

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDED NATIONAL GRANT TO ADDRESS SHORE NURSING SHORTAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

Foundation is one of 10 selected for nationwide program

(September 20, 2006) – The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore has been selected as one of 10 foundations nationwide to participate in Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future (PIN) a new national initiative to develop and test solutions to America’s nursing shortage.

Led by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF), the program encourages local foundations to act as catalysts in developing grassroots strategies to establish a stable, adequate nursing workforce. To help develop solutions and lead efforts within the region, the Community Foundation has been awarded a two-year grant of \$250,000.

“Not having enough nurses threatens the quality of care that patients receive here on the Eastern Shore of Maryland,” said Spicer Bell, president of Community Foundation. “We are honored to be selected to help identify solutions to the nursing shortage and find new opportunities to support local nurses throughout their careers.”

“This national program provides the Foundation with the capacity to expand our long-term partnership with the three hospitals, two local nursing schools and other health care partners that serve this region,” Bell added. “We look forward to helping the people of the Eastern Shore through our work with this program, and are eager to share the lessons we learn with other communities across Maryland and the nation.”

The Community Foundation’s local program is called the Nursing Careers Support Initiative (NCSI). The NCSI initiative will implement a formalized, sustained nurse mentoring program that seeks to address three primary objectives: retention of new nurses, development of a nurse leadership network, and a pipeline for future nurse educators in the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The Foundation is currently accepting applications to hire a Program Director to develop and implement this regional nurse mentoring program.

Nationwide, Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future is a five-year, \$10 million initiative. Organizations selected for the program are exploring an array of initiatives that meet their community’s specific needs, including recruiting and retaining nursing faculty, developing new roles for nurses in the care setting, and empowering nurses to better assume leadership roles.

“Nurses are the cornerstone of our healthcare system and want nothing more than to provide safe and compassionate care for their patients in supportive and efficient work environments,” said Susan B. Hassmiller, R.N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N., senior program officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

“This unique program brings foundations together to learn from each other and engage others as they address a very serious problem in their communities. This partnership of the philanthropic community provides an opportunity to foster innovations that will help address the nursing crisis beyond just what any one foundation can do.”

“As nursing shortages vary across communities, so must the solutions – that’s why a range of programs is being explored through this program,” said Judith Woodruff, J.D., director of strategic initiatives of NWHF and PIN program director. “We are pleased to offer this grant to the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, which is well-qualified to explore solutions for the people of Maryland’s Eastern Shore. One size won’t fit all – and we need solutions that will work close to home.”

For more information about the Community Foundation and the Nursing Careers Support Initiative (NCSI), visit

the Foundation's web site at www.cfes.org, or phone 410-742-9911. Information about Partners Investing in Nursing's Future is available at www.PartnersInNursing.org.

The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore is the largest non-governmental source of support for nonprofit organizations in the Maryland lower shore counties of Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester. In fiscal 2006 the Foundation made a total of 844 grants to the community representing \$2.6 million distributed to nonprofits in the region.



The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore (CFES) is one of 10 foundations nationwide to receive a two-year grant as part of a national initiative to develop and test solutions to address America's nursing shortage. Above, Spicer Bell, CFES President, displays a ceremonial grant check for \$250,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, along with Susan Battistoni, nursing program chair at Salisbury University, and Denise Marshall, nursing program chair at Wor-Wic Community College. Both colleges, along with the three hospitals serving Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore, are participating as partners with the Community Foundation in the initiative.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Erica Joseph or Dr. Spicer Bell: 410-742-9911**