



For Immediate Release

The Health Plan of West Virginia, Inc. Donates \$25,000 to YWCA Wheeling

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA— February 18, 2021 – During this COVID-19 pandemic, there has unfortunately been an increase in domestic violence throughout our region and across the country. The Health Plan (THP) recognizes the increased need for programs to help those in need and made a \$25,000 donation to the YWCA Wheeling's Family Violence Prevention Program.

"The YWCA Wheeling's Family Violence Prevention Program assisted more than 11,600 women, children and men last year. Since the pandemic hit, emergency shelter nights have increased 69 percent. The stress for our community members fleeing domestic violence is overwhelming. The support offered by The Health Plan assists every person seeking health and safety in their lives. We can't be more honored to be community partners with The Health Plan in our quest to end domestic violence," said Lori Jones, Executive Director of the YWCA Wheeling.

Additionally, THP employees donated materials for the YWCA Wheeling's STEP (Survivors of Trafficking Empowerment Program) initiative. The materials will be placed into bags and distributed to help the recipient with positive coping skills. Employees also included words of encouragement and phrases of positivity with the coping skill bags.

"We are proud to offer this support for programs designed to help victims of domestic violence," said Jeff Knight, President and COO of THP. "The work the YWCA does in our local community is more important than ever. We commend their extraordinary effort to help women, children, men and families in need of a safe haven and support."

The Health Plan, in addition to donating resources and money, supports community organizations through volunteerism. "It is an honor to be a part of YWCA Wheeling Board of Directors," said Antoinette Geyer, SVP Provider Delivery Services, THP. "Their commitment to our local community in providing a safe space for women and children, empowering women to grow professionally, and advocating for those facing discrimination is inspiring and something I am thrilled to be a part of."

If you or someone you know needs help, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1.800.799.SAFE (1.800.799.7233) where you can reach an advocate 24/7/365. If you are not able to call safely, you can text LOVEIS to 1.866.331.9474 or chat online at [TheHotline.org](https://www.thehotline.org). All calls are free and confidential.

If you suspect human trafficking, call federal law enforcement at 1.866.347.2423. If you need help call National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1.888.373.7888 or text HELP to BeFree (233733).

About The Health Plan

As one of the largest locally managed care organizations in West Virginia, The Health Plan has a 40-year history of community and charitable giving. From sponsorship of local youth-focused asthma and diabetes camps to college scholarship programs and sponsorships of dozens of community events throughout the region, The Health Plan strives to make a positive and healthy impact throughout the geographic regions that we serve.

The Health Plan (healthplan.org) is a clinically-driven, technology-enhanced, and customer-focused health maintenance organization that manages and improves the health and well-being of its members. Established in 1979, the West Virginia-based company, with offices in Wheeling, Charleston and Morgantown, WV and Massillon, OH has offered a complete line of managed care products and services designed to provide health care systems and clients with innovative health care benefits and plans at a reasonable cost across the mid-Atlantic region and nationally.

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