

HEALTH NEWS

Grant aides senior day care services

BY MICHELLE L. START
Florida Weekly Correspondent

A \$17,200 grant is enabling Senior Friendship Centers to offer their Living Room day care services to more families within Lee County at a reduced rate. They are calling the program "Sponsor a Senior."

Services typically cost \$8 an hour, but with the grant funding administrators said they are able to provide the services for \$2.65 an hour to those who qualify.

"It's to help those who do not qualify for federal funding," said Ruthann Swiatek, senior manager of adult day services.

The grant was provided by Lee County, United Way and the Cape Coral Community Foundation.

The adult day services are a benefit to Lee County elders like James "Clyde" Harvey, 82.

"It's interesting. It gets me out of the house," he said. "I get to see other people, I get to tell jokes and hear jokes. It's something different. I get to meet other seniors and see what goes on in their lives."

It's also a time to enjoy old music like Dean Martin's "That's Amore" and in general, a time to socialize about the old days.

For Harvey, who suffered several strokes, that includes joining the Army Air Corps shortly after high school and being offered the chance to undergo pilot training. He smiles when he tells how he declined because he didn't want to fly but ended up in a plane anyways - as an airborne radio operator. He was even given orders to ship out, but then World War II ended.

He worked for 28 years as an industrial



COURTESY PHOTO
Seniors such as Clyde Harvey will benefit from grants for adult day care.

electrician for LifeSavers before retiring to Lehigh Acres, where he now lives with his daughter and her four children.

Three days a week, a bus picks Harvey up at his home and brings him into Fort Myers. It costs Harvey and the other clients \$2 a trip. The transportation program is funded under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For more information about the Sponsor a Senior program, call (239) 275-1881 ext. 220 or email Ruth Swiatek at Rswiatek@senior-friendship.com ■

Lee Physicians Group opens Pine Island office

North Fort Myers and North Cape Coral patients needing medical treatment now have a series of convenient options after Lee Physicians Group opened offices on Pine Island Road. The building houses family practice, internal medicine, surgical services and an obstetrics and gynecological office. A cardiologist is expected to open an office there within the next few weeks.

LEE MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM

While the offices have been in the process of opening for several weeks now, the newest service offered there is a walk-in clinic.

It is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day. During the first week, 90 patients visited the offices for urgent care.

"They usually end up seeing 100 patients a day," said Dr. Sal Lacagnina, medical director for Lee Physician Group.

