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American Cancer Society Grant Will Promote Health Equity in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, LA (December 28, 2014) – On December 18, the American Cancer Society announce that a \$50,000 grant has been awarded to Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans to provide cancer awareness, education, and screening for breast cancer to individuals in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, as well as surrounding areas.

The grant is part of a \$6.4 million gift from the Walgreens Way To Well Commitment® program that engages Walgreens customers in supporting the American Cancer Society's Community Health Advocates implementing Nationwide Grants for Empowerment and Equity (CHANGE) program. Funding for the CHANGE grants comes from Walgreens customers nationwide, who choose to donate to the American Cancer Society as they pay for their purchases at checkout. The CHANGE grants help promote health equity and ensure that communities with a higher burden of cancer have equal access to education and screening resources.

At a recent check presentation from the American Cancer Society to Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans, representatives with both organizations expressed gratitude in this partnership, which aims for a strong boost in the community's health awareness on breast cancer.

"It is very exciting to work with Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans," says Clara Carruth, Account Representative, Primary Care Systems for the American Cancer Society.

"Working together on this grant will help us reach even more women with education and

services they need to either fight the cancer, tell a loved one about screening, or reduce their cancer risk altogether.”

“As part of our comprehensive treatment of all of our patients, this funding assist us in delivering the highest quality care to everyone, says Michael G. Griffin, President & CEO, Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans. “Screening and early detection of breast cancer is one of the most important women’s health issues. This generous funding from the American Cancer Society helps make this treatment a reality for so many in need.”

According to the American Cancer Society, disparities predominantly arise from inequities in work, wealth, income, education, housing, and overall standard of living, as well as social barriers to high-quality cancer prevention, early detection and treatment services. Additionally, persons with lower socioeconomic status are more likely to experience increased cancer risks due to tobacco use, physical inactivity and poor diet due to environmental or community barriers that provide fewer opportunities for physical activity and less access to fruits and vegetables.

The Society collaborates with community health partners to reach individuals in communities with high burdens of cancer and limited access to cancer screening. Through the CHANGE program, the Society provides resources to increase cancer screening rates in those communities. Since 2011, CHANGE has awarded 300 grants to partners reaching underserved communities across the country; educating over 795,000 individuals about cancer risk and prevention, and providing over 140,000 cancer screenings.

The Walgreens Way to Well Commitment program, which focuses on improving everyday health through the prevention and early detection of leading diseases, has been a supporter of the CHANGE grant program since 2012. But the company’s overall support of the Society spans two decades and has helped to raise a total of \$23 million to date in local communities throughout the country in partnership with their customers. In addition to funding CHANGE grants, Walgreens served as a corporate enrollment site for the Society’s Cancer Prevention Study 3 (CPS-3), the historic research study that will help cancer researchers discover more ways to prevent, detect and treat cancer and save more lives.

About the American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is a global grassroots force of more than three million volunteers saving lives and fighting for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. As the largest voluntary health organization, the Society's efforts have contributed to a 20 percent decline in cancer death rates in the U.S. since 1991, and a 50 percent drop in smoking rates. Thanks in part to our progress nearly 14 million Americans who have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will celebrate more birthdays this year. We're determined to finish the fight against cancer. We're finding cures as the nation's largest private, not-for-profit investor in cancer research, ensuring people facing cancer have the help they need and continuing the fight for access to quality health care, lifesaving screenings, clean air, and more. For more information, to get help, or to join the fight, call us anytime, day or night, at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

About Walgreens

As the nation's largest drugstore chain with fiscal 2012 sales of \$72 billion, Walgreens (www.walgreens.com) vision is to be the first choice in health and daily living for everyone in America, and beyond. Each day, Walgreens provides more than 6 million customers the most convenient, multichannel access to consumer goods and services and trusted, cost-effective pharmacy, health and wellness services and advice in communities across America. Walgreens scope of pharmacy services includes retail, specialty, infusion, medical facility and mail service, along with respiratory services. These services improve health outcomes and lower costs for payers including employers, managed care organizations, health systems, pharmacy benefit managers and the public sector. The company operates 8,105 drugstores in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Take Care Health Systems is a Walgreens subsidiary that is the largest and most comprehensive manager of worksite health and wellness centers, medical practices, and in-store convenient care clinics, with more than 700 locations throughout the country.

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