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MOSES TAYLOR FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2015-2016 FOURTH QUARTER GRANTS *Grant Funds to Promote Health and Wellness Throughout Northeast Pennsylvania*

SCRANTON, PA. – The board of directors of Moses Taylor Foundation has approved its 2015-2016 fourth quarter grants, awarding a total of \$628,078 to 10 organizations that advance the Foundation’s strategic priority of promoting health and wellness throughout Northeast Pennsylvania.

“Our mission is to provide meaningful opportunities for Northeast Pennsylvania residents – especially the most vulnerable – to lead healthier lives. These 2015-2016 fourth quarter grants work toward fulfilling that mission in several ways,” said LaTida Smith, Moses Taylor Foundation President and CEO. “From capacity building grants to support for programming and capital needs, these investments are geared to drive lasting impacts in the communities we serve.”

The Foundation administers quarterly grant cycles. The full list of 2015-2016 fourth quarter grants is noted below.

- **Friendship House, Northeast Regional Autism Center:** \$106,610 to expand the agency’s tele-medicine clinical program, and to enroll six clinical staff members in a Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) certification program. New

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**MOSES TAYLOR FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2015-2016 FOURTH QUARTER GRANTS,
PAGE TWO**

computer hardware and video equipment will be used to hold clinical consultations via video call, linking together professionals, parents and caregivers who may not otherwise be able to attend treatment meetings or observe a child within the program. The expanded program will increase access to agency resources, providing more opportunities for parent education and support.

- **Greater Carbondale YMCA, Wellness Programs and Capital Debt Reduction:** \$60,000 to expand wellness programming and to assist with reduction of capital debt from the YMCA's recent building expansion. The Greater Carbondale YMCA facilitates programs and classes aimed at heart and lung health, cancer rehabilitation exercise and smoking cessation. The YMCA staffs a nurse, a dietician and a personal trainer, and it offers affordable programming to residents of the Carbondale area.
- **Meals on Wheels, Home Delivered Meals Program:** \$20,000 to assist with the operation of its Home Delivered Meals program. Funding will assist Meals on Wheels in continuing its weekday hot meal delivery to the homebound elderly and disabled population throughout Lackawanna County.
- **Northeast Pennsylvania Center for Independent Living, Transitional Skills Center:** \$47,000 to support the construction of the new Transitional Skills Center. A portion of the funds will be used for the purchase of sensory room equipment. Funds will also be used to purchase a driving simulator, which will assist the center in teaching driving skills using adaptive equipment for persons with disabilities.
- **Rural Health Corporation of NEPA, Monroe Noxen Dental Equipment Project:** \$36,788 to purchase two new, modernly equipped dental chairs. The new chairs will allow the dental clinic staff to provide more efficient services and will help to reduce costs associated with equipment maintenance.
- **Saint Joseph's Center, Staff Development & Information Technology Initiative:** \$245,000 over two years for capacity building aimed at providing staff development and

**MOSES TAYLOR FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2015-2016 FOURTH QUARTER GRANTS,
PAGE THREE**

information technology services in a more efficient manner. The funds will be used to create two new, full-time staff positions, along with technology upgrades and educational resources for conducting staff orientation and ongoing training. The two new positions will enable Saint Joseph's Center to provide improved training to almost 500 employees working multiple shifts at over 20 locations.

- **Wilkes University, Pharmacists' Role in Improving Care Transitions:** \$41,000 to improve and expand its Transition of Care service to Regional Hospital of Scranton. The service provides patient education, evidence-based management of chronic disease, and comprehensive medication management to prevent medication-related problems. The goal is to reduce hospital readmissions through improved efficiency and patient outcomes, particularly for patients with multiple chronic diseases.

- **Lackawanna County Aging Needs Assessment and Service Gap Analysis:** \$56,680 to conduct a needs assessment survey of Lackawanna County's aging population. The study will be used to determine unmet needs in healthcare, preventive care, access to transportation, social and senior programs, employment and education. Survey data will be used in a gap analysis study to identify service gaps and construct a plan to address those gaps.

- **Enrichment Audio Resource Services, E.A.R.S. for Eyes Community Education Project:** \$10,000 to support an outreach program to 10 Lackawanna County senior centers and six senior housing facilities. The program provides general information about age-related eye diseases. Participants receive information about vision rehabilitation and other services available to manage diminished vision and extend independence.

- **The F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts, Jamie Tworkowski, founder of To Write Love on Her Arms:** \$5,000 to support a free community presentation by the founder of To Write Love on Her Arms. The program focuses on teen behavioral health

**MOSES TAYLOR FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2015-2016 FOURTH QUARTER GRANTS,
PAGE FOUR**

challenges (e.g., suicide, cutting, depression) and was presented in partnership with area nonprofit organizations that provide crisis services and support programs. This was the Kirby Center's first effort to use its venue to deliver this type of health education program.

About Moses Taylor Foundation

Moses Taylor Foundation is a private foundation dedicated to building healthy communities and providing opportunities for people in Northeast Pennsylvania, especially the most vulnerable, to lead healthier lives. The Foundation was endowed in 2012 with the net proceeds from the sale of the Moses Taylor Health Care System to Community Health Systems of Franklin, Tennessee. Information on the work of Moses Taylor Foundation is available on the Foundation's website: www.mosestaylorfoundation.org.

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