



PARTNERS INVESTING IN NURSING'S
future



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**Sangamon County Community Foundation and
The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Receive Grant
to Address Local and National Nursing Shortages**

Partnership will tackle the nursing shortages in Springfield through new program

Springfield, IL – The Sangamon County Community Foundation (SCCF) announced today that it has been chosen as one of 10 new partners nationwide to receive funding from *Partners Investing in Nursing's Future*, a unique national initiative to help address the long-term shortage of available nurses across the country.

Led by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation, *Partners Investing in Nursing's Future* is in its fourth year providing support to local foundations to act as catalysts in their own communities and develop strategies for creating and sustaining a viable nursing workforce. These foundations have forged local partnerships to apply for the competitive grant, raising awareness of the nursing shortage in their own communities.

SCCF has partnered with The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce to implement the award through the *Central Illinois Nursing Initiative*. The local initiative will address diversity, educational infrastructure and faculty development and is supported by additional partners, including Memorial Health System, St. John's Hospital, Kindred Healthcare Foundation and many more medical providers, who will raise matching funds and implement new programs.

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Through *Partners Investing in Nursing's Future*, initiative directors are hoping that local and regional foundations create a domino effect – where innovative ideas are tested locally and shared nationally with an exponential effect on the workforce shortage. To help develop solutions and lead efforts within the central Illinois region, the Sangamon County Community Foundation has been awarded a two-year grant of \$545,000, which includes a match from the local partners.

Gary Plummer, president and CEO of The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce explained that a continuing, aggregate decline in the nursing workforce is expected due to a complex combination of factors including an aging population needing more and intensive health care services, an aging nursing workforce unable to sustain its numbers, and a nursing education system with too few educators to train the next generation of nurses.

“This grant will help us expand our efforts with the Quantum Growth Partnership, a five year economic development initiative that has identified the medical industry as an emerging opportunity for economic growth,” noted Plummer. “We are pleased to collaborate with our partners to address our shortage of nurses now, and to make sure our community has access to excellent patient care.”

Plummer also announced that Mikal Sutton-Vereen will provide staff leadership for this initiative as the new program director. Sutton-Vereen most recently worked as a constituent services agent for former U.S. Senator Barack Obama where she worked with multiple federal programs and addressed medical and healthcare issues for the senator.

“This partnership is very exciting for the community as it has brought together health care providers, education institutions and the non-health care private sector to make significant progress toward solving the nursing shortage,” said John Stremsterfer, executive director of the Sangamon County Community Foundation. “The partners involved in the *Central Illinois Nursing Initiative* are committed to providing local solutions for workforce development among the nursing profession and will be able to share lessons learned on a national level through this grant program.”

The 2009 grant cycle marks the fourth year of funding, totaling more than \$10 million of investment by the program in local partnerships. In addition, *Partners Investing in Nursing's Future* has leveraged more than \$8 million in local and regional funding, ensuring the long term sustainability of the projects.

During the program's first three years, 69 foundation partners in 24 states and the territories of the Western Pacific established more than 300 local partnerships among nursing organizations, funders and workforce development boards to address the nursing shortage. To date, this is the second funding award in Illinois through *Partner's Investing in Nursing's Future*.

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“Nurses are the nation’s most direct link to patient safety and quality of care. We are committed to helping find the most innovative solutions to the nursing shortage so we can protect patients now and over the long term,” said Susan B. Hassmiller, R.N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N., senior adviser for nursing at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. “This unique partnership of the philanthropic community helps identify new approaches that go well beyond what any one foundation could do alone.”

Grant recipients named today are:

1) Arkansas Community Foundation (Arkansas)

Planning for Workforce Development in Geriatric and Long-Term Care in Arkansas will improve the educational preparation of registered nurses caring for frail older adults through a unified educational pathway.

2) The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, Inc. (Florida)

Promoting the Use of Simulation Technology in Florida Nurse Education will maximize the use of simulation technology in the preparation of new and current RNs in the state.

3) The Community Foundation of the Great River Bend (Iowa)

Pathways and Perceptions: A Life Span Model for Nursing Work Force Development will strengthen the educational infrastructure and faculty development in the Quad Cities community.

4) The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation (West Virginia)

West Virginia Nursing Leadership Institute: Team Leadership Development Program will foster new nursing leaders in the state in a variety of practice settings.

5) Hinds Community College Development Foundation (Mississippi)

Geriatric Dedicated Education Unit Initiative will develop a clinical education experience model to increase the number of nurses adequately prepared to care for geriatric patients.

6) John T. Vucurevich Foundation, with First Interstate Bank Foundation (South Dakota)

Education Service Partners Program: Prepare and Retain will develop programs to ensure that nurses are retained in the nursing workforce throughout their career continuum.

7) The Sangamon County Community Foundation, with The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce (Illinois) *Central Illinois Nursing Initiative* will expand nursing education capacity, articulation, and diversity in the region by aligning nursing education opportunities.

8) Tufts Health Plan Foundation, Inc., with Edward J. and Virginia M. Routhier Foundation, (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island)

Creativity and Connections: Building a Regional Nursing Education Framework will develop nursing education throughout the New England that are more aligned with the needs of the diverse communities in the region.

9) Vetter Foundation, Nebraska Health Care Foundation, Iowa West Foundation and University of Nebraska Foundation (Nebraska)

Nebraska Geriatric Nursing Quality Improvement will improve the quality of geriatric nursing and leadership in the state.

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10) West Central Initiative, Frank W. Veden Charitable Trust, The Initiative Foundation (Minnesota)
Building Faculty Capacity in Geriatric Nursing for Central Minnesota will increase the number of competent registered nurses providing nursing care to elderly persons in a variety of settings in the region.

For more information about *Partners Investing in Nursing's Future*, go to www.PartnersinNursing.org.

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Through philanthropic services, strategic grantmaking and community leadership, the Sangamon County Community Foundation "connects people who care with causes that matter." Visit www.sccf.us for more information.

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is focused on enhancing the business climate and promoting and stimulating economic development in Sangamon County for the benefit of its members and the community. For more information about The Chamber and Q5, visit www.gsc.org.

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.

Founded in 1997, the Northwest Health Foundation is an independent, charitable foundation committed to advancing, supporting, and promoting the health of the people of Oregon and southwest Washington. Embracing its role as the community's partner for better health, the Foundation achieves its mission primarily through grantmaking and support for advocacy efforts that influence public policy. See www.nwhf.org.