



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANTHEM FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDS CASE MANAGEMENT DATA SYSTEM First Measures Focus on Impacts of Housing and Healthcare on HIV/AIDS

St. Louis, MO: Through a grant from the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation, DOORWAYS acquired and customized the Caseworthy case management database and reporting system. While the software will track all agency services and outcomes, the initial focus was to examine shifts in HIV/AIDS statistics during the twelve-month grant cycle, January 1 to December 31, 2017, resulting from placement in permanent housing and provision of support services. As addressed in the final grant report, out of the 898 clients with two data points on the time line within the year, 69 percent (622 people) maintained undetectable counts or improved their counts, showing regression of the virus.

“Housing has been linked to improved health outcomes for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) as it provides a stable foundation to participate in antiretroviral therapy (ART), which can strengthen the immune system, reverse wasting, and add body weight, lengthening the lifespan and reducing the transmission of HIV,” noted Opal Jones, president and CEO of DOORWAYS. “Homeless people and even those in shelters with HIV/AIDS have a very difficult time managing their healthcare. It’s challenging to make appointments, get to appointments, obtain medications, keep the medications secure, and take the medications as the schedule requires with clean water and a nutritious, high-protein diet. Once housed and provided with DOORWAYS support services, their lives stabilize to the point that they may focus on treatment and recovery.”

Jay Moore, M.D., chairman of the DOORWAYS board of directors and senior clinical director at Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, expressed his enthusiasm for the results. “As a medical

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professional, I recognize the importance of HIV therapy not only for the patient's health, but also as a community issue. According to www.hiv.gov, no case of HIV transmission has been linked to someone who had a suppressed viral load. Therefore, determining the most effective means of achieving viral suppression is critical. The outcome of this grant supports the opinion that stable housing is an important component for HIV healthcare, and warrants further study," said Dr. Moore.

DOORWAYS will continue to record and analyze HIV health outcomes for the clients housed by agency. Clients in the five programs—Cooper House, Residential, Own Home, Jumpstart, and Outstate—also receive an intensive case management program with wrap-around support services, referrals, and self-development programming. The new client database will also track client activities and outcomes resulting from these supportive services.

About DOORWAYS

In its 30th year, DOORWAYS (www.doorwayshousing.org) provides emergency and permanent housing to the impoverished and homeless population affected by HIV/AIDS. In FY2017, DOORWAYS served 3,100 people who were homeless/at risk of homelessness and affected by HIV/AIDS. An interfaith non-profit agency, DOORWAYS serves the St. Louis metropolitan area plus 117 under-served counties in outstate Missouri and Illinois. For information, contact Karen Carpentier at kcarpentier@doorwayshousing.org or call 314-328-2704.

About Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation

Through charitable grant making, the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation LLC, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, promotes Anthem's inherent commitment to enhance the health and well-being of individuals and families in communities that Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield serves. The Foundation focuses its funding on strategic initiatives that address and provide innovative solutions to health care challenges, as well as promoting the Healthy Generations Program, a multi-generational initiative that targets specific disease states and medical conditions. These include: prenatal care in the first trimester, low birth weight babies, cardiac morbidity rates, long term activities that decrease obesity and increase physical activity, diabetes prevalence in adult populations, adult pneumococcal and influenza vaccinations and smoking cessation. The Foundation also coordinates the company's year-round Associate Giving program and its parent foundation provides a 50 percent match of associates' pledges. ®ANTHEM is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

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