

RONALD McDONALD CARE MOBILE™

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile provides free medical and dental care to children in the Tampa Bay community. The Care Mobile is a program of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay and is managed by the University of South Florida Department of Pediatrics. The Care Mobile treats at risk children at schools, shelters and teen centers in Hillsborough and Pasco counties and plans to expand to Pinellas County.

The Care Mobile, custom built for Tampa Bay, is a 40-foot long, 8-foot wide van that houses medical and dental examination rooms, a laboratory, reception and medical records areas. The newest addition is state-of-the-art digital radiography used for dental screening.

More than 50 schools in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties are currently visited for mobile medical, dental and health education services. The Care Mobile also targets other youth populations through collaboration with Youth Education Services (YES), Connect to Protect (C2P), "street" teens and shelters, teen clubs and domestic abuse centers.

USF pediatric physicians and nurses who currently work in the USF Outpatient Clinic staff the Care Mobile. Under the direction of the Medical Director the van's medical team consists of a nurse practitioner, licensed practical nurse and resident physicians from USF College of Medicine. Volunteer dentists and dental assistants are provided through collaboration with Hillsborough Community College and the Hillsborough County Dental Society.

The Care Mobile has served over 2,100 students since the start-up in February 2006. During the 2006-2007 academic school year the program treated 1,115 students, providing over \$145,000 of free medical services. Referrals are made as necessary to Children's Medical Services (special health care needs), dental clinics, psychologists, obesity clinics, and other medical or dental specialists. For more information contact Jeannette Fleisher at (813) 259-8754 or by email at jfleisch@health.usf.edu.

