

# COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY



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## Programs and Initiatives

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# COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY

Enhancing health outcomes in Wyandotte County through informing, collaborating, aligning, mobilizing, and activating organizations, government entities, and community members.

CHC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit improving health and health access for Wyandotte County residents, especially for the medically-underserved, BIPOC, those experiencing poverty, and those facing barriers due to systemic racism, redlining, and discrimination. Utilizing advocacy, collaboration, and education, CHC is transforming health in our communities. We co-create strategic and innovative programs with community members and collaborative partners including hospitals, safety net providers, federally qualified health clinics (FQHCs), mental health providers, public health departments, academic institutions, health care funding organizations, and managed care. CHC, dedicated to meeting the needs of community, responded to recent events, investing significantly in addressing the effects of COVID-19 in Wyandotte County over the past two years.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, CHC developed new partnerships, increased outreach efforts, and contributed to a tremendous impact in increasing COVID-19 testing and vaccination rates in Wyandotte County from 24 percent to over 50 percent. Key initiatives including Community Health Worker expansion and community canvassing efforts launched to increase connectivity with testing and vaccines, to reduce vaccine hesitancy, and to increase access to resources to lighten the pandemic burdens placed on local families. CHC hosted various events, coordinated vaccine and testing pop-up sites, supported community partners' events, and providing education and information about COVID-19 throughout the community. We are thrilled to see how much more we can do for the community we love and other ways we might make a positive change for everyone.

Moving forward we hope to continue the work that we are doing in Wyandotte County, expand our impact, increase health equity, and improve social and political influencers of health for all residents.



**803 Armstrong**

Connecting in the community and on-line

Over the last 3 years, CHC provided over 3,160 online referrals to local clinics



**92, 601**

Combined Web page views 2020-2022



**529, 339**

Combined Facebook reach from 2020-2022



**96, 473**

YouTube Views from 2020-2022



# COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

# CHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are so very grateful for our Board of Directors. The help and continued support that these individuals and their respective organizations provide to CHC is remarkable. Their guidance and oversight of our organization ensures that we stay on target for our goals and initiatives in the community, as well as ensures that funding is used appropriately for intended purposes. Our board pledges over \$100,000 annually to support our operations and programs, and we can't thank them enough for all of their contributions, support, and encouragement to better our organization and our community.

## Current Members of the Board



Randy Callstrom  
Chairman



Todd Jordan  
Vice-Chairman



Cathy Harding  
Secretary/Treasurer



Dr. Mary Redmon



Jason Grundstrom



Dr. Sharla Smith



Juliann VanLiew



Patrick Sallee



Margo Quiriconi



Jeron Ravin



Michele Surber

## Graduated Members of the Board

Terry Brecheisen - UG Public Health Department

Jennifer Cannon - Providence Medical Center

Dr. Kelly Kreisler - KU Med

George Noonan - Caritas Clinics

Dr. Akinlolu Ojo - KU Med

Karen Orr - Providence Medical Center

Naimish Patel - Swope Health

Seabrin Jensen, AdventHealth

**Thank You for your support and service to the community.**

# COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are members of the community who are trained to help families navigate and access health systems, chronic conditions, disease prevention, and community resources. CHWs help people access resources in multiple areas, advocate on the behalf of their community, set up doctor's appointments, help people understand their diagnosis and treatment plan, and help people establish patterns and behaviors that will keep them healthy.

The Community Health Worker (CHW) program, established 2016, was created to fill a gap in access to healthcare resources and provide various new lanes of support to Wyandotte County residents. Throughout 2020 and 2021, barriers to accessing vital resources worsened due to the pandemic and for many Wyandotte County residents, new economic and health barriers were created. CHC deepened collaborative partnerships, increased our CHW response team threefold, and invested thousands of hours in direct door to door outreach. The CHWs helped with connecting residents with vital resources such as food, transportation, housing, and healthcare access while working to reduce the burdens of COVID-19. With more than 2,000 hours dedicated to supporting vaccine and testing sites, completing more than 2,500 hours canvassing homes and businesses to educate the community on the virus and vaccines, and providing direct one to one support for 1,000 clients, the CHW team helped to strengthen community resilience and directly addressed known health disparities for a community who continues to be disproportionately impacted.

