



## **RI Free Clinic receives inaugural Sal Lucido Hypertension Hero award from National Hypertension Control Roundtable (NHCR)**

(Providence, RI, November 12, 2024) During the 2024 NHCR Annual Summit, the Rhode Island Free Clinic (RIFC) was one of three honorees awarded the inaugural Sal Lucido Hypertension Hero awards. Named after the late Salvatore Lucido, a longtime CD administrator, in recognition of his vast contributions to the HTN Roundtable, this award recognizes innovative, collaborative programs or partnerships addressing inequities in hypertension control.

The Rhode Island Free Clinic stands out as a Hypertension Hero due to its comprehensive, compassionate, and collaborative approach to combating hypertension among uninsured and underserved Rhode Island communities. RIFC provides free and comprehensive care for patients who lack insurance, ensuring that even the most vulnerable populations have access to quality hypertension management interventions. Through a range of on-site specialists, patients receive multidisciplinary and tailored attention on a seamless continuum of care: Nurse-led follow-up appointments and free laboratory services encourage proactive cardiovascular education, care plan adherence, and patient empowerment.

RIFC further ensures optimal patient outcomes through ongoing quality improvement collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Health, where they leverage public health expertise and resources to implement evidence-based interventions. Additional partnerships include the WISEWOMAN Program, emphasizing cardiovascular education and action among underserved women, the Brown University Warren Alpert Medical and Bryant PA Schools, providing hands-on training for future healthcare professionals while increasing Clinic capacity, and Brown Physicians Group and Power BI, supporting data science research on hypertension disparities.

RIFC exemplifies NHCR's mission through its holistic, inclusive, and community-centered approach to healthcare, and engaging in meaningful partnerships aimed at improving both targeted cardiovascular health improvement and broader Rhode Island health improvement.

**About the Rhode Island Free Clinic:** Founded in 1998, the Rhode Island Free Clinic's mission is to provide free, comprehensive medical, dental and behavioral care and preventative services to adults who have no health insurance and cannot afford those services. The Free Clinic also serves as an educational training site for aspiring health care professionals. Located at 655 Broad Street in Providence, the Free Clinic operates with a lean staff and over 500 volunteers and serves over 2,000 patients each year.

**About the National Hypertension Control Roundtable:** The National Hypertension Control Roundtable is a coalition of public, private, and non-profit organizations dedicated to eliminating disparities in hypertension control through dialogue, partnership, evidence and innovation. The HTN Roundtable prioritizes supporting people in controlling their blood pressure wherever they live, learn, work, play and pray; and equitably advancing patient care to increase hypertension control/