



## Trying to remedy the health care problem

### Jefferson Award winner helping with access to medical care

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HOBE SOUND —

There are too many people who can't get health care in Palm Beach County.

That's why Hobe Sound lawyer W. Trent Steele has spent the last four years trying to remedy the problem as the president of the board of directors of the Foundation for Comprehensive Community Care, known as FoundCare, which is raising money to build a community health center in Palm Springs.

"The need is so great, and the current response to the problem is just I feel so inadequate, and it's something that requires some urgent attention on the part of people here in Palm Beach and Martin," Steele said. "People cannot get access to health care, and people are forgoing care because they can't afford it. They end up in the emergency room because it's the only place to go, they have to take them."

Steele is the winner of a 2007 Jefferson Award, which recognizes community service.

Many of the center's clients will be working people who are not offered insurance at their jobs, and can't afford it on their own. The clinic, which will cost about \$5 million and about 10 months to build, will be a one-stop health clinic for preventative care with

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#### AWARD WINNER

**Name:** W. Trent Steele

**Age:** 48

**Town:** Hobe Sound

**Why he's nominated:** For his work FoundCare to raise money for a community health center in Palm Beach County.

**Tune in tonight:** Watch WPTV NewsChannel 5 tonight at 5:30 p.m. for more about the Jefferson Awards winners.

"I try to help, though I'm not perfect by any standard." W. Trent Steele



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W. Trent Steele of Hobe Sound is one of this year's Jefferson Award winners. He was nominated for the award for his work in raising money to bring a community health clinic to Palm Beach County.

### REMEDY

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dentists, family care physicians and a pharmacy on the premises.

The idea is to get entire families checked out in one visit.

"Studies have shown, parents will take care of their children before they'll take care of themselves," Steele said. "Mom comes in, brings the kids in, and at the clinic, the doctor pulls her aside, and says 'Let me give you a physical, too.'"

Also, unlike typical clinics where patients are shuffled to the doctor on duty, a pa-

#### WHAT ARE THE JEFFERSON AWARDS?

- National and local awards that "encourage and honor individuals for their achievements and contributions through public and community service," awarded yearly by the American Institute for Public Service, founded by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Senator Robert Taft Jr. and Sam Beard in 1972.
- One top regional winner will go to the Institute for Public Service in Washington D.C. to compete for a national award.

There are no federally qualified community health centers like the one Steele is helping establish in Palm Beach County, though there are about six total in Martin and St. Lucie counties. A federally qualified clinic must meet certain criteria. For example, 51 percent of the board must be people

Before he was involved in FoundCare, Steele worked with VSAArts, opening galleries like the one at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach dedicated to art created by people with disabilities.

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