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## HCAN RECEIVES GRANT TO BUILD CAPACITY AND SERVE MORE

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PHOTOS PROVIDED

Health Care Access Now (HCAN), an area nonprofit health-care organization building partnerships that improve access to health care in Greater Cincinnati, recently received a significant grant to advance the agency's vision "to build a primary care system that offers integrated and community-centered services for the uninsured and other vulnerable patient populations who do not have consistent and affordable access to health care".

Deaconess Associations Foundation awarded HCAN a one-year \$600,000 operating grant, the largest one-time grant HCAN has received to date, to enable Health Care Access Now to further its work to eliminate barriers to health care amongst the most vulnerable members in our community.

"We know this is going to improve a lot of things in the community and at the same time be good for business, if you will, health care business reducing costs..." said Tony Woods, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Deaconess Associations, Inc. (DAI), the parent organization of Deaconess Associations Foundation.

"Super excited about this and



**Tony Woods makes \$600,000 check presentation for HCAN to Bill Scheyer and Judith Warren.**

(Photo | Health Care Access Now)

looking for some great results ..." Woods goes on to say.

While many are fortunate to have support systems, healthcare coverage, access to a doctor, an understanding of how to best utilize and make healthcare choices, there are social, environmental in addition to healthcare barriers preventing others from making the best healthcare decisions. HCAN is providing vital services to address this concern amongst the area's low-income, uninsured, and underinsured.

"We [HCAN] address the social needs of complex patients who do not fit into the routine way of delivering health care." said Judith Warren, CEO of Health Care Access Now.

"These are persons who have experienced trauma, loss, homelessness, poverty and disconnectness from the health care systems due to cultural and lifestyle differences." Warren explains.

The \$600,000 operating grant builds HCAN's capacity to serve more people.

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## HCAN RECEIVES GRANT TO BUILD CAPACITY AND SERVE MORE (CONT'D)



**Gregory Allmond talks with his HCAN Community Health Worker Lynette Campbell.**

*"Since I've been in this program and met Lynette, I'm happy to say I haven't had to go to the emergency room at all."* shared Allmond. *"She's really been a tremendous help to me."*

(Photo provided by Health Care Access Now)

Established in 2009, HCAN has provided pathway services to improve healthcare in the community, primarily in Hamilton County. With a goal to increase access to care for residents in nine counties across Greater Cincinnati – Hamilton, Butler, Clermont, Adams, Brown and Warren in Southwest Ohio and Boone, Campbell and Kenton in Northern Kentucky, the operating grant allows HCAN to further extend services into Butler, Warren, and Clermont counties.

"We've got a proven approach to being able to improve health outcomes, improve the quality of patient's lives, and reduce total cost in the bottom line" stated Bill Scheyer, president of Vision 2015 and treasurer of the

board of Health Care Access Now at a press conference announcing the grant.

Gregory Allmond, a consumer of HCAN services agrees.

Before Gregory Allmond, who is 1 of 21 HCAN success stories, began working with his HCAN Community Health Worker Lynette Campbell, he sought primary care in the emergency room to deal with his hemophilia and kidney disease. He had more than 25 visits to the emergency room in 2013 including hospitalization.

"Since I've been in this program and met Lynette, I'm happy to say I haven't had to go to the emergency room at all." shared Allmond. "She's really been a tremendous help to me."

In 2012, Health Care Access

Now partnered with organizations and individuals to assist more than 1,700 individuals along the pathway to better health outcomes, connect with a medical home, and understand what it takes to maintain good health.

Through collaborative work with social, medical and behavioral health providers serving consumers enrolled in commercial and Medicaid health plans in Southwest and Southeast Ohio, the operating grant will allow Health Care Access Now to more efficiently serve a projected 4,500 additional patients over the next two years.

To that end, HCAN will add staff for data and financial management, program management, and frontline care coordination services offered by Certified Community Health Workers.

"This grant will ensure that we are able to reach many more patients to improve their health, adopt healthier behaviors and reduce the use of high cost resources in the region," explains Warren.

To learn more about HCAN, make a donation, and/or sign up to volunteer, visit Health Care Access Now website at <http://healthcareaccessnow.org/>

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