



**Children's Health Fund and Genesee Health System Launch
"Community Support & Resilience Program"
to Expand Mental Health Services to Flint Children and Families**

Michigan Representative Dan Kildee Unveils Second Big Blue Mobile Medical Clinic

FLINT, MI (September 16, 2016) – In response to increased demand for mental health services, and through the leadership support of the Council for Michigan Foundations, a Children's Health Fund (CHF) mobile medical clinic designed to take high quality mental health services on the road directly to the residents of Flint, was delivered today at the Flint Farmers' Market. Through a newly designed "Community Support & Resilience Program", the mobile clinic will provide the expanded resources and essential tools needed to help area children and families respond to effects of the city's water crisis.

The clinic will be operated through a partnership between Genesee Health System (GHS) and Children's Health Fund. U.S. Representative Dan Kildee, Pastor Rigel Dawson, and Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Flint Area Program Director Kimberly Roberson, joined Genesee Health System CEO Dan Russell and Children's Health Fund's Senior VP/Chief Medical Officer Dr. Delaney Gracy and other partners at the Market to celebrate the clinic's launch. The mobile clinic was made possible with lead funding from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and with additional support from other Michigan foundations including the Ruth Mott Foundation, Flinn Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

"Flint families face unique health challenges because of the water crisis and will now have more access to the medical care they need. I am thankful for the work Genesee Health System and Children's Health Fund do to help the people of Flint, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact this new mobile clinic has on our community," said Congressman Dan Kildee.

CHF first brought mobile medical clinics to Michigan in 2009 in response to the severe recession and, with support from Michigan's Senator Stabenow, subsequently established an ongoing project in Detroit to provide comprehensive health care services to medically underserved children. With the support of Morgan Stanley, Sanofi Corporation and other partners, in February 2016 the Fund sent an initial mobile clinic to Flint in response to the city's water crisis. That unit has since helped Genesee Health System's Community Health Center provide lead testing, health education and case management services to more than 1000 Flint residents affected by the crisis.

"When the Flint Water Crisis began, we knew that there was a need for immediate crisis counseling and began offering it to the community. As the crisis continues, we know that more services for stress, anxiety and other mental health concerns will need to be provided", said Dan Russell, CEO of GHS. "We are thrilled to work with the Children's Health Fund, CS Mott

Foundation and other supporters to provide a mobile venue to meet the community in the neighborhoods. We know that this is a needed service for the community, and this partnership makes it possible.”

“We are so grateful to CS Mott Foundation and other supporters of this program,” said Dr. Delaney Gracy, Chief Medical Officer, Children’s Health Fund. “We know from past experience that the fluidity of the mobile response model, combined with community events, workshops and training, can truly bring support where needed, and can engage and empower communities. We are looking forward to continue and expand our work with our partners at GHS and the children and families of Flint. Our model is to be guided by what families tell us they need and want as the recovery unfolds. This program belongs to them.”

Kimberly Roberson, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Program Director added that “...Through our support for community schools in Flint, the Mott Foundation has seen first-hand the value of addressing stress in children’s lives, and the remarkable effect such simple practices as mindfulness can have on their mental and physical health,” said Roberson. “We’re pleased to provide support for an initiative that’s going to meet people where they are to provide the help they need.”

The mobile clinics are now out in the Flint community providing valuable health resources and education. The Flint Children’s Health Project is fully integrated into local health systems and providers.

Children’s Health Fund is particularly interested in making sure that children who have been exposed to lead are not further burdened by unidentified or undertreated health conditions that are known to interfere with optimal development or learning in children. These conditions known as “Health Barriers to Learning” (HBLs) include vision and hearing deficits, persistent symptomatic asthma, persistent dental pain, behavioral issues, and recurrent hunger. Lead exposure is also considered a HBL.

Children’s Health Fund has done extensive work following many U.S. major disasters that have had particular impact on children already at risk. Previous deployments followed Hurricane Andrew in Florida, the 9/11 attacks on New York’s World Trade Center, Hurricane Katrina’s devastating impact in Louisiana and Mississippi, the BP oil spill, and Superstorm Sandy that struck the mid-Atlantic region.

ABOUT GENESEE HEALTH SYSTEM

Genesee Health System (formerly Genesee County Community Mental Health) has served the Genesee County community for over 50 years. They provide services and supports for adults with serious mental illness, children with severe emotional disturbances, adolescents and adults with substance use disorders and adults and children with developmental disabilities. In addition, services include primary care provided by the Genesee Community Health Center. The focus is on the health of the whole individual. For more information, visit www.genhs.org

ABOUT CHILDREN'S HEALTH FUND

Children's Health Fund was created in 1987 in response to an unacceptable situation. For thousands of kids packed into New York City's homeless shelters, their chance for the future was dim. That inspired singer/songwriter Paul Simon and pediatrician/child advocate Irwin Redlener, MD, to do something life-changing for these children. Adequate medical care was an essential first step in helping them to be healthy and ready to learn, to have dreams and the hope of achieving them. Today, Children's Health Fund has 50 mobile clinics, each a "doctor's offices on wheels," serving hundreds of locations across the country. And, over the past 29 years, the organization has grown to support over 250,000 health care encounters annually for disadvantaged children. For more information, visit www.childrenshealthfund.org.

ABOUT CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, established in 1926 in Flint, Michigan, by an automotive pioneer, is a private philanthropy committed to supporting projects that promote a just, equitable and sustainable society. It supports nonprofit programs throughout the United States and, on a limited geographic basis, internationally. Grant making is focused in four programs: Civil Society, Environment, Flint Area and Education. In addition to Flint, offices are located in metropolitan Detroit, Johannesburg and London. With year-end assets of approximately \$2.7 billion in 2015, the Foundation made 400 grants totaling more than \$119 million. For more information, visit www.mott.org.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Renée Keswick, MTD
Manager, Communication and Public Relations
Genesee Health System
810-424-6090

Duane Elling
Communications Officer
CS Mott Foundation
810-766-1779

Dennis Walto, MA
Executive Director
Children's Health Fund
212-535-9400, ext. 266

Robyn Bryan
Communications Assistant
Representative Dan Kildee
202-225-3611