



SWOPE HEALTH SERVICESSM

Member Swope Community Enterprises

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Swope Health Services receives \$150,000 from Health Care Foundation of Greater K.C.

KANSAS CITY, MO – The Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City (HCF) announced an award of \$150,000 to Swope Health Services (SHS) in support of its dental program. The award will allow SHS to add one full-time dentist and one part-time dental assistant, allowing a deeper reach into uninsured and underinsured populations.

An increasing number of people have been pushed into poverty by the loss of jobs during the ongoing economic downturn. The vast majority of SHS dental patients come from Jackson County in Missouri and Wyandotte County in Kansas, where the unemployment rates were 10.0 percent and 9.5 percent respectively for June 2011, leaving more than 41,000 people in the two counties unemployed.

The human consequences of delayed or nonexistent dental care are significant. “Research has shown a direct relationship between poor oral health and life-threatening disease,” said Dr. William Pankey, SHS Chief Medical Officer. “Periodontitis (advanced gum disease) has been associated with cardiovascular disease, stroke, premature delivery, and bacterial pneumonia,” he added.

“HCF is honored to help support these organizations in their efforts to eliminate barriers to quality health for the uninsured and underserved in our service area,” said Steve Roling, President & CEO.

Swope Health Services is a federally qualified community health center that seeks to help develop self empowered, healthy people in healthy communities by providing primary health care, outreach/homeless and behavioral health services throughout the Kansas City area. Annually, more than 40,000 patients are served at Swope’s 10 medical, dental, and behavioral health/residential treatment centers located throughout the greater metropolitan area including Kansas City, Independence, Kansas City North, South Kansas City and Wyandotte County, KS.

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