



2020 CHAMPS Awardees

Virtual Awards Ceremony | Friday, November 20, 2020

Stanley J. Brasher Legacy Award
John Mengershausen, Chief Executive Officer,
Horizon Health Care, Inc., SD

The Stanley J. Brasher Legacy award was created by the CHAMPS Executive Committee in honor of Stanley J. “Jerry” Brasher, a CHAMPS founder and long-time Chief Executive Officer of Salud Family Health Centers, to honor individuals who have dedicated their careers to solving the problems of health, poverty, and human rights, and who have contributed toward the mission and recognition of community and migrant health centers in the Mountain/Plains States. It is with much pleasure that this year we are able to use this award to recognize another CHAMPS founder and leader in the Community Health Center Movement, and a longtime and dear friend of Jerry’s, John Mengershausen.

In October of 1983, John assumed the role of CEO of a small South Dakota community health center in two communities with a staff of 14 and a budget of \$700,000. Not quite four decades later, Horizon Health Care’s workforce has grown to nearly 300 individuals, serving almost 28,000 South Dakotans in 2019, in 22 communities via 29 clinic locations across 28,000 square miles. Under John’s leadership, in addition to its spectacular growth, Horizon Health Care has become one of the most respected rural FQHCs in the nation.

In addition to John’s incredible commitment to his communities, he has been instrumental at the state, regional, and national levels in support of health centers across our country. He has been active in the governance of the Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas (CHAD), of CHAMPS, and of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) and he has lent his experience and expertise to countless state, regional, and national boards, committees, workgroups, and taskforces.

John will be retiring next summer after nearly four decades of steadfast commitment and countless contributions to Horizon Health Care and South Dakota health centers, to CHAMPS and Region VIII health centers, and to NACHC and health centers nationwide, so today we take this opportunity to recognize and honor him with the CHAMPS Stanley J. Brasher Legacy Award.

Like his friend and mentor Jerry Brasher, John is a steadfast advocate for all patients facing access barriers and for the Community Health Center Movement. He has a heart for community health and the Horizon mission; and he has a strong determination to achieve the goal of affordable health care for all. And like his close colleague Jerry Brasher did for many, many years, John’s actions and hard work make a significant difference every day for the most vulnerable members of communities across South Dakota, Region VIII, and the nation.

Thank you, John – you are an incredibly worthy recipient of this meaningful award. Jerry is thrilled you are receiving this recognition and extends his sincere congratulations.

*For his dedication to advancing the mission & recognition of
Community Health Centers in the Mountain/Plains states,
we are pleased to present John Mengershausen with the
Stanley J. Brasher Legacy Award.*

