



**Commentary
For
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**Presented by Bakari F. Burns
Chief Executive Officer
Health Care Center for the Homeless**

Word Count (380 words)

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. declared “Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.” It has been over 43 years since Dr. King uttered those words and since that time we have experienced much progress in the areas of education, finance, and politics; however when we look at health care such progress has eluded us. Health security is an issue that affects us all, and every person has the fundamental human right to quality compassionate healthcare services that are affordable, accessible, and culturally appropriate.

The Central Florida community is fortunate to have the “Health Care Center for the Homeless,” a comprehensive health care delivery system that provides health care services to the homeless and uninsured residents of Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties. The mission of the Health Care Center for the Homeless is” To provide quality health care services that improve the lives of the homeless and medically indigent people of our community”.

Utilizing electronic health records, the Health Care Center for the Homeless takes a holistic approach to delivering health care services to our patients which address not only their physical health but also their mental health. The health care centers multi-disciplinary approach to caring for our patients include the delivery of medical and dental services, behavioral health services, which include mental health and substance abuse, as well as vision and pharmaceutical services. At the Health Care Center for the Homeless we set out to create a medical home for our patients where they can receive the necessary routine and preventative health care services. All of the center’s services are charged on a sliding fee scale which is based on the patients’ ability to pay. However no one is ever denied care because of their lack of financial resources.

In the calendar year of 2008 the health center provided health care services to over 8,500 homeless and uninsured Central Florida residents.

Central Florida I ask that you get involved with the Health Care Center for the Homeless by, 1) getting the word out about the services that are provided, 2) making a financial donation, and 3) volunteering your time. Together we can achieve equality in health care, because access to quality, affordable health care services really matters! I’m Bakari F. Burns.