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PARTNERSHIP ENABLES CANCER SCREENINGS AND EXPANDS HEALTHCARE FOR UNDERSERVED WOMEN IN CENTRAL OHIO

[The Crawford Crew](#) & [Helping Hands Health and Wellness Center](#) will provide free cancer prevention screenings and health checks to upwards of 800 women.

[WESTERVILLE, OH, November 9, 2020] – Today Helping Hands Health and Wellness Center and The Crawford Crew announced the opening of their Women’s Health Program which will provide women with free female cancer screenings. This partnership is especially important because it provides preventative healthcare services which will ultimately reduce the number of cervical cancer diagnosis’s and lower the number of women who die from the disease. The center offers adults equitable care and specializes in medical care, health education, social services, counseling and spiritual guidance and now health and cancer prevention for women.

Helping Hands Health and Wellness Center, a non-profit free medical clinic, in partnership with The Crawford Crew, a non-profit focused on ending HPV related cancers welcomed their first patients to the new Women’s Health Program today. The organizations were brought together by Deanna Hunt, a nurse practitioner and professor at the Mount Carmel College of Nursing. Deanna is the Director of Women’s Health Services and Clinical Operations for the program. In her new role, she will also manage the volunteer medical staff.

“Deanna approached us about a Women’s Health Program, and it couldn’t have been at a better time. We had been working for over a year, internally, on providing a program very much like what Deanna wanted to start. After working with Deanna for only a few months, we were introduced to Diane Crawford and her dedicated team at The Crawford Crew. We joined forces quickly which took the Women’s Health Program from an idea to reality. Because of our partnership, the program will be able to serve approximately 400 patients with 1,000 additional services every year,” said Sarah Gray, the executive director of the center.

The main purpose of this partnership is to serve the most vulnerable women and to ultimately end cancers caused by HPV. Diane Crawford noted, “Getting access to free medical care is a challenge for many and being uninsured or underinsured only intensifies that need. We are beyond grateful to Deanna and Sarah for inviting us to play such an important role in the community.”

This unique program addresses the needs of underserved women in Central Ohio. Two-thirds of the center’s uninsured and underinsured patients are women, many of whom have not received appropriate women’s care in several years and even some who have never received care. As the only free clinic in the Northland neighborhood, the nonprofit organizations and Deanna Hunt are excited to launch the Women’s Health Program today.



About Helping Hands Health and Wellness Center

Helping Hands Health and Wellness Center is a non-profit free medical clinic that provides free Family Medicine and social services care to medically uninsured and underinsured adults who are at or below 400% of the federal poverty guidelines. Helping Hands serves the Central Ohio community by offering three primary programs. The first, the Women's Health Program, runs on Mondays and offers free female cancer screenings. The second, the Community Wellbeing Program, runs on Tuesdays and offers free work or school physical exams and \$8 TB skin testing. The third, the Free Care Program, offer free Primary Care and social services care. For more information, [visit helpinghandsfreeclinic.org](http://helpinghandsfreeclinic.org).

About The Crawford Crew

The Crawford Crew (TCC), was founded in the fall of 2009 by Andy and Diane Crawford of Westerville, OH, shortly after Diane was diagnosed with stage 1b cervical cancer. Established with the objective to fund cervical cancer prevention programs and research at OSUCCC-James, today, TCC has expanded their mission to end all 6 HPV-related cancers. Initially, the small nonprofit hosted one fundraiser a year, Raise A Racket (RAR). RAR has raised over \$250k to end cervical cancer and HPV-related cancers since 2010.

Thanks to early detection and the quick work of her doctors, Diane is cancer free. In 2014 TCC became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization enabling them to broaden their reach throughout Ohio. The Crawford Crew continues to positively impact lives and make a difference with their expanded mission to end-HPV related cancers. Today they host multiple fundraisers, awareness and education events which include *Raise A Racket*, *Strength in Colors 5k*, *Paint the 'Ville Teal* and *Light Up the LeVeque Tower in Teal*.

The Crawford Crew is part of the worldwide effort to save lives eradicating cervical cancer and other HPV-related cancers via education, vaccination, raising awareness, supporting and protecting vulnerable populations by removing barriers and stigma, and advocating for innovative research and broadened outreach. For more information, visit thecrawfordcrew.org.

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