**World Medical Relief**

Phone: (313) 866-5333

Fax: (313) 866-5588

***News Release***

For Immediate Release

Subject: Jewish Fund selects diabetes project for funding

Contact: Josephine Jabara, Development Advisor, (517) 652-3149

**Jewish Fund supports novel approach to Type 2 diabetes care**

(SOUTHFIELD, Mich.) – The Jewish Fund Board of Directors approved a grant to World Medical Relief’s local Affordable Prescription Program in the amount of $75,000 for the Pathway to Better Health for People with Type 2 diabetes project.

While there are options in the local community for low cost/no cost insulin and diabetic education, World Medical Relief’s project provides a harmony of both. With the assistance of United Way for Southeastern Michigan which recently renewed its support for the program and donated insulin, World Medical Relief’s pharmacy is able to dispense a life-saving amount of insulin. The Pathway project adds further resources and education to assist people with Type 2 diabetes with the management of their illness.

A recent Gallop report details how the high cost of prescription drugs has led the rate of Americans going without prescribed medication to double in 2021. Medication insecurity is exacerbated among households earning below $48,000 annually. Nearly a quarter of those households go without prescribed medication due to cost. Out-of-pocket costs for insulin can be a major expense.

In Michigan alone, an estimated 69,534 people are newly diagnosed with diabetes annually. Members of some racial and ethnic minority groups are more likely to have diagnosed diabetes than non-Hispanic whites. For Metro Detroit it is important to note that compared to the general population, African Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes.

Proper diabetes management can help reduce the risk of serious complications like blindness, kidney disease and amputations.

**-More-**

The Pathway to Better Health for People with Type 2 diabetes will challenge World Medical Relief’s Affordable Prescription Program clients or anyone else with Type 2 diabetes who is interested to participate to improve their A1C by giving access to free A1C testing, support, social activities, and education.

The project is supported by Wayne State University pharmacy students who are members of the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity. These students are heavily invested in making this project a success as they already have given much of their time to assist with the development of the educational materials and the design of intake and evaluation questions.

The funding creates a position for a diabetes coordinator and a part-time outreach person to make the community aware of the program.

World Medical Relief’s President & CEO, George Samson, says: “we are grateful for the Jewish Fund’s foresight to fund this valuable program. The percentage of people with diabetes is on the rise and this program – pioneered with funding by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation – comes at an opportune time.”

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**About World Medical Relief**

World Medical Relief was established in 1953 in Detroit by Irene Auberlin to address the needs of Korean War orphans. Over the years, the organization has expanded its mission by providing medical aid to thousands of underserved people in the Detroit metropolitan area, nationally and in over 100 developing nations worldwide. The agency holds a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. Visit [www.worldmedicalrelief.org](http://www.worldmedicalrelief.org) for more information and to sign up to volunteer or donate.

**About The Jewish Fund**

The Jewish Fund is a grant making organization established in 1997 from the sale proceeds of Sinai Hospital to the Detroit Medical Center. As a legacy of Sinai Hospital, The Jewish Fund continues the tradition of assuring quality and compassionate care for those in need in Metropolitan Detroit by awarding grants to help vulnerable individuals improve their health and human condition.