# AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation Connections for Cardiovascular Health<sup>SM</sup>

## **News Release**

## ASTRAZENECA HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION AWARDS \$163,387 GRANT TO CATHERINE'S HEALTH CENTER

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (Feb. 11, 2014)** – The AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation's *Connections for Cardiovascular Health* Program today announced a grant of \$163,387 to Catherine's Health Center to support its Live Heart Smart initiative. This is the second consecutive year in which Catherine's Health Center has received a grant from the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation, totaling \$325,337.

Live Heart Smart helps low-income, medically underserved residents of the Grand Rapids community become aware of their personal risk factors for cardiovascular disease and identify and implement lifestyle changes that will assist them in becoming and remaining healthy.

"In a word, we're thrilled that the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation *Connections for Cardiovascular Health* program honored us with a grant to provide at-risk people access to screening, information and more to help improve heart health in our community," said Karen Kaashoek, executive director, Catherine's Health Center. "Through the Live Heart Smart program, we've seen people make real changes, invest in heart-healthy lifestyles, and improve their health."

As a result of previous funding from the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation, in 2013, the program enrolled more than 1,000 participants who engaged in one or more intervention activities. More than half of these participants have decreased their blood pressure and nearly half have decreased their BMI. In addition, more than 500 participants decreased their total cholesterol.

"Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States, and organizations like Catherine's Health Center are creating innovative programs to help prevent and decrease the associated risks with this devastating disease," said James W. Blasetto, M.D., MPH, FACC, chairman of the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation. "We are grateful to Catherine's Health Center for its commitment to improving heart health in their community."

The *Connections for Cardiovascular Health* program annually awards grants of \$150,000 or more to U.S.-based nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving cardiovascular health in local communities. This year, the program awarded nearly \$3.7 million in grants to 19 organizations. More than \$14 million in grants have been awarded through the program since its inception in 2010.

Organizations can learn more and apply online for a *Connections for Cardiovascular Health* grant at <a href="https://www.astrazeneca-us.com/foundation">www.astrazeneca-us.com/foundation</a>. Applications must be submitted online no later than 5 p.m. EST on Feb. 27, 2014.

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#### **About Catherine's Health Center**

Established in 1996, Catherine's Health Center is a 501(c)(3) safety net medical clinic, serving more than 6,000 patients annually. Using a small core of paid staff and many dedicated volunteers, Catherine's mission is to provide free or low-cost medical services to low-income, uninsured and underinsured residents of Kent County. Learn more at www.catherineshc.org.

### **About AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation**

Established in 1993, the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation is a Delaware not-for-profit corporation and a 501(c)(3) entity organized for charitable purposes, including to promote public awareness of healthcare issues, to promote public education of medical knowledge, and to support or contribute to charitable and qualified exempt organizations consistent with its charitable purpose. *Connections for Cardiovascular Health*<sup>SM</sup> was launched in 2010 through a charitable contribution of \$25 million from AstraZeneca.

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