

NEBRASKA WILLIAMSON AWARD: Omaha Physician Honored for Volunteer Medical Service

In 2009, Dr. Jerry Fischer saw firsthand how a safety net clinic closing its doors impacted those in the Omaha community. After the clinic he volunteered for at the city's Open Door Mission was forced to shut down, he began the task of trying to fill the void left. This experience left him intimately aware of the lack of medical care available for local residents who were underemployed, unemployed or homeless.

It was because of this that Dr. Fischer became the driving force behind the conceptualization and creation of the Healing Gift Free Clinic. The clinic, which opened its doors in February 2010, was founded on a mission to help guide and inspire those involved in the operations of providing care. Not only is Dr. Fischer involved in direct patient care, but he also works diligently to secure funding and medical supplies, recruit physicians, and serve as a mentor to the entire clinic's staff. In addition, Dr. Fischer provides medical students with opportunities not found in the academic setting by having them observe and/or participate in activities that involve the assessment and treatment of patients. Over the years, he has instilled strong values for continued community service in those he mentors and works with.

For all of these reasons and more, the COPIC Medical Foundation is proud to announce Dr. Jerry Fischer as the 2013 Nebraska Harold E. Williamson Award recipient. The award includes a \$10,000 grant, which Dr. Fischer directed to the Healing Gift Free Clinic for the purchase of medications and supplies.

"The acknowledgement of Jerry's selfless service to the marginalized population in Omaha is the main reason for submitting the application for this award," said Jenna Woster, treasurer of the Healing Gift Free Clinic. "Jerry's enthusiasm is contagious for all of us who have the privilege to work with him in the clinic."

The COPIC Medical Foundation would also like to recognize the following physicians nominated for this year's award, whose work for the Nebraska health care community is humbling in its scope:

- DuWayne Carlson, M.D., of Lincoln
- Mark Emig, M.D., of Omaha
- Sabyasachi Mahapatra, M.D., of Lincoln

From all of us at COPIC, thank you to all of the physicians in Nebraska who volunteer their time and expertise to help make an impact in the communities they serve.



Dr. Fischer (left) received his award on September 20, 2013, as it was presented to him by Gerry Lewis-Jenkins of COPIC.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE APPEARED IN:
NEBRASKA BULLETIN • NOVEMBER 2013

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