## Current CHW's



**Vanessa Camacho**  
CHW Program Coordinator



**Carla Moralez**  
CHW Team Lead

**CHWs  
Impact  
in the  
Community**

●  
**637**

Clients Served  
In 2021

●





Angela McCall



Sherita McKinzey



Unique Mckinzie



Alma Lopez



Thelmairi Moran



Santa Moreno-  
Tagle



Leylah Ndinda



Kevin Ochoa



Ricardo Ortiz



Andrea Padilla



Karla Sevilla



Kaleigh Thorpe

Distributed Over  
**700**

COVID-19 tests to  
WyCo residents  
in just the second  
half of 2021



Rinzin Wangmo



Kinley Yangzom

## Graduated CHW's

Julio Caro  
Taneisha Ngugi  
Alec Overmann  
Pierce Pulliam  
Ruth Ramos  
Alma Vargas



## CHW Support Staff



**Ashley Gonzalez**  
Community Health Worker  
Supervisor



**Essence Miller**  
Community Health Worker  
Supervisor



**Guadalupe Tredway**  
Community Health Worker  
Supervisor



**Brian Matlock**  
Community Health Worker  
Program Manager



**Mariah Chrans,**  
IBCLC, Ph.D  
Program and Training  
Director



**Alexis Hernandez**  
MCHW Program  
Coordinator and Executive  
Assistant

Over  
**2600**

hours served  
helping people in  
the community in  
2021

# Graduated Support Staff

Dr. Manuel Solano, Program Director



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

# TANEISHA'S SUCCESS STORY

## Help Navigating the Struggle

A client reached out to the health department with concerns for his pregnant daughter and two young grandchildren. He desperately wanted the opportunity to help her financially, but he was having a difficult time supporting two households. The health department referred him to the Community Health Council to receive assistance with finding resources. Following an intake discussion, the father encouraged his daughter to call our offices directly. She described the urgent nature of her concerns. Grappling with financial burdens, she was struggling to support her family and household. Buying necessities such as diapers and food were a daily challenge. We worked quickly to find her the assistance that she needed for her family.

By the end of the day, we were able to connect her with Happy Bottoms for diapers and Crosslines for a rapid response food delivery. The next day, we aided her in applying for Medicaid and SNAP benefits so that she could continue to receive assistance with these necessities. Building her self-efficacy with navigating complex administrative processes enabled her to reach out for additional social service support.

A few weeks later, when we checked in on her and her family, she told us that she received the SNAP benefits and Happy Bottoms delivery. She was finally able to go grocery shopping for her and her children and expressed a greater sense of ease. Her father's worry and stress for her and her children's well-being helped lead her to CHC to receive the help she desperately needed. He did all that he was able to do so that his daughter and grandchildren wouldn't have to go without.

This client has shared so much gratitude for the assistance she received in navigating multiple social support opportunities. It's clients like these that remind us why we continue to do what we do, even when it gets hard seeing people in tough situations, many of us have been there. We are constantly doing our best to help people navigate and understand the support programs and opportunities so that our community doesn't have to go without the basic necessities in life.



# ANGELA'S SUCCESS STORY

## Helping When it Matters the Most

At the beginning of 2020, a client reached out to CHC to get assistance with health issues they were experiencing. This client believed he had diabetes, struggling with his blood sugar levels, but he didn't know where or how to get the necessary help. Diabetes ran in his family so he was quite worried. He also needed help following a proper diet to maintain healthy blood sugar levels. He knew he needed to do something or else his issues would lead to worse consequences.

When he asked for our assistance, he was nearly homeless and struggling to maintain a stable income. The Community Health Workers at CHC were able to find the necessary help and support he was seeking. We suggested some resources to confirm his diagnosis and obtain medications, and recommended going to the JayDoc Free Clinic because of the special resources they provide for individuals with diabetes. We were also able to set him up with a dietitian to build a healthy diet. Not only did he need external help and support, but he also needed help with advocating to his family. His CHC partner met with his family to help them understand how important their support was for his overall health.

The help and support we were able to provide helped ease some of the stress he was experiencing, which was contributing to his health concerns. Even though he was struggling with financial stability, he was able to get help because he reached out to CHC where there is a team waiting to help people in our community. With this help, he was also able to find stability in his life outside of his medical needs, such as getting a new place to stay, getting his car fixed, and becoming a manager at a grocery store.

