

# THRIVING!

THE NEWSLETTER OF BLACK PR WIRE, INC.

August 2014



## National Health Center Week: Celebrating Healthier Communities

**National Health Center Week (NHCW)** is recognized every August as a time to celebrate those health centers which provide access to affordable, high quality comprehensive primary care services to underserved patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

Health centers are locally-operated and able to tailor their services according to the demographics of their community, and some provide services beyond primary care. These may include dental care, mental health services, addiction treatment, health education, obstetric care and geriatric services, among others.

Many Americans, due to lack of insurance or other reasons, do not have a regular primary care physician. In other cases, work, school or family schedules limit their availability to make doctor's appointments. These patients often end up using hospital emergency rooms for care which could be provided in a community health center.

According to the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), these unnecessary ER visits cost the nation \$18 billion annually, driving up healthcare costs. Additionally, health centers provide screenings for early detection of conditions that would require surgery if discovered too late – another way these centers reduce costs.

Community health centers are an invaluable benefit to our society medically and financially, and they deserve our support and appreciation. This year's NHCW observance takes place **August 10-16, 2014** and health centers are hosting fairs, workshops, back-to-school screenings and other events nationwide. To find a NHCW event near you, visit [www.healthcenterweek.com/events.cfm](http://www.healthcenterweek.com/events.cfm).



## Miami Broward Carnivale Kicks Off With a Bang!



The official launch of the **Miami Broward Carnivale** was an overwhelming success! A celebration of Caribbean culture was at the heart of the Miami Broward Carnival experience when it kicked off on **July 19, 2014**, at the Miami-Dade County Fairgrounds in the Blue Ribbon Room (10901 Coral Way, Miami, 33165).

The event gave attendees a taste of the vibrant colorful spectacle that will sweep the South Florida region on **Sunday, October 12, 2014**, at the Miami-Dade County Fairgrounds. The launch featured



PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
MIAMIABROWARDCARNIVAL.COM

the rich, bold and colorful costumes of the over 20 masquerade bands and 11 junior masquerade bands that will be participating in the parade of bands. Music for the night was powered by Sound Revolution, Maestro, Mix Master, Eternal Vibes, House Arrest and Enforcement Soundz.

Miami Broward Carnival has created a significant niche of Caribbean Cultural heritage within the South Florida area for the past 30 years. Be a part of the excitement in October! For more information, visit [www.miamiabrowardcarnival.com](http://www.miamiabrowardcarnival.com).



Attending school is your time to learn and grow.  
To invest in your talents ...  
So that you can reap what you sew.

Go back to school  
With joy in your heart ...  
And with high expectations,  
Because it's where your career starts.

Attending school is not something to dread  
It boosts your intellect ...  
So that you can get ahead.

Go back to school  
With a drive to do well  
And you'll be so proud  
When you succeed and excel!



Black PR Wire, Inc. is a premier news distribution service center that delivers to the very core and pulse of the Black community. The company holds a comprehensive listing of over 1,200 Black-owned

publications and media, as well as provides services to social service and grassroots organizations and influential leaders throughout the United States and the Caribbean. Plus, we provide our services in

English and Creole. To find out more about Black PR Wire, Inc., call us toll free at 1-877-BlackPR or visit the website at: [WWW.BLACKPRWIRE.COM](http://WWW.BLACKPRWIRE.COM).

## POWER PROFILER: STATE REPRESENTATIVE CYNTHIA A. STAFFORD

**Representative Cynthia A. Stafford** represents Florida's 109th Legislative District. First elected to the Florida House in 2010 and subsequently re-elected to a second term in 2012, Rep. Stafford currently serves on the Appropriations Committee, Education Committee, Civil Justice Subcommittee (Democratic Ranking Member), Business and Professional Regulation Subcommittee, Joint Legislative Auditing Committee and Select Committee on Gaming. As a freshman Legislator, Rep. Stafford was selected by the Speaker of the House in 2011 to serve as a member of the 2012 Presidential Primary Preference Selection Committee.



