

Top News



President's Message

Spring is a season that represents renewal, growth and new beginnings. As we enter this time of transition, it also offers us an opportunity to reflect on how far we've come and recommit ourselves to the work ahead.

At Jessie Trice Community Health System, our mission remains rooted in providing accessible, high-quality care to the communities we serve. Each day, we see firsthand the resilience of our patients and the dedication of our staff, partners and supporters who make our work possible. Together, we continue to expand services, strengthen outreach efforts and ensure that every individual and family has access to the care they deserve.

In this spring issue, you'll find highlights of the programs, initiatives and community partnerships that are driving meaningful impact. Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. As we move through this season of growth, we look forward to continuing to build an even stronger, healthier future together.

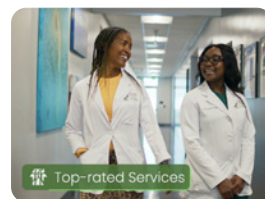
Ryan R. Hawkins
President & CEO
Jessie Trice Community Health System

JTCHS Showcases New Commercial at Jazz in the Gardens



A powerful message of care took the spotlight at **Jazz in the Gardens**. During the March 7–8, 2026, event at **Hard Rock Stadium**, **Jessie Trice Community Health System (JTCHS)** debuted a new 60-second commercial highlighting its impact in the community.

The spot highlighted what sets JTCHS apart, its people, services and commitment to compassionate care. Featuring President and CEO **Ryan R. Hawkins**, along with dedicated staff and state-of-the-art equipment, the commercial offered a glimpse into the team and resources that drive the organization's impact.



In this Issue

- 1 President's Message
- 1 JTCHS Showcases New Commercial at Jazz in the Gardens
- 2 GKASD Brings Free Dental Care to Uninsured Patients
- 3 Celebrating Unity at Multicultural Fest
- 4 JTCHS Participates in TCT's HealthConnect News Conference
- 4 Spotlight: Tamara Labrousse, Chair, JTCHS Board
- 5 Minority Health Month

- 5 Smart Ways to Move More Every Day
- 6 National Mental Health Awareness Month
- 6 Encouraging Men to Take Charge of Their Health
- 7 Events Snapshots!
- 8 Health & Wellness Calendar

GKASD Brings Free Dental Care to Uninsured Patients

Good oral health habits start early, and every child deserves the care and support needed to build a healthy smile for life. With this in mind, Jessie Trice Community Health System (JTCHS), in collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Dental Society, recently hosted its annual **Give Kids a Smile Day** on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at the JTCHS Corporate Office Complex, providing uninsured patients with free dental and vision services.

During the event, children received free dental services, including exams, cleanings and sealants. After completing their dental visits, they also received optometry exams, giving families access to additional preventive care in one setting.

The event also created a fun, family-friendly environment for children and their parents. After receiving services, children enjoyed activities such as painting, face painting, a bounce house, treats and music from an on-site DJ. Each child also received a bag with oral hygiene items, including a toothbrush and other essentials to encourage healthy habits at home.



Ryan R. Hawkins (center), president and CEO of Jessie Trice Community Health System, poses with volunteers and patients.



JTCHS staff and volunteers pose during the annual Give Kids a Smile Day 2026.



Dr. Lashunda Collins, DDS, provides dental services to a young patient.



Celebrating Unity at Multicultural Fest

On **Friday, March 20, 2026**, Jessie Trice Community Health System proudly hosted a vibrant and memorable Multicultural Fest, bringing together staff from all our facilities for a day of cultural celebration.

The event was a true reflection of the diverse backgrounds that make up our organization. Team members arrived ready to share pieces of their heritage, transforming the space into a colorful showcase of cultures from around the world. Each group decorated its tents with meaningful artifacts, traditional decorations, and displays that told the stories of its roots and identity.

A highlight of the day was the incredible variety of food. Staff members prepared and served authentic dishes from their cultures, creating an experience that was as flavorful as it was meaningful. The sense of pride and joy was evident as colleagues explored each tent, sampled new cuisines, and learned more about one another.

To add to the excitement, three judges made their rounds through the festival, tasting dishes and engaging with each team. While every group brought something special to the table, one team stood out among the rest. The Haitian team drew an overwhelming crowd, with



lines wrapping around two tents as attendees eagerly waited to try their standout dishes.

In the end, the Haitian team was named the winner of the Multicultural Fest, recognized for their exceptional flavors, presentation and overall experience. Beyond the friendly competition, the event served as a powerful reminder of the strength found in diversity and unity. It was a day filled with appreciation, showcasing the values that continue to drive Jessie Trice Community Health System forward.

