



## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Caitlin Blum  
312-558-1770  
[cblum@pcipr.com](mailto:cblum@pcipr.com)

### **NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY VISIT MERCY COMPREHENSIVE CARE CENTER TO SEE HOW IT IS SUCCESSFULLY ADDRESSING CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN ONE OF BUFFALO'S POOREST COMMUNITIES**

AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation Unites Grant Award-Winning Programs Through Mentor-Mentee Learning Forum

(BUFFALO, N.Y.) April 30, 2019 – Mercy Hospital Foundation co-hosted a Mentor-Mentee Learning Forum with the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation to advance efforts to improve heart health with five other nonprofit organizations facing similar challenges in their communities.

Mercy Hospital Foundation's *Heart Smart for Life* program at the Mercy Comprehensive Care Center has helped ensure vulnerable populations at risk in Buffalo have access to nutrition education, free health screenings, wellness programs, and other resources focused on preventing heart disease. The Mercy Hospital Foundation is one of 11 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive a grant from the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation's *Connections for Cardiovascular Health<sup>SM</sup>* program to help improve heart health through community-based initiatives.

During the Mentor-Mentee Learning Forum, Mercy highlighted their successful program, *Heart Smart for Life*, to the Foundation's new Grant Awardees from South Dakota, Mississippi and Illinois and their mentors, repeat Grant Awardees from West Virginia and Michigan. The program also provided opportunities for Mercy, the mentors and mentees to engage in peer-to-peer learning and workshops led by evaluation and communications experts to help each other enhance and sustain their programs. In addition, they learned how to share their successful approaches for developing and delivering impactful community health programs with other groups across the country.

"Mercy Hospital Foundation was proud to co-host the Mentor-Mentee Learning Forum and show *Heart Smart for Life* in action with a clinic tour, healthy cooking and chair yoga demonstrations," Jeanne O'Hara, Program Manager, *Heart Smart for Life*. "We're helping to make a difference of the lives Buffalo residents and hope this information is helpful to other organizations who want to do the same in their communities."

For more information about the *Heart Smart for Life* program, visit the [website](#) or call (716) 923-6152.

###

#### **About Mercy Hospital Foundation**

The Mercy Hospital Foundation was formed in 1978 to solicit, receive and administer philanthropic support for the benefit of Mercy Hospital. If you believe, as we believe that your healthcare provider should be inspired by faith and committed to excellent, then join us in our mission: to raise funds and steward existing resources and support the patient care, projects and programs of Mercy Hospital of Buffalo.

## **About AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation**

Established in 1993, the AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation is a Delaware (United States) not-for-profit corporation and a 501(c)(3) entity, separate from AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, organized for charitable purposes including to promote public awareness and education of healthcare issues and support eligible nonprofit organizations in alignment with its mission. *Connections for Cardiovascular Health<sup>SM</sup>* was launched in 2010 through a charitable contribution of \$25 million from AstraZeneca.