

HardisonInk.com

Medical Reserve Corps helps people in Levy County



Dr. Harvey G. Rohlwing, M.D., one of the longest-serving members of the Levy County Medical Reserve Corps, pauses for a moment before going to help patients at the Levy County Unit of the Florida Department of Health. He said the corps is hoping to one day be able to refer patients to specialists too.

Story and Photo © Jan. 29, 2016 @ 12:47 p.m. By Jeff M. Hardison

LEVY COUNTY -- A monthly medical clinic for uninsured poor people is a service of the Medical Reserve Corps in Levy County.

The clinic is the fourth Wednesday of each month. It is for low-income uninsured individuals.

The key function of this corps is to be a community-based volunteer organization to assist the public in regard to the community's preparedness and responsive efforts in the event of manmade or natural disasters.

Providing assistance with its free monthly clinic offered to the uninsured is another service by this group during non-disaster periods. Providing free healthcare services is especially important given the 2015 County Health Rankings & Roadmap which identified 24 percent of the residents in Levy County as being uninsured, leaving this population with limited access to care if they are unable to pay for healthcare out-of-pocket.

Access to care greatly affects the health of the community. Improving screening and access to health care improves individual health by identifying diseases at earlier stages and providing preventative healthcare services.

Overall, improving the quality of life for those with healthcare or who are able to pay for it out-of-pocket. The Levy County MRC is looking for medical volunteers such as doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other non-medical volunteers wanting to donate their time and expertise.

Some examples of the services provided by the local Levy County Medical Reserve Corps

HardisonInk.com

include but are not limited to: registration and care of people in special needs shelters, providing a free medical clinic to low-income uninsured citizens, interpretation services, assisting with school health screenings, and assisting with school and community flu vaccination programs. The National Medical Reserve Corps was established in 2001 after the attack on the World Trade Center. The local branch of the MRC is sponsored and supported by national organization and the Levy County Health Department.

On Wednesday (Jan. 27), before starting his rounds in the monthly clinic in Bronson, Dr. Harvey G. Rohlwing, M.D., said he has been serving in Levy County since it started here. Before that, Dr. Rohlwing was, and still is, part of the Alachua County Area Medical Reserve Corps.

Fred Eichler, who retired last year, started the MRC in Levy County. He invited Dr. Rohlwing, Dr. Rohlwing, Dr. Kelly Adams, D.O., and Joanna Nolte, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, are the three top medical professionals who help patients at the Medical Reserve Corps in Levy County. The administrator for the Florida Department of Health Units in Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties is Barbara Locke. This is **not** the person by the same name who is on the Fanning Springs City Council.

For more information about how to join the Levy County Medical Reserve Corps as a volunteer, please contact Mark Johnson at 352-486-3404.