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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AIDS Funding Collaborative Sends Care Alliance Staff to International AIDS Conference

*Funding supports once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for case managers
to improve services for those living with HIV/AIDS in Cleveland*

Cleveland, Ohio – The AIDS Funding Collaborative recently committed \$2,100 to support three Care Alliance employees in attending the International AIDS Conference 2012 in Washington, D.C. in July.

“What was a death sentence 20 years ago is now a manageable chronic disease,” said Ray Saldares, Ryan White program manager at Care Alliance, “but it is a diagnosis that still is entrenched with so much stigma and misinformation. The ability for our staff to continue educating themselves, networking and identifying emerging treatments and best practices allows us to continue to improve wellbeing and break down this stigma for our clients living with HIV.”

Care Alliance is a nonprofit, federally funded health center dedicated to serving the needs of homeless, public housing and uninsured residents of Cuyahoga County. Since 2000, Care Alliance has been committed to providing effective, compassionate and patient-centered care to people living with HIV/AIDS in the homeless and public housing communities. Services include HIV testing and counseling, health care, medical case management and peer support groups. Care Alliance is supported by Ryan White Parts A and C, and is this summer wrapping up an intensive, five-year demonstration project through “Special Project of National Significance” funding to determine best practices for care coordination among incarcerated individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

What began in 1985 as Cleveland’s “Health Care for the Homeless” program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has grown to encompass primary medical care, comprehensive dental care and supportive services to address chronic homelessness and poverty in Cleveland. Through strategic partnerships with other safety net agencies, and through the support of foundations, corporations and residents of the community, Care Alliance continues to be a medical home for those who may not have a home. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, the organization is able to offer services to patients of all ages on a sliding fee scale based on income. Those who want to help can donate time, money or expertise by visiting www.carealliance.org and clicking on “Donate.”

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