Juan Amado’s favorite quote:

‘An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.’
— Benjamin Franklin

Juan Amado, ARNP
Distinction: Joined staff of Genesis Community Health
Place of business: Boynton Beach

BOYNTON BEACH — Juan Amado is a nurse practitioner who patients often say looks more like a football player than a nurse.

He was an ironworker before joining the Army, where he worked in the medical corps at the U.S. Army hospital in Heidelberg, Germany (the same one where Gen. George S. Patton died in 1945).

But don’t mistake Amado’s brawn for a lack for compassion.

His bosses say he provides patients with an impressive level of empathetic and considerate health care.

“Juan Amado is particularly dedicated to helping the under-served populations of Palm Beach County, which makes him a perfect fit for Genesis,” said DeAnna Warren.

Warren is executive director of Genesis Community Health, a nonprofit organization that provides health care to people of all economic levels, with sensitivity to the needs of economically disadvantaged people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

With 10 years experience as a nurse practitioner, Amado was previously employed for health care providers in Atlantis, Lake Worth, Wellington, West Palm Beach and Brentwood, Tenn.

He joined Genesis earlier this year and finds the work rewarding.

“I love being a nurse,” he said. “I used to work in the private sector and it was all about profit. I didn’t like that. This is challenging work. It’s about prevention. Many patients don’t have insurance.”

While his is not a job to make a million, there are perks. For one, a nurse is never out of work. “Plus, I get kissed on the cheek by little old ladies,” he said. “People are so grateful. It means a lot.”

Born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Amado, the youngest of four boys, moved to Alabama with his family when he was 7 years old.

— Mary Thurwachter