

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION FOCUS OF HEALTH FOUNDATION GRANT

Greater Rochester Health Foundation Awards Opportunity Grant to Anthony L. Jordan Health Center

ROCHESTER, N.Y., March 10, 2015 – Greater Rochester Health Foundation has awarded a three-year grant of up to \$396,449 to Anthony L. Jordan Health Center to improve patient compliance with prescribed medication regimens.

It has been shown that effective provider/patient communication is empirically linked to positive health outcomes. Essie Calhoun-McDavid, chair of the board of directors of Greater Rochester Health Foundation, explains the board's decision to fund the program. "The American College of Preventive Medicine says people with chronic medical conditions only take half of their prescribed medications. This puts patients at substantially greater risk for hospitalization, rehospitalization and premature death."

By improving compliance with prescribed medication regimens, the program's goal is to see a 15% increase in the number of adult patients with diabetes, whose HbA1c is less than 8%.

The health center will collaborate with Wegmans School of Pharmacy at St. John Fisher College to integrate clinical pharmacists into primary care teams. "This is an excellent example of a successful pilot program that showed a significant improvement in hemoglobin A1c in patients with Type 2 diabetes mellitus and is ready for implementation on a larger scale. The program will also include hypertensive patients," said John Urban, president and CEO of the Health Foundation.

Janice Harbin, DDS, CEO of Jordan Health Center, says the issue of medication compliance is complex. "There are probably 50 factors that come into play for medication compliance. It involves everything from literacy to the complexity of the medication regimen, the relationship between patient and provider, family support, medical and emotional conditions, the ability to see clearly enough to read the label and a person's ability to swallow a pill. People are sometimes fearful of potential side effects or just become overwhelmed. Our goal is to provide patients with the information they need in a manner they understand to support their compliance so their diabetes and/or hypertension stays under control."

About Greater Rochester Health Foundation:

The mission of Greater Rochester Health Foundation is to improve the health status of residents of the Greater Rochester community, including people whose unique health care needs have not been met because of race, ethnicity, or income. For more information, please visit www.thegrhf.org.