

2015 NEBRASKA WILLIAMSON AWARD: OMAHA PHYSICIAN HONORED FOR VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICE

In 1995, Dr. Mark Emig and his colleagues at Midwest Eye Care in Omaha saw a disparity in the community with individuals who desperately needed cataract surgery, but did not have the income or health insurance for this procedure.

What followed was Mission Cataract—an annual donation of medical services to provide free cataract surgery and after-care to those in need. After 20 years, Dr. Emig (now the medical director of the program) and Midwest Eye Care have contributed their time and resources so that more than 300 individuals received this life-changing surgery.

Dr. Emig also provides adult ophthalmology care coordinated through the Hope Medical Outreach Coalition, a local safety net organization that coordinates free care for low-income residents. While doctor reimbursements continue to fall, Dr. Emig and his team at Midwest Eye Care have heeded the call to care for some of Omaha's most vulnerable residents.

For these reasons and more, Dr. Emig was awarded the COPIC Medical Foundation's 2015 Nebraska Harold E. Williamson Award, which provides a \$10,000 grant to the health-related nonprofit of his choice. This award is in honor and memory of the late Harold "Hal" Williamson, who was



Dr. Emig (left) received his award on September 18, 2015, as it was presented to him by Sandy Johnson of COPIC.

instrumental in the creation of the COPIC Medical Foundation. Dr. Emig elected to fund the Weigel Williamson Center for Visual Rehabilitation, part of the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The COPIC Medical Foundation would also like to recognize the other outstanding physicians who were nominated for this year's award:

- Dr. David Dyke (Lincoln)
- Dr. Henry Dethlefs IV (Omaha)
- Dr. Kenton Shaffer (Kearney)

ORIGINAL ARTICLE APPEARED IN:
NEBRASKA BULLETIN • NOVEMBER 2015


Better Medicine • Better Lives