

Health Care

Hello St. Petersburg!

I'm Joe Santini, I've lived in St. Petersburg for 14 years and have worked in healthcare, in one form or another, for more than 16 years. I've worked with those living with HIV, dealing with substance use and mental health, and now in ambulatory healthcare. Healthcare is something I value and treasure for myself, my loved ones and my fellow residents – that is why I have dedicated my career to ensure access to healthcare.

Indulge me while I borrow from NPR's series called "This I Believe."

I believe that:

- Everyone has the right to healthcare; accessible and affordable.
- Everyone has the right to healthy, affordable, food choices.
- Everyone has the right to live the best life.

My faith, and these core beliefs make me who I am. So you will understand when I say: I believe everyone should access healthcare on a regular basis! Healthcare is not just for when you or your loved ones are ill or worse taken to the ER. Healthcare is for well visits (a check-up) to make sure your body is functioning optimally. Healthcare professionals want to screen for and prevent illness that can complicate your body and your life.

So an addendum to my beliefs:

- Everyone has the right to preventive health screenings (i.e. well child visit, mammograms, and cancer screenings).
- Everyone has the right to immunizations.

When was your last doctor's visit; your loved ones; or your neighbor's? Please make that call to a doctor's office today – for a list of resources click here <http://www.chcpinellas.org/>