

# Success and World Hepatitis Day

By Phil Reichert

There are several ways to measure success. Usually, you set goals and create objectives for achieving those goals.

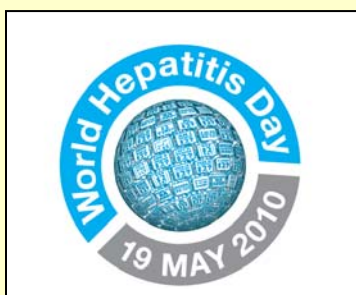
This year's goal for World Hepatitis Day in Tallahassee was to partner with a hepatitis service agency and the Tallahassee Fire Department to bring attention about viral hepatitis prevention to the community. April Crowley (your newsletter editor and the Hepatitis Prevention Program education coordinator) began soon after the 2009 World Hepatitis Day (May 19<sup>th</sup>) to work with these partners and bring us all together where there would be displays with public health messages, a news conference, free hepatitis A and B vaccines, fire trucks and a helicopter. World Hepatitis Day in Tallahassee was a success because a lot of people participated in the event, and it was covered by several outlets of the news media.



Louis Pierno being interviewed by the local media



Tom Liberti holds up the proclamation as Mayor John Marks declares May 19<sup>th</sup> World Hepatitis Day in Tallahassee.



Deputy Fire Chief John Gatlin speaks at the news conference.

## World Hepatitis Day Continued...

The news conference included a proclamation of World Hepatitis Day presented by Tallahassee's Mayor John Marks. There were important hepatitis prevention messages, peppered with current statistics, by Dr. Julia Gill, Director of the Department of Health Division of Disease Control, and by Tom Liberti, Chief of the Bureau of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis. Deputy Fire Chief John Gatlin made several remarks about the risks firefighters take every day while helping others. The most moving portion of the news conference was a testimony by Richard Roberts, veteran of a liver transplant and treatment due to hepatitis C. He was introduced by his son, Nathan, a firefighter for the Tallahassee Fire Department. Four generations of the Roberts family were present at the event, including Richard's father and infant grandson (probably a future firefighter). Finally, a plaque was presented to Louis Pierno commemorating his brother, Fred, who died as a result of hepatitis C he acquired on the job as a Martin County firefighter.

Why the partnership with the fire department and the Life Flight EMS helicopter? The week of May 19<sup>th</sup> is also National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week.



Tom Liberti embraces Louis Pierno



L to R: Richard Roberts, Mayor Marks, Nathan and Nolan Roberts



Dr. Julia Gill



Phil Reichert, April Crowley, & Travis Oaks



Jeffrey Walker,  
Bureau of STD



**Pete Simmons carries the message as he prepares to go for a helicopter ride.**



**Chad Bailey and Leesa Gibson from the Bureau of Epidemiology**



**Nita Harrelle and Pat Simmons  
from the Bureau of HIV/AIDS**

**Sandy Lyda and Richard Hutchinson  
from Environmental Health**



**Jamie Moore & Meredith Jagger  
from the Bureau of HIV/AIDS**



**L to R: The Roberts family:  
Jann, Richard, Courtney,  
Grandpa Richard, and Nathan  
(holding Nolan)**



**Tom Liberti holds up the proclamation as Mayor John Marks declares May 19th World Hepatitis Day in Tallahassee.**



**Firefighters from Fire Station #3**

**Air Methods Life Flight Helicopter  
takes off**

**Mayor John Marks, Dr. Julia Gill  
and Bureau Chief Tom Liberti**



**Dena Hall, Nosipho Beaufort  
& Phil Reichert**



**Louis Pierno (left) chats with Tallahassee Deputy Fire Chiefs Wes Roberts & John Gatlin**



**The Florida Hepatitis Prevention Program display**