This client showed so much appreciation and gratitude for the help he was able to receive from CHC. He is now able to manage his diabetes on his own, with medication and healthy eating support. We were so grateful to help him and allow him to feel less stress in his life. The Community Health Workers at CHC are here to help people navigate and understand the support programs and opportunities in their community. Knowing how and where to find resources ensures Wyandotte County residents have more capacity to improve their health and prosperity.





# WE ARE WYANDOTTE

## Bringing Inequities and Inequalities To the Forefront

We Are Wyandotte is a social and health equity campaign, created to accompany and support the Health Equity Action Transformation report and Community Action Board. This campaign aims to identify problems and needs in our community, target the opportunity areas to help, and work to repair decades of damage done to vulnerable populations due to redlining. The campaign brings these crucial conversations to the table to increase awareness of these issues and the necessary work to combat them.

The We Are Wyandotte campaign launched in 2016 with a series of videos highlighting the vulnerable populations affected by redlining and the impact felt throughout their community. These videos provide vital information on the lives of those impacted by the factors discussed in the HEAT report, as well as the importance of bringing the community together to explore possible solutions.

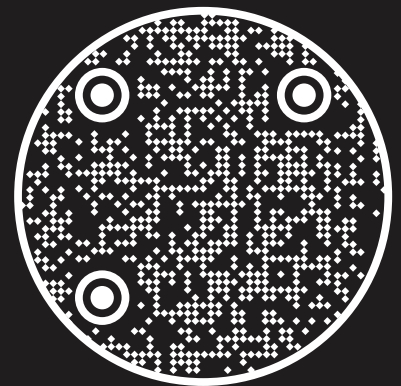
Throughout the pandemic, this campaign provided support and insight to the community to help reduce the impact of COVID-19, which amplified social, health, and economic inequities, especially for historically oppressed populations. We Are Wyandotte also provided education and support to the community through Servicing LIPPS (Legislative Interactions Producing Positive Solutions), which helped sponsor several virtual candidate forums to encourage people to run for office and vote for the changes they wanted to see in their community.

We Are Wyandotte is determined to continue to support and drive change to help historically oppressed populations in and around our community so that we can help reduce the impact of redlining and inequities for everyone.



**Donna Young**  
Executive Director

Donna Young is the Executive Director of CHC. She originally joined the team in 2016 to oversee the publication and strategic activation of the H.E.A.T. Report.



Scan to view the  
H.E.A.T Report





# H.E.A.T.

## Working to Increase Health Equity for Historically Oppressed Populations

The Health Equity Action Transformation (H.E.A.T.) initiative enables CHC to both engage community members in developing solutions for improving the health of Wyandotte's communities, environments, and policies; and build public awareness and adopt community-based solutions in order to achieve improved health outcomes for residents. This initiative sprouted from the H.E.A.T. report, released in 2016, and has led to the creation of several smaller campaigns, initiatives, and boards, including the H.E.A.T. Community Action Board (C.A.B.), WyCo Mutual Aid, and Vaccine canvassing.

The H.E.A.T. C.A.B. was formed with the intention of amplifying the H.E.A.T. report to provide a recognized platform for the community to voice their opinions and concerns about important decision-making processes that directly affect their life and wellbeing. The purpose of this C.A.B. is to take action to improve lived experiences, build trust, and develop a mutual understanding between residents and the institutions and organizations that provide services to the community.

At the end of 2020, CHC released an update to the health disparity statistics discussed in the original report. This updated information showed that while health disparities for historically oppressed populations improved since the release of the original report, there is still quite a bit of work to be done. To view these updated statistics and the corresponding story maps, visit the We Are Wyandotte website.

The H.E.A.T. C.A.B hosted 22 H.E.A.T. presentations in 2021 with over 500 participants. These presentations for high school and higher-education students specializing in social and healthcare fields raised awareness on health inequities in WyCo. A survey was given to the participants of these presentations to see the effectiveness of the H.E.A.T. report and the information within it.

