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# 2019 SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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## HRHN's iMAD Summer Workshops: Allowing Youth to Develop New Skills and Make Memories



**H**earthland Rural Health Network's iMAD Program hosted its second annual Summer Workshops. These workshops are week-long workshops held twice a summer for free to youth in Highlands County thanks to our FYSB C-PREP Grant. This year, we continued our Summer Exploratorium/ International Magical Academy of Discoveries and added a film-focused workshop Imagination, Motion, and Direction. Both camps ran simultaneously at the Circle Theater in downtown Sebring for one week in June and one week in July. The total attendance for the summer was 74 youth.

Students in the Summer Exploratorium focused on the importance of friendship and team work while also learning valuable life skills such as sewing, aromatherapy, design, and many more. Students in the Imagination, Motion and Direction workshop learned valuable communication skills while developing skills in videography, sound, direction and screen writing. Our staff and community partners made these workshops part of a memorable summer for all participants. Please see P3 for special thanks.





## Four Stars for DeSoto Memorial Hospital

The latest patient satisfaction scores will be published by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in October, but here is a sneak preview. According to CMS (an office of the Federal Government) patients using DeSoto Memorial Hospital have awarded DMH 4 STARS for patient satisfaction! For the last several years CMS has been asking patients to fill out patient satisfaction surveys after every Hospital stay. Several categories are considered; each category having several questions.

For instance, the Hospital's patients awarded the Hospital staff 5 STARS for "Responsiveness of Staff". Other categories such as: Communication with Nurses, Communication about Medicines, Cleanliness of Hospital Environment, Quietness of Hospital, and Care Transitions all received 4 STAR ratings. Seventy-four percent (74%) of our patients rated the Overall Satisfaction with the Hospital a 9 or 10 (on a 1 to 10 scale) and Seventy-two percent (72%) of the patients surveyed said they would recommend the DMH to family and friends.

You may be saying to yourself "Wow those are really good scores, how did the Hospital do that?" I can tell you. Our staff, both clinical and non-clinical, do a wonderful job making patients feel like they are the only patient they have to take care of on a given day. For example, we had a patient who was very thirsty but did not like any of the drinks we had to offer. The patient said to the staff, "you know I would really like a nice cool glass of lemonade." A member of the dietary staff overheard the conversation, went down to the kitchen, made a fresh squeezed glass of lemonade and brought it back to the patient. Our staff really do go above and beyond. We even had a nurse personally go to the store and buy a patient toothpaste upon learning they were allergic to our brand.

These types of efforts go on every day at DMH. From the registration clerks to the nurses on the floor, from the lab technician to the ER physician, the goal is always the same, "provide each patient with the type of care that will exceed their expectations." We are so proud to have earned this 4-star rating from our patients. Thank you to all of our patients for appreciating the type of care provided and acknowledging the efforts of our staff. This accomplishment really does emulate our motto: "The right choice for all the

# iMAD Summer Workshops THANK YOUs!



Our Summer Workshops would not have been as successful as they were without the help of our community partners. A special thank you to the following partners:

**CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION  
CB'S SMOKEHOUSE  
HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
ORGANICALLY LOCAL**

**AISHA ALAYANDE  
THOR KNUTSON  
JILL JERNIGAN  
ROSE MARIE TIPPINS  
KORENE BOYD  
SAVANNAH O'STEEN**

**RACHEL MOORE  
BRITTANY LEACH  
GINGERLEE DREAD  
KIM BENTON  
AMANDA BATES**

## Did you know?

How HRHN operates?

Heartland Rural Health Network is able to provide free programs to the community due to Grants that they apply for and receive from sources such as Federal and State government, as well as Private Foundation Grants.

You can directly donate to our organization with or without an earmark! Is there a specific program or event you would like to support that we do? You can arrange to make a donation to us through our website and put in the comments the program or event you would like it to go to support. Want to just donate to our organization? Your donation would go to support non-grant covered costs.

How YOU can support HRHN?

How HRHN can help you?

Organizations can partner with us on grants or projects in the area, just reach out to us! Individuals, please visit our websites. We have a ton of resources on our [hrhn.org](http://hrhn.org) webpage. If you are a parent or guardian of a youth or a youth yourself, visit our [hrhnimad.org](http://hrhnimad.org) website for important information and resources about how to talk with your child about sexual health and learn more about sexual health. And follow us on social media!

