

The Oklahoma Caring Foundation, Inc.

Message from the Chairman

Oklahoma is facing many health challenges, but perhaps most significant is that the basic health needs of our children are not being met, including routine immunizations. According to the 2004 *State of the State's Health*¹ report, Oklahoma received an "F" for its ranking of 48th in the nation for childhood immunizations.

No child should endure the consequences of vaccine-preventable diseases for any reason — including cost. For that reason, The Oklahoma Caring Foundation, Inc., and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma have pledged to improve the health of Oklahoma's youngest residents by providing free vaccinations through the Oklahoma Caring Vans. These mobile units provide a safe, convenient way for children to receive the immunizations they need at child care facilities and public clinics.

Over the past several years, the Oklahoma Caring Foundation has developed private and public partnerships to expand the services of the Oklahoma Caring Vans and to meet growing immunization needs. These partnerships are important, because only by working together can we make a difference in the health of Oklahoma children.

Because only 67 percent of Oklahoma children are fully immunized², we are not

reaching the minimum percentage of vaccinations required to achieve "community immunity."³ This leaves our state vulnerable to outbreaks of disease that can cause chronic illness, disability and even death. By working with the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Oklahoma Caring Van Program is targeting populations of children whose immunization rates are especially low.

Established in 1994 as a 501(c)(3) organization, the Oklahoma Caring Foundation works to improve the health of Oklahoma children through vaccinations and access to basic health care. Funded by community contributions and governed by an independent board of directors, the foundation is administered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma as an in-kind donation. Each year, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma matches the first \$100,000 raised. All donations are used to provide health care services to qualifying children.

The Oklahoma Caring Foundation is an integral part of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma's vision for a healthier Oklahoma. We deeply appreciate the groups and

individuals who, through support of the Oklahoma Caring Foundation, bring this vision nearer to reality.

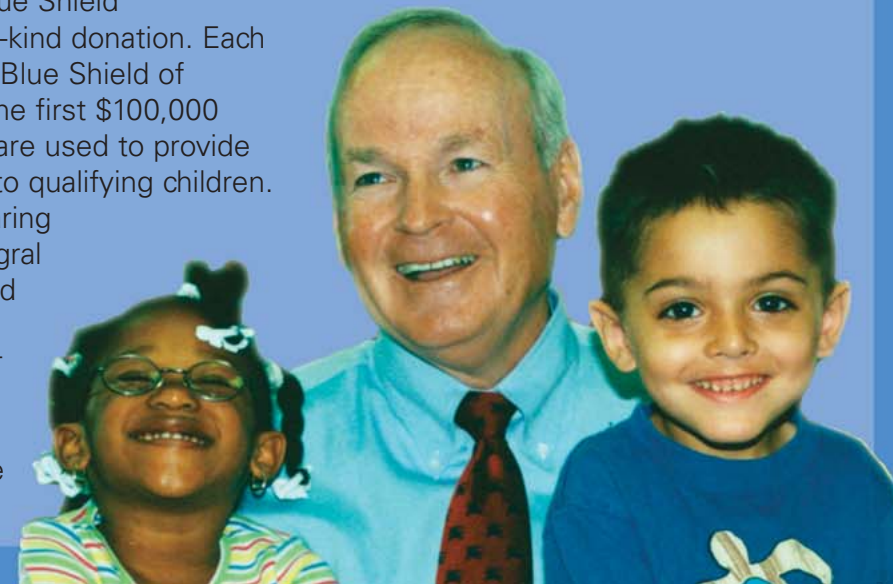
Sincerely,



Ronald F. King
Chairman, CEO and President
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma
and The Oklahoma Caring Foundation, Inc.

¹ 2004 State of the State's Health Report, Oklahoma State Department of Health.

² Immunization Issues: Community Immunity, National Network for Immunization Information, April 2004.



Health Insurance

Caring Program for Children

The Caring Program for Children provides access to health care for children whose families earn too much money to receive government assistance, yet cannot afford to buy health insurance.

Established in 1995, the program provides free preventive and primary outpatient health care coverage for children, birth through age 18.

Benefits of the program include doctor's office visits for sick children, preventive care, immunizations, well-child visits, outpatient diagnostic services, limited outpatient surgeries, emergency room visits for life-threatening emergencies and prescription drug coverage up to \$100 per year.

For more information, call (918) 592-9484.

Does my child qualify?

- ◆ Oklahoma resident
- ◆ Unmarried children from birth through age 18, living at home with one parent or legal guardian
- ◆ Gross annual income at or below income guidelines
- ◆ Ineligible for Medicaid or other public health care program
- ◆ Not enrolled in a public or private health insurance program
- ◆ Attending school through grade 12 (if school age)

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Childhood Immunization Schedule

	0 Mths.	2 Mths.	4 Mths.	6 Mths.	12 Mths.	24 Mths.	30 Mths.	4 Years
Hepatitis A						Hand	Hand	
Hepatitis B	Hand	Hand		Hand				
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis		Hand	Hand	Hand	Hand			Hand
Polio		Hand	Hand	Hand				Hand
Haemophilus Influenzae B		Hand	Hand	Hand	Hand			
Measles, Mumps, Rubella					Hand			Hand
Varicella					Hand			
Pneumococcal Conjugate		Hand	Hand	Hand	Hand			

For older children, check with your primary care physician or local immunization provider to see if additional immunizations are recommended.

Immunization schedule based on the "OK By One" schedule developed by the Oklahoma State Department of Health

Immunizations

Oklahoma Caring Van Program

According to the Oklahoma State Department of Health, one in three Oklahoma children under the age of two is not fully protected against vaccine-preventable diseases, ranking Oklahoma 48th in the nation.

This is an alarming statistic, because 75 percent of children's vaccinations are needed in their first two years of life to protect them from diseases, disabilities and death.

The Oklahoma Caring Van Program provides children with the immunizations they need to stay healthy.

Established in 1999, the Oklahoma Caring Vans are mobile units staffed by registered nurses who administer free vaccinations to children at licensed child care homes, centers, schools and community events.

The Oklahoma Caring Vans work with the County health departments,

the Department of Human Services, Head Start and other programs to identify children needing immunizations.

Since the program began, more than 20,750 children have received nearly 49,000 vaccinations, averaging 2.3 vaccines per child.

Schedule a visit by the Oklahoma Caring Vans

Central and Western Oklahoma
(405) 841-9783

Eastern Oklahoma
(918) 592-9487



