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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The Clinic delivers on promise of health centers**

ADA – Fifty-seven years since it was established in Konawa, The Clinic at Central Oklahoma Family Medical Center continues to provide high-quality, comprehensive health care for thousands of patients in its rural service area – a number that continues to increase each year.

National Health Center Week is August 3-9 this year, designed to shine a light on the critical role community health centers play in keeping rural Americans healthy. Across the country, about one in 10 patients utilizes a community health center; in rural areas, it is one in every five patients. This year is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the community health center system.

The Clinic, which operates facilities in Pontotoc, Garvin, and Seminole counties, is one of 22 community health centers serving the state. Some 340,000 Oklahomans utilize community health centers. The Clinic alone currently serves more than 28,000 unique patients.

There are approximately 1,500 community health centers nationwide. According to 2024 data provided by the National Association of Community Health Centers, these primarily rural centers cared for a record 34 million patients last year. The need for cost-effective, comprehensive health care in medically underserved areas remains a glaring one.

“Regardless of the economic and political climates in our country, more people need access to health care than ever before,” said Brenda Ware, CEO of The Clinic. “Our mission is to provide quality, comprehensive, and affordable medical care that improves the health and well-being of the communities we serve. We have been very successful in implementing that mission, and we see positive results every day. The need, however, continues to grow.”

To learn more about what The Clinic offers, please visit [www.cofmc.com](http://www.cofmc.com). To learn more about the federal community health center program, please visit [www.nachc.org](http://www.nachc.org).

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*The Clinic @ Central Oklahoma Family Medical Center, or “The Clinic,” is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) meeting a stringent set of requirements, including care services on a sliding-fee scale based on federal poverty guidelines. Governed by a board of directors, including patient directors, The Clinic remains thoroughly invested in the needs of patients and its service areas.*