

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

UNITED HEALTH FOUNDATION PROVIDES \$3.3 MILLION GRANT TO DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY SERVICES OF NEW ORLEANS FOR NEW COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

MINNETONKA, Minn. – (May 17, 2010) – United Health Foundation has announced a new three-year, \$3.3 million grant to Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans to help support and expand the new Daughters of Charity Health Center-St. Cecilia.

This grant recognizes the success that Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans has had in expanding access to quality health care to the people of New Orleans and, specifically, the Bywater community in the 9th Ward of New Orleans.

The newly renovated facility provides an improved setting for the innovative medical home model of care that Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans uses to serve patients. This integrated approach, which includes a team of health professionals consisting of a physician, nurse care manager, behavioral health care manager and case manager assistant, has proved effective in caring for patients with multiple chronic conditions.

“United Health Foundation’s support has provided us with the means to fully implement the medical home model in this community,” said Michael Griffin, CEO of Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans. “Together, we have made a significant commitment to the people of this neighborhood that we will provide the highest level of care possible to everyone who walks through our doors.”

Community health centers are a vital resource and provide a critical piece of a community’s health care infrastructure. United Health Foundation has supported Daughters of Charity Health Center-St. Cecilia as part of the Foundation’s Community Health Centers of Excellence initiative since 2006. The initiative emphasizes preventive care, coordination of care and use of nationally recognized standards of treatment, tailored to the unique needs of each community. Since 2003, United Health Foundation has committed more than \$24 million to this program.

A study of the quality of care at the community health centers released by George Washington University found that, based on national standards, the quality of care they provided is at or above that available in the private sector. The measures used in the evaluation included screening for cervical cancer and tobacco use; quality of care furnished to people with diabetes and asthma; frequency of prenatal care HIV screening; and patient-satisfaction levels.

“The people of New Orleans and especially the Bywater community in the 9th Ward face significant health and social challenges,” said Jeannine Rivet, interim president of United Health Foundation and executive vice president of UnitedHealth Group. “We hope this grant will make a significant difference in advancing quality and affordable care delivery in this community.”

About Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans

Using the medical home model, Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans provides community-based healthcare to residents of the greater New Orleans area at medical centers located at St. Cecilia in Bywater; on S. Carrollton Avenue, Uptown; and on N. Causeway Blvd. in Metairie. United Health Foundation provides support for the medical home model at St. Cecilia. DCSNO is a health ministry of Ascension Health, the nation’s largest Catholic, non-profit health system. The Daughters of Charity have been providing compassionate care to the people of New Orleans since 1830.

About the United Health Foundation

Guided by a passion to help people live healthier lives, United Health Foundation provides helpful information to support decisions that lead to better health outcomes and healthier communities. The Foundation also supports activities that expand access to quality health care services for those in challenging circumstances and partners with others to improve the well being of communities. Since established by UnitedHealth Group [NYSE: UNH] in 1999 as a not for profit, private foundation, the Foundation has committed more than \$176 million to improve health and health care. For more information, visit www.unitedhealthfoundation.org.

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