- 94.38% of surveyed participants rated the quality of the H.E.A.T. Report as high to very high quality.
- 92.31% surveyed participants found the H.E.A.T. report to be very relevant to their work, personal interest, or area of study.
- 100% surveyed participants rated the importance of health equity in their work to be very important.

# CRADLE KC

Bringing organizations together to improve maternal and infant health.

Cradle Kansas City is a collective impact initiative created to address infant mortality in the Kansas City region. This collective gathers partners who work in the family support sector, including maternal child health organizations, medical systems, education, housing, and transportation services. These organizations and individuals work to uplift the voice of the community and provide support to our local families. The goal of Cradle KC is to ensure all Kansas City babies are healthy babies.

Cradle KC and the Cradle Community Action Board (CAB) were created in 2018 in response to the increasing infant mortality rate and widened gap of infant/ maternal death rates between Black and White babies and mothers. The Cradle CAB is designed to be representative of the communities most affected by poor infant/ maternal health outcomes, consisting of resident experts who provide support and education to their communities in the co-designing of strategies, actions, and projects. One hundred percent of the CAB currently is composed of and focuses on the African- American community.



**Mariah Chrans, IBCLC, Ph.D**  
Program Director

Mariah is the Program Director of Cradle KC and Every Baby to 1. She has worked in public health and maternal child health for 18 years and has a PhD in Public Health and Community Health. Mariah is also the co-founder of Uzazi Village and was COO from 2012-2018.



**Shalese Clay**  
Program Manager

Shalese is the Program Manager of Cradle KC, and she leads the Cradle Community Action Board, where she facilitates meetings, provides orientation for new members, and helps with planning and decision making



# KANSAS ASSISTANCE NETWORK

Apply. Connect. Educate.

The Kansas Assistance Network, LLC (KAN) is a health insurance agency and subsidiary of the, Community Health Council of Wyandotte County (CHC). Previously made up of Marketplace assisters, KAN's agents provide unbiased enrollment assistance and community outreach for health insurance including Medicare, Medicaid, and Marketplace. We offer health literacy education to help families know how and where to get healthcare, while providing additional social service resources to improve their daily lives. This includes coordinating enrollment efforts of local safety net clinics and community partners.

During the pandemic, Kansas Assistance Network continued to host and participate in community events, virtually and in-person. We kept hosting our bi-monthly board meetings virtually, where we discussed various ways to help our community and improve the pre-existing ways that we provide support and assistance. KAN is part of a team that advocates for Medicaid expansion in Kansas, and the team helped host a virtual event at the beginning of September 2021. This event was well-attended. Residents were able to listen and contribute to a panel of key thought leaders from health, faith, and business communities to discuss the benefits of Medicaid expansion in our state.

Along with helping people in our community with understanding and navigating the health insurance landscape, we aim to make our community feel included and heard in the decisions we make and the events that we coordinate. Therefore, we have two community members on our Kansas Assistance Network Action Board. These board members from the community provide a deeper insight on what is going on and what residents need, so that we can modify services in real-time in response to those needs.

[KSASSIST.ORG](https://ksassist.org)



**Molly Gotobed**  
Program Director/Licensed Agent

Molly is a licensed health insurance agent. She developed and continues to coordinate KAN. She began leading the coordination enrollment efforts in her bi-county area in 2015.



**Ricardo Ortiz**  
Community Health Specialist/  
Licensed Agent

Ricardo is a licensed health insurance agent and has four years of experience enrolling Kansans in health insurance.



**Carolina Biagi**  
Program Manager/Licensed Agent

Carolina is a licensed health insurance agent with a five-year background in Community Health, immigrant health, and resource allocation. She is also fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

EVERY  
BABY  
TO

# EVERY BABY TO 1

Supporting the healthy development of infants in the Kansas City area.

Every Baby to 1 (EB1) is a faith-based initiative that works with faith communities to implement educational and support programs to address infant morbidity and mortality. As a part of this work, we promote the “3 S” approach of Social Support, Safe Space, and Safe Sleep. This includes ameliorating the risk of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome (SUID) and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Our team is made up of maternal child health experts & consultants, with a combined 50+ years of experience.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Every Baby to 1 and our partners continued to host events, virtually and in-person. For a brief time in 2021, we hosted a monthly Facebook Live series called “Mommies Tea Time,” where we discussed what was really going on for mothers and the Kansas City community. The churches we work with hosted several events throughout the year as well, including the “Front Porch Alliance Baby Shower for the Community” and numerous community food pantry events.

