



PHOTO BY JOANNE KIMBERLIN

**OPEN DOOR** — Metro Commissioner Katy Sorenson (R) helps Brodes Hartley Jr. (C), CEO of CHI, and Merian Smith, the group's second VP, open the door to the new annex.

## Melting pot of health care

In a rare mix of cultures and colors, the Martin Luther King Jr. Clinica Campesina annex opened to rave reviews on Wednesday.

No less than 100 community leaders, dignitaries and the simply curious braved the blistering sun and waded patiently through the speeches just to be a part of the CHI (Community Health of South Dade, Inc.) expansion at 820 S.W. First St. in Homestead.

"This is a place where all members of the community — anyone in need — will be welcome," said Odell Johns, chairman of the CHI board. "That much is obvious by the name."

The annex, renovated by local architect Robert Barnes, will accommodate new services at the clinic, including dental care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, AIDS counseling, family planning and more.

Funding for the expansion came from both federal and state grants.

Future CHI clinics are slated for the South Dade Labor Camp, the Andrew Center, and Naranja.

"Before CHI, the people of our community had no where to take their kids or their parents when they were sick," said Merian Smith, CHI's second vice president.

"We got tired of little Black babies dying on the way to Jackson," said Johns.

*Joanne Kimberlin*