



2020 IMS/COPIC HUMANITARIAN AWARD DR. JAMES BELL

For over 25 years, Dr. James Bell has volunteered his time and expertise to provide free medical care to the Cedar Rapids community by founding His Hands Free Clinic. Inspired by a community leader in 1991 who told attendees at a meeting to “return to their communities and do something to provide health care for the poor,” Dr. Bell and a few colleagues began seeing patients at the local YMCA using sheets for walls. Approximately 200 patients were seen that year. Since 1992, the clinic has helped over 12,000 uninsured and underinsured residents in the local and surrounding area communities with on-site medical and dental care as well as spiritual support.

This year, the Iowa Medical Society (IMS) elected to honor Dr. Bell with this award in recognition of his work as founder, physician, and board member at His Hands Free Clinic, working to better his community through exemplary volunteer services that go above and beyond the spectrum of his day-to-day life. Dr. Bell is also the Director of Palliative Care at Unity Point/St. Luke’s Hospital and the Medical Director of Methwick Health Center, which offers a unique combination of assisted and independent living for all stages of senior life.

The IMS/COPIC Physician Humanitarian Award is presented each year to honor a physician in Iowa for volunteer medical services and contributions to their community through principles focused on human dignity, social justice, and compassion. Previously known to IMS as the Physician

Community Service Award, today, the IMS Physician Community Service Award and the COPIC Humanitarian Award come together.

Dr. Bell has selected His Hands Free Clinic to receive the award’s \$10,000 donation to support health services in his community.

The IMS/COPIC Physician Humanitarian Award was presented to Dr. Bell on July 10 at the President’s Reception of the Iowa Medical Society, held as a virtual event this year in Cedar Rapids. Congratulations Dr. Bell!



To nominate a physician for the COPIC Humanitarian award, visit www.callcopic.com and select “COPIC Humanitarian Award” from the About COPIC drop-down, or email Laura Wadleigh at lwadleigh@copic.com.