

FHC Sees Healthy Growth

By DIONNE GLEATON T&D Staff Writer



Mr. Leon A. Brunson, Sr.
Chief Executive Officer

Orangeburg's Family Health Centers is finding new ways to take services into its communities. That's helping its bottom line, too, its chief executive officer says.

"We developed a sound financial system. We have many revenue streams today. When I came on we only had two sources," FHC CEO Leon Brunson, Sr. said in a recent interview. Those sources were grants under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act and patient fees.

"That's not enough to sustain a federally qualified health

center. You have to have more revenue streams. Pharmacy is a big revenue stream. You have to look at other funding sources to really make a difference," he said.

Brunson celebrated his sixth anniversary as the health center's top officer on Dec. 31. He said he is proud of the center's progress.

Orangeburg's Family Health Centers, Inc. has grown its operating budget by more than 100 percent from \$10 million to \$21 million and is steadily expanding access to care to its most vulnerable service population.

The FHC has its main Orangeburg site on Magnolia Street in Orangeburg, along with six satellite sites in Denmark, Vance, Holly Hill, Norway, St. Matthews and St. George.

Three new, full-time pharmacies have been opened at the sites

in Norway, Denmark and St. Matthews with the help of an expanded service grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

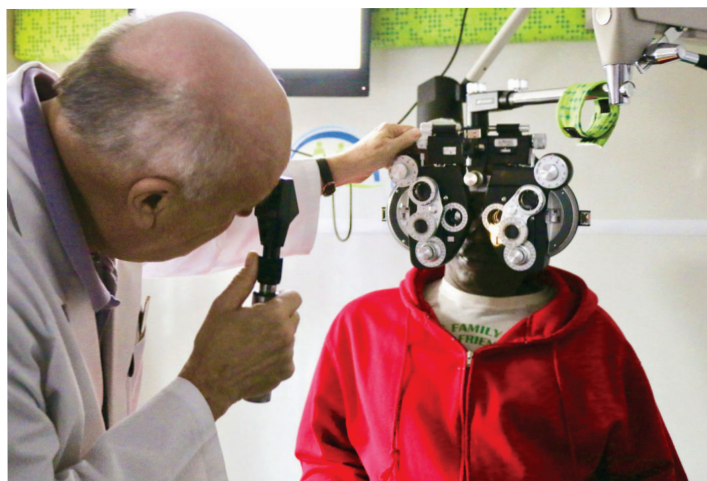
The agency also received a clean audit for the last fiscal year.

"We received no recommendations in our audit. This is the first time Family Health Centers has ever received a clean audit. By virtue of that, it opened the doors for many funding opportunities for us," Brunson said. He also touted the leadership of FHC Chief Financial Officer Shasonda Amous.

FHC Board Chairman Dr. Sam Alston said he is very pleased with FHC's fiscal soundness. He hopes to enhance health care delivery with a particular focus on children, women, veterans and migrant workers.

"They're all welcome to any of our clinics. We're getting the board to focus more on those areas. With a clean financial audit, we have no financial problems with

— continued on page 2



Dr. Thomas Helfrich performs an eye exam on Leonard Mobley inside the Family Health Center's Mobile Optometry Unit lab during a recent trip to Bamberg, SC.

FHC Unveils New Logo and New Website

Family Health Centers, Inc. recently officially rebranded the company with the creation of a new company logo and website to adequately display our services to the public and create a consistent identity for the company as we grow and expand across the regions. Our new logo will be implemented through our web and print platforms as well as displayed on Family Health Center's



fleet of vehicles. The logo as shown, the first component of the new brand identity, is the revision of the logo, which conveys the company's strong, unique value proposition.

FHC's new website, launched in August of 2016, was developed by Advice Media in an effort to better connect with current and potential clients and employees. The website features the new logo as well as information on our locations, services and markets. The redesigned www.myfhc.org website was designed to communicate FHC's overall message to employees, customers, potential customers and the world at large.

FHC Sees Healthy Growth – CONTINUED



FHC installs new green metal roofing to coordinate with its new brand.

our bookkeeping procedures, and I want to shout out loud that anyone who visits any of our clinics receives affordable, professional health care,” Alston said.

