



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LeadingAge Minnesota Foundation Invests Over \$1.8 Million In the Health and Well-Being of Seniors in Rural Minnesota

Three “Connected Communities” Grants Provides funding to create community ecosystems that support older adults as they age

MINNEAPOLIS – November 20, 2024 – This Thanksgiving season, as we gather with loved ones and reflect on all we’re grateful for, the LeadingAge Minnesota Foundation is thankful for our elders and excited to help tackle challenges they face in rural areas of the state. With a recent \$1.8 million dollar investment, dispersed among three distinct rural communities, the “Connected Communities” project will help improve the lives of older adults in rural Minnesota. This transformative funding will empower Guardian Angels Senior Living (Elk River), Bethesda (Willmar), and St. John’s Lutheran Community (Albert Lea) to further their respective missions to serve seniors by helping those outside of their communities age in place with enhanced well-being, connectivity, and support. These three new communities join Vivie (Alexandria) and Perham Health (Perham) in developing more coordinated and holistic systems of support for older adults.

Aging in rural areas presents unique challenges, but the Connected Communities project seeks to transform this experience by creating cohesive community ecosystems that support older adults in every aspect of their lives—physically, emotionally, and socially. With this grant, each of these providers are poised to lead their communities in bridging gaps in healthcare, reducing social isolation, and streamlining communication across rural care services. Each has developed innovative projects that will build a stronger, more supportive environment for seniors and their families, enabling them to enjoy a vibrant, fulfilling life surrounded by the community that values and appreciates them.

Kari Thurlow, President and CEO of LeadingAge Minnesota, expressed her enthusiasm for the project: “The LeadingAge Minnesota Foundation is committed to honoring and supporting older adults, especially in rural communities where resources can be scarce. This Thanksgiving, we’re particularly grateful our members’ pioneering leadership in collaborating with their community to create meaningful, systemic improvements for older adults, their families, and the community as a whole.”

About LeadingAge Minnesota Foundation

The LeadingAge Minnesota Foundation is a nonprofit, intermediary grantmaking foundation. It is an affiliate of LeadingAge Minnesota, a Minnesota-based association of more than 1,100 member organizations and 65,000

caregivers providing quality care, services and support to more than