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CONCORDIA LIFE CARE COMMUNITY AWARDED “BURST GRANT” FROM WHEAT RIDGE MINISTRIES

Oklahoma City, OK – Concordia Life Care Community is one of 12 grant recipients awarded a Burst Project Grant from Wheat Ridge Ministries. Twelve grants were awarded totaling \$59,500 for human care ministry projects designed and led by young adult leaders in the Lutheran community. In addition to the grant, participants receive professional consultation and feedback from Wheat Ridge staff and participate in an annual gathering of other Burst Project leaders from around the United States.

“We look forward to this new partnership with Wheat Ridge Ministries,” said Chief Operating Officer/ Executive Director, Danny Eischen. “The Burst Grant will strengthen Concordia’s Wellness on Wheels Program, which provides free health clinics to area churches and nonprofits, offering vital health screenings to older adults and seniors who may not have access to health care in Oklahoma City and beyond.”

“With more than 50 wellness clinics scheduled for 2015-2016, grant funding from Wheat Ridge Ministries will provide sustainability in our third year of this outreach program,” said Paige Mills-Haag, Director of Fund Development. The Wellness on Wheels Program benefits residents at Candle Lake Senior Center and Danforth Senior Center both operated by the Oklahoma City Housing Authority, and benefits area churches and nonprofit organizations as well. “The leadership development aspect of the Burst Grant is an added benefit, and we are thrilled for Ms. Megan Warn, Program Coordinator for the Wellness on Wheels Program, to receive consultation and professional mentoring from our partners and friends at Wheat Ridge Ministry throughout the program year.”

The newest Burst Project grant recipients are:

Ms. Megan Warn, “Wellness on Wheels Program”
Lutheran Senior Citizens, Inc. (dba Concordia Life Care Community), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

The objective of the Wellness on Wheels Program is to offer free health screenings to seniors and elderly who may otherwise not have access to vital health services. These screenings provide seniors the vital tools necessary to help them overcome diseases and other health issues in the hopes of attaining a healthier and higher quality of life.

Ms. Michelle Madsen, “Better Together”
Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
The Better Together program establishes trusting relationships and regular social opportunities between independently living older adults and volunteers. Better Together aims to match older adults with volunteers to provide socialization and friendship, share resources and build a relationship. The hope is that older adults become more connected to the community and thus able to live on their own longer, have reduced feelings of depression and other mental illness, and gain a

greater sense of purpose while in the later stages of their lives.

Ms. Courtney Perron, "Community Liaisons for New Americans"

Ascentria Community Services, Inc. (formerly Lutheran Social Services), Concord, New Hampshire

The Community Liaisons for New Americans Program will empower recently resettled refugees to engage with their local community through an accessible and sustainable volunteer program that pairs community members with their New American neighbors. Community Liaisons will use public transportation and their local knowledge to help refugees acclimate to their new surroundings. Community Liaisons will enable refugees to navigate the bus system while teaching them about community landmarks, local resources and points of interest.

Ms. Allison Walker, "The Flourishing Families Project"

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, Washington, DC

The Flourishing Families Project will focus on the health and well-being of youth and their loved ones living with HIV or affected by HIV/AIDS by developing and implementing action steps to overcome unmet medical and emotional health needs. Through client-centered assessments, strengths-based practice, education, and supportive services, The Flourishing Families Project will empower participants to work on a well-balanced life where their family is stable and thriving.

Mr. Bello Dondja, "Helping Our People Excel (HOPE)"

Trinity Lutheran College, Everett, Washington

The goal of HOPE is to inspire and assist at-risk youth in attaining higher education, as well as becoming positive, influential leaders within the community. This is accomplished through individualized mentoring, which motivates students to pursue higher education and assists in navigating through the process. In addition, vocational exploration and leadership training is provided. This methodology opens doors of opportunity and holistic wellness to the vulnerable and disenfranchised, provides servant leadership training and experience for mentors, and begins to create a ripple effect of social and spiritual change within the community.

Mr. Brandon Porter, "Minneapple Grapple Wrestling Camp"

Redeemer Center for Life, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Northside Wrestling Club is a ministry focused on children in an underprivileged Minneapolis neighborhood. Leaders of this ministry use wrestling skills and coaching to provide children with an opportunity to hear the Gospel alongside mentorship, tutoring and character building. The new summer camp aims to engage more children and wrestling instructors from the surrounding suburbs and uses a strategic fee structure for participants that is based on need and will allow the ministry to become self-sustaining.