**We would like to give a special thanks to Broderick Crawford, founding member and EB1 spokesperson, for all the work and dedication he has shown to the Every Baby to One initiative.**



**Shalese Clay**  
Program Manager

Shalese provides project oversight for Every Baby to 1. When she was a single mother, she experienced health disparities and realized she needed to make a change for herself and for her community, and that's what she hopes to do working with EB1.



**Mariah Chrans, IBCLC, Ph.D**  
Program Director

Mariah is a Program Director for Every Baby to 1 and CradleKC. Her research background is in maternal and infant health, with a focus on the perinatal and intrapartum period.

# COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVES



## WyCo Mutual Aid

A grassroots community group formed by CHC volunteers to organize mutual aid efforts and engage community members to address gaps in equity which were amplified by the COVID health crisis.



## Vaccine Canvassing

Focuses on community access to COVID testing and vaccines as well as mitigating social determinants of health by providing access to other vital resources.

## Voices for Healthy Kids

Provided an eight-session advocacy workshop to engage youth in grassroots and direct advocacy in support of their designated policy priorities.



# COMMUNITY

We love Wyandotte County so much, and that's why we keep doing the work that we do!

CHC has called Wyandotte County home for about 20 years, and our love for this community grows more and more by the day. It has been incredibly difficult to see how our community struggled through the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 2020-2021, we worked diligently to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 virus. Here is a glimpse of our impact in Wyandotte County over the past two years. We look forward to doing so much more with our community!

**42,000**  
homes  
canvassed

## Vaccine Canvassing

Vaccine Canvassing reached over 42,000 homes and had 834 meaningful conversations with people in the community through canvassing in 2020 and 2021.

## WyCo Mutual Aid

Secured \$19,320 in funding and donations to fill gaps in the community, provide financial support for various necessities, and connect people to resources and basic needs.

**\$19,320**  
secured

**1,000**  
clients  
served

## WyCo Connect

WyCo Connect served 1,000 clients throughout 2020 and 2021, connecting them to COVID-related resources, education, and support services.

## EVENTS



Candidate Forums



COVID-19 Vaccination  
and Testing Events



Resource Distribution  
Events

## Food Assistance

Distributed 5,542 food boxes to more than 16,000 people in our community.

**5,542**  
food boxes  
distributed

**80+**  
volunteers

## Community Volunteers

More than 80 volunteers were recruited to assist with COVID outreach and support for vaccines and testing.

## Interpreting

Spent 6,288 hours providing interpreting services in vaccine and testing sites, during events, and throughout the community.

**6,288**  
hours

**2600**  
hours served

## CHWs

served over 2,600 hours in the community increasing awareness and access.

## COVID-19 Vaccination

CHC and our initiatives were part of the collective effort to increase testing and vaccination rates in Wyandotte County. COVID-19 vaccines were released in December of 2020, but rates were rising slowly. We helped raise vaccination rates in the community by nearly 52% in 2021.

**52%**  
increase in  
vaccination rates

# FUNDING PARTNERS AND DONORS

We would like to give a huge thank you to our various funding partners and donors throughout 2020 and 2021, including:

American Heart Association

Advent Health

BioNexus KC

Bloch Family Foundation

Blue Cross Blue Shield KC

Children's Mercy Hospital

Community Health Council Board of Directors

Greater Kansas City Community Foundation

Hall Family Foundation

Health Forward Foundation

John W. Speas & Effie E. Speas Memorial Trust

Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Kansas Health Foundation

Mid-American Regional Council

REACH Healthcare Foundation

Unified Government Community Development

Unified Government Public Health Department

United Healthcare

University of Kansas

Wichita State University

Wyandotte Health Foundation



# VALUED PARTNERS

Thank you to our funding and contributing partners. Your support is immensely appreciated by CHC and those we serve.

## Funding Providers

The Community Health Council of Wyandotte County employs evidence-based and evidence-informed practices to turn public health concerns into collaborative, community action. This would be impossible without the following organizations, all of which provide integral support for our organization and initiatives.



