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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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***Healthcare Council Receives Grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation  
to Create the Crisis Employee Support Program***

WARRENDLE, PA- Frontline healthcare workers at 10 faith-based long-term care providers of the Healthcare Council of Western Pennsylvania (Healthcare Council) will receive critical support through the Crisis Employee Support Program (CRESP.) The program will be created by Healthcare Council as a result of a \$250,000 COVID-19 Economic Impact and Recovery grant recently awarded by the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

CRESP will provide essential services to approximately 10,000 frontline healthcare workers in three areas: work/life support; financial support and mental/behavioral health support.

“The pandemic will continue to be present for the foreseeable future and it has created significant stressors on these employees” explains A.J. Harper, president of Healthcare Council. “The CRESA program is being created to provide access to basic human services to the most vulnerable frontline healthcare workers who care for the most vulnerable population in our region-the elderly,” he said.

“We are deeply grateful to the Richard King Mellon Foundation for this funding, providing us the opportunity to create CRESA together with our members and partners,” Harper said.

Sam Reiman, director, of the Richard King Mellon Foundation said, “Our long-term care centers have been particularly affected by this deadly virus, and the women and men who have cared so bravely for the residents of those centers deserve our full support. This creative and collaborative idea from the Healthcare Council will provide thousands of frontline healthcare workers with mental health support, financial support and basic sustenance, to help them through this difficult time. This was an important idea that the Foundation was eager to support.”

Healthcare Council will serve as the “hub” for the CRESP program and coordinate each area of the program with the leadership of its 10-faith based long-term care members. These 10 member organizations include: Baptist Homes Society, Bethlen Communities, Concordia Lutheran Ministries, Jewish Association on Aging; Lutheran SeniorLife, Presbyterian SeniorCare, Redstone Presbyterian SeniorCare, Reformed Presbyterian Home, St. Anne Home, and Vincentian Collaborative System.

CRESP is designed to provide support in three critical areas. The focus of the work/life area is to provide access to food with assistance from partners including CURA Food Services; Marburger Farm Dairy; Reinhart Food Service; The Food Trust; and The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. For the financial support area, Citizen’s Bank will offer free online financial literacy classes. In the emotional/mental health area Pittsburgh Mercy will design a mental health assessment and share best clinical practices. Strategy Solutions, Inc., will conduct employee assessments and program evaluation.

Healthcare Council is a regional trade association representing a continuum of healthcare providers such as hospitals; long-term acute care hospitals; specialty

hospitals; long term care facilities, non-acute clinics; and intellectual/developmental disability providers in the 30-county area of western Pennsylvania.

Healthcare Council serves as a neutral convening authority for professionals across the region and members work collaboratively to address common issues and concerns as well as share best practices.

The Richard King Mellon Foundation is the largest foundation in southwestern Pennsylvania and focuses its philanthropy on economic development, education, environmental conservation and human services. The Foundation so far has committed \$15 million to COVID-19 relief efforts.