



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The FATHER Project Receives Donation from Bank Forward of Walker**

PARK RAPIDS, MN (March 2, 2017) – Bank Forward of Walker chose The FATHER Project, CHI St. Joseph's Health Community Health, as the beneficiary of their recent donation. Members of the Walker community learned about expansion of The FATHER Project in Walker and were moved by their efforts and accomplishments in working with fathers and families. In accepting the \$1,000 gift for the program, Joe Johnson, FATHER Project Coordinator, remarked, "We are blessed and beyond grateful for this generous gift from Bank Forward and are excited to be expanding a group site into the Walker community."

Since launching in 2011, CHI St. Joseph's Health Community Health FATHER Project has been making a positive impact in the community by providing life-changing support for families. The Project's mission is to help any and all fathers, custodial or non-custodial, or anyone filling in as a father figure (step dads, grandparents, foster parents) learn healthy parenting skills and behaviors, as well as overcome barriers that have prevented them from providing emotional and financial support for their children. By participating in this voluntary step-by-step, multi-class program, participants learn an array of fathering skills that include healthy disciplinary approaches, parenting and communication styles, and co-parenting skills. Some participants go on to become "citizen fathers," a special achievement for dads who excel in the program and exemplify strong leadership and fathering skills.

Over the past six years, over 350 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 Marlee Morrison, CHI St. Joseph's Health Community Health Director.

To learn more about the FATHER Project or to sign up, please contact Joe Johnson at 218.255.2063 or [JosephJohnson@catholichealth.net](mailto:JosephJohnson@catholichealth.net). To make a donation, please contact CHI St. Joseph's Health Foundation at 218.616.3383.

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## Cutline

Pictured, l to r: Brent Asell, Bank Forward Assistant VP/Real Estate Loan Officer; Joe Johnson, CHI St. Joseph's Health Community Health FATHER Project Coordinator; and Matt Zimmerman, FATHER Project Lead Facilitator, Walker.

## 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**

*St. Joseph Hospital is part of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), a national nonprofit health system based in Englewood, Colorado. The faith-based system operates in 18 states and includes 103 hospitals, as well as long-term care, assisted- and residential living communities; community health services organizations; home health agencies and outpatient facilities and services. In fiscal year 2016, CHI provided more than \$1.1 billion in financial assistance and community benefit. CHI generated operating revenues of \$15.9 billion and has total assets of approximately \$22.7 billion.*

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