Rep. Stafford has sponsored legislation to repeal the controversial Stand Your Ground law in the State of Florida. Rep. Stafford is a staunch critic of the use of Stand Your Ground in recent court decisions. She believes this law is dangerous, often deadly, applied unequally, and leads to outrageous results. In addition, Rep. Stafford has also sponsored legislation to increase the state's minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour.

Rep. Stafford strongly believes that increasing the minimum wage will strengthen our economy and help lift working people out of poverty.

Rep. Stafford has served in the community for more than 25 years. She is an Attorney and Adjunct College Professor. For several years, Rep. Stafford worked with the Dade County Bar Legal Aid Society where she represented victims of domestic violence. She was also a Congressional Aide with Former Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek, Development Director for the Family Christian Association of America, and Assoc. VP/Communications Director at Sonshine Communications.

Rep. Stafford's past and present volunteer and community service includes: Casa Valentine Board Member, Inner City Children's Touring Dance Company Board Member, and the Family Christian Association of America Board Member. Rep. Stafford was also a mentor to young girls who have aged out of foster care as well as, a Miami-Dade County Teen Court Judge for

first time juvenile defendants who have committed nonviolent misdemeanor crimes.

Rep. Stafford awards and honors include: Emerging Leader, Women's History Month Honoree, Rising Star Award, and Outstanding Service in Political Awareness & Involvement. Also in 2012, the Mary Kay Foundation awarded a grant in recognition of Rep. Stafford to the Miami Rescue Mission to support housing & services for domestic violence victims and their children. In 2012 and 2013, Rep. Stafford was recognized as a Champion of Florida's Middle Class. In 2013, the Family Section of the Florida Bar honored Rep. Stafford with the Legislator Award for her efforts on behalf of Florida's families throughout the legislative session.

Rep. Stafford is a native Miamian, born and raised in Liberty City. She attended public schools, graduating from Miami Northwestern Senior High School in 1985. Rep. Stafford earned a BA in Communication Arts from St. Thomas University and a Juris Doctor from St. Thomas University School of Law. Rep. Stafford is a member of the Florida Bar and licensed to practice in the State of Florida.

## Calendar of Events

This section is designed to keep you in the know and on the go.

Check out some of the latest happenings in Black communities throughout the country in the month of August.

**Hair Boss Competition**  
8/02/14  
Atlanta, GA  
www.bronnerbros.com

**Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival**  
8/05/14  
Vineyard Haven and Oaks Bluff, MA  
www.mvaaff.com

**Long Beach Jazz Festival**  
8/08/14  
Long Beach, CA  
www.longbeachjazzfestival.com

**Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo**  
8/02/14  
Atlanta, GA  
www.billpickettrodeo.com

**Africana Virginia Beach Funkfest**  
8/22/14  
Virginia Beach, VA  
www.beachstreetusa.com

**Art & Soul Festival**  
8/02/14  
Oakland, CA

**Association of African American Museum Conference**  
8/06/14  
Birmingham, AL  
www.blackmuseums.org

**Black Enterprise/Pepsi Golf & Tennis Challenge**  
8/28/14  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL  
www.blackenterprise.com

**American Tennis Association National Championships & Convention**  
8/03/14  
Fort Lauderdale, FL

**National Sales Network Convention**  
8/06/14  
Dallas, TX  
www.salesnetwork.org

**Chicago Jazz Festival**  
8/28/14  
Chicago, IL

For a complete listing of events, please visit [www.blackprwire.com](http://www.blackprwire.com)

### OUR TEAM

**Bernadette A. Morris**  
President/CEO  
bmorris@blackprwire.com

**Ricardo F. Reyes**  
AVP/Creative Director  
reyes@blackprwire.com

**Tanisha Coleman**  
Marketing Manager  
tcoleman@blackprwire.com

**Vanessa Loy**  
Newsroom Manager  
vloy@blackprwire.com

**Teodoras Vitkauskas**  
Webmaster  
tvitkauskas@blackprwire.com

**Erica Brown**  
Graphic Designer  
ebrown@blackprwire.com



### BPRW ALLIANCES

Black PR Wire has several alliances and strategic partnerships with wire services and national organizations. They include:

