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*Miles of Smiles at Mets Stadium Pediatric Dental event in August provided free dental screenings to children on site*

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[www.handsofslc.org](http://www.handsofslc.org)

Launching Newly  
Designed website in  
December 2011!

New site will make it easier for patients to sign up for educational classes, and allow donors to make gifts according to patient needs, such as a Mammogram Gift of \$50.

Give Today!



## HANDS of St. Lucie County Clinic Celebrates 4,000-plus Patient Visits Since Opening

They marked the anniversary with a wave of patients.

“Our staff is thrilled and honored for the recognition of their hard work, countless hours, and perseverance to make this clinic a reality for so many patients.” said HANDS Executive Director Doug Anderson, “We wish to also thank our community partners, without whom, we could not operate.”

HANDS grew from a few individuals trying to help people find services into a county wide network of health providers, agencies, and volunteers dedicated to increasing health care access for low income residents. HANDS has been incorporated since October 28, 2008 and has over 30 community partners including the three local hospitals, three local medical societies, St. Lucie County Health Department, and Florida Community Health Centers (FCHC).

“Of course, this could not have happened without the community’s support. We are especially grateful for the commitment by our hospitals, the medical community, and the many

volunteers and organizations that made it possible to serve so many people that would not otherwise have access to needed health services.” President of the Board Larry Lee said.

The HANDS Primary Care Clinic opened on October 25, 2010. HANDS offers resources to those least likely to receive regular health care -- uninsured adults age 19 to 64. Rather than simply treating acute symptoms, HANDS seeks to empower patients to participate in their health management. Our goal is to educate clients on how to make good health care choices, find health resources, and recognize health problems before they become critical.

In September 2010, The Pediatric Dental Clinic began serving children in St. Lucie County, screening for dental health issues.

To date, our clinicians screened close to 4,000 youth. The need for primary health care is so great in St. Lucie County, the HANDS clinic has a 3-week waiting list for appointments. We projected we’d have 500 patients to date at the primary clinic, but are currently caring for more than 900 patients, with over 4,000 visits logged.

We are proud to celebrate our anniversary with the entire region, and hope the community continues to support, give, donate, or volunteer to keep the Treasure Coast thriving until our economy rebounds. For more information go to our website: [www.handsofslc.org](http://www.handsofslc.org)



Ervin Valcin screens a child at Digital Domain Park



**“I have glaucoma, and cannot afford an eye exam. I lost my job 2 years ago with the construction industry collapse. Thanks to Dr. Berg, I can see without pain. I will get through this. I will find work again. I call all of you lifesavers.” Carlos Aguirre, HANDS Patient**



**HANDS of St. Lucie County**

**Hands of St. Lucie County**

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**Handsofslc.com**

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**Dr. Roberts Appeals for Physician Volunteers on National TV**

“You would be proud of what we have accomplished in one year’s time,” Dr. James Roberts told the TV Host for the Trinity Network. “What we need now are physicians to give of themselves a few hours a week.”



Dr. James Roberts spent 30 minutes with WTCN’s Good For You Broadcast, discussing the anniversary of HANDS and the uphill battle we accomplish daily providing care to our patients.



**HANDS Wins Healthcare Heroes Awards 2011!**  
Readers in a 5-county region voted on the best of the best, and we won!

**Physician's Excellence Award: Dr. James Roberts, St. Lucie County Health Access Network**

**Non-Profit Organization Excellence Award:  
HANDS of St. Lucie County**



**Adult Dental Clinic Opening 2012**

St. Lucie County Health Access Network is pleased to announce that **Dr. James Strawn has been appointed HANDS Clinic Dental Director** of the Adult Dental Clinic. This is a voluntary, unpaid position Dr. Strawn has accepted as a part of his ongoing work with the HANDS organization to include dentistry in the mix of free health care services offered to local low-income families. He will be working also with the Treasure Coast Dental Society to enlist support from many local dentists who will donate their time and services at the clinic on a rotating basis. HANDS, known for primary care, ophthalmology, pediatric dental care, and mental health, is also proud to add the new Adult Dental Program, one of the latest “fingers” of HANDS. The clinic is slated to open this winter at the HANDS Clinic Care facility on S. US 1 in Ft. Pierce.

"We anticipate a large number of patients needing free dental care who are financially eligible to participate in the HANDS program," said Dr. Strawn. "Many lower income adults can't afford emergency care, much less regular dental services."



**Dr. James Strawn,  
New HANDS  
Dental Director**

“18 months ago I learned of plans for the HANDS medical clinic and asked the leaders if they would consider including space for a dental facility at the clinic location. The idea was well received and unanimously approved by the board of directors." Dr. Strawn said.

“This is about comprehensive care from primary care to dental health, our community is responding to the need,” HANDS Executive Director Doug Anderson said, “It is particularly important to provide free dental care during such a challenged economical period,

when a lot of families simply cannot afford proper insurance.” He also said that through the pediatric dental program, “what we’ve seen in our children is approximately 50% of the children who have been screened struggle with some kind of dental problem that needs treatment.”

To become a dental patient, email [info@handsofslc.org](mailto:info@handsofslc.org)

Sponsorship opportunities are still available for naming rights to the adult dental clinic, and 3 patient dental rooms.

Visit [handsofslc.org](http://handsofslc.org) for more information.