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Catherine's Health Center Receives Grant from AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation *Connections for Cardiovascular HealthSM* Program

AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation Recognizes Catherine's Health Center's Commitment to Improve Cardiovascular Health

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Catherine's Health Center is one of only 10 nonprofit organizations from across the country awarded a grant from the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation's *Connections for Cardiovascular HealthSM* program in recognition of its efforts to improve cardiovascular health in local communities. The \$171,239 grant will fund the Whole Hearts program.

This is the fifth grant Catherine's Health Center has received from the Foundation, which provides annual awards to U.S.-based nonprofit organizations engaged in improving cardiovascular health in their communities.

"Heart disease is our number one killer in Michigan," says Karen Kaashoek, Executive Director, adding that people with limited access to care are more likely to be impacted than others. "With this grant people with few resources have new hope, help and opportunities for reducing their risks. Our patients and we are deeply grateful for the generous support from AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation's *Connections for Cardiovascular HealthSM* program that makes hope possible."

The grant from the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation will help Catherine's Health Center address both heart and mental health issues that commonly occur in combination. It will help alleviate mental illness as an obstacle to living heart smart and will allow people living in poverty to achieve better cardiac and overall health outcomes. By providing funding for the Whole Hearts program, which builds on the Live HeartSmart programs Catherine's offers, the Foundation takes a key role in

reducing patients' risks for heart disease, improving patients' mental health and improving overall community health.

"Cardiovascular disease afflicts too many of our families, friends and neighbors," said James W. Blasetto, MD, MPH, FACC, chairman of the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation. "The AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation is proud to support Catherine's Health Center's innovative program to help prevent and reduce cardiovascular disease in their community."*

This year, the Foundation has awarded almost \$1.8 million in *Connections for Cardiovascular HealthSM* grants to 10 organizations. Since its inception in 2010, the Foundation has awarded nearly \$21 million in grants to programs that encourage healthy behaviors in settings where people live, work, learn and play. Organizations must demonstrate the effectiveness of their programs and are eligible to receive up to three years of awards.

*This quote is subject to change at the Foundation's discretion.

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About Catherine's Health Center

Catherine's Health Center is an independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit safety net health clinic located in northeast Grand Rapids, Michigan. We provide high quality, affordable and compassionate health care to people who must rely on the safety net. More information is available at 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 HealthSM* was launched in 2010 through a charitable contribution of \$25 million from AstraZeneca.

Media Inquiries

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