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Florida Health Center Leader Receives Top Honors at National Farmworker Health Conference

Bethesda, MD - The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) has presented Edwin Brown, President and CEO of Florida Community Health Center, Inc. (FCHC) in West Palm Beach, Florida with the “2008 Lifetime Achievement Award in Migrant Health.” A pioneer in the health center movement and a longtime champion for migrant health, Mr. Brown was honored at the National Farmworker Health Conference, an annual meeting sponsored by NACHC which convened in San Juan, Puerto Rico May 6-8th. The national conference is the only one of its kind that brings together a host of health experts, activists, researchers and leaders to focus on health services for America’s 4 million migrant and seasonal farm workers.

“The NACHC family is proud to present the Lifetime Achievement Award in Migrant Health to Edwin Brown,” said Lil Anderson, NACHC Board Chair. “Ed Brown has always been a team player – contributing his ideas and perspectives in ways to ensure needed health care to vulnerable populations. Through countless affiliations – he has built a solid network of partnership within Florida to support our cause on behalf of migrant farmworkers.”

As a child, Ed Brown worked in the fields of central Florida where he was born and raised, tending many of the same crops that FCHC patients do today. From 1957 to 1984, he served his country as a United States Coast Guard, retiring in Washington, D.C. after attaining the rank of Lieutenant as a Commissioned Officer.

Ed Brown was chosen as President and Chief Executive Officer of FCHC in 1984. Since then, he has continued to demonstrate both vision and leadership, growing the health centers budget from \$3.5 million in 1984 to \$19 million in 2007.

“I was very surprised and humbled by the honor of receiving this Lifetime Achievement Award for doing something I love and that I care about so much,” said Brown, when notified about the honor. “Many along the way have assisted me – too many to name.”

Over the last twenty-four years, Brown has always kept his focus on the patients and their needs: He has transformed FCHC into a large organization with ten sites in five different counties; instituted an OB/GYN program that has grown to include seven providers covering three counties; forged alliances with numerous other organizations; and volunteered his time serving on committees, attending meetings and collaborating with other health care entities to ensure health care remains accessible to vulnerable populations.

The “2008 Lifetime Achievement Award in Migrant Health” every year honors leaders’ outstanding achievements and contributions to the migrant health center mission and to community-based healthcare overall.

Founded in 1970, NACHC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance and expand access to quality, community-responsive health care for America’s medically underserved and uninsured. In serving its mission, NACHC represents the nation’s network of over 1,000 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) which serve 17 million people through 6,300 sites located in all of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam.

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