We thank all staff members who participated and made this event such a success. We look forward to many more opportunities to celebrate the rich cultures that make our organization truly unique. **One Love!**



Photo credit: Audrey LaPalme, Sunshine Communications

JTCHS Participates in The Children's Trust HealthConnect News Conference

In January 2026, the **Jessie Trice Community Health System (JTCHS)** participated in **The Children's Trust HealthConnect** news conference held at Spanish Lakes Elementary School in Hialeah, to highlight the impact of school-based health services across Miami-Dade County.

HealthConnect, is an initiative of The Children's Trust in partnership with the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade and Miami-Dade County Public Schools, that brings comprehensive health services directly into public and select charter schools across Miami-Dade County.

As part of this initiative, JTCHS proudly provides school health services, including preventative screenings, eye exams, and telehealth to 60 Miami-Dade County public and charter schools.

During the event, **JTCHS President and CEO Ryan R. Hawkins** emphasized the critical role of accessible health care in supporting student success.

"When students have access to physical and mental health support at school, they are better positioned to learn, grow and thrive."

- Mr. Hawkins

For participating schools, visit jtchs.org/our-services/school-based-health



From left, Toni Thompson, Joanne Pierre, Ruby Tapia, Ruth Duval, Ryan R. Hawkins and Tania Porto.



Ruby Tapia, a nurse with Jessie Trice Community Health System, demonstrates school-based health services for a Spanish Lakes Elementary student.



Ryan R. Hawkins, President and CEO of JTCHS.

Photo credit: Ricardo Reyes, Sunshine Communications

SPOTLIGHT



Thamara Labrousse
Chair, JTCHS Board

Met the New Chair of the JTCHS Board of Directors, **Thamara Labrousse**. A seasoned leader with more than 30 years of experience in human services, social justice, health and local government, Labrousse brings

a strong commitment to community-centered leadership and strategic collaboration. She is a proud double alumna of Barry University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and a Master of Science in Management.



Minority Health Month

April is **Minority Health Month**, a time to raise awareness about health disparities and the importance of access to quality care. At Jessie Trice Community Health System (JTCHS), we remain committed to providing compassionate, patient-centered services that support healthier communities.

From primary care and pediatrics to dental, behavioral health and vision services, the organization delivers

accessible, affordable, high-quality care for individuals and families at every stage of life.

Through community outreach, education and preventive care, JTCHS continues to break down barriers and improve health outcomes across South Florida. By connecting patients to essential services and resources, JTCHS helps ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live a healthier life.



Take the next step toward better health—schedule your appointment with JTCHS today.

305-637-6400



Smart Ways to Move More Every Day

Making physical activity part of your daily routine doesn't have to be complicated. The key is finding activities you enjoy and building from there. Whether it's walking, biking, dancing, yoga or strength training, staying active supports heart health, improves mood and reduces the risk of chronic conditions like **diabetes** and **high blood pressure**.

Adults should aim for at least **150 minutes** of moderate physical activity each week. Small changes — taking the stairs, parking farther away or scheduling short walks — can add up. Start gradually, set realistic goals and stay consistent for long-term health benefits.



National Mental Health Awareness Month

May is **National Mental Health Awareness Month**, a time to prioritize emotional well-being and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health care. According to the **National Alliance on Mental Illness**, 1 in 5 U.S. adults experiences mental illness each year, yet many delay seeking support due to stigma or limited access to care.

Simple steps such as managing stress, staying physically active, getting adequate sleep and talking

to a trusted professional can make a meaningful difference. Jessie Trice Community Health System offers comprehensive behavioral health services, including counseling, therapy and psychiatric support for individuals and families.

Take the first step toward better mental health. To schedule an appointment, call **305-637-6400**.



Encouraging Men to Take Charge of Their Health



June is **Men's Health Month**, a time to raise awareness and encourage men to prioritize their health and well-being. At JTCHS, we recognize the importance of preventive care and early detection in helping men live longer, healthier lives.

Many of the conditions that affect men can be prevented or managed through regular check-ups and healthy lifestyle choices. "Prevention is key to a healthier life," said Dr. Joycelyn Lawrence. "We encourage men to schedule routine check-ups, speak with their healthcare providers

and take proactive steps toward their health."

Encourage the men in your life—and yourself—to take action. Schedule a routine exam, adopt healthy habits and stay informed. Call **305-637-6400** or visit **jtchs.org** to book an appointment today.



Dr. Joycelyn Lawrence

Event Snapshots!

