



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Renee Mahaffey Harris, President & CEO  
renee.mahaffeyharris@thehealthgap.org | 513-344-1350

## **Center for Closing the Health Gap to Host 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Expo as Virtual Event on April 24**

***Event brings health care information and access directly to Cincinnati residents, offers attendees free health education, fitness/cooking demos and entertainment***

**CINCINNATI, OHIO – APRIL 16, 2021** – The Center for Closing the Health Gap, a Cincinnati non-profit working to bring health care information and access to underserved communities, is presenting the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Expo in a virtual format on April 24 from 10am-4pm. After the pandemic canceled the 2020 event, the Health Expo returns with an incredible online program that includes health education sessions, fitness/cooking demonstrations and live entertainment, including concerts by national recording artists Vondale Batchelor and Urban Mystic. A 90-minute Health Expo feature will also be broadcast on WKRC’s Local 12 noon newscast on April 24. To see the full program lineup and register for free online access, visit [www.wemustsaveus.com](http://www.wemustsaveus.com).

The Health Expo program builds on the “We Must Save Us” campaign created by The Health Gap in 2020 to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 by empowering Black and Brown communities with information about why COVID disproportionately effects communities of color, dispelling misinformation with facts about vaccine safety and effectiveness.

“The Health Expo has always been our signature event and a critical way to reach our neighbors and residents who may have no other way to get accurate and important health information they can trust,” said Renee Mahaffey Harris, President and CEO of the Center for Closing the Health Gap. “We’ll miss interacting in person within our community in Washington Park like we usually do, but we didn’t want to miss the chance to connect with our neighbors virtually, share health facts specific to their situation, provide demonstrations and offer a break from the pandemic with some amazing and talented performers.”

In addition to the live entertainment concerts, the Health Expo will also include musical performances by Saxophonist Ed ‘Sax’ Thomas and Trumpeter and Band Leader Mike Wade.

There will also be a variety of cooking demonstrations and fun fitness programs as part of the Health Expo’s Movin’ & Groovin’ program, including:

Boxing Training	Danny Calhoun / Mayweather Fitness	11 a.m.
XTREME Hip Hop Step	Markesha Williams, Redefined Studios	11:30 a.m.
Yoga	Yonce Daniels	12 p.m.
Throw Back Aerobics	Melanie Moon	12:30 p.m.
Dance/Hip Hop Redefined	Markesha Williams, Redefined Studios	1 p.m.
Stretch and Strength for Over 60	Robert Bradley	1:30 p.m.
Abs (Stomach) and Glutes (Buttocks)	Morgan A. Owens, Curvey Cardio	2 p.m.
Body Rock Fitness Freestyle Movement	Phyllis Davis, Weight of Faith	2:30 p.m.

Zumba  
Full Body Conditioning

Patricia Dorsey  
Michelle Sneed, FitLife Training Center

3 p.m.  
3:30 p.m.

The Health Expo is made possible by generous support and sponsorship from a host of Cincinnati's leading healthcare, government, media, non-profit and business organizations, including:

- 101.1 FM WIZF
- The Christ Hospital Health Network
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital
- Cincinnati Herald
- Cincinnati Medical Association
- City of Cincinnati
- Fifth Third Bank
- Hamilton County
- Kroger
- Local 12 WKRC
- LULAC
- Mercy Health
- P&G
- Soul 101.5/1230AM
- Star 64 WSTR
- TriHealth
- UC Health
- Urban One
- US Bank

"To deliver a program like this in the midst of a pandemic takes a village, and we have been so encouraged by all of the support across our region," added Mahaffey Harris. "Over the past 16 Health Expo events, we've helped people get life-saving information and screenings. We've taught our neighbors ways for them to take control of their own health by building better eating and fitness habits, and stressing the importance of self-care. We've brought our community together around the big issues of race and racism and how it impacts the health of a city. That's the goal again this year, and we can't wait."

**About the Center for Closing the Health Gap in Greater Cincinnati**

The Center for Closing the Health Gap is Cincinnati's only grassroots organization that promotes awareness about health disparities through education, training, advocacy and outreach activities for organizations and individuals in Greater Cincinnati. The Center maximizes collaborative opportunities by working with organizations, associations, health institutions and other stakeholders to promote health and disease prevention. The Center's goal is to improve the health status of the African American, Latino and Appalachian populations.

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