

Orion Falvey, Orchid Health CEO and Founder: Three clinics, in Oakridge, Estacada, and Blue River.

Orion Falvey brought innovation and patient-centered health care to rural health clinics in Oakridge, Estacada, and Blue River – yes, that’s the McKenzie River Clinic that burned to the ground during the Holiday Farm fire just a few weeks ago. But the McKenzie River clinic staff have kept right on caring for their patients, working out of a quilt shop for now, and maybe moving to the basketball academy until they can rebuild. They’ve leased a mobile clinic as well, because nothing is going to stop Orion and his colleagues from serving their patients – nothing.

Orion’s staff nominated him for the 2020 Rural Health Hero of the Year because of his passion for the work and because of his compassion, for staff and patients. Orchid Health has a sliding scale for fees and OHP assistance, and has been a leader in establishing access to telehealth for patients, giving tablets to patients who lacked them. Despite the financial pressures resulting from the pandemic, Orion ensured job security for his staff, and employee happiness was at an all-time high during the pandemic. Last and far from least, Orion initiated Orchid Health’s Health Equity Initiative, focused on health disparities for people of color in rural Oregon.