Six Pilot Health Organizations Selected for Schwartz Center's Inaugural Healing Healthcare Initiative

The program will guide healthcare leaders to reimagine their organization's operations to improve health worker mental health and well-being.

Boston (Jan. 24, 2023) – The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, a national nonprofit dedicated to putting compassion at the heart of healthcare, has selected six health organizations across the U.S. to participate in the Center's inaugural Healing Healthcare Initiative (HHI). The initiative aims to provide solutions that support and empower leaders with the resources and tools to better support their health workers' well-being, so they can focus on delivering equitable, compassionate patient care.

"We know that around 60% of health workers experience burnout. They are exhausted and stretched thin at best—and at worst they are anxious, depressed and suffering from traumatic stress," said Beth Lown, chief medical officer at the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare. "This is causing hospital and health systems to experience unprecedented health worker shortages, leading to financial strain and increased medical errors. The Schwartz Center has developed this new initiative to achieve real progress in healing our healthcare system, so health workers can heal their patients."

The initiative will equip healthcare leaders from six organizations in developing and implementing a roadmap for their organization to ensure their organization, workforce and patients can continue to thrive. The organizations include:

- Children's Minnesota – Minneapolis, MN
- Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center – Cincinnati, OH
- Denver Health – Denver, CO
- New York City Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst – New York City, NY
- TIRR Memorial Hermann Hospital – Houston, TX
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Medical Center – Little Rock, AR

Specifically, HHI leaders will be equipped with evidenced-based resources, tools and support centered around six key principles:

- **Diversity and Equity:** Promotes equity by identifying, addressing and dismantling all forms of structural discrimination and racism.
- **Inclusion, Voice and Choice:** Ensures inclusion by involving its health workers in decision-making and creating solutions.
- **Mental Health and Well-being:** Values its health workers' mental health and well-being by reducing stigma, investing in programs and addressing systemic barriers.
- **Psychological and Physical Safety:** Protects its health workers and patients by creating a safe, trusted environment.

- **Team Cohesiveness and Collaboration:** Fosters mutual respect, shared purpose and collaborative learning among its health workers.
- **Trust and Trustworthiness:** Builds trust with its patients and health workers by involving them in organization updates and decisions.

"Systems change can feel overwhelming, and it's certainly complex," continued Lown. But the Healing Healthcare Initiative was designed to help healthcare leaders navigate this complexity and feel confident in the solutions they advance because they are rooted in the six key principles vital for a health system to deliver quality, compassionate care by a thriving workforce. We hope to help leaders break down silos and integrate existing work across their organizations."

The Healing Healthcare Initiative has been developed and is offered with the generous support of the Brave of Heart Fund, founded by the foundations of New York Life and Cigna and administered by E4E Relief.

About the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare
The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare is a national organization whose mission is to put compassion at the heart of healthcare. Through programs, education and advocacy, the Schwartz Center supports the mental health and well-being of the healthcare workforce so they can provide compassionate care to patients and families. With more than 600 healthcare member organizations across 44 states in the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the Schwartz Center's evidence-informed programs and resources have proven to be versatile, sustainable and effective across diverse settings, including acute care and rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient clinics, cancer centers, Veteran's Administration medical centers, organ procurement organizations, nursing homes, hospice providers, and health insurers. To learn more, visit theschwartzcenter.org or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

About the Brave of Heart Fund
The Brave of Heart Fund was founded in May 2020 by the foundations of New York Life and Cigna and administered by E4E Relief. It was established to provide charitable grants and emotional support services to families of frontline health care workers, volunteers, and support staff whose lives were lost in the fight against COVID-19. The Brave of Heart Fund continues to honor the hard work and sacrifice of health care workers and their families, via grants to nonprofit organizations working to address the long-term challenges they continue to experience.