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## PRESS RELEASE

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## The C.W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc. Celebrates National Health Center Week 2023 with Back-to-School Community Health Fair

**CHARLOTTE, NC, August 10, 2023** –The C.W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc. (CWWCHC) hosted its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Back to School Community Health Fair on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> to mark the beginning of National Health Center Week 2023 (Aug. 6 to 12). Held at the Stratford Richardson YMCA, the event was part of a national campaign to increase awareness of the many ways in which community health centers across the country provide affordable healthcare to more than 30 million patients annually. The campaign also serves to highlight the commitment and passion of Community Health Center staff, board members, and supporters. A host of events that celebrate health centers as being "Roadmaps to a Stronger America" are being held throughout the week nationwide, including health fairs, visits by elected officials to health centers, resource fairs, back to school events, patient and staff appreciation events, free health screenings, and much more.

Close to 2,000 people attended CWWCHC's health fair, which provided back to school physicals, COVID-19 vaccinations, free health screenings, free bookbags and school supplies, free eye exams with free eyeglasses, free food, live music, games, prizes, bouncy houses, an African Drum Circle, face painting, caricature and portrait sketching, and fun for the entire family. More than 65 vendors were on hand to share educational information and offer free giveaways. Special guests included North Carolina House of Representatives members Nasif Majeed (District 99), Becky Carney (District 102), and Terry Brown (District 92); North Carolina State Senator Mujtaba Mohammed (District 38); Mecklenburg County Commissioner Vilma Leake (District 2); Charlotte City Council At-Large member LaWana Mayfield; Mecklenburg Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor Richard (Rich) George; and Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds Fredrick Smith. Presenting sponsors for this year's event included Humana, Barringer Construction Company, Village HeartBEAT, Carolinas CARE Partnership, and Walmart.

CWWCHC is part of a nationwide network of community health centers on the front lines of national public health challenges working to reduce health disparities. The organization addresses not only physical and behavioral health needs, but also the root causes of many health issues (called social determinants of health), including access to food, affordable housing, transportation and other factors that affect health and wellness.

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Founded in 1981, The C. W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc. (CWWCHC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Federally Qualified Community Health Center (FQHC), designated Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH), and healthcare safety net. The Center's integrated, affordable services include primary and preventive medical and dental care, mental health and substance use disorder counseling and treatment, HIV/AIDS/STI testing and specialty care, women's health services, pediatric care, Traditional Chinese Medicine (Acupuncture, Acupressure, Herbal Therapies), case management, 340B pharmaceutical services, mobile medical and dental services, community outreach, and non-emergency patient transportation services. Each year, CWWCHC serves more than 13,000 patients, representing more than 30,000 encounters. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 866-CWW-4-YOU (866-299-4968).



More than 65 community-based vendors were on-hand to provide free giveaways, as well as educational information on a variety of health and other topics.



State, County, and City elected officials were on-hand to support CWWCHC's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School Community Health Fair.

## L to R:

- Mujtaba Mohammed, Member of the NC State Senate, District 38 Mecklenburg County
- Fredrick Smith, Register of Deeds, Mecklenburg Conty
- LaWana Mayfield, Charlotte City Council Member (At-Large)
- Becky Carney, Member of the NC House of Representatives, District 102-Mecklenburg County
- Terry Brown, Member of the NC House of Representatives, District 92-Mecklenburg County
- Nasif Majeed, Member of the NC House of Representatives, District 99-Mecklenburg County
- Richard (Rich) George, Mecklenburg Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor
- Edward Timberlake, Board Chair, The C.W. Williams Community Health Center, Inc.

(Photo files attached)