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May 16, 2008

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Free forum: Building connections in the North Port community

As part of ongoing efforts to establish a stronger sense of community in North Port, there will be a free forum on Wednesday, June 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Warm Mineral Springs Day Spa, 12200 San Servando Ave. in North Port. This event is designed to create stronger networking and connections within community groups, civic organizations, businesses and others in North Port. "Join us for food and conversation about how we can mutually support local organizations to help create more cohesiveness in the North Port community. Everyone including representatives from local businesses, education, government, faith-based, civic and healthcare organizations has something to contribute in this "North Port Connects" dialogue," said North Port Community Health Action Team (CHAT) co-chair Sue Steele Miller.

This event is sponsored by the North Port Community Health Action Team (CHAT) as part of ongoing efforts to build a stronger, healthier community.

The North Port CHAT is one of five community groups in Sarasota County that has been working with local leaders to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents in the communities they serve. The **Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP)** which was established in 2002 is the coordinating entity for the CHATs. CHIP is comprised of local health departments, hospitals, non-profit organizations and funding dedicated to improving the health of Sarasota County residents. CHIP also works with Charlotte and DeSoto counties to foster change in health systems across the region.

CHIP is funded by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, the Community Foundation of Sarasota, Sarasota County Health Department, Sarasota County Government, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Venice Regional Medical Center, Doctors Hospital, Peace River Regional Medical Center, Charlotte Regional Medical Center, Fawcett Memorial Hospital, Englewood Hospital, Charlotte County Health Department, DeSoto County Health Department, and DeSoto Memorial Hospital.

For more information about this event and other CHAT activities, call CHAT coordinator, Diane Ramseyer at 941-650-4856 or visit the website at www.chip4health.org.

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