

NEWS RELEASE

For more information, call:

Patrick O'Sullivan, 501-378-2221

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blue & You Foundation awards \$2.9 million in grants to improve health

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (November 13, 2015) – From walking trails, to food pantries to training first responders, the Blue & You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas touches the lives of many Arkansans. The Foundation recently awarded a total of \$2,942,858 in grants to 40 health improvement programs in Arkansas.

“Our grants this year went to programs across the state that address such issues as nutrition and exercise, dental health, and medical professional education,” said Patrick O’Sullivan, executive director of the Blue & You Foundation.

Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield established the Blue & You Foundation in 2001 as a charitable foundation to promote better health in Arkansas. The Blue & You Foundation awards grants annually to non-profit or governmental organizations and programs that positively affect the health of Arkansans.

In its 14 years of operation, the Blue & You Foundation has awarded more than \$24 million to 766 health improvement programs in Arkansas.

The grants awarded for 2016 are:

Alpena School District, Alpena (\$149,991) - *Alpena Elementary Community Playground Program* will improve the school playground for students and community members in Boone and Carroll Counties.

Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Little Rock (\$5,000) - *Statistical and Informational Database Program* will create a database to share availability information between shelters, track and report statistical data as required by the National Coalition Office, and track employee training hours and funding sources.

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Arkansas Department of Education, Little Rock (\$150,000) - *SPARK It Up Arkansas PE Program* will provide professional development for physical education teachers in Arkansas, through SPARK K-2 and SPARK 3-6 evidence-based curriculum and equipment.

Arkansas Hospice, North Little Rock (\$150,000) - *Arkansas Palliative Care Program* will implement a new subsidiary organization called Arkansas Palliative Care to serve 360 seriously ill inpatient and homebound patients in White County through Unity Health (formerly White County Medical Center) in Searcy.

Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Little Rock (\$128,276) – *Arkansas Hunger and Nutrition Initiative Program* will reduce hunger by increasing healthy food access, nutrition and knowledge for thousands of food insecure Arkansans in all 75 counties.

Baxter Regional Medical Center, Mountain Home (\$150,000) - *Community Paramedic Pilot Project* will fill preventive, health-care gaps for Baxter, Fulton, Izard and Marion County patients having a history of early re-admissions, frequent falls and overuse of ambulance and ER services.

Camp Aldersgate, Little Rock (\$6,144) - *Unit-Dose Packaging Program* will provide a more efficient, secure method of medication distribution to Camp's participants by using high-barrier blister packages, direct thermal label seals and sealing trays.

Centerpoint School District, Amity (\$150,000) - *Centerpoint Elementary Playground and Fitness Trail Program* will improve the health of families in Pike and Clark Counties by providing playground equipment, a fitness trail and fitness stations.

City of Batesville (\$144,505) - *Recreation Center Exercise Equipment Program* will purchase exercise equipment for the city fitness center.

City of Bono (\$9,300) - *Senior Workout and Fitness Room Program* will provide a workout space for 250 seniors in Craighead County by outfitting a 16' by 40' building addition and buying exercise equipment.

City of Camden (\$150,000) - *Fighting Obesity with Fitness Program* will place a piece of active play equipment at each workout area along the Trace, a three mile handicap accessible trail that goes through the heart of Camden.

City of McGehee (\$3,500) - *Medical Kits for McGehee Police Officers Program* will provide police officers with Elite First Aid Tactical Trauma Kits to aid McGehee residents.

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City of Thornton (\$8,500) - *Fit-Trail Program* will install exercise stations in the city park and on the walking trail.

City of Wilson (\$84,550) - *Exercise for Life* will build a walking trail with fitness stations for adults and children in Mississippi County.

Community Clinic at St. Francis House, Springdale (\$45,752) – *Patient Engagement Through eClinicalMessenger Program* will improve patient-provider communication and disease management for 30,000 underserved residents in Washington and Benton Counties. The messaging program contacts patients regarding appointments, drug refills, preventive healthcare services and disease management.

Community First Wellness, Nashville (\$45,500) - *Eating Fresh in Howard County Program* will train school and community members in healthy living programs so they may train others.

Community Services Clearinghouse, Fort Smith (\$25,000) - *Meals for Kids Program* will provide weekend bags of food for 2,000 school children in Sebastian, Crawford, Logan, Scott and Franklin Counties.

El Zocalo Immigrant Resource Center, Little Rock (\$9,500) - *Feeding Mouths, Empowering Minds Program* will improve the health and wellness of low-income immigrant families in Central Arkansas through access to healthy foods and health education.

Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, Hot Springs Village (\$5,260) – *Let's Stay Home Program* will provide specialized care for 20 people living with Alzheimer's in Hot Springs Village through training of caregivers.