Ms. Rachel Sharpe, "Project HELP"

Faith Lutheran Church, Gardner, Massachusetts

Project HELP is a program designed to teach individuals about healthy living through gardening and nutritional education. A community garden as well as nutrition, cooking, and exercise classes will be available to the Greater Gardner area. Faith Lutheran will work with several community partners to provide these holistic services.

Ms. Katelyn McKinley, "Quiet Lounge for Older Adults with Dementia"

Liberty Lutheran Services, Ambler, Pennsylvania

The Quiet Lounge is designed to provide a restful, supportive experience for lower-functioning residents of senior living communities, especially those with dementia or other severe cognitive impairments. The Quiet Lounge is a portable cart that includes multiple non-pharmacological

interventions such as aromatherapy, music, massage, and small puzzles/crafts to positively engage the mind, body, and spirit of older adults living with dementia. This grant will be used to purchase supplies for a Quiet Lounge at three senior communities in Eastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Michael Alden, "Refugee Healthcare Interpreter Service Expansion"

Ascentria Care Alliance, Worcester, Massachusetts

Language Bank is a non-profit social enterprise of language interpretation services provided by refugees in New Hampshire. The purpose of the project is to expand language interpretation services and employ more new refugees in an entirely new geographical area, central Massachusetts. This project addresses three parts of the wholeness wheel: vocational, intellectual, and financial well-being.

Mr. Jesse Hall, "Sharpen Your Financial Focus"

Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

The Sharpen Your Financial Focus Initiative is a proactive tool to reach those who want to make sure they are making smart money decisions in an effort to ensure long-term financial stability. The three-step program is designed to identify and achieve financial goals. The assessment tool that is one part of the program provides customized feedback to users, allowing individuals and families to monitor and assess their financial lives and adjust their behaviors in order to maximize their economic empowerment.

Mr. Kenneth Watts, "SpiriTrust Lutheran Financial Education & Coaching"

SpiriTrust Lutheran, York, Pennsylvania

This financial stability model is a culmination of three distinct services: free income tax preparation, financial education, and individualized financial coaching. The goal of the program is to reach individuals who are interested in making better financial decisions to improve their overall financial well-being. Other services will be progressively incorporated, as needed, to empower and encourage people towards making transformational changes in their lives.

Ms. Liz Behrend, "Sports Night"

Hartville Migrant Ministry, Hartville, Ohio

Sports Night is a mind, body and soul project. The goals of this project are to allow migrant children to get some structured exercise by learning sport fundamentals as well as learn to play as a team. The children will also exercise the mind and soul by beginning each week's events with an applicable Bible lesson.

For additional information regarding Wheat Ridge Ministries' Burst Project Grant Program, please visit the website at www.wheatridge.org or contact us by email at grants@wheatridge.org.

About Wheat Ridge Ministries

Established in 1905, Wheat Ridge Ministries provides funding and support for inspired leaders starting new health and human care ministries. These ministries encompass a wide range of innovative solutions from free health clinics to after-school programs, refugee support to care of older adults. We believe that all of God's people are called to help others experience a more abundant life. Our efforts support those who are focused on improving the health of the whole person, by addressing wellness of body, mind and spirit. We've helped thousands of ministries get started. Currently, more than 70 Lutheran-affiliated ministries around the world are receiving assistance through Wheat Ridge grants and WeRaise crowdfunding grants. To learn more, please visit www.wheatridge.org. You can also find Wheat Ridge on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

For additional information regarding Concordia Life Care Community or to schedule a complimentary wellness clinic for your church or nonprofit, please visit the website at www.concordiaseniorliving.com or contact us by email at mwarn@concordiaseniorliving.com.

About Concordia Life Care Senior Living

Concordia is a Life Care retirement community offering maintenance-free living in spacious residences with access to on-site assisted living and memory support services, as well as skilled nursing care, if ever needed. Concordia Life Care is not-for-profit life care retirement community located in northwest Oklahoma City and is owned by Lutheran Senior Citizens, Inc. (LSCI). For more information, call (405) 720-7200 or visit www.concordiaseniorliving.com. You can also find Concordia Life Care Community on Facebook.

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