



January 3, 2012

**Media contact:** Megan Havey  
216-781-6228 x 249  
mhavey@carealliance.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation Commits \$60,000 to Homeless Outreach**

*Three-year grant supports street medicine efforts of Care Alliance Health Center*

**Cleveland, Ohio** – The Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation recently granted \$60,000 over the next three years to Care Alliance Health Center to support homeless outreach efforts in Cleveland.

“When life has beaten you down so badly that you’re sleeping under a bridge, chances are good you won’t be going out of your way to get routine medical care,” said Donna Kelly, nurse and outreach program manager at Care Alliance. “Survival is hard enough, and often homeless people are struggling with mental illness, substance abuse, and post-traumatic stress. It is absolutely essential that we are able to go where homeless people live, and the generosity of the Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Foundation will help us continue this work into the future.”

Care Alliance is a nonprofit, federally funded health center dedicated to serving the needs of homeless, public housing and uninsured residents of Cuyahoga County. In 2011, Care Alliance served more than 9,600 people, two-thirds of whom were homeless. Outreach has been an integral component of the organization’s mission since its inception. Outreach services include clinics and health teachings within shelters, drop-in sites and treatment centers throughout the city. Additionally, an outreach team visits people in abandoned buildings, under bridges and in camps to deliver warm socks, bottled water and other essential items to start building relationships with this historically untrusting population.

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](http://www.carealliance.org) and clicking on “Donate.”

###