



The MetroHealth System
2500 MetroHealth Drive
Cleveland OH 44109-1998

News Release

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Contact: Luzon Thomas
216-778-2541
or lhthomas@metrohealth.org

\$500,000 Historic Gift Helps Restore Health and Vitality to Old Brooklyn Neighborhood

Largest grant ever by Deaconess Community Foundation commemorates decades of caring and commitment in the community

(Cleveland, Ohio) – Building upon its legacy of caring and commitment in the community, Deaconess Community Foundation has awarded its largest grant ever to a new senior health care delivery model that will breathe new life into the former Deaconess Hospital and revitalize the Old Brooklyn neighborhood surrounding it. The Foundation has committed \$500,000 over five years to fund the Senior Health and Wellness Center, a unique collaborative center opening this fall in the once shuttered hospital, to keep seniors as healthy and independent as possible.

“The Foundation’s objective is to fund projects that empower people toward self-sufficiency, and what better way to commemorate our 10th anniversary than by awarding our largest gift to an initiative designed to help seniors in our community live longer and healthier lives,” said Deborah Vesey, president of Deaconess Community Foundation. “We were particularly impressed by the collaborative nature of the project. Once we saw how these organizations had come together to fulfill such a critical need, we knew we wanted to be a part of it.”

The Senior Health and Wellness Center is a partnership between MetroHealth and three other senior health organizations recognized for caring for the aging population – Benjamin Rose, Concordia Care, and the Visiting Nurse Association’s Hospice and Palliative Care Partners of Ohio. This one-of-a-kind collaboration will provide a one-stop location for all levels of senior health needs, including preventive and wellness care, geriatric and specialty care, adult day care, skilled nursing, and hospice care.

“This grant is a testament to the Foundation’s devotion to the community once served by Deaconess Hospital,” said James Campbell, M.D., MetroHealth’s chair of Family Medicine and director of Geriatric Health. “Their gift is a tremendous vote of confidence in our unique approach, which has the potential to transform the delivery of senior health care in this country and has already begun to transform the economic landscape in Old Brooklyn.”

Mary-Scott Cebul, Foundation chair, has also noted the difference.

“There’s an energy and optimism that has already begun to bring businesses to the area and to restore the spirit of community that stimulates economic growth and strength in historic neighborhoods such as this,” said Ms. Cebul said. “This first-of-its-kind partnership has ensured the continued health and vitality of our community and its residents, which is why we’re absolutely thrilled to support the collaborative in its effort.”

Former Deaconess Health Systems chair and current Foundation trustee, David Doll, also applauds the partnership’s efforts: “For years MetroHealth was a dedicated health care partner in helping Deaconess Hospital to care for the Cleveland community. Their assistance in providing for those in need, regardless of ability to pay, strengthened Deaconess’ ability to serve the Old Brooklyn community. We are honored they are choosing to continue this legacy of care with their new health care partners.”

When the \$65 million Center officially opens in October of this year, it’s expected to generate \$260 million in economic benefit within its first five years of operation. According to a review by Deloitte Consulting, the project will reduce Medicaid and Medicare costs by \$55 million and will create 700 jobs generating \$22 million in state and local income taxes and provide 740,000 patient and family encounters.

The Senior Health and Wellness Center is MetroHealth’s single largest fundraising initiative. The grant from Deaconess Community Foundation adds to the more than \$13 million in philanthropic and government support received, to date, for the project.

MetroHealth acquired the former Deaconess Hospital for \$3.8 million in April of 2005 and reopened the shuttered hospital in October 2005 to accommodate a data center and new offices for 450 employees in information technology and financial services.

The MetroHealth System is one of the nation’s largest and most successful public health care providers, offering health care for the most critically injured trauma victim to skilled nursing care for the chronically ill. Affiliated with Case Western Reserve University since 1914, MetroHealth continues its long-standing teaching reputation and research excellence, offering vital training and research opportunities for students and physicians. MetroHealth conducts cutting-edge research in biomedical sciences, particularly in the areas of cancer, heart, liver, and kidney research. For more information about The MetroHealth System, visit www.metrohealth.org.

The MetroHealth Foundation is instrumental in supporting The MetroHealth System’s mission of providing high quality health care regardless of ability to pay and its vision of being a national leader in preserving and promoting community health. The Foundation collaborates with The MetroHealth System in determining strategic objectives for growth and proactively pursues philanthropic support opportunities to secure the mission and vision. The MetroHealth Foundation funds programs and projects in patient care, scientific and clinical research, and medical education.

Deaconess Community Foundation was founded in 1994 when Deaconess Health Systems, the parent of Deaconess Hospital of Cleveland and several other hospital-related concerns, sold the hospital to a for-profit company. The Foundation provides resources that help organizations empower people to become self-sufficient, and its actions are guided by the spiritual traditions of the United Church of Christ.