FHC was accredited by the Joint Commission in 2002, verifying it is in compliance with nationally recognized standards. It will undergo its third reaffirmation process in the Spring.

The FHC was the first primary care medical home in the state to be accredited by the Joint Commission.

Brunson said FHC has successfully grown in its ability to deliver comprehensive and high-quality preventive and primary health care to patients regardless of their ability to pay.

FHC served 21,549 patients last year. The center employs 246, including 184 direct employees.

“This year alone, we generated \$9.6 million in federal dollars, the highest that’s ever been generated at Family Health Centers,” Brunson said.

Earlier this year, the agency received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to build a new, free-standing facility in Denmark.

Construction will start in early January on the facility, which will include three full-time providers, a pharmacy and behavioral health care coordination and nutrition services, Brunson said.

FHC also received a \$1 million grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to help get more eligible children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has also included the FHC in a cardiovascular disease risk reduction study model designed to reduce stroke and heart attack risk in Medicare patients 65 and older.

“Another outstanding thing we have going on is telehealth,” which connects patients at FHC sites with specialists at the Medical University of South Carolina via telecommunications technology, Brunson said.

The agency also participates in the South Carolina Health Information Exchange program, which gives health care providers real-time access to a patient’s medical history – with their consent.

The FHC has also created a new logo and will be replacing the roofs at each of its locations with green metal roofing to coordinate with its new brand. New LED signs including message boards are also being placed in front of all FHC locations.

“They will advertise what is going on inside like, for example, flu shots. It identifies it as a Family Health Center facility, which is

part of our branding package,” Brunson said.

The center also has two new dental and optometry mobile units which will be traveling across the T&D region to provide free vision and dental exams, along with teeth cleaning, for uninsured individuals beginning Dec. 12.

“We realize that patients do not have transportation to come to us, so we want to take the service to patients. We also want to reach out into the communities where there are uninsured individuals. Hopefully we can sign them up for Medicaid or affordable care by the time they get their eyes checked and have a cleaning,” Brunson said.

“We funded the optometry unit from our operating funds, and we received a \$525,000 grant from (U.S.Department of) Health and Human Services for our dental unit. We’re going to continue this forever. It’s part of our scope, and we’re going to keep it,” he said.

The FHC is also among the non-U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs providers who are authorized to provide care to eligible veterans who live more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility, or would have to wait more than 30 days from the date of an appointment.

Veterans can receive the same care that they would receive at the Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia for any service FHC provides, Brunson said.

“The VA would have to give prior approval to them coming to us. The veterans would not be charged, but the VA would reimburse us for providing that service. We would bill the VA at our Medicare rate,” he said. – continued on page 3



The Family Health Centers, Inc. new LED sign

FHC Sees Healthy Growth – CONTINUED

“In 2015, we offered a colonoscopy program specifically for our veteran population in conjunction with the VA hospital,” Williams said.

Brunson said he is concerned about the future of health care, particularly since there has been discussion of repealing the Affordable Care Act. There has also been discussion about giving states more control over Medicaid, with that control coming in the form of block grants.

“We don’t know how severe it’s going to be, but I don’t think they’ll be able to repeal the Affordable Care Act because there are too many good parts to it. ... But they are going to do something, and we are afraid of what is going to happen,” Brunson said.

Hospitals and community health care centers across the country are equally concerned about block grant proposals.

“They put all the Medicaid and Medicare money into that block grant. That doesn’t mean we’ll get a share, or that the money is going to be distributed in the state of South Carolina correctly,” Brunson said.

In the meantime, the FHC is planning on constructing a training facility beginning next year for its employees to stay ahead of ever-changing technology developments in health care.

“It will keep our employees updated in the latest technology in their areas, too, so we will not grow obsolete when it comes to patient care. The medical field changes so fast, so you’ve got to have something to train the employees. You can’t send them all across the country and hope to retain them,” he said.

“We feel that if we train our people, they will stay with us.”

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Family Health Center Building New Denmark Facility

By DIONNE GLEATON T&D Staff Writer



The site for the new Family Health Centers’ facility in Denmark: B&B Building Supply is at left and Denmark Dentistry is at right

DENMARK -- One of the state’s largest community health centers is poised to build a new free-standing facility in Denmark with the help of a \$1 million federal grant.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded \$2.3 million to health centers in South Carolina. Orangeburg’s Family Health Centers will receive \$1 million of the amount for facility renovation, expansion or construction.

