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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"LIGHTING THE WAY FOR HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE"

National Health Center Week – A Cause for Celebration to Honor Staff And Volunteers

Pottstown – Community Health & Dental Care (CHDC) celebrated National Health Center Week August 9th – 15th as part of a national campaign to raise awareness about the mission and accomplishments of America's Health Centers for over 50 years. The National Health Center deemed this year's theme "Lighting the Way for Healthier Communities Today and in the Future" *'to honor the innovative work of health centers in addressing the pandemic and the memory of providers, staff, and beloved patients who lost their lives to the virus.'*

In the past, CHDC along with health centers across the country held community celebrations and health fairs but because of COVID-19 safety concerns, CHDC turns the spotlight on its compassionate staff and volunteers for their dedication and service to the community:

- On June 17th, the CHDC care management team rolled out a new EatFresh Program in cooperation with the Chester County Food Bank. After conducting a hypertension and diabetes management outreach to identify patients to invite to participate, the EatFresh team then delivered boxes of fresh fruits, vegetables, and yogurt to the homes of the 14 patients (and their families) who participated. Another 13 patients picked up boxes at the Coventry Mall location. In addition to food supplies, patients received education materials related to healthy eating, recipes, cooking safety as well as given access to participate in live cooking classes using Zoom and related nutritional videos. Interactions with the patients were used as an opportunity to discuss overall well-being, self-management of chronic conditions and receive a blood pressure check. The program was so well received that the Food Bank has agreed to continue partnering with the health center to expand the program and allow additional participants. The program is currently set to run through September 2020.
- To date, front line CHDC staff has administered over 156 COVID-19 tests at a pop-up testing site in the parking lot of their main location at the Coventry Mall in Pottstown.
- CHDC staff and volunteer board of directors continue to put the safety of patients and staff as a top priority. Facilities and vehicles in the free shuttle program are triple cleaned, CDC social distancing and PPE guidelines are strictly followed, daily temperature checks of all staff and patients are monitored, modified in-service and telemedicine appointments are offered, along with installing OCTOdent Extraoral Aerosol Suction equipment in its dental facilities – all to ensure the same quality and compassionate care offered, continues safely.

Health centers are the largest primary health care system in the U.S., serving more than 30 million patients. Since 2008, Community Health & Dental Care ensures access to appropriate levels of care for all people throughout the tri-county region regardless of their ability to pay. We also offer health care discounts through the annual funding received from our Federal partner, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) since 2012 as a designated Federally Qualified Health Center.

For more information, please call 610-326-9460, email us at info@ch-dc.org, or visit our website at www.ch-dc.org.

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Picture - Eat Fresh Program

(Pictured: Camille Watson, Lauren Emmell, Kristine Jones, and Gladys Rodriguez)

