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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland Supports Strategic Planning for Addressing Health Disparities among Cleveland's Poorest Residents

Cleveland, Ohio – The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland recently committed \$6,000 to support Care Alliance Health Center's strategic planning initiative to address emerging challenges and opportunities in serving homeless, public housing and uninsured residents in the community.

"There are so many exciting and challenging initiatives taking place at Care Alliance, in the Cleveland community and nationally that will require us to adapt and evolve as we pursue our mission," said Francis Afram-Gyening, chief executive officer at Care Alliance. "Thanks to the support of Sisters of Charity, I am confident we will be able to successfully implement these changes and grow our capacity to continue to serve those who need our help well 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. Between 2010 and 2011, Care Alliance saw two percent increase in the number of patients served (9,600 in 2011) and higher than a 10 percent increase in patient visits, to more than 34,000. To address this increased demand, senior leadership and the Board of Trustees will embark on a strategic planning initiative to leverage resources and coordinate care appropriately for Cleveland's poorest residents.

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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