FHC Chief Executive Officer Leon Brunson Sr. said the new 6,400-square-foot Denmark facility will be located at 5616 Carolina Highway.

“We’re pleased that we were selected to receive funds needed in underserved communities where a number of our patients lack affordable health care,” Brunson said.

“The construction of a new Denmark facility will provide much-needed medical services for our patients. We are honored and grateful to be chosen to provide medical services to this region,” he said.

The CEO said the new building will also help address limited space issues at the current facility, which is housed at Voorhees College in Denmark.

“We’re renting space and a lot of the elderly patients would feel more comfortable with a different and expanded space,” Brunson said.

He said construction should take a little more than nine months.

“We should complete construction by Summer 2017. It’s an opportunity to serve patients in Denmark, where it’s definitely needed. This will also allow us to have our own space,” Brunson said.

He said the new center is expected to serve 6,000 patients and be staffed by three doctors instead of only one as it is now.

The FHC has its main Orangeburg site on Magnolia Street. The Denmark facility is one of its six satellite offices. Others are in Vance, Holly Hill, Norway, St. Matthews and St. George.

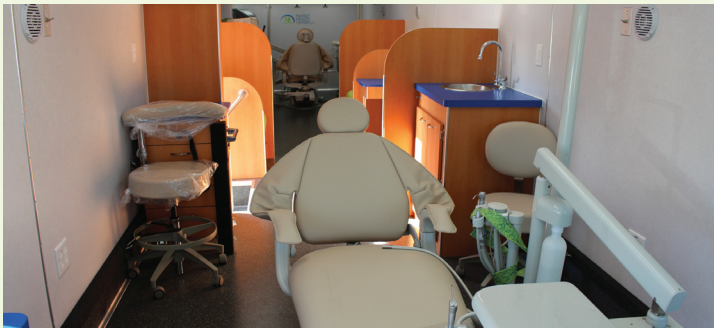
The FHC serves more than 22,000 patients in its complete service area. The center was accredited by the Joint Commission in 2002, verifying it is in compliance with national recognized standards of care. Adult medicine, behavioral health, dental, pharmacy, diabetes education, migrant health, OB/GYN, pediatrics, podiatry and radiology are among the services the center provides.

The grant funding comes from the Affordable Care Act’s Community Health Center Fund, which was extended with bipartisan support in the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015.

Family Health Centers Takes Dental and Optometry Mobile Units on the Road



Dental Mobile Unit



Dental Mobile Unit interior



Optometry Mobile Unit



Optometry Mobile Unit interior

The Family Health Centers, Inc. of Orangeburg, South Carolina Dental and Optometry Mobile Units traveled to different locations in South Carolina during the month of December offering vision and dental exams with provision of teeth cleaning at no cost to all uninsured patients in the Orangeburg and Bamberg counties.

An Enrollment Specialist was available to sign up individuals for affordable health care insurance or Medicaid.

The mobile units went to the following locations: Jeff’s IGA, Ehrhardt, SC; Hometown Bi-Lo, Bamberg, SC; Piggly Wiggly, Denmark, SC; Family Dollar, Norway, SC; Piggly Wiggly, Neeses, SC; Town of North Community Pavilion, North, SC; Food Lion, Santee, SC; General Food Store, Inc., Elloree, SC; Bowman IGA, Bowman, SC; General IGA, Holly Hill, SC; Hometown Bi-Lo, Orangeburg, SC; Prince of Orange Mall, Orangeburg, SC; and Piggly Wiggly, Orangeburg, SC

For more information about the mobile dental and optometry units and services, please call (803) 531-6900.

Family Health Centers, Inc. Participates in Midlands Gives

Family Health Centers, Inc. is participating in the Midlands Gives online fundraising challenge. Sponsored by the Central Carolina Community Foundation, Midlands Gives is a great way for Family Health Centers, Inc. to not only raise money and awareness, but also be a part of a remarkable initiative supporting all of the non-profits throughout the Midlands that make our communities so vibrant.

On May 2, 2017, Midlands Gives Day, your donation of \$20 or more will be used to assist uninsured patients. Your support to Family Health Centers, Inc. Fund is greatly needed and a wonderful way to support our uninsured patients.

