FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL NONPROFIT WINS GRANT FOR FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM

Lebanon, OH – November 20, 2012. Recently, Warren County Community Services (WCCS) received a $5,000 grant from The HealthPath Foundation of Ohio (HPF-Ohio) to develop WCCS’ Friendly Visitor Program.

The volunteers will visit older adults who may be living alone, may be at risk for institutional placement, or may need additional support to maintain independence. Volunteers must special people who enjoy working with older adults. All volunteers must pass a criminal background check and drug screen, as they will be going into older adults homes. Also, initial training to prepare volunteers for the friendly visitor role will be provided.

The HealthPath grant is invaluable and will help fund the training to be conducted by the Center for Aging with Dignity at University of Cincinnati College of Nursing. The grant will also fund the necessary volunteer screenings. “Although we have discussed this program need for several years, the HealthPath grant makes it possible. We are very excited to recruit volunteers who would like to join our team and gain the personal growth and satisfaction from helping others,” states Karen Hill, WCCS Aging Services
Director. Volunteers will be working closely with WCCS staff and have as much support and training as they need.

Loneliness is one of the major factors both in physical and mental health decline. Being alone, without social support, often leads to depression and self neglect among the elderly. “With a Warren County 65+ population that grew by 54.4% from 2000 to 2010, it is important for the community to join us in meeting the growing needs” states Hill. “These volunteers will be a tremendous asset to the continuum of care for older adults in our community.”

For more information on the Friendly Visitor Program or to apply to be a volunteer, call Karen Hill at 513-695-2288 or 937-425-2288 or email at karenh@wccsinc.org

**More about WCCS, Inc.** WCCS provides services for seniors including Meals on Wheels, Senior Lunch Sites, Senior Transportation, RSVP, The 741 Center and assistance with Medicare, Medical and insurance issues. These programs support the independence of older adults living in the community. Programs are funded by Warren County United Way and the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio. For more information on any of these programs, call 513-695-2288 or visit our website at [www.wccsi.org](http://www.wccsi.org).

**More about HealthPath Foundation.** Support for the Friendly Visitor Program is provided through a Community Connections grant from the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio (HPF-Ohio). Community Connections is a new initiative to prevent family violence by engaging the community. HPF-Ohio, a $24 million supporting organization of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, is committed to helping all Ohioans, regardless of status, wealth or circumstances, achieve their fullest health potential. Since 1999, HPF-Ohio has
awarded more than $12 million in grants to address some of the most pressing, yet neglected, health issues faced by Ohio’s vulnerable population -- access to healthcare, prevention of family violence, and preventive oral health. To learn more about HPF-Ohio, visit www.healthpathohio.org.

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