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Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital Program Wins National Hospital Charitable Services Award

CHARLEVOIX, MI – The Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital School Nurses Program was among 10 programs from across the country named a Program of Excellence by the Hospital Charitable Services Awards, a national program sponsored by Jackson Healthcare.

The multifaceted School Nurses Program was created by Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital and serves community residents who experience the greatest disparities in health status and access by providing four registered nurses in nine local school systems – where previously there were none – at no cost to the schools.

The ten programs were commended for exceptional work in setting new standards for impacting the underserved in their communities in sustainable ways. At a banquet that was the culmination of the National Hospital Charitable Services Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, each winning program was presented with a very generous \$10,000 investment toward their growth. There to receive the award were Kathy Jacobsen, Director of Community Health Education for the hospital and one of the school nurses, Chris Signs-Warstler, RN.

“Through the dedicated hard work of the school nurses, not only has the medical safety in the schools greatly increased, but students have been given the opportunity to learn about healthy lifestyle habits that will last a lifetime,” said Kathy Jacobsen. “One of the most rewarding successes has been the dramatic decrease in chronically absent students.”

“These initiatives are not alone in giving back to their communities,” said Charles R. Evans, FACHE, Chairman of the Hospital Charitable Services Awards program. “What makes them truly extraordinary is the impact they achieve through their commitment to serving others, and the outstanding ways they make substantial and caring contributions.”

Jackson Healthcare instituted the Hospital Charitable Service Awards in 2010 to honor exemplary hospital-sponsored community programs, share their stories and make them models for other programs. Jackson Healthcare also uses the awards to cultivate a community hospital programs that want to encourage and learn from one another, and establish best practices. Each nominee had to demonstrate excellence in at least one of five areas: community impact, innovation, collaboration, transferability and/or best practice.

About Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital

Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital is a 25-bed, critical access hospital located in Charlevoix, Michigan. Part of the Munson Healthcare system, the hospital was established in 1919 and serves Charlevoix and northern Antrim County residents as well as thousands of vacationers each year.

For more information on both Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital, visit munsonhealthcare.org/charlevoixhospital.

About the Hospital Charitable Services Awards

The Hospital Charitable Services Awards is a national program sponsored by Jackson Healthcare. It recognizes hospitals whose commitment to their community - whether defined locally, regionally, nationally or globally - goes beyond "community benefit" and "free care" and has led to innovative efforts to improve community health and increase access to healthcare education and services. All hospital-funded charitable programs are eligible to participate regardless of the size, tax or ownership model. Learn more at jacksonhealthcare.com/awards.

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Pictured left to right: Chris Signs-Warstler, RN (Boyne Falls, Boyne Concord, NW Academy, St. Mary's School); Kathy Jacobsen (Director of Community Health Education)