Faulkner County Council on Aging, Conway (\$37,136) - *Meals on Wheels Program* will provide hot, nutritious daily meals to home-bound seniors in Faulkner County.

Fayetteville School District #1, Fayetteville (\$120,000) – *Bike FIT at FPS Program* will improve the health of over 4,000 students in Fayetteville Schools by building bike tracks and trails.

Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, Jonesboro (\$34,411) - *Backpack Program* will provide healthy foods to 595 children in northeast Arkansas.

FoodShare and Opportunity Network, Prescott (\$14,500) - *Food on the Move Program* will provide nutritious food to underserved residents of Nevada, Hempstead and Clark Counties.

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Fulton County Hospital, Salem (\$85,000) - *Upgrade of X-Ray Room Program* will improve the Radiology service provided to residents of Fulton, Sharp and Izard Counties by purchasing a Siemens Multix Fusion X-Ray System.

Greater Delta Alliance for Health, DeWitt (\$127,632) – *OB Simulation Training Program* will expand on-site simulation training for rural health hospital teams for OB emergencies as well as provide Neonatal Resuscitation Program certification training to hospital delivery staff in the Arkansas Delta.

Harvest Texarkana Regional Food Bank, Texarkana (\$25,000) - *Mobile Pantry Support Program* will provide nutritious, shelf-stable foods for 8,000 food insecure individuals in southwest Arkansas.

Healthy Connections, Mena (\$144,052) - *Dental Care Fridays Program* will provide emergency dental care and dental education on Fridays for up to 200 patients without dental insurance in west central Arkansas.

March of Dimes Arkansas Chapter, Little Rock (\$20,000) - *Family-centered Care in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Program* will implement the NICU Family Support program to provide comfort, information and critical health-care messages to families in crisis.

North Arkansas College Foundation, Harrison (\$150,000) - *Health Education Simulation Center Program* will build a simulation center to train students in health education programs.

Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter, Bentonville (\$19,800) - *Trauma-Informed Training Program* will provide evidence-based, trauma-informed behavioral management training for up to 100 staff members who care for abused and neglected children in northwest Arkansas.

Park Partners of Fort Smith, Fort Smith (\$150,000) - *Rice-Carden Levee Trail Program* will pave the existing trail to provide a safer environment for exercise for Fort Smith residents.

Project HOPE Foodbank, Hot Springs (\$15,000) - *School Emergency Backpack Program* will provide weekend meals to food-insecure children in Garland County.

Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Northwest Arkansas, Fayetteville (\$3,500) - *Scholarships Support Success Program* will provide financial assistance to low-income, single parents pursuing medical education in northwest Arkansas.

Texarkana Arkansas Police Department, Texarkana (\$25,000) - *Youth 2 Leadership Program* will establish positive community programs to impact the health of youth in Miller, Little River, Lafayette, Sevier, Hempstead, Nevada and Pike Counties.

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Tri County Rural Health Network, West Helena (\$119,457) - *Patients Advancing their Health in the Delta Program* will improve the health outcomes and reduce medical costs for 100 patients in the Delta using a pilot intervention program.

University of Arkansas at Hope-Texarkana Foundation, Hope (\$40,450) - *Project True to Life Program* will enhance the education of health-profession students by providing an ambulance simulator.

University of Arkansas Foundation (UAMS), Little Rock (\$110,752) - *Simulation Outreach to Address Patient Safety (SOAPS) Program* will improve patient safety outcomes related to health-care associated infections and sepsis in targeted hospitals beginning with interventions in the Delta region and expanding across the state.

University of Arkansas Foundation (UALR), Little Rock (\$95,801) - *Manikin Replacement Program* will replace outdated and unsupported human patient simulators with a SimMan3G, for use by nursing students.

Washington Regional Medical Foundation, Fayetteville (\$144,589) - *Mobile Dental Unit Program* will provide dental services to 1,250 uninsured and low-income adults throughout Northwest Arkansas.

WelcomeHealth, Fayetteville (\$40,000) - *Keep Your Smile Program* will provide dental hygiene services for at least 520 low-income, uninsured adults from Washington and Benton Counties.

The Blue & You Foundation received 210 grant applications requesting \$16 million in support. The 2016 grant selections were made by Blue & You Foundation board members: Susan Brittain, Malvern; Robert V. Brothers, Bentonville; Robert D. Cabe, chairman of the board, Little Rock; Marla Johnson, Little Rock; Mahlon Maris, M.D., Harrison; J. Thomas May, Pine Bluff; and Sherman Tate, Little Rock.

The application deadline for the foundation's next funding cycle is Jul. 15, 2016. For more information about the grant application process, visit the foundation Web site at www.BlueAndYouFoundationArkansas.org.

The foundation is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association and serves the state of Arkansas. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.