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THE RICHMOND MEMORIAL HEALTH FOUNDATION SELECTED FOR NATIONWIDE
PROGRAM TO ADDRESS NURSING SHORTAGE

Foundation is one of 11 to tackle the nursing crisis in its community

Local program will improve nurse retention in Virginia by offering a year-long fellowship for
nursing leaders

Richmond, Virginia – The Richmond Memorial Health Foundation has been selected as one of 11 foundations nationwide to receive funding in the second year of Partners Investing in Nursing's Future, a national initiative to develop and test solutions to America's nursing shortage.

Led by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation, the program encourages local foundations to act as catalysts in developing grassroots strategies to establish a stable, adequate nursing workforce. The 11 grants being awarded this year represent the involvement of 27 local foundations, and a multitude of other funding sources. These foundations, some for the first time, have forged partnerships in their own communities to apply for this grant, giving increased attention to the nursing shortage in their communities. To help develop solutions and lead efforts within the region, The Richmond Memorial Health Foundation has been awarded a two-year grant of \$250,000. The Richmond Memorial Health Foundation will provide \$250,000 to match this grant. In addition, the Cameron Foundation has awarded a grant of \$55,000 for an external evaluation and the John Randolph Foundation has awarded a grant of \$5,000 to find scholarships.

"Virginia is experiencing a growing nursing shortage that threatens the health care system, and we are honored to be selected to help identify solutions," says Jeffrey S. Cribbs, Executive Director of the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation. "This grant represents an extension of the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation's commitment to improving the community's health by funding nursing initiatives."

Partners' Investing in Nursing's Future is now in its second year of a five-year, \$10 million initiative. During the program's first year beginning in the fall of 2006, the 10 initial foundation partners established more than 140 partnerships between nursing organizations and local foundations to address the nursing shortage.

"The stability and quality of our nation's health care rely heavily on a sufficient supply of appropriately educated and skilled nurses," said Susan B. Hassmiller, R.N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N., senior program officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "While the nursing shortage is a national issue, community-based interventions are necessary to finding solutions that work in different health care environments. This unique program was designed to bring regional philanthropies together to address the nursing shortage on a community-level, fostering innovations beyond what any one foundation can do alone."

Across America, patients rely on nurses for personal, quality care delivered in their own communities – which is threatened when there is a nursing shortage. In fact, the nursing shortage has become so severe in some communities that it is affecting patient care and safety, health care costs and patient outcomes. Experts say the causes of the nursing shortage are complex and range from rapid population growth in several states, to an aging nurse workforce to poor working conditions.

“Because all health care is local, solutions need to be tailored to meet the needs of the individual communities these nurses serve,” said Judith Woodruff, J.D., program director of the Northwest Health Foundation and Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future. “We are pleased to offer this grant to The Richmond Memorial Health Foundation, which is well-qualified to explore solutions for the people of Central Virginia. Not only do we believe The Richmond Memorial Health Foundation and its partner the Cameron Foundation will make significant improvements in Central Virginia, but we believe that the other 20 projects can exchange ideas and benefit from the work of The Richmond Memorial Health Foundation and its partners as well.”

For more information about The Richmond Memorial Health Foundation, visit www.rmhfoundation.org. Information about Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future is available at www.PartnersInNursing.org.

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Since 1970, the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation (RMHF) (originally the Richmond Memorial Hospital Foundation) to provide support to the former Richmond Memorial Hospital and the communities the hospital served. The focus of the Foundation is on providing grants that improve the health and health care in Richmond and Central Virginia. In the last 5 years, the RMHF made 61 grants to 40 different organizations totaling over \$8 million. The Central Virginia Nursing Leadership Institute (CVNLI) is a natural progression for the Foundation’s work to address the nursing shortage.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For more than 30 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime. See www.rwjf.org.

Northwest Health Foundation is an independent, charitable foundation committed to advancing, supporting, and promoting the health of the people of Oregon and southwest Washington. We focus on issues of health and health care in our region, seeking concrete solutions to today's health problems while advocating to prevent tomorrow's. As part of our commitment to cultivate a stable, skilled nursing workforce in the region, Northwest Health Foundation invests in collaborative and sustainable solutions to address the nursing shortage, including the development of advocacy and leadership within the nursing community. See www.nwhf.org
