 18 months of his arrival Mr. Burns had written several successful grant bids, including one for \$500,000 from the Department of Health, which along with local foundation grants and generous individual donors, added-up to enough capital to complete the renovation. In January 2006 the HCCH Board, staff and clients realized their much anticipated dream of a beautiful, cheerful facility providing quality care to the homeless and medically indigent.

Mr. Burns is active in his church, Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist. He is also active in the community serving on numerous boards including Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida, Inc. and Hebni Nutrition Consultants, Inc. Additionally, Mr. Burns was the 2007 recipient of the Martin Bell Scholarship which allowed him to complete a Master's of Business Administration at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. Finally, Mr. Burns has assumed many leadership positions in community service associations serving as Chairman of Homeless Services Network, Inc., Chairman of South West United Communities, Inc., At-Large Representative on the PCAN Executive Committee and on the Steering Committee of the Heart of Florida United Way Counsel of Agency Executives.