



## 2019 COPIC Humanitarian Award: Dr. Robert Rhodes

We are proud to announce that Dr. Robert Rhodes, a family medicine physician in Lincoln, was chosen as the 2019 recipient of COPIC’s Nebraska Humanitarian Award. Dr. Rhodes is recognized for his passionate approach to health care and how it impacts patients in Nebraska. The award was presented to Dr. Rhodes at the Nebraska Medical Association’s annual meeting in September, and he is seen here with the director of the COPIC Medical Foundation, Meredith Hintze.

Dr. Rhodes earned his medical degree from the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and completed his family practice residency with the Lincoln Medical Education Foundation/University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine (UNMC). He is Board Certified with the American Board of Family Medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice. Dr. Rhodes is also an adjunct instructor at UNMC and a clinical associate professor at The University of South Dakota, Sanford School of Medicine. He has served on many local, state, and national boards and currently he serves on the national board of the Men’s Health Network and is Founder/ President Emeritus of Clinic with a Heart.

In 2003, Dr. Rhodes traveled to Reynosa, Mexico on his first medical mission trip to provide basic medical care. The trip was such a life changing experience for Dr. Rhodes that he and his team brainstormed ideas about starting a medical mission back in Nebraska. Dr. Rhodes and a small group of volunteers opened Lincoln’s first free

clinic in May of 2003. Clinic with a Heart is now a 501(c)3 nonprofit and Dr. Rhodes volunteers in several capacities. He has been the primary recruiter of other medical volunteers, sees patients on a monthly basis, and served as board president from 2003 through 2009.

Dr. Rhodes also provides assistance in fundraising and network building for the organization. His vision has helped Clinic with a Heart move from serving 20 patients a month to serving about 200 and from engaging 30 volunteers to engaging 600 volunteers. In 2018, 3,911 visits were provided to 3,262 patients at clinics sponsored by 11 mission team sponsors. Dr. Rhodes has given a substantial investment to the community of his talent, time, and resources.

The Humanitarian Award recognizes a physician going above the call of duty in the Nebraska health care community. Dr. Rhodes has chosen Clinic with a Heart as the beneficiary of the \$10,000 grant associated with the award.

COPIC would like to recognize some of our past recipients:

- ★ Debra J. Romberger, M.D.; Omaha
- ★ Christina Fernandez, M.D.; Omaha
- ★ Donald Wirth, M.D.; Grand Island

- ★ Mark Emig, M.D.; Omaha
- ★ Jerry McLain, M.D.; Chadron
- ★ Jerry Fischer, M.D.; Omaha

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