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**MYOWNDOCTOR ANNOUNCES INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY AND DECREASE THE LIFE EXPECTANCY GAP OF RESIDENTS ACROSS ILLINOIS**

*Telehealth Company Hosted Mother's Day Health and Wellness Fair Including Free Eye Exams and Breast Cancer Screenings And Donates \$100,000 To Community Organizations In Need*

**CHICAGO - MyOwnDoctor**, an innovative telehealth company, today announced an initiative to provide culturally competent virtual care services to residents across Illinois and decrease the life expectancy gap, which worsened during the first year of the pandemic. MyOwnDoctor's proprietary technology, paired with doctors and Care Navigators trained to offer comprehensive health options and resources particularly to Black and LatinX patients, will fill a critical need for underserved residents.

"Good healthcare is all about treating the whole person - that means providing the right information when patients need it and connecting them to the providers they know and trust wherever they are, whether for physical health or mental wellness," said Cheryle Jackson, CEO of MyOwnDoctor. "Black and Brown women, specifically mothers, face great disparities in health outcomes. We're committed to increasing access to healthcare and prevention education to close those critical gaps with MyOwnDoctor."

"In Cook County we are focusing our efforts on Healthy Communities, by addressing the social determinants of health and improving the health wellness of our residents," said Cook County Board of Commissioners President Toni Preckwinkle. "With companies like MyOwnDoctor, we will be able to ensure our communities have access to services that will help them flourish."

Residents received eye exams, breast cancer screenings, medical supplies and makeovers sponsored by Black Opal at MyOwnDoctor's health and wellness fair at House of Hope in Pullman on Mother's Day, in partnership with Centene Corporation, Salem Baptist Church and Hope Center Foundation.

"Women experience serious health disparities across Illinois and the nation. MyOwnDoctor is a pathway to reduce those disparities by connecting patients with medical professionals like myself who can understand their lived experience," said Dr. Christel West, MyOwnDoctor's Medical Director of Women's Health. "I am so proud to be a part of MyOwnDoctor as we work towards providing truly equitable care statewide."

"As a former board chair of Planned Parenthood of Illinois and Planned Parenthood Illinois Action, I am delighted to support a platform that will increase access to high-quality care for mothers and families across Cook County and the state of Illinois," said Cook County Commissioner Donna Miller. "Everyone is entitled to safe, accessible healthcare and MyOwnDoctor's services will help address the social determinants and needs that prevent patients from achieving good health."

MyOwnDoctor has also launched Partners for Heart & Health, a statewide network of nonprofits and faith-based organizations that work to address the social determinants and needs that prevent patients from achieving good health.

To launch MyOwnDoctor's Partners for Heart and Health Alliance, a program which will grant community organizations and their constituents the opportunity to join the Partners for Heart & Health online community and app. MyOwnDoctor will donate \$100,000 to Chicago-area nonprofits to assist them with access to educational health and wellness content, webinars and online events hosted by subject matter experts, and digital programming to provide them with whole health resources. The community recipients of this donation are CEDA, the Hope Center Foundation and EverThrive Illinois.

"For too long, our nation's health care system has failed our communities of color. Men, women, and babies of color are at increased risk of certain chronic conditions and diseases, as well as premature death," said Senator Dick Durbin. "Improving access to culturally specific care—and making it more widely available through telehealth platforms—will improve health outcomes and reduce disparities. I'm pleased to see MyOwnDoctor improve health equity and expand patients served."

Telehealth is a bridge between the healthcare system and some of its most marginalized patients. MyOwnDoctor's virtual care platform lets patients, providers, community partners and churches communicate and collaborate at any time, from anywhere. This event provided a unique approach to connect members to all the services they may need in one convenient place delivered by those they trust.

Visit [myowndocor.com](https://myowndocor.com) to learn more.

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### **About MyOwnDoctor**

MyOwnDoctor is a virtual care platform that provides healthcare plans, hospitals, physician practices, employers and patients access to a suite of comprehensive primary and specialty care telehealth services, care navigation and population health education—bridging the gap between the convenience of telemedicine and the continuity of local, in-person providers. Through leveraging community partners to anchor patient care close to home, MyOwnDoctor connects patients to culturally specific care with providers who understand their lived experience. MyOwnDoctor believes in a future where healthcare is accessible, equitable, and optimal for everyone. To learn more visit [myowndocor.com](https://myowndocor.com).