



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHI St. Joseph's Health FATHER Project Receives Minnesota Communities Caring for Children Pinwheels for Prevention Award

PARK RAPIDS, MN (June 8, 2017) – CHI St. Joseph's Health FATHER Project- The Citizen Father Project was awarded Minnesota Communities Caring for Children 2017 Pinwheel Award for excellence in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Since 2013, Minnesota Communities Caring for Children Pinwheels for Prevention Award has recognized communities that exemplify a strong commitment to the prevention of child abuse and neglect through collaborative efforts of public, non-profit, and community services, activities, and initiatives. The criteria for receiving this award is based on nomination and demonstrating continued work in prevention awareness, maintaining family strengthening efforts, as well as, knowledge of communities utilizing innovative programs.

Minnesota Communities Caring for Children's 2017 Pinwheels for Prevention communities support a combination of prevention services that include partnerships and active community collaborations. Recognition has included parent support outreach programs, new initiatives that focus on protective factors and early brain development in children, adverse childhood experiences, crisis nursery services, unique efforts in alternative response, parent education and support groups, safe exchange and home visitation programs, and a wide array of community awareness activities.

"We are grateful for the year-round prevention efforts of the FATHER Project-The Citizen Father project." said Minnesota Communities Caring for Children, Chief Executive Officer, Shelley Jacobson.

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 375 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. To make a donation, please contact CHI St. Joseph's Health Foundation at 218.616.3383.

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Pictured from left are: Joe Johnson, CHI St. Joseph's Health Community Health FATHER Project Coordinator; Matt Zimmerman, FATHER Project Lead Facilitator, Walker; and Mike Schleicher, FATHER Project Co-Facilitator, Park Rapids.

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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