More than 375 local nonprofits will participate in the fourth annual Midlands Gives, a 24-hour online giving challenge presented by Central Carolina Community Foundation – the Midlands’ expert on philanthropy – on Tuesday, May 2, 2017.

To learn more about Midlands Gives and view the full list of participating nonprofits, visit midlandsgives.org.



MIDLANDS
GIVES
Powered by CENTRAL CAROLINA
Community Foundation

Get Ready for Flu Season

Did you know that you can keep your loved ones around you healthy by getting your flu shot? Don’t delay!



The Family Health Centers, Inc. is now accepting new patients and providing flu shots. An annual flu vaccination is an important step in staying healthy and keeping others healthy as well.

Avoid catching the flu by getting your flu shot! Knock the flu out earlier it gets YOU!

There is a lot you can do to assist minimize the risk of developing the flu.

Getting the flu shot is considered the greatest protection. And, getting the shot can offer significant other benefits, including reducing illness, antibiotic use, time lost from work, and hospitalizations, to name a few.

Additional everyday steps to remaining healthy include washing your hands and covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze to keep yourself healthy. Get Your Flu Shot Today!

FHC Receives Grant From the U.S. Health and Human Services for Health IT Program

Family Health Centers, Inc. recently received a \$72,323.00 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for Health IT to further advance healthcare reform goals, including much-needed up-skilling for healthcare workers and facilities in health IT related fields. The funds will be used to purchase a new fax server, uninterruptible power supply, and laptops to ensure rapid and secure transmission of data related to records received from outside providers, data protection in the event of a power outage, and sufficient hardware for staff to document clinical and financial information in Electronic Health Record (HER). In addition, the funds will be used to upgrade FHC's website to enable electronic patient/provider communication through a patient portal and provide capacity for online appointment scheduling.

"The Accelerating Care Transformation through Health Information



Technology (ACT Health IT) program will develop a training program to meet the needs of the healthcare workforce, facilities and the rapidly changing industry," said Mr. Anthony Caldwell, Chief Information Officer. "Training will be provided to staff members on MediDent (dental EHR), IntelliSoft (credentialing software), and McKesson (pharmacy software)."

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the U.S. government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. The mission of HHS is to enhance the health and well-being of Americans by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services.

FHC Unveils New Telemedicine Service

The Family Health Centers, Inc. is introducing a telemedicine service that will enable communication between the patient and the healthcare provider using electronic audio and visual means.

"The Family Health Center Inc., has established our Telemedicine Model of Care that involves "the application of secure video conference technology," said Dr. Annette Bey, Chief Medical Officer. "This new technology will support our present healthcare delivery by reproducing our traditional patient provider encounters to new video encounters between our providers and provider designees and our patients. In addition, this model of care provides several benefits to both the patient and the provider. This is the future of medicine."

According to Dr. Bey, telemedicine has been around for over ten years. Presently, we are using telemedicine technology in our everyday medical practice to support health care in our rural communities.. FHC offers a complete range of products and solutions to allow doctors and their patients to realize the numerous benefits of telemedicine. One of the greatest commonly-cited motives for the use of telemedicine technologies is the associated cost benefit. Telemedicine can be a tremendously cost effective technique of care. By treating patients remotely, both doctors and patients can be spared the time lost to travel and sitting in waiting rooms.

FHC has partnered with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in this new endeavor. MUSC has provided the equipment and training for staff and providers to begin internal encounters and consultations. "We look forward to ongoing collaboration with MUSC to include external referrals for sub-specialty consultations," said Dr. Bey.



Annette Bey, MD, MBA
Chief Medical Officer

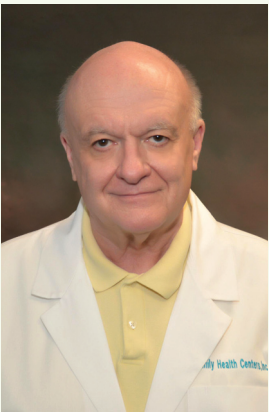
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– Dr. Annette Bey, Chief Medical Officer

FHC Welcomes New Providers

The Family Health Centers, Inc. recently welcomed nine new providers to our team including optometrist, dentists, dental hygienist, family nurse practitioner, pharmacist, and family practice medicine doctor. “Welcoming these new providers is huge for the Family Health Centers, Inc. and for the community,” said Leon Brunson, Chief Operating Officer. “This really enables us to continue to provide remarkable healthcare for patients within the community, and helps us in our pursuit to grow to meet the needs of our patients.”

