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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 11/30/20

Heart of Ohio Family Health Receives Grant to Address Racial Disparities in Cancer Care

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Heart of Ohio Family Health (HOFHC) has received a grant of \$162,045 from the American Cancer Society (ACS) and Pfizer. As one of ten recipients for the highly competitive statewide grant, the goal of the program is to reduce systemic barriers and address disparities in the delivery of cancer care impacting the Black and African American community.

“Fifty-four percent of our patient population is Black or African American. There is a disproportionate curve for them due to health and systemic disparities,” Chief Executive Officer Dr. Buhari Mohammed said. “Our team is dedicated to overcoming those disparities with the given grant.”

The Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that Black and African Americans have the highest rates of any racial and ethnic group for all cancer obstacles, such as cancer prevention and treatment. Many live in low-income neighborhoods making access to high-quality health care difficult to procure. However, HOFHC’s five health centers are located in the most high-risk areas of Franklin County which prioritize vulnerable families and individuals.

“We plan to use a multifaceted, evidence-based approach to address breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings. Through a combination of case management and enhanced access to services, we hope to address the social determinants of health that lead to health disparity,” Director of Clinical Services and Quality Improvement David Brewer said.

The program will be led by Brewer and his team of Quality Improvement Specialists (QI), Patient Care Navigators (PC) and Community Health Workers (CHW). Understanding that Black people are disproportionately impacted by cancer, HOFHC will implement innovative solutions to support its local community.

About Heart of Ohio Family Health

Heart of Ohio Family Health (HOFHC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit health care provider committed to serving all groups, ethnicities, and communities in Central Ohio since 2003. Operating as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), we offer services in primary care, pediatrics,



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behavioral health, substance use disorder, OBGYN, diagnostic laboratory, pharmacy, dietetics & nutrition, and interpretation.

To read all of Heart of Ohio Family Health COVID-19 news updates, visit <https://heartofohiofamilyhealth.org/our-community/covid-19-updates>.

To learn more about Heart of Ohio Family Health, visit www.heartofohiofamilyhealth.org.

About The American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is a global grassroots force of 1.5 million volunteers dedicated to saving lives, celebrating lives, and leading the fight for a world without cancer. From breakthrough research, to free lodging near treatment, a 24/7/365 live helpline, free rides to treatment, and convening powerful activists to create awareness and impact, the Society is attacking cancer from every angle. The Society does not endorse any product or service.

For more information go to www.cancer.org.