

AMERICA'S HEALTHIEST HOMETOWN

A weekly report on The Villages' efforts to become "America's Healthiest Hometown." Compiled by Daily Sun Ombudsman **Larry D. Croom**
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Did you know?

As a child, Dr. Al Turri, director of audiology for The Villages Health, was a big fan of the popular television show "Speed Racer."

Fixing health care: All about Dr. Reed Panos

Primary care doctors, specialists and other medical providers have been recruited as part of an initiative to revamp health care right here in Florida's Friendliest Hometown. The Villages Health is partnering with USF Health to bring in family doctors, care providers and specialists who will work as a team, all in the best interests of serving patients. This weekly feature will introduce these innovative medical providers who have joined this effort.

Why did you decide to become a doctor?

I fell in love with medicine watching Hawkeye Pierce in "MASH" at a young age, and if you've ever watched Alan Alda, he's here with these life-threatening patients in the middle of an environment that no one else in the world wanted to be at. But he still brought the best out of people and took care of them, and if you just watch that show, you kind of get that empathy and enthusiasm about medicine. I felt that and my dad said, 'you know, Reed, I think you'd make a good surgeon.' I've wanted to be a surgeon ever since that day.

What is your favorite thing about being a doctor?

Taking care of people. Just doing good and being good at it. I'm treating people instead of machines and walls and paint and what not. We take care of real people and we get good results and people are happy when we're done.

What is your philosophy on health care?

Do the right thing for the right reason and take care of the patient, no matter what obstacles get in the way. In other words, you have to go to the nth mile sometimes to get people the support they need.

Why did you choose plastic surgery?

Plastic surgery is a fascinating field. It's only the real general, general surgeon out



Care Center: USF Health Specialty Care Center
Specialty: Plastic surgery
Age: 58
Undergraduate: University of California, Berkeley
Medical school: Uniform Services University of the Health Sciences (Bethesda, Md.)
Residencies: San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium (general surgery); Walter Reed Army Medical Center (plastic surgery)
Board certified: American Board of Surgery; American Board of Plastic Surgery

there. We do everything. I haven't been inside the brain and inside the eye, but everywhere else I have and continuously do that. I just like the variety of it. We get to take care of some real problems and the overwhelming, vast majority of people are happy.

Next week Find out all about Dr. Robert Aisenstat, a primary care physician at Colony Care Center who is moving to Pinellas Care Center

Creating America's Healthiest Hometown

Why is The Villages Health-USF partnership so important?

"We're going to have our hands in some of the latest research and evidence-based guidelines while also having that commitment to ongoing medical education. And down the road, being able to take in residents and medical students and helping to educate the future generation of primary care providers, this is something that we're really super-excited about."

Dr. Karla Noel,
medical director,
Pinellas Care Center



Primary care centers in The Villages

The Villages Health Colony Care Center

280 Farner Place, 352-674-1710

The Villages Health Santa Barbara Care Center

1575 Santa Barbara Blvd., 352-674-1740

The Villages Health Pinellas Care Center

2485 Pinellas Place (Opening this month)

The Villages Health Mulberry Grove Care Center

8877 S.E. 165th Mulberry Lane (Opening spring 2014)

The Villages Health Lake Sumter Creekside Care Center

1050 Old Camp Road, Building 100 (Opening spring 2014)



Photos by George Horsford / Daily Sun
Dr. Dave Jordahl talks with patient Edward Stafford, who lives in the Village of Sanibel. Stafford, 73, says he enjoys having Jordahl as his primary care physician and appreciates the fact that he's very knowledgeable, easy to talk to and very responsive to his needs as a patient.

Solid leap of faith

Jordahls were first medical providers to say 'yes' to Villages Health

By **LARRY D. CROOM** / DAILY SUN OMBUDSMAN

There's something special about being the first.

For Dave and Jennifer Jordahl, that special moment came about more than a year ago when they became the first medical providers from outside the local area to join The Villages Health.

And now, more than a year later and just one week shy of the Colony Care Center's first anniversary, Dr. Dave Jordahl said it was a great decision to leave behind an extremely busy practice in Michigan and start a new, rewarding life here in Florida's Friendliest Hometown.

"I think I'm a better husband and a better father with this move," he said. "And I think I'm a better doctor with this move, too."

The story of the Jordahls' move to The Villages Health started in spring 2012 while they were visiting family here. Both Dave and Jennifer, a nurse practitioner, were practicing medicine in Michigan and were enjoying a much-needed vacation when they read about the health care initiative that was sweeping through The Villages.

In Michigan, Dave was responsible for more than 2,000 patients and was often working late and not home to spend quality time with Jennifer and their two children, Olivia and Lucas. Here in The Villages, he discovered, he would be responsible for about half that number of patients and would have quality time to spend with them and really get to know them.

Their interests piqued, the Jordahls met with Dr. Elliot Sussman, chair of

Coming Dec. 15
Medical providers offer thoughts on the year anniversary of the opening of Colony Care Center.

The Villages Health.

"My husband and I were actually kicking each other under the table. We couldn't believe what he was saying because it would be things that we would talk about, because it's very important to us to provide quality care to our patients," Jennifer recalled. "It's the reason we went into this profession."

The next step was a formal visit and valuable time spent with both Sussman and Dr. Joe Hildner, chief medical officer of The Villages Health. Neither had much to sell in those days except the promise of fulfilling a dream, largely because no



Jennifer Jordahl, a nurse practitioner, will be moving to the new Pinellas Care Center later this month to work alongside Dr. Karla Noel, medical director of the facility.

care centers had been built in The Villages yet and the USF Specialty Care Center was still in the design stages.

But the Jordahls could see the possibilities that lie ahead, and the rest, as they say, is history.

"When we left Michigan, we didn't even have a place to live," Jennifer said. "I said to Dave, 'this is either the biggest leap of faith we've ever made or really, really crazy.' But it's turned out to be great."

Dave said that despite the challenges with relocating and starting a new life in Central Florida, it all made sense.

"We felt the calling to come, and not coming felt horribly wrong," he said. "So we packed up our two kids and came on down."

Today, Dave is serving as medical director of the Colony Care Center, while Jennifer is preparing to move to the new Pinellas Care Center that will be opening this month. Both agreed that

the move has been good for them in many ways, both professionally and personally.

"It's really coming together," Jennifer said. "We're developing some great friendships, not just here in the office but outside the office. And we're feeling like part of the community."

Hildner said he looks back on the moment the Jordahls agreed to join The Villages Health as a special moment in the organization's history.

"They were the first, and many have followed, but their signing with us and their joining this team marked the beginning of taking a great idea and making it real," he said. "When they came it really was the beginning of bringing this into a reality that you could experience as a patient rather than just a good idea."

Sussman agreed. "It was proof of concept to The Villages Health," he said. "And I think the journey for the Jordahls is actually just beginning."