

Health

at most of the large research foundations. The Gates Foundation, for example, feels that they have already contributed enough to the microbicide field.

The (U.S. Agency for International Development) is also working with us indirectly through one of their existing grant holders.

We are working on setting up a way to donate tax-free funds through our website as well. Mintaka is a tax-deductible foundation in Switzerland and we are working with Torrey Pines and the La Jolla Foundation for Microbicide Research to make it possible for donations made in the U.S. also to be tax-deductible. We are working night and day and knocking on every door to get the funds for Phase I trials and one day we will have the money, hopefully soon.

Q. Once you have the \$4 million, how long before you actually begin trials on healthy women?

Offord: We don't actually have to have the whole \$4 million to begin the trials. We have to go through a regulatory period with the FDA. That said, we have a plan which will get us through the first tests in healthy women which

will get us through to the middle of 2010. We would need approximately a half-million dollars by the end of this year and an equal amount by spring of 2010, to do that.

Q. How can people donate to this cause?

Offord: We have a website with a link: <http://www.lajollafoundation-formicrobicidesresearch.org/>. If you go to the right side of the page, you will see a link to "Clinical research" and a donation can be made online through PayPal. It is wonderful of The LaJolla Foundation for Microbicide Research (of which I am a board member) to collaborate with us in this effort to raise the \$4 million. Another website for donations may be found at www.miracleinthemaking.net.

Interested persons may view a portion of one of Dr. Robin Offord's talks in Vero Beach, FL at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IEZCnFN7lo>.

Dr. Williams has an MS in nursing and a Psy.D. in clinical psychology. She has a private clinical health psychology practice, Mind Health, on the barrier island.

Fundraiser with Henry Winkler



The Mental Health Association will present a conversation with actor, director and producer Henry Winkler at 1 p.m. at the Emerson Center on

The actor has struggled with learning challenges throughout his life and is the co-author of a series of fifteen children's books - Hank Zipzer: The World's Most Amazing Under-Achiever. In response to this event he said, "It sounds like so much fun and it's for such a good cause. I'm honored to do this for the MHA."

April 4 as part of its gala fundraiser.

All proceeds from the program benefit the Mental Health Association in Indian River County. The MHA provides professional counseling at the Mental Health Walk-In Center in Vero Beach and offers programs to address issues of substance abuse, anger management, domestic violence, eating disorders, parenting and anxiety and depression.

Winkler will be joined in a living-room style dialogue with local author and artist, Leslie McGuirk. The two met five years ago through their agent and have remained in touch ever since.

This conversation with Winkler will be followed by the 2009 Turtle Trax Gala, at the Vero Beach Museum at 6 p.m. This event will include cocktails, a variety of delicious dinner stations and a live auction. This year's auction features three-foot garden turtles by artists chosen for their highly successful artwork on previous MHA turtles.

To reserve your seats for the conversation with Henry Winkler call the Emerson Center box office at 772 778-5249. For information on the Turtle Trax gala call Mary Beasman at 772 569-9788 ext 19.

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