

## Your Turn

A place for you to share your thoughts about life in the Midlands

---

« [Local radio clubs join forces in Emergency Preparedness](#)  
[Tracing your Confederate Ancestor](#) »

### Health Access America Helps Hundreds of South Carolinians Obtain Health Insurance in Community Campaign

**Columbia, SC (June 27, 2007)** – Health Access America (HAA) has reached out to nearly 1,000 people in the Columbia area since March 1, 2007.

HAA representatives have attended more than 65 health-related events, talking to community members about the importance of health insurance and providing educational information about available options. This effort has made a large impact in the community, helping increase awareness of existing programs, both public and private.

“It’s a good feeling to know HAA is really making a difference in Columbia,” said John Bayalis, Health Access America field organizer. “We will continue to work hard and educate people about the importance of having health insurance and what is available.”

The importance of having health insurance is demonstrated through Concetta Crout of West Columbia. Ms. Crout lost her health insurance coverage in December 2006, one week before the birth of her first child. She not only owed thousands of dollars in hospital expenses, but had to pay out of pocket for shots and pediatrician visits.

Ms. Crout will once again have health insurance once her husband starts a new job this July. She feels relieved that her daughter will be able to go to a doctor she knows and receive the care she needs when she needs it. There will not be the worry of paying for large medical expenses.

The success of HAA has been largely due to the campaign’s 61 partners. Since the beginning of April, organizations such as the Mental Health Association, Carolina Pharmacy Network and the National Kidney Foundation of South Carolina have been committed to the HAA cause through various efforts. Whether it is distributing information, supporting events or anything else, the number of uninsured in Columbia is decreasing thanks to this collaborative effort.

To find out where HAA is going to be next, contact Jill Green at (919) 828-6455. Log on to <http://www.healthaccess4america.org> for additional information.

###