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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HEALTHVISIONS MIDWEST RECEIVES GRANT FROM ASTRAZENECA HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION TO IMPROVE HEART HEALTH AND ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY**

**Hammond, IN, Sept. 29, 2021 –** Today on World Heart Day, **HealthVisions Midwest** was named one of seven innovative, community-based nonprofit organizations to receive a grant from the [AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation](http://www.astrazeneca-us.com/sustainability/healthcare-foundation.html) to address cardiovascular disease, a leading cause of death in the nation. The **$149,676** year-two grant will provide continued support for **HEART** program, launched in 2020.

The grant is part of the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation’s [*Connections for Cardiovascular Health (CCH)SM Next Generation*](https://www.astrazeneca-us.com/sustainability/healthcare-foundation/connections-for-cardiovascular-health.html)program, now in its second year, which aims to improve heart health in the US, particularly among historically disregarded and underserved populations, through tailored approaches that best meet the needs of local communities.

**“Our goal is to empower individuals to make lifestyle changes that lower their risk for cardiovascular disease and lead to better health,” said Michael Coleman, Director. “The *Connections for Cardiovascular HealthSM Next Generation* grant will help us break down health disparities and improve heart health for those most in need.**

“We’re thrilled to continue our support for *CCH Next Generation* grant awardees’ life-changing, community-level initiatives that are working to improve health equity across the US,” said Christie Bloomquist, President of the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation Board and Vice President, US Corporate Affairs at AstraZeneca. “We’re proud to partner with **HealthVisions Midwest** again this year and look forward to the impact its programming will have on the heart health of underserved people in **Lake County**.”

The AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation grant will support HealthVisions Midwest’s outreach efforts aimed at improving cardiovascular and healthy lifestyle outcomes. **Year two funding from the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation will help HealthVisions Midwest’s *HEART* program continue to address health disparities in three low-income minority communities in Lake County, Indiana. Residents of East Chicago, Gary and Hammond will benefit from the program’s focus on lowering health risks including blood pressure, cholesterol, and weight/BMI and promoting heart-healthy lifestyle habits. Community Health Workers, serving as health coaches, will work with participants to reduce stress, increase consumption of fruits and vegetables, and develop a regular exercise program.**

HealthVisions Midwest is a faith-based organization that works to advocate for the underserved, develop and facilitate partnerships, and address systemic community health disparities.  As part of the healing mission of Jesus we do this with dignity and respect. Our vision is to empower and support people to live healthier lives.

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**About AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation**

The AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation works to address health disparities in the US through strategic grant-giving and capacity building support for nonprofit organizations. The Foundation also provides financial support for AstraZeneca employees affected by federally declared disasters in the US. Established in 1993 as a nonprofit charitable organization, the Foundation is a separate legal entity from AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals with distinct legal restrictions. Its current signature program, *Connections for Cardiovascular HealthSM Next Generation,* aims to improve heart health in the US, particularly among historically disregarded and underserved populations, through tailored approaches that best meet the needs of local communities. For more information and the latest updates, follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AstraZenecaHealthCareFoundation), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/AZHCFoundation?s=20) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/ConnectionsCVHealth) and visit [www.astrazeneca-us.com/sustainability/healthcare-foundation.html](http://www.astrazeneca-us.com/sustainability/healthcare-foundation.html).

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