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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOPEHEALTH EARNS GOLD STATUS FOR ADVOCACY EFFORTS

FLORENCE, S.C. (October 24, 2023) – HopeHealth has been named a Gold Level Advocacy Center of Excellence by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), one of only two Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) in South Carolina to earn this status.

The Advocacy Center of Excellence (ACE) program recognizes and rewards Community Health Centers that demonstrate excellence in formalizing their advocacy program to make it an integral, institutional part of their health center operations. These Community Health Centers create a culture of advocacy to ensure policymakers at all levels of government commit to investing in the affordable, equitable, and innovative care they provide.

In order to achieve Gold ACE Status, organizations must earn at least 75 points by completing advocacy-related initiatives. These include securing 100 percent staff and board participation as health center advocates, participating in civic engagement efforts, and establishing an advocacy committee. HopeHealth is the only FQHC with advocacy ambassadors and an advocacy committee, both of whom have been actively involved in earning this classification.

“I am grateful for the recognition from NACHC and the commitment of HopeHealth employees, board of directors, advocacy committee, and advocacy ambassadors who work every day to ensure the highest quality health care and equity for our patients,” said Nicole Echols, director of external affairs.

As a Gold ACE, HopeHealth serves as an example to other organizations striving to achieve advocacy excellence. Ken Burgess, chief operating officer, shared, “I’m proud of our organization for achieving Gold level ACE status. We work every day to live out our mission statement, committing to excellence through service that exemplifies love for people and passion for their well-being.”

HopeHealth supporters can sign up to become a health center advocate at hcadvocacy.org.

HopeHealth is a nonprofit leader in providing affordable, expert primary and specialty health care services for all ages in Florence, Aiken (Infectious Diseases), Clarendon, Orangeburg, and Williamsburg Counties. Our federally qualified health centers are the health care home of choice for nearly 60,000 patients. To become a patient, call 843-667-9414 or visit hope-health.org.



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