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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Iowa CareGivers, (IC), the non-profit, non-partisan and independent voice of Iowa's direct care workers, is pleased to announce it has received a \$2,500 Capacity Building Grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines to advance organizational capacity, board management and governance and overall sustainability. IC is leveraging the Community Foundation grant to help meet the care needs of Iowa's changing demographics.

"We are grateful to have such a strong partner in the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines," said Di Findley, Executive Director of IC. "They understand the challenges nonprofits face. This award, as well as their support over the years, have been a catalyst in helping IC and organizations like ours develop initiatives that allow us to achieve our mission and serve the greater good."

Access to hands-on health care services for Iowa's aging and disabled populations is being threatened as the number of direct care workers is declining and the over-65 population is experiencing rapid growth. According to Healthy Polk 2020, "the aging of the population has profound implications for the health-care system because seniors, as a group, have the greatest health care needs."

The current and projected direct care workforce shortages are an obstacle to access care and supportive services, and are a drain on the businesses and families who need to hire caregivers. Through this project, IC will continue to work with state and partner organizations to implement solutions to ensure that Iowans can age in place with access to the care they need.

"We're proud to support this new development initiative designed to help ensure long-term sustainability of Iowa CareGivers' programs, services and advocacy," said Brienne Sanchez, Director of Nonprofit Relations of the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines.

The grant is one of the Community Foundation's two competitive grant programs made possible through contributions to the "Better Together Fund." Capacity Building grants seek to strengthen an organization in an area related to governance or management and provide capacity support for a collaborative effort to enhance systemic support around a community issue or priority. More information at www.desmoinesfoundation.org

The mission of Iowa CareGivers is to enhance care and support of Iowans by providing education, research, recognition, and advocacy for those who provide direct care. The organization's purpose is to support the direct care workforce so they, in turn, are there to support Iowans and their families in times of need. IC programs and services include statewide and regional educational conferences; website, social media and newsletters; mentor, leadership and other training opportunities; recruitment resources; research studies and recognition programs. Visit www.iowacaregivers.org for more information.

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