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Local Health Center Staff Members Honored for Distinguished Service

At the Michigan Primary Care Association's (MPCA) 31st Annual Awards ceremony held October 12, 2010, the non-profit association representing Community Health Centers honored two members of Cherry Street Health Services' team for their distinguished service.

The MPCA Distinguished Service Award honors commitment, dedication, and outstanding service on behalf of patients of Michigan Community Health Centers.

"Cherry Street Health Services is proud that Dr. Paul Clodfelder and Paul Bryant were recognized for their exemplary service, helping to ensure that residents of Kent County have access to quality, comprehensive, affordable health care," said Chris Shea, Executive Director, Cherry Street Health Services. "Their leadership, expertise, and dedication to quality health care make them valuable members of the Cherry Street Health Services' team, and model Community Health Center staff members."

Dr. Clodfelder began his work at Cherry Street Health Services when the Westside Health Center opened in a small space in an old city building on the west side of Grand Rapids. He worked tirelessly to help open that site and to provide health care services in shared space until the new building on Stocking Avenue was built in 1994. Dr. Clodfelder continued his clinical work until 2008, and now volunteers his time as a member of the Cherry Street Health Services Board of Directors.

Paul Bryant has served as a physician assistant at Cherry Street Health Services since 1993. During that time he has provided valuable services in terms of patient care as well as leadership. He has the Health Center's mission at the forefront, to provide the highest quality and most effective primary health care services to people of all economic levels, with a special sensitivity to the needs of economically disadvantaged people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

Cherry Street Health Services is one of Michigan's 31 Community Health Center organizations that together operate over 160 sites across the state, providing care to nearly 600,000 patients each year regardless of insurance status or income. They are part of a nationwide network of 1,250 Community Health Centers that 20 million people call their health care home. That number is expected to double within the next five years as \$11 billion in funding under the Affordable Care Act is awarded to Health Centers. Community Health Center services are tailored to meet the unique needs of patients and surrounding communities, providing primary care, dental care, behavioral health care, pharmacy services, and much more.

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About Michigan Primary Care Association

Michigan Primary Care Association has been the voice for Community Health Centers and other community-based providers in Michigan since 1980. It is a leader in building a healthy society in which all residents have convenient and affordable access to quality health care. MPCA's mission is to promote, support, and develop comprehensive, accessible, and affordable quality community-based primary care services to everyone in Michigan. For more information, please visit www.mpca.net or call 517.381.8000.



Michigan Primary Care Association Executive Director Kim Sibilsky, and Board Chair Chris Shea presented Dr. Paul Clodfelder (top) and Paul Bryant, PA-C (bottom) of Cherry Street Health Services with the 2010 Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Michigan Community Health Centers.

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