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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### JAIL & PRISON MINISTRY RECEIVES MERCY COMMUNITY BENEFIT GRANT

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Mercy Medical Center in Dubuque, through its Community Benefit program, has awarded Catholic Charities' Jail & Prison Ministry a grant of \$1,750 to help with medical expenses incurred by people returning to their communities following incarceration. Individuals who have recently been released from prison have no more than a one-month supply of medications needed to treat various conditions. While working to secure employment and waiting for permanent aid applications to be processed, many have a critical need for short-term assistance. That is where Mercy's grant to Jail & Prison Ministry can help.

"Mercy has provided a grant each year since 2010. This helps people afford their medical appointments and medications before health insurance from new jobs and/or government assistance can take effect. Without this help, some serious medical conditions would go untreated," said Jail & Prison Coordinator Deacon Bill Hickson. "We are grateful to Mercy Medical Center and their Community Benefit ministry for recognizing and responding to the need of this group of people who often have no place else to turn for help."

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Dubuque was founded in 1931 as a non-profit, social service organization. The organization serves 30 counties in Northeast Iowa and is part of a national social services network through Catholic Charities USA, working to reduce poverty, strengthen families, and empower communities, responding to persons in need of all faiths. For more information or ways to get involved visit [www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org) or call 800.772.2758.

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