Heartland Rural Health Network aims to bring health initiatives needed to the rural communities it serves. Currently, we have a C-PREP grant that allows us to bring sexual health education to Highlands County through our iMAD Program. This includes in-school, after-school, and summer programs. We also have a small pilot program partnership with Central Florida Health Care where we help support the diabetic population through Community Health Worker-led one-on-one patient education. We are constantly searching for new initiatives to bring our communities and increase our involvement in Highlands, Hardee, DeSoto, Polk and Charlotte Counties and we welcome anyone to reach out to us with your suggestions or comments.

What HRHN does?

# Heartland Rural Health Network is HIRING!

Have you been following our organization and the work we do and are interested in becoming a part of the HRHN **family**? Do you have a **passion** for rural communities and helping **alleviate barriers** to health care and education? Do you enjoy **empowering youth**? Do you enjoy working with numbers and **data**? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should take a few minutes and check out our **current openings**! For a full job description for each position visit our employment page by clicking **here**.

## **Part-Time Health Educator (iMAD Program)**

If you have a passion for youth and helping prepare them for making healthy decisions in their life, please send your resume and cover letter to [support@hrhn.org](mailto:support@hrhn.org) and include as the subject Part-Time Health Educator. The person in this position would be one of the educators responsible for providing the in-school, evidence-based sexual health education.

## **Full-Time Data Manager/Administrative Assistant (iMAD Program)**

If you have a strong computer and data background and are highly self-motivated, please email your resume and cover letter to [support@hrhn.org](mailto:support@hrhn.org) and include as the subject Data Manager/Administrative Assistant. The person in this position is an integral part of our iMAD Program as they are responsible for coordinating with our Researchers to monitor and test the quality and effectiveness of our program. A research background is a plus for this position but not required.

Heartland Rural Health Network's main office is now located at 435 S. Pine Street, Sebring. We do not have standard office hours due to schedules, however, we are always reachable via our email addresses. Please visit our website if you require additional information.



On April 9<sup>th</sup>, Heartland Rural Health Network staff and Board of Directors got together to set the Strategic Direction of the Network for the next three years. We spent the day going over a S.W.O.T. analysis for the organization, reviewing the Florida Legislation that created the Networks, as well as reviewing the Network's Mission, Vision, Values and Purpose. The day involved a lot of purposeful dialogue as well as the opportunity for Staff and Board Members to collaborate and discuss the Network's future. HRHN's new Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board during the September Board Meeting for approval.

**Heartland Rural Health Network, Inc.** is happy to share with you some great updates from our members and community partners! **Thank you** for your continued **commitment** to improving rural health care through your association with Heartland Rural Health Network. Current network **initiatives** include the DMCP Community Health Worker Program, the C-PREP iMAD Program, and supporting Drug Free Highlands through a Drug Free Communities Grant. A full description of current Network initiatives can be found online on our website at [hrhn.org](http://hrhn.org).

If the Network can **partner** with your organization on a project, please contact us to discuss. We **value** community partnerships to accomplish the mission of the Network.

Please feel free to **forward** this newsletter to a friend or colleague.

## Use AmazonSmile to Help HRHN Fundraise!

Heartland Rural Health Network is part of AmazonSmile, a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate **0.5%** of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

To have AmazonSmile contribute **0.5%** of your eligible purchases to Heartland Rural Health Network simply click our link [here](#) and it will take you directly to our AmazonSmile page. That's it! You shop as you normally do and HRHN will receive 0.5% from AmazonSmile for any eligible purchases. There is no additional costs or hidden fees for your participation in the program.

Don't forget to bookmark the link and every time you shop through AmazonSmile you are supporting HRHN!

### IMPORTANT UPDATE:

Please update Heartland Rural Health Network's physical address in your address books! Our main office is now located at 435 S Pine St, Sebring, FL 33870.

Heartland Rural Health Network, Inc.

863.452.6530

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

**Mission:** Improving access to quality health care by implementing creative solutions in collaboration with network members and community partners.

**Vision:** To be a leader of innovative, collaborative, and quality driven rural health initiatives.

**2019 – 2020 Board of Directors:** Blake Warren, President; Vince Sica, Vice President; Heather Stephenson, Secretary/Treasurer; Robert Rihn, Past President; David Robbins, David Duke, Justin Blalock, Denise Collazo, and Cathy Exendine.