Chris C. Caudill, M.D.
Honored with COPIC's 2010
Williamson Volunteer Award

Chris C. Caudill, M.D., a retired cardiologist, received COPIC's Harold E. Williamson Award for Nebraska on October 1 at an honors luncheon during the Nebraska Medical Association's annual meeting.

The Harold E. Williamson award honors a physician for volunteer medical services and contributions to the community. The award includes a $10,000 grant to be designated to the nonprofit organization of his choice; Dr. Caudill chose to split the grant evenly between Lancaster County Medical Society's Medication Assistance Program (MAP) and Clinic With a Heart.

The MAP provides needed medications to the indigent of Lincoln. For each dollar donated, approximately $25 worth of medications can be provided. Clinic With a Heart is a one- or two-night-a-week indigent walk-in clinic providing simple treatment, basic medications, and referral for a medical home. It is faith-based, with each session sponsored by a church or hospital organization.

Dr. Chris Caudill retired early in 2009 after an illustrious career as a community cardiologist. The awards and achievements he received during his career are numerous and virtually impossible to list.

*(from left to right) Peter J. Whitted, M.D., J.D., COPIC Board member; **Chris C. Caudill, M.D., 2010 Williamson Award recipient;** Ted J. Clarke, M.D., COPIC Chairman/CEO; and Steven A. Rubin, COPIC President/COO*

He volunteered on many medical society committees as well as community boards. He is a past president of Nebraska Medical Association and board member of Lancaster County Medical Society.

He volunteered on the Lincoln/Lancaster County Board of Health for eight years, serving as president for four of those years. In honor of his service, he was given the Public Health Leadership Award.

Additional volunteer activities included activities with the American Heart Association, American Medical Association, Statewide Health Coordinating Council, and Board of Counselors for the University of Nebraska Medical Center to name just a few organizations that benefited from his volunteerism.

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After his retirement, Dr. Caudill's volunteer efforts have only increased. He now volunteers at People's Health Center, a local federally-qualified health center. He serves as chairman of the board for Clinic With a Heart as well as helps coordinate volunteers from his church to staff a clinic each month.

Dr. Caudill also serves on the Lancaster County Medical Society Foundation (LCMSF) to help promote community efforts such as the Medication Assistance Program of Lincoln and Health 360 Specialty Care that helps uninsured patients access specialty medical care services.

In May 2009, the mayor of Lincoln appointed Dr. Caudill to serve on a Blue Ribbon Task Force to study the city's health care safety net. This volunteer task force developed a detailed plan to be implemented over the next two years that will enhance the ability of Lincoln to care for the uninsured and underinsured.

These are just a few examples that demonstrate Dr. Caudill's volunteer efforts over the years that have focused on public health and serving the most vulnerable individuals in the community. His efforts have directly resulted in many of the community's low-income people being able to access medical care in a timely fashion.

Dr. Caudill was nominated for the award by Joan Anderson, Executive Director of Lancaster County Medical Society. "Dr. Caudill has always volunteered and served his community without asking or needing recognition for his efforts," said Ms. Anderson. "It is clear he volunteers because he cares and feels it is his way of giving back to the community. It is our hope that seeing Dr. Caudill honored with the Harold E. Williamson Award will encourage and motivate his colleagues to follow his example."

We are proud to recognize the valuable contributions Dr. Caudill and his fellow nominees make to accessible health care in their communities.