Dr. Thomas Helfrich will serve as an Optometrist. He will be treating patients on the Optometry Mobile Unit. He brings a great amount of Optometry experience to FHC and most recently was employed with Stanton Optical. Dr. Helfrich obtained his Doctorate of Optometry from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, as well as his Bachelor of Science in Optometric Science from Indiana University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology from Indiana University. Dr. Helfrich moved to Columbia one year ago from Missouri, but he is originally from Indiana. He is married and has three children and he enjoys golfing and reading.



Latisha Canty, RDH, is joining our Dental Department and will be on the Mobile Unit. She has been a Dental Hygienist for eight years and is a graduate of Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences. She attended Dental Hygiene school at Midlands Technical College where she received her Associates degree in Health Science. Latisha is family oriented and is an active member of her church, and she currently serves as Secretary for the National Dental Hygienist Association.



Nicole Ballew will serve as Dental Hygienist. She will be seeing patients in our Dental Department. She is returning to our organization where she worked previously in our Dental Department for seven years and she brings a great amount of Dental Hygiene experience. She was most recently employed with Orangeburg Family Dentistry. Nicole obtained her Associates Degree of Health Sciences in Dental Hygiene from Midlands Technical College at the Midlands Campus. She resides in Orangeburg with her husband and two children and is delighted to be returning to FHC.



Dr. Meriana Martin, DMD, will serve as Dentist. She will be seeing patients on the Dental Mobile Unit. She is joining our organization from Bright Smiles in Beaufort and brings a great amount of knowledge to our Dental department. Dr. Martin received a four-year degree in Dentistry from the Medical University of the University of South Carolina. Her Periodontics and Dental Implant Specialty were completed at the University of Pittsburgh, graduating in Periodontics in 2008. Dr. Martin is married with two daughters and she enjoys reading, gardening, traveling, and a variety of volunteer work.



Kiana Robinson, Family Nurse Practitioner, will be working at the Norfield Medical Center in Neeses, SC. She graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from University of South Carolina - Upstate in 2013. After working in emergency medicine and ICU/CCU as a nurse for a total of six years, she graduated with her Master's Degree in Nursing from South University in 2015. Kiana lives in Columbia, SC and is from Greenville, SC. She recently married her true love and enjoys spending time with family and friends.



Dr. Theresa Brown-Doonquah, DDS, will serve as a Dentist in the Dental Department. She will be seeing patients at our main site in Orangeburg. Dr. Brown-Doonquah was born in Portsmouth, Va and obtained her Undergraduate Degree from Norfolk State University. She also graduated from Howard University Dental School in 1988. Her Dental Career consists of working with the U.S. Army, Virginia Corrections, Indian Health Science, the U.S. Air Force, and includes ten and one-half years in Saudi Arabia and Saudi Aramco. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta.



Debra Felder, Pharmacist, will be working at the Community Medical Center in Vance, SC. She attended South Carolina State College and graduated with a dual degree in Chemistry and Biology. After graduation, she attended the Medical University of South Carolina and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy. She has worked in retail pharmacy and has worked many years here at Family Health Centers, Inc. where she has received many accolades. She is currently returning to our organization after working for Rural Health Services, Inc. in Aiken, SC.



Julia Watson, Family Nurse Practitioner, will be working at the St. George Medical Center in St. George, SC. She has been a Registered Nurse for over thirty years. She completed her Masters Degree of Science in Nursing at Kaplan University and her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from the University of Tennessee. She and her husband have lived in St. George for twenty-seven years, where they raised their daughter who attends Methodist University. Julia and her husband both enjoy traveling, jogging, horseback riding, tennis, and recently kayaking. She is originally from Tennessee and travels there and to North Carolina frequently to visit family.



