

2013 HEALTH CARE HEROES

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

WINNER: **ONESIGHT VISION CENTER AT OYLER SCHOOL**

Hockenberry

Recipient: Craig Hockenberry

Title: Principal

Nominator: Amy Scrivner

OneSight Vision Center is the first self-sustaining school-based vision center in the United States. In Ohio, it is estimated that only one in seven kindergartners has an eye exam prior to entering school. The public-private partnership serves 2,000 students annually who did not previously have access to vision care services. Operated by the Cincinnati Health Department, the center provides access to comprehensive vision care, including eye exams, glasses, fittings and adjustments, medical eye care and vision therapy.

What inspired you to pursue this project?

I did not chose a career in health care, but I chose to work in a community that has been plagued with lack of health care. This lack of health care has had an awful effect on student achievement and the quality of life so I have been working for years with great partnerships to create better access to health care for students growing up in poverty.

What has been your most rewarding experience on the job?

The most rewarding experience on the job has clearly been watching our school evolve from basic services to high-quality medical, dental, vision, hearing, mental health counseling, GED, college access and other services. Then watching the services have a huge impact on improving the quality of life of our city's children.

What would you still like to accomplish?

I would like to see Oyler School through the development of a complete dental center on our campus. The dental center would allow us to do massive cleaning and dental work every day all year long and eliminate the serious issues with dental problems throughout our community.

If you could change one thing about our health care system, what would it be?

I would like to see school-based health, vision and dental clinics throughout the country in many of our inner-city elementary schools.

"The dental center would allow us to do massive cleaning and dental work every day all year long."