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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHI St. Joseph Children's Health Awards More Than \$92,000 to Lancaster Nonprofits

Community Initiative Grant Program Focuses on Improving Lives of Lancaster County Children

LANCASTER, Pa. – CHI St. Joseph Children's Health, a community-based nonprofit dedicated to the health and well-being of children in Lancaster County, is proud to announce fall 2016 Community Initiatives Grant recipients. The grant winners were chosen through a competitive application process that focused on six strategic areas impacting the lives of local children. Six local nonprofit organizations were chosen for awards amounting to \$92,920.

"CHI St. Joseph Children's Health has been dedicated to improving the overall health and wellbeing of children in Lancaster County for the past 13 years," said Beth Grossmann, vice president of CHI St. Joseph Children's Health. "The Community Initiatives Grant program allows us to support other impactful nonprofits who share our mission and deliver critical services to children in our community."

CHI St. Joseph Children's Health was formed in 2000 as the nationwide Catholic healthcare system transitioned its local purpose from the provision of acute care (through the former St. Joseph Hospital) to the development and implementation of community-based programs and services designed to improve the health of the Lancaster community. Since 2004, the nonprofit has focused its programming and resources on efforts to improve the health and well-being of children. In addition to awarding Community Initiatives Grants, the nonprofit provides multiple health education programs for local schools and families; operates a Columbia-based Dental Center; and will open Lancaster-based Dental and Behavioral Health Centers in 2017.

"Improving the health of children in our community is a team effort, and CHI St. Joseph Children's Health believes in working in collaboration with other nonprofits and community organizations to make the most impact for families right here in our own backyard," said Grossmann.

Since the inception of the Community Initiatives Grant program in the fall of 2015, more than \$242,920 has been awarded to nonprofits throughout Lancaster. Community Initiative Grants may be requested in amounts up to \$20,000, and organizations may apply in more than one of the six strategic categories within the same year. The categories include oral health children's health and well-being; lead poisoning prevention, screening and abatement; childhood immunizations; violence prevention; and access to care. Grants are awarded through a competitive application process in the fall and spring.



Nonprofit organizations interested in applying for future Community Initiatives Grants can find application instructions and guidelines at www.stjosephchildrenshealth.org/community-initiatives-grants.

Fall 2016 Community Initiatives Grant Recipients

Clinic for Special Children

Plain Community Lead Outreach Program

Grant amount: \$15,500

Priority area: Lead Poisoning Prevention, Screening & Abatement

Studies suggest lead exposure in the Plain communities is approximately six times greater than the general population of Pennsylvania. The Clinic for Special Children seeks to expand its Plain Community Lead Outreach program by expanding the lead screening program, creating awareness of lead poisoning through the distribution of written materials and engagement of the community liaison. The Clinic will also purchase a LeadCare II system, which would allow the clinic to expand the reach of lead screening by seven times and will provide more resources to an underserved and at-risk population.

Diakon Youth Services

One Accord Lancaster: A Collaborative Community Violence Prevention Project

Grant amount: \$15,720

Priority area: Violence Prevention

Significant research indicates that the experience of detention makes it more likely youth will continue to engage in delinquent behavior, and that the detention experience increases the odds that youth will reoffend, further compromising public safety. This project will halt growth in the incidence of violence in the community, especially among youth, by supporting evidence-based, detention-alternative services and increasing youth, families' and the community's conflict resolution knowledge and social/emotional skills through education forums and trainings.

Hands Across the Street

Audio and Visual Presentation Equipment

Grant amount: \$1,700

Priority area: Children's Health and Well-Being

Hands Across the Street provides families and children in the Columbia area with services including a clothing bank to provide free clothing to needy families, a free community meal program and winter shelter, and a summer food service program. This grant provides audio and visual equipment to enable presentations and classes at special purpose gatherings and food service events.



Power Packs Project

Expansion of Power Packs Project in Suburbia

Grant amount: \$20,000

Priority area: Children's Health and Well-Being

According to Power Packs Project, poverty in the suburbs is growing at a rate 60 percent faster than that in urban areas. Underemployment and lack of resources has attributed to the growing needs of those in the increasing social economic class, the working poor. Power Packs has restructured its model so that it could meet the rising needs of those living in suburban school districts in Lancaster County. The new model will maintain those characteristics that have made them successful but will further increase awareness, training, oversight, participant sensitivity, as well as further integrate community involvement so that participation in the suburban school districts can grow by 30 percent by November 2017.

SouthEast Lancaster Health Services

Lead Free Kids Program

Grant amount: \$20,000

Priority area: Lead Poisoning Prevention, Screening & Abatement

Lead Free Kids will test every child seen by SouthEast under the age of six years old regardless if they are insured or not because of the risk of neurological damage to a young child when contaminated with lead. During a child's well-child checkup, the clinical staff will use the Lead Care II analyzer to take a capillary sample to test for an elevated blood lead level (EBLL). The clinical staff will be able to provide the patient with results of the blood sample within three minutes. Those whose tests show elevated levels will be connected to additional services.

Lancaster Family YMCA

2nd Grade Learn to Swim Initiative

Grant amount: \$20,000

Priority area: Children's Health and Well-Being

The Lancaster Family YMCA, in collaboration with the Lancaster Recreation Commission and the School District of Lancaster, intends to ensure that all School District of Lancaster 2nd graders are taught how to swim. Knowing how to swim is a critical life skill, although access to swim lessons for many is a challenge. Funding will provide transportation for these students from their schools to the YMCA on a weekly basis.

About CHI St. Joseph Children's Health

A part of Catholic Health Initiatives, CHI St. Joseph Children's Health is a community-based organization dedicated to the health and wellbeing of children in Lancaster County. The organization works in collaboration with community partners to assure access to appropriate, quality health services for every child in the Lancaster community. This mission in children's health began with the development of Brush.Brush.Smile!®, a mobile dental clinic program, and now includes multiple efforts, programs and services committed to improving the health of children and expanding healthcare access for children and families throughout the Lancaster community. The CHI St. Joseph Children's Health Dental Center is



located at 401 Locust Street in Columbia and serves as a dental home for children throughout Lancaster County. No insurance is required to receive service; however, CHIP, Medicaid and private insurance are accepted. CHI St. Joseph Children's Health will open a second Dental Center and a Behavioral Health Center in 2017. For more information about CHI St. Joseph Children's Health, visit www.CHIstjosephchildrenshealth.org.

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