



## 2023 COPIC Humanitarian Award: Dr. Matt Owens

We are proud to announce that Dr. Matt Owens, a family medicine physician from Redfield, South Dakota, was chosen as a recipient of the 2023 COPIC Humanitarian Award. Dr. Owens is recognized for taking novel approaches to providing emergency medical services to rural areas with EMT shortages. The award was presented to Dr. Owens at the SDSMA Annual Meeting in June 2023.

Access to critical care services is limited in rural areas spanning large geographic areas. In fact, one area of South Dakota has a single EMS provider serving more than 1,500 square miles.

Thankfully, Dr. Matt Owens is changing how care in South Dakota's rural and frontier areas is delivered. He's empowering communities with a shortage of emergency medical service providers by "training the trainers" in the use of AEDs, Narcan, and tourniquets. He's helping to train medical students, community EMTs, teachers, and school administrators to provide care and train others as well.

Dr. Owens has taught disaster preparedness to students for over 20 years and created the Dakota Responders program which provides instruction in three life saving areas: STOP THE BLEED®, administering Narcan and AED operation. Because of Dr. Owens, students are provided with "ditch kits," which include a CPR face mask, tourniquet, Mylar blanket, and Narcan.

This enables anyone in the rural areas who come upon accidents to provide life-saving care until EMS can arrive.

Another of Dr. Owens's inspiring approaches to training community members includes teaching private industry how to respond to medical emergencies. Not only have the employees of a grain and agronomy company serving the Dakotas received training, he also brings medical students to job sites to teach them about the potential of accidents sustained in such industries.

It's an honor to support Dr. Owen's creative approaches to improving emergency care in South Dakota.

COPIC and SDSMA were thrilled to present Dr. Owens with this award, and on his behalf donated \$10,000 to Community Memorial Hospital and Clinic Foundation.

To learn more about the COPIC Humanitarian Award or to nominate a physician, visit our website:

[www.callcopic.com/about-copic/copic-humanitarian-award](http://www.callcopic.com/about-copic/copic-humanitarian-award)

or email Laura Wadleigh at [lwadleigh@copic.com](mailto:lwadleigh@copic.com).