



# From **Abandoned Gas Station** to **Community Health Center**

Clearwater Brownfields Area,  
Clearwater, Florida

## In Clearwater, FL, the redevelopment of brownfields directly benefited the health of residents in one of the city's poorest neighborhoods.

Mrs. Willa Carson, a retired nurse, ran a free community health center out of two apartments. Her mission was to provide free, quality health care to uninsured and underserved residents.

In the same neighborhood there was a rundown, abandoned gas station. Residents decided that the site would be an ideal location for Willa Carson's clinic.



### The city obtained **\$150,000** in State Brownfields Redevelopment funding to:

- ✓ **Obtain** the property title and resolve liens
- ✓ **Remove** underground storage tanks and hydraulic lifts
- ✓ **Remove** 450 tons (or 45 dump truck loads) of contaminated soil

Other funding from the state (including a Community Development Block Grant) was used to demolish the rundown structure and construct the Willa Carson Community Health Resource Center. Now, each year up to

7,000 community residents receive free bilingual health care.

The community used additional funding for several other neighborhood projects including a new police station, family center, and fire station.



### Funding:

- EPA Brownfields Program
- Florida State Tobacco Settlement Funds



### For the full story, visit:

[http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/docs/ATSDR\\_LandReuse.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/docs/ATSDR_LandReuse.pdf)



Photo: Florida Brownfields Association



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
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