Connecting Kids to Coverage



The Connecting Kids to Coverage (CKC) is on its way for a successful outcome. The Eligibility staff is excited and geared up to assist our service area with their Health care coverage needs. This service will improve the accessibility to those that are eligible for Medicaid or Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In addition to our Outreach and Enrollment staff, the Eligibility staff will assist individuals with signing up for Affordable Health Care through the Marketplace.

The Eligibility staff includes Dimetrius Nash, Jerome Corley, David Collins and Jordan Page at the main site in Orangeburg, SC; St. Matthews site, Kendrick Hemingway; St. George, site, Andra Saxon and Justin Johnson; Vance site, Tariq Simmons; and Denmark site, Whitney Johnson and Richard Corujo.

Dimetrius Nash is happy to be joining the staff, team, and family at Family Health Centers, Inc. He is a recent retiree of the United States Army after serving over twenty years, as well as a graduate of the University of Phoenix; by way of Penn State University. He resides in Blythewood, SC and is the father of three children and four grandchildren.

Jerome Corley is a native of Orangeburg, SC. He graduated from Claflin University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. He is currently a student at South University as he is obtaining a Masters degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Some of Jerome’s favorite pastimes are traveling, listening to music, and working with children.

David Collins is a May 2016 graduate of South Carolina State University where he received a Bachelor’s degree in Social Work (Cum Laude), while interning at Orangeburg Area Mental Health. He hopes that his skills and knowledge will successfully assist in the operations of our organization.

Jordan Page graduated from De La Salle Institute and also completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications: Digital Media from Claflin University this past December. He will walk at graduation in May. He minored in Philosophy and Religion. Jordan was born and raised on the south side of Chicago along with his mother, father, and younger brother. He loves to dance, make people laugh, spend time with friends and family, cooking, and he is very ambitious, outgoing, comical, and confident. Jordan is very pleased to work here at FHC.

Kendrick Hemingway is a native of Loris, SC which is located right outside of Myrtle Beach. He is looking forward to working with a motivated staff and servicing the community. He graduated from South Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Management.

Andra Saxon is from Dorchester, SC and graduated from the Claflin University, Class of 2016, as a Computer Engineering major. He is happy to be a part of the Family Health Centers family and is looking forward to meeting everyone.

Justin Johnson is a native of St. George, SC. He was working in law enforcement for twelve years when he decided to make a change to the healthcare field, which he is looking forward to. Justin is a Graduate of Claflin University where he majored in Sociology/Criminal Justice. He loves to travel and live life to its fullest. Justin has no biological children, but he has two Godsons that are like his own. He is looking forward to learning and working for this great organization.

Tariq Simmons completed his Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice from Voorhees College in Denmark, SC in May 2016 and he has been a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity since Fall of 2012. He is also a member of the Army National Guard. Tariq says that he is an easy-going person and willing to help with anything. He thanks us for having him.

Whitney “Whit” Johnson was born and raised in Denmark, SC. Whit served eight years in the US Navy in the supply department which enabled him to travel the world. He completed his Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration/Technology Management from St. Leo University. Whit most recently was employed by SC DMV. He is glad to be a part of the FHC team and thankful for this opportunity.

Richard Corujo is a native of Bamberg, SC and is excited to be joining the Family Health Center family. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology from Voorhees College, and was most recently employed by the Bamberg County Office On Aging.



Family Health Centers, Inc.
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Orangeburg, SC 29115

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FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

Family Health Centers, Inc.
3310 Magnolia Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115
803-531-6900

Denmark Family Health Center
1241 Solomon Blatt Blvd.
Denmark, SC 29042
803-793-4282

**Family Health Center
at Holly Hill**
922 Holly Street
Holly Hill, SC 29059
803-496-7174

Norfield Medical Center
7061 Norway Road
Neeses, SC 29107
803-263-4086

St. George Medical Center
401 Ridge Street
St. George, SC 29477
843-563-5315

St. Matthews Medical Center
558 Chestnut Street
St. Matthews, SC 29135
803-874-2006

Community Medical Center
10278 Old #6 Hwy.
Vance, SC 29163
803-492-3031

Bamberg Job Corps
19 Job Corps Avenue
Bamberg, SC 29003
803-245-5101

Dental Mobile Unit
3310 Magnolia Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115
803-747-1929

Optometry Mobile Unit
3310 Magnolia Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115
803-707-0445