KANSAS HEALTH  
FOUNDATION



HALL FAMILY  
FOUNDATION



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Kansas City



Health Forward  
FOUNDATION

# Contributing Organizations

Whether it's an idea, shared initiative, volunteers, service location, or thought partner, these organizations help CHC in our work to increase the health of our communities.



UNITED HEALTH FOUNDATION\*



Greater Kansas City Community Foundation; Mid-America Regional Council; Catholic Charities; Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); El Centro; The Family Conservancy; Aetna; Advent Health Shawnee; Health and Human Services (HHS); Groundwork NRG; Juntos Center for Advancing Latino Health; Community Care Network of Kansas; Kansas City, Kansas Public Libraries; KU School of Architecture, Dotte Agency, KU Work Group for Community Health and Development; Latino Health for All Coalition; Mid-America Regional Council (MARC); NBC Community Development Corporation; Wyandotte Neighborhood Associations, Swope Health Services; Unified Government of Wyandotte County; UG Public Health Department, Crosslines, FreeState Logistics, Mercy and Truth, Midland Care, JayDoc, Family Health Center, Vibrant, Wyandotte and Leavenworth County Area on Aging, Shepherd Center of Kansas City, Heartland 180, Kansas City Kansas Public Schools (USD 500), ThrYve KC, and United Way. City of Bonner Springs, Providence Medical Center, Wichita State University

PARTNERS

# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

In 2002, local hospitals, safety net clinics, and public health foundations came together to form the Community Health Council of Wyandotte County in response to dismal findings published in the Mayor’s Access to Healthcare Commission Report.

The organization got to work, doing everything from co-creating the WyJo Care Network of specialty care physicians to creating innovative programs such as Cradle KC and the Kansas Assistance Network.

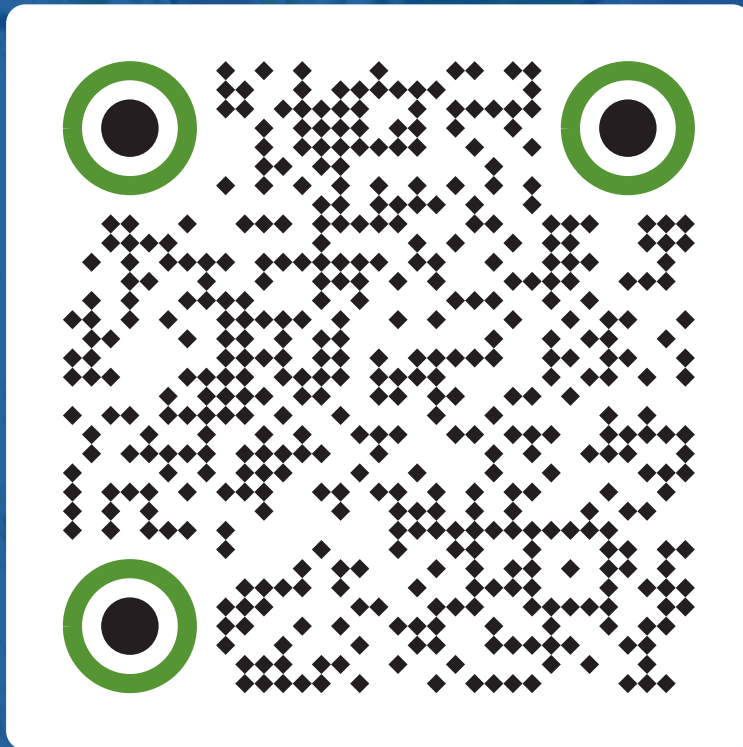
We can’t believe it has been twenty years. CHC has evolved in its efforts to center community in everything we do, and in special initiatives such as rapid COVID response. But as we move forward into the future, we know there is more work to be done. We are only just beginning to address the root causes of inequity and disease in our communities, and work is just beginning with community leaders to develop solutions to challenge the historic legacies of redlining and racism in our county.

Will you help us as we move into the next twenty years? Please consider becoming a Celebration Donor and contributing \$20/month to fund this key work. We can’t do it without you!



# THANK YOU!

SCAN ME TO VISIT OUR WEBSITES



[WYCOHEALTH.COM](http://WYCOHEALTH.COM)