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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S HAWTHORN MEDICAL CHARITABLE FUND
AWARDS GRANTS FOR BASIC NEEDS**

NEW BEDFORD, MA (date) - -The Hawthorn Medical Associates Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Mass. has awarded \$19,000 in grants to local programs that meet the region's basic needs.

The programs funded include a number of soup kitchens, food pantries and hunger-related programs, as well as one that will help homeless women learn to manage their finances.

"At this time of year and at this state in our economy, we are especially mindful of those who lack the basic necessities," said James Gularek, CEO of Hawthorn Medical Associates. "In support of our mission to serve the health needs of our community, we are reaching out to organizations and groups that help provide food and other basic needs."

The grants were awarded to:

- **Damien's Place – Family Pantry**, \$1,500 to purchase Thanksgiving turkeys and Christmas hams, along with other holiday food, to distribute to its Wareham area clients.
- **Church of the Good Shepard Soup Kitchen and Pantry**, \$1,500 to help it continue serving a free meal each Thursday evening to anyone in need of food, fellowship or community ties. The Wareham-based food pantry also helps an average of 115 low income families each month.
- **The Salvation Army New Bedford Corps. On-Site Meals Program**, \$1,500. The program serves free, hot meals twice a week to low or no-income individuals; the number attending each meal has doubled over the past three years.
- **YMCA SouthCoast Sharing the Harvest**, \$5,000. A partnership with the United Way's Hunger Commission, this Community Farm is a grass roots effort to alleviate hunger at the local level. The farm at the Dartmouth YMCA was created for the express purpose of providing fresh, local fruits and vegetables for distribution by the Hunger Commission.
- **Grace Episcopal Church Food Pantry**, \$1,500 to buy a large refrigerator to preserve vegetables, cheese, and other perishable foods, and also to buy specific foods not provided by other donors.
- **United Way of Greater New Bedford Hunger Commission**, \$1,500. At a time when demand at soup kitchens and food pantries is at an all-time high, rising fuel costs are a major obstacle in the Hunger Commission's expansion efforts. The Hunger Commission plans to use this grant to expand the scope of its delivery network.
- **Greater New Bedford Youth Development Food Pantry**, \$1,500 for "Project Food Pantry," an intergenerational project that will enable youth ages 11 to 19 to collaborate with the Town of Acushnet Council on Aging to meet the

nutritional needs of the senior citizens of Acushnet. The youth will coordinate and implement food drives in the community and deliver food to the elderly.

- **YWCA Steps to Stability**, \$5,000. Steps to Stability is an economic empowerment educational program for women who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. The grant will be used to help homeless women understand their finances, from learning the basics of managing a checking account to understanding credit, budgeting and maintaining healthy financial living and property expenses, and how their personal habits can affect their financial stability.

The availability of these grants is the result of the creation of a \$500,000 endowment by Hawthorn Medical Associates at the Community Foundation. Established in 1970, Hawthorn Medical is the largest multi-specialty medical group practice in the New Bedford area and an affiliate of Partners Community Healthcare, Inc. Hawthorn Medical has state-of-the-art medical facilities, many of the area's finest physicians, and skilled professional and support staff that provide high-quality medical care to over 138,000 patients each year. To learn more about Hawthorn Medical, visit www.hawthornmed.com.

About the Community Foundation

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts is a tax-exempt public charity founded in 1995 to improve the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts by facilitating, advising, convening and/or responding to critical community issues. Over the past six years, CFSEMA has distributed more than \$10 million in grants and scholarships from 154 funds to support youth programs, expand economic opportunities, increase educational attainment, promote sustainability, invest in the creative economy and, through the Women's Fund, improve the economic status of women and girls. For more information, visit www.cfsema.org.

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