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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Open Door Health Center Creates COVID-19 Senior Activity Box Program

Mankato – (February 15, 2021) – Through a grant awarded by the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA), Open Door Health Center has developed the Open Door Activity Box Program. This program is aimed at adults over the age of 60 that are experiencing an economic or social hardship and reside in the following counties: Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Waseca, Watonwan, Brown, Sibley, and Martin.

Through this program, participants will receive three activity boxes total throughout 2021. Each box will include a fun activity, two personal care items, educational materials relating to certain health topics, and information about Open Door and other local resources that may benefit participants. "I am so thankful for our partner organizations for their willingness to collaborate on such a wonderful program," said Jayme Enamorado, Community Outreach Manager at Open Door Health Center. "Our local adults over 60 have been hit the hardest during the pandemic and need community support now more than ever before," she said.

Open Door will be focusing on three topics for the program; the COVID-19 Vaccine, living with chronic conditions, and mental health for seniors. The first round of deliveries will begin on February 22 to area organizations and counties that have agreed to distribute boxes to over 1500 adults over age 60. Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, Open Door's largest partnering organization, will be delivering the activity boxes through the Meals on Wheels program in all of Region 9.

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About Open Door Health Center - Open Door Health Center is a federally qualified health center (FQHC), founded in 1994 to be a safety net clinic for the underserved populations in Southern Minnesota. Today, ODHC provides comprehensive medical, dental, and behavioral health care to ALL persons regardless of insurance coverage, or ability to pay. Our mission is to provide access to integrated, patient-centered care for our communities. Open Door serves approximately 11,000 unique patients each year. In addition, we provide free dental screening to more than 1000 school children in 16 elementary schools in South Central Minnesota each year. We also provide free insurance enrollment and legal assistance on-site, so that our patients are free to focus on their health.