



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The FATHER Project Receives Donation from Peace Lutheran Church of Nevis

PARK RAPIDS, MN (August 4, 2016) – Peace Lutheran Church of Nevis chose The FATHER Project, CHI St. Joseph's Health Community Health, as the beneficiary of their local mission support. Members of Peace Lutheran's Evangelism Committee learned about The FATHER Project's work with fathers and families in our area and was moved by their efforts and accomplishments. In accepting the \$2500 gift for the program, Joe Johnson, FATHER Project Coordinator, remarked, "We are blessed and beyond grateful for this generous gift from the Peace Lutheran Church of Nevis for work with dads and their families."

The FATHER Project was started in 2011 to assist low-income and non-custodial dads in overcoming barriers that prevent them from supporting their children economically and emotionally. The project helps fathers become more involved in their children's lives. Individuals served by the program face barriers such as poverty, a history with the criminal justice system, lack of a high school diploma or GED, unemployment or under-employment, child support arrears and/or instability in family relationships. It is designed to assist fathers in achieving individualized goals related to parenting, employment, legal services related to access and visitation, and educational achievement.

Over the past five years, 260 dads have been enrolled in The FATHER Project and been empowered to overcome the barriers that prevented them from supporting their children economically and emotionally. "By eliminating barriers and providing a variety of services, we

have addressed many social issues affecting our community. We continue to help each individual along the path to achieving goals and becoming independent, productive members for their families and communities.” said RaeAnn Mayer, CHI St. Joseph’s Health Community Health Director.

To learn more about the FATHER Project, to sign up or contribute, please call 218.255.2063.

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Cutline

Pictured, l to r: (front row) Joe Johnson, CHI St. Joseph’s Health Community Health FATHER Project Coordinator; Karla Forsberg, daughter; Scott Forsberg, father and (back row) Gary Nicklason, chairperson of Peace Lutheran’s Evangelism Committee.

About CHI St. Joseph’s Health

CHI St. Joseph’s Health is a 25-bed critical access hospital serving communities in Hubbard, Becker, Cass and Wadena Counties since 1946. In recent years, CHI St. Joseph’s Health’s award-winning teams received several national honors including: The Joint Commission Top Performer on Key Quality Measures in surgery; Top 100 Critical Access Hospital, HealthStrong; WomenCertified’s America’s Best Hospitals Women’s Choice Award in obstetrics; and the Studer Group Fire Starter Healthcare Organization of the Month among other national, regional and state recognitions.

About CHI

Catholic Health Initiatives, a nonprofit, faith-based health system formed in 1996 through the consolidation of four Catholic health systems, expresses its mission each day by creating and nurturing healthy communities in the hundreds of sites across the nation where we provide care. The nation’s third-largest nonprofit health system, Englewood, Colorado-based CHI operates in 18 states and comprises 103

hospitals, including four academic health centers and major teaching hospitals as well as 30 critical-access facilities; community health-services organizations; accredited nursing colleges; home-health agencies; living communities; and other facilities and services that span the inpatient and outpatient continuum of care. In fiscal year 2015, CHI provided almost \$970 million in charity care and community benefit - an 8% increase over the previous year -- for programs and services for the poor, free clinics, education and research. Charity care and community benefit totaled more than \$1.6 billion with the inclusion of the unpaid costs of Medicare. The health system, which generated operating revenues of \$15.2 billion in fiscal year 2015, has total assets of approximately \$23 billion. Learn more at www.catholichealthinitiatives.org.

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