



CARING CONNECTION

For friends of The Oklahoma Caring Foundation, Inc.
oklahomacaringfoundation.org

Tulsa Caring Vans Provide COVID-19 Vaccine to Eligible School Staff and Community Members

In January, the Tulsa Caring Vans partnered with the Tulsa Health Department (THD) to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to Tulsa metro school staff and community members ages 65 years and older, living in underserved areas.

“Our partnership with the Caring Vans helps us protect within our school districts and high-need communities,” explained THD Clinic Services Manager Ellen Niemitalo. “Working with the Caring Vans is a logical way to reach those who may not otherwise have access to the vaccine.”

In the first month of outreach, the Tulsa Caring Vans visited four school districts, five churches, and three community organizations. They

provided over 1,100 individuals with their first and second doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

“The eligible school staff and community members we vaccinated were so appreciative of our services,” said Brooke Townsend, executive director for the Oklahoma Caring Foundation.

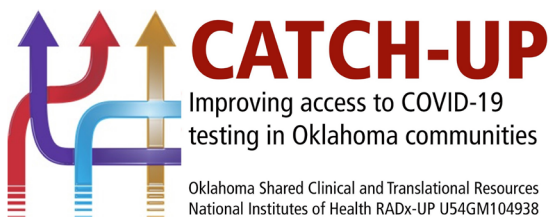
“Many mentioned how easy it was to get their vaccine because our Caring Van Team was able to meet them where they spend their days.”

The Oklahoma Caring Vans continue to explore future opportunities to partner with local and state health departments to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to Oklahomans during subsequent phases of the rollout. 🟡



The Tulsa Caring Vans partnered with the Tulsa Health Department to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to Tulsa metro school staff and community members ages 65 years and older, living in underserved areas.

Caring Vans to Participate in COVID-19 Testing Initiative



The Oklahoma Caring Foundation will partner with the Public Health Institute of Oklahoma and The University of Oklahoma Health Science Center's Oklahoma Clinical and Translational Science Institute to implement the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded project titled "Community-Engaged Approaches to Testing in Community Healthcare Settings for Underserved Populations," also called CATCH-UP Oklahoma.

The project aims to address gaps in COVID-19 testing in rural and underserved populations by leveraging established community partnerships to enhance the existing statewide public health care

infrastructure. The CATCH-UP Oklahoma project is part of a broader NIH initiative to address COVID-19 related mortality and morbidity in vulnerable and underserved populations.

"When our team was working on this grant submission, we immediately thought of engaging the Oklahoma Caring Vans in this initiative," explained Laura Ross White, CATCH-UP project director. "The unique mobile Caring Van units allow us to provide access to COVID-19 testing to Oklahomans in rural and underserved parts of Oklahoma."

The CATCH-UP Oklahoma Community Advisory Board is planning to host more than 200 events in 2021.

"Our team is excited to be a part of this outreach and to provide easier access to this health service to those who need it," said Oklahoma Caring Foundation Manager Amy Pulliam. 🍀

Seventeen Years of Celebrating Champions

The 17th annual Champions of Health gala was held virtually on September 29, 2020 and all Oklahomans were invited to attend. Six deserving Oklahoma organizations were honored and football legend, Terry Bradshaw, served as the keynote speaker. As the Oklahoma Caring Foundation's premier fundraising event, the Champions of Health program has raised more than \$1.7 million to provide life-saving immunizations and other preventive health services to underserved Oklahomans, since its inception in 2004.

SAVE THE DATE: The 18th Annual Champions of Health Gala will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021. For more information, visit Championsofhealth.org



Champions of Health

Benefiting the  Oklahoma Caring Foundation

PROGRESS REPORT:

Finishing Strong on OCF's Five-Year Strategic Plan

In January of 2017, the Oklahoma Caring Foundation (OCF) began work on a five-year strategic plan to conclude at the end of 2021.

The OCF team recently met to discuss and finalize the action steps needed to accomplish the strategic plan goals by year-end. The plan's goals include strengthening preventive health services, maintaining and enhancing community partnerships, increasing financial self-sufficiency, developing our brand, and building an advocacy platform.

One of the most significant achievements within the strategic plan in 2020 was a 10% increase in

partnerships, including several new school districts and Latino and rural partners. Increasing partnerships in 2020 was challenging because the Caring Vans were on hold for nearly five months due to the pandemic; however, the OCF team used that downtime to identify the additional needs in our communities and find ways to engage new partners to meet those needs.

Even though navigating through 2020 was difficult, our team is well-positioned to deliver strong results on our five-year strategy by the end of 2021! 🍌

Partner Spotlight:

Partnerships play a vital role in the success of the Oklahoma Caring Van Program. Following are a few partners we would like to highlight.

EmpowerOKC

In 2020, the Oklahoma Caring Foundation began working with the EmpowerOKC Program. EmpowerOKC's mission is to transform families and communities into places where children are safe and can thrive. The Oklahoma Caring Van Program is fortunate to have this trusted partner. **To learn more, please visit their website at empowerfamiliesokc.com.**



South Tulsa Community House

In 2020, the Oklahoma Caring Foundation began working with South Tulsa Community House (STCH). STCH empowers the Riverwood area in south Tulsa by reducing hunger, combating poverty, and providing a pathway to empowerment to improve their lives through direct services and collaborations by offering a one-stop social service center. The

Caring Vans are proud to work with STCH where the Vans "Help A Little, Empower A Lot."

To learn more, please visit their website at southtulsacommunityhouse.org.



Donor Spotlight:

The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation and the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation

Thanks to unique donors like The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation and the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation, quality preventive health care is more accessible. For over 18 years, the Zarrow Foundations have helped to assure we can do the most good, in part by granting donations to the Oklahoma Caring Van program. Thank you for all you do to keep Oklahomans healthy!



Maxine & Jack Zarrow Family
FOUNDATION



The Anne & Henry Zarrow
FOUNDATION

The Oklahoma Caring Foundation depends on the generous support of individuals, businesses, and charitable foundations to keep the Oklahoma Caring Vans on the road providing immunizations to thousands of children each year. For a complete list of individual, corporate, foundation, and tribute gift donors, please visit our website: oklahomacaringfoundation.org.



Are the Caring Vans NEAR YOU?

You can now receive text alerts that let you know when a Caring Van will be in your area. This feature will make it easier for Oklahomans to access the Caring Van clinic calendars. To find vans in Oklahoma City, text OKCVAN to 33633, or in Tulsa, text TULSAVAN to 33633 (standard messaging and data rates may apply).

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Oklahoma Caring Foundation Value Statement

Working to improve the health of Oklahomans one child at a time.

Mission

**The Oklahoma Caring Foundation provides Oklahomans
access to preventive health services.**





1400 S. Boston Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74119

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- **Donate to the Oklahoma Caring Foundation, Inc.**
- **Funding Opportunities**
- **Visit our website:** oklahomacaringfoundation.org
- **Contact:** emily_fuller@bcbsook.com or 918-551-3403