Here's a look at what we've been up to:

JTCHS Leadership Engages in Legislative Advocacy

JTCHS President & CEO Ryan R. Hawkins joined State Representative Ashley V. Gantt (District 109) as she prepared for Week 5 of the Legislative Session.



Photo credit: Ashley V. Gantt, State Representative, District 109 (Facebook)

David Williams Jr., vice chair of the Jessie Trice Community Health Foundation (JTCHF) Board and founder of the fair (center), poses with several winners.



JTCHF 15th Annual Science and Engineering Fair

The 15th Annual Science and Engineering Fair took place over two days in Miami Gardens, celebrating student innovation and creativity. Students presented original projects at St. Thomas University on January 21, followed by an awards ceremony on January 22 at the JTCHS Barbara J. Jordan Health and Wellness Center, where more than 300 community members gathered to recognize achievement and encourage the next generation of STEM leaders.

David Williams Jr. (left), vice chair of the Jessie Trice Community Health Foundation (JTCHF) Board, and Ryan R. Hawkins (right), president and CEO of Jessie Trice Community Health System, present a first-place award to a school representative.



Photo credit: Ricardo Reyes, Sunshine Communications

Are you or someone you love struggling with opioids like fentanyl, heroin, or pain pills?

Treatment is available. Recovery is possible.

IT'S BETTER TOGETHER

At Jessie Trice Community Health System, we offer:

- **Medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD)** outpatient primary care
- **Support** from trained, compassionate providers
- **Linkage** to additional services

Opioids are powerful drugs that block pain signals in the brain that can be **highly addictive** and **dangerous** when misused.

COMMON OPIOID NAMES:

Oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percocet) – Oxy, Blues, Percs
Hydrocodone (Vicodin, Norco, Lortab) – Vikes, Hydros, Tabs
Fentanyl (Actiq, Duragesic) – Fent, China White, TNT
Morphine (MS Contin, Roxanol) – M, Miss Emma
Codeine (Tylenol with Codeine, Lean) – Lean, Sizzurp, Purple

Good Samaritan law:

If someone is **Overdosing**, don't be afraid to **call 911**. This law protects you from arrest for seeking help. Saving a life is never a crime.



JESSIE TRICE
COMMUNITY
HEALTH SYSTEM

Since 1967

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

786-487-3545

5361 NW 22nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33142



Find a JTCHS Location Near You

JTCHS – Barbara J. Jordan Health & Wellness Center*
20612 NW 27th Ave.,
Miami Gardens, FL 33056

JTCHS – Flamingo Medical Center*
901 E. 10th Ave., Bay
Suite 39
Hialeah, FL 33010

JTCHS – Main Pharmacy Services*
5607 NW 27th Ave.,
Suite 1
Miami, FL 33142

JTCHS – Children’s Wellness Center
1190 NW 95th St.,
Suite 304
Miami, FL 33150

JTCHS – Frederica Wilson/Juanita Mann Health Center
2520 NW 75th St.,
Miami, FL 33147

Jefferson Reaves House Women’s Residential SA Treatment Center
2985 NW 54th St.,
Miami, FL 33142

JTCHS – Dental Health Center
5607 NW 27th Ave.,
Suite 2,
Miami, FL 33142

JTCHS – Health Center at North Shore
1190 NW 95th St.,
Suite 100
Miami, FL 33150

JTCHS – Opa-Locka Youth and Children’s Wellness Center
490 Opa-Locka Blvd.,
Suite 100
Opa-Locka, FL 33054

JTCHS – Dr. Fatima Zafar Health & Wellness Center
5361 NW 22nd Ave.,
Miami, FL 33142

*** Pharmacy Services Available!**

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Carla Jones-Brown
Board Vice-Chair

Irene Taylor-Wooten
Treasurer

Lenora Yates
Secretary

Angel D. Lightfoot
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Ivette Klein
Tishria L. Mindingall
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Isabella Rosete
Sherkila Shaw
Robert L. Thomas
David Williams Jr.
Ryan R. Hawkins, MSW, MPA, MBA
President & CEO, Ex-Officio



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JTCHS.org

Health & Wellness Calendar

Here are some special dates to call your attention from
April to June 2026 to keep you in the know.

APRIL

1-30 Minority Health Month
National Autism Awareness Month
5 Easter Sunday
7 World Health Day
12-18 National Dental Hygiene Week

MAY

1-31 National Mental Health Month
National Haitian Heritage Month
6-12 National Nurses Week
10 Mother’s Day
25 Memorial Day

JUNE

1-30 Men’s Health Month
3 National Cancer Survivors Day
13 Family Health & Fitness Day
19 World Sickle Cell Day
21 Father’s Day