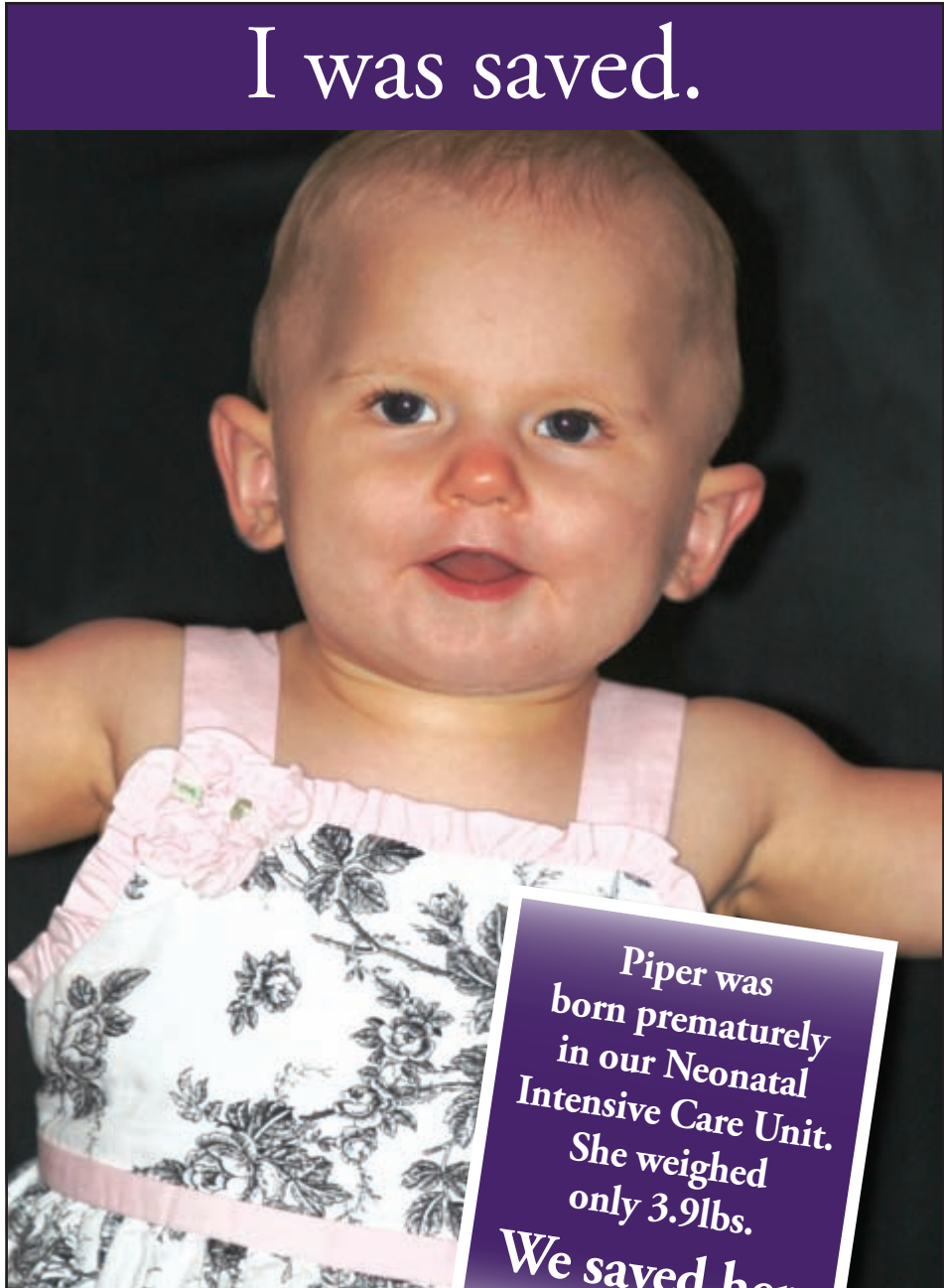
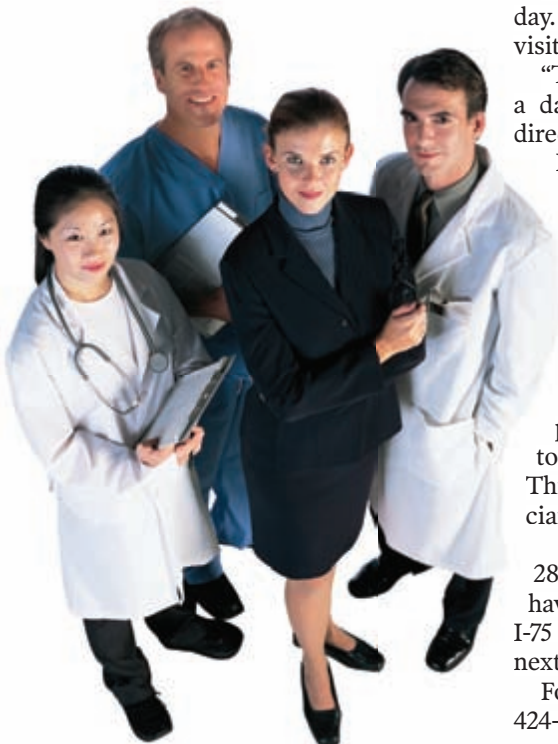
Lee Physician Group is holding an open house from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on June 28.

The 26,000 square foot building is located at 1682 NE Pine Island Road, Cape Coral.

"We're trying to get community awareness that we're here," said Lacagnina. "If you're rushing someplace to get an appointment, it's better to know where you're going in advance. This is also a chance to meet the physicians."

The Pine Island Road office is the 28th that the group has opened. They have plans to open another office near I-75 and Colonial Boulevard within the next year.

For more information, call (239) 424-1600. ■



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