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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 28, 2020

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### **The C.W. Williams Community Health Center Celebrates National Health Center Week 2020 With Drive-Through Community Health Fair & Homeless Care Kit Distribution**

**CHARLOTTE, NC, August 20, 2020** –The C.W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc. (CWWCHC) hosted its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Community Health Fair on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> to mark National Health Center Week 2020 (August 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>). More than 500 community members attended the event, which was held at the Stratford Richardson YMCA and featured a drive-through format with vendor booths, live music, COVID-19 testing, free school supplies, and free food. Participating key community partners included Loaves & Fishes, who distributed free food boxes, and the Stratford Richardson YMCA, who provided the venue and distributed free school uniforms, new shoes, and books for school-aged children.

National Health Center Week (NHCW) is an annual national campaign held to increase awareness of the many ways in which Community Health Centers provide affordable healthcare and support services across the country. NHCW 2020 was a time to celebrate the roles Community Health Centers have played in recent moments of loss and triumph, as well as a time to honor those front line providers, staff, and patients who have lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme for this year’s week-long celebration was “Community Health Centers: Lighting the Way for Healthier Communities Today and in the Future.”

In addition to hosting the August 15<sup>th</sup> event during NHCW 2020, CWWCHC also provided back-to-school physicals and immunizations at its main location on Wilkinson Boulevard, hosted patient and staff appreciation days, and distributed care kits to the homeless in Uptown Charlotte. Sponsors for this year’s events included UnitedHealthcare, the COVID-19 Response Fund administered by the United Way of Central Carolinas, and the North Carolina Community Health Center Association (NCCHCA).

CWWCHC is part of a nationwide network of locally-run Community Health Centers that serve more than 28 million people nationwide and 550,000 people in North Carolina. Community Health Centers are on the front lines of national public health challenges – whether caring for veterans and medically underserved populations, providing opioid treatment, or responding to natural disasters and epidemics. CWWCHC and many other North Carolina Community Health Centers address not just physical and behavioral health needs, but the roots of many health issues (aka social determinants of health), including access to food, housing, transportation, and other factors that affect health and wellness.

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*The C. W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc. (CWWCHC) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and 501(c)(3), non-profit organization. CWWCHC provides primary and preventive medical and dental care, mental health counseling, substance use disorder counseling and treatment, comprehensive HIV/AIDS/STI/PrEP specialty care, women’s health services, pediatric services, community outreach, and non-emergency patient transportation.*

*Each year, CWWCHC handles more than 17,000 patient encounters.*



*Cars line up to visit vendor booths and receive COVID-19 testing.*



*A volunteer directs traffic entering the CWWCHC's 6<sup>th</sup> annual Community Health Fair.*



*CWCHC staff are ready to check-in patients for COVID-19 testing.*



*Cars line up to enter CWCHC's 2020 Community Health Fair.*



*CWCHC staff are ready for drive-through COVID-19 testing.*



*CWCHC staff distribute COVID-19 care kits to the homeless in Uptown Charlotte.*