

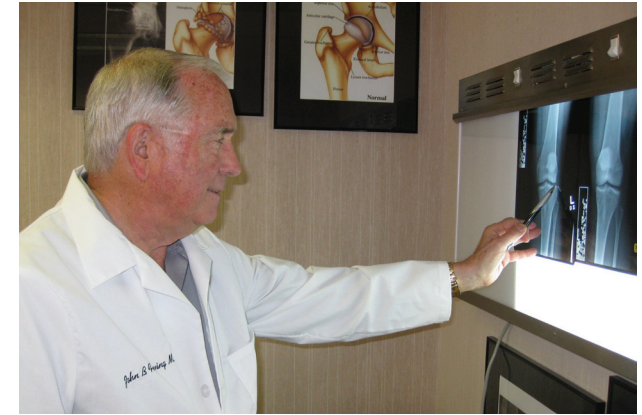


**2400 Edison Avenue  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901**

**Phone: 239-334-3745  
Fax: 239-334-0303**

**Paul Whitear  
We Care Coordinator**

*A man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. He asked the boy, "What are you doing?" The boy replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. If I don't throw them back, they'll die." The man said, "Don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make a difference!"*



We Care Advisory Board Members

- Barry Blitz, M.D.
- Brian Hummel, M.D.
- Charlie Bisbee, M.D.
- Clifford Smith,  
United Way
- Gary Correnti, M.D.
- James Orr, M.D.
- John Fenning, M.D.
- Joseph Catti,  
FineMark National Bank & Trust
- Keith Miller, M.D.
- Larry Hobbs, M.D.
- Mark Farmer, M.D.
- Mary Beth Sauders, D.O.
- Mary Yankaskas, M.D.
- Michael Carron, M.D.
- Ray Kordonowy, M.D.
- Shari Skinner, M.D.
- Bob Pascotto, M.D.
- Valerie Dyke, M.D.

*Listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it back into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said..." I made a difference for that one."*

*Excerpted from a story by  
Loren Easley*



**Making a difference -  
one life at a time.**

An initiative of the United Way operated by  
The Salvation Army in partnership with

*Lee County Medical Society,  
Lee County Health Department,  
Lee Memorial Health System,  
Family Health Centers, and  
SWFL Community Foundation*

to provide specialty medical care to eligible  
residents who do not have health insurance  
and cannot afford the service.





Paul Whitear, We Care Coordinator



**We Care is.....**the only non-profit human service program in Lee County that helps uninsured residents gain access to specialty medical care.

**We Care coordinates.....**services provided by private licensed health care providers as they donate as little as one appointment per month. The We Care coordinator carefully tracks each provider's contribution and will generate end of year reports to assist physicians with CME's for their humanitarian efforts.

**We Care helps those in need who .....**

- have a medically necessary/life altering condition which cannot be managed by a primary care physician
- have income at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level,
- be between 18 and 64 years of age,
- be uninsured, and
- not eligible for any other government programs such as Medicaid or VA.

**We Care protects providers....** with Sovereign Immunity according to FL Statute 766.1115. Upon signature of a contract with the FL DOH, We Care participating providers receive the same legal representation as a state employee.

- Physician volunteers specify how many We Care patients they are willing to see in one month or in one quarter. The We Care Coordinator tracks the physician's agreed upon commitment, ensuring it is not exceeded.
- Once the specialty physician has received and approved the referral, the We Care coordinator makes the initial appointment through the physician's staff and handles all communication with the patient in preparation for the appointment.
- The We Care coordinator carefully instructs each patient as to the strict guidelines that must be followed in order for them to receive these free services. For example, the We Care coordinator will advocate for the physicians/provider as well as the patient. Also, the coordinator works specifically with each patient to ensure they understand that missed appointments and unacceptable behavior or appearance in the provider's office are not acceptable.
- We Care referrals are made by primary care physicians and participating medical specialists.

Patients are NOT allowed to self-refer to We Care specialists.

- We Care is not for everyone. The following are not eligible for We Care referral: second opinions, screenings, pregnancy, birth control, tuberculosis, epilepsy, cosmetic surgery, worker's compensation cases, disability confirmation, or cases where litigation related to the medical condition is pending, probable or anticipated.

For additional information, or to discuss this United Way initiative and the many community partners, or to complete the brief application for sovereign immunity, please call **Paul Whitear at 239-334-3745.**

**Making a difference - one life at a time.**



**Please join us and help "Share The Care" in our Community.**