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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commonwealth Credit Union Commits \$550,000 to Baptist Health Foundation Richmond for Community Health Enhancement

RICHMOND, KY (August 13, 2024) – Commonwealth Credit Union has underscored its commitment to the Richmond community by announcing a transformative \$550,000 donation to Baptist Health Foundation Richmond during the grand opening of its branch in the community. This generous contribution is set to elevate nursing excellence at Baptist Health Richmond through the implementation of high-fidelity simulation technology.

“Following the positive impact of our donation to Baptist Health Foundation Lexington, extending our support to Baptist Health Richmond was a natural next step,” said Karen Harbin, President & CEO of Commonwealth Credit Union. “We believe that health is the foundation of wealth and a flourishing community. We are honored to contribute to an initiative that will improve healthcare quality for our community now and for generations to come.”

In 2023, Commonwealth Credit Union gifted Baptist Health Foundation Lexington a historic philanthropic gift to aid in the construction of Baptist Health Hamburg, which officially opened in April. Thanks to this facility, thousands of patients now have access to more convenient and comprehensive care. Commonwealth Credit Union’s gifts to both Hamburg and now Richmond are transforming the landscape of healthcare in Central Kentucky, paving the way for advanced medical services and a brighter future for patients across the region.

Kari Martin, Director of Baptist Health Foundation Richmond, expressed deep gratitude, stating, “The incredible generosity of Commonwealth Credit Union will transform the learning and development experience of our nurses and clinicians. Their support will ultimately enhance the care we provide to the patients we are privileged to serve each day.”

The \$550,000 contribution will be allocated towards acquiring state-of-the-art high-fidelity simulation manikins and innovative technology. This effort aims to enhance the skills and expertise of clinicians by providing hands-on practice in a controlled, simulated setting. These simulations enable “safe mistakes,” offering considerable benefits over traditional classroom learning and ultimately resulting in better patient care.

“This remarkable gift from Commonwealth Credit Union empowers our organization to offer simulation practice opportunities that rival those of larger teaching institutions. By providing access to advanced technology, we can enhance the competence, confidence, and clinical excellence of our entire healthcare team,” said Mendy Blair, DNP, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at Baptist Health Richmond. “This is truly a dream come true for us, and we are profoundly grateful.”

The donation will be used to acquire five high-fidelity simulation manikins, representing a variety of patients, from newborns to adults, including those in obstetric care. In addition, the simulation lab will be extensively upgraded to create a more dynamic and interactive learning environment. This initiative will also strengthen partnerships with local nursing schools, such as Eastern Kentucky University, Berea College, and Bluegrass Community & Technical College, further enriching the educational experience for nursing students

In recognition of this significant contribution, the newly renovated lab will be named the Commonwealth Credit Union Experiential Simulation Lab.

Greg D. Gerard, President of Baptist Health Richmond, praised the credit union's commitment: "Commonwealth Credit Union's generosity is truly inspiring. From our first discussions about enhancing our training programs, their enthusiasm was evident. They understand, as we do, that the success of any organization depends on the quality of its people. This gift will enable our clinical staff to receive training that mirrors real-world scenarios, ultimately enhancing patient outcomes. Our community can trust that they will receive the best possible care in their time of need, thanks to partners like Commonwealth Credit Union."

This is not Commonwealth Credit Union's first impact in the Richmond Community. Last spring, Commonwealth Credit Union donated a \$1 million gift to Eastern Kentucky University in support of the Evans Banking and Financial Services program and the establishment of a new certificate program in Financial Technology and Cybercrime. This certification was the first of its kind in the nation.

To learn more about how Commonwealth Credit Union is bettering lives in the communities they serve through their giving initiative, visit ccuky.org/giving-back.

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