



CHARITABLE HEALTHCARE NETWORK

Ohio: Stronger. Healthier. Together.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL PHYSICIAN RECOGNIZED AS 2020 FREE CLINIC PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AT OHIO FREE CLINIC APPRECIATION AWARDS

Columbus, OH -12/9/2020 - Ohio Valley Health Center (OVHC), along with free clinics across Ohio, is celebrating the Sixth Annual Free Clinic Appreciation Month. With the passage of House Bill 320 in 2014, the Ohio Legislature designated December as Free Clinic Appreciation Month. On Wednesday's virtual celebration, Dr. Charn Nandra was recognized as Ohio's 2020 Free Clinic Physician of the Year.

"Our clinic fills a critical need for health care services, particularly for hard-working Ohioans struggling to make ends meet," said Ann Quillen. "Free Clinic Appreciation Month gives us an opportunity to celebrate all that we have accomplished, and how we've filled the gaps of the healthcare system in Steubenville."

In 2019, Ohio's free clinics provided more than 150,000 visits to over 55,000 patients, with volunteer physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals providing nearly 180,000 hours of care to those who have fallen through the cracks of our healthcare system in Ohio. Ohio's free clinics are on track to obtain similar service hours even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, 31 of Charitable Healthcare Network's 52 clinics remained open to provide medical services in a time when their communities needed them most. OVHC was able to expand and adapt their services to continue serving their local community while upholding the safety of their staff and patients.

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"While the ACA and Medicaid Expansion has helped thousands of Ohioans obtain health insurance, gaps still remain," said Deb Miller, Executive Director of the Charitable Healthcare Network. "The pandemic has made the need for our clinics stronger than ever as unemployment and uninsured rates remain high. We are especially excited for the opportunity in 2020 to recognize the work Ohio's clinics are doing to address those gaps."

To learn more about Ohio Free Clinic Appreciation Month, please contact Sydney Hatch (shatch@charitablehealth.org), visit our website www.charitablehealth.org or follow us on Twitter [@CHNetwork](https://twitter.com/CHNetwork), use #ohiofreeclinics and #OhioStrongerHealthierTogether

To share our social media posts about Dr. Nandra, follow these links to our Twitter and Facebook.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CHNetwork/status/1335962275203649537?s=20>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CharitableHealthcareNetwork/posts/4185805611453714>

About Dr. Charn Nandra from Ohio Valley Health Center.

Dr. Charn S. Nandra was born in Punjab, India, and raised in the United Kingdom. He attended the Welsh National School of Medicine in Cardiff and received his medical degrees. After serving as a general practice physician for several years in Canada and the US, he participated in a Geriatric Fellowship that changed his life. Dr. Nandra then completed an internal medicine residency as well as a fellowship in Cardiovascular medicine. He has served as a physician for 44 years and currently practices Interventional and General Cardiology. Dr. Nandra has a history of helping uninsured patients for many years, and he has volunteered at the Ohio Valley Health Center ever since its inception in 2006. He currently volunteers as the Medical Director and provides excellent, compassionate care for those in need. Dr. Nandra is married to Surinda and they have three children.



About Charitable Healthcare Network.

Charitable Healthcare Network (CHN), formerly the Ohio Association of Free Clinics, advocates on behalf of Ohio's free clinics and the people they serve. We do not provide direct health care services on-site, but support those clinics that do. Free clinic services vary, but may include: primary care, prescription assistance, dental, vision, behavioral health and other specialties. With the recent impacts of COVID-19, the number of unemployed and uninsured/under-insured citizens is skyrocketing like never before. Using cost-effective strategies, such as in-kind services, building partnerships with other nonprofit organizations and donations of health care resources and time, we are able to support free clinics so they can provide for the health care needs of their patients. These strategies mean that every dollar invested in free clinics brings nearly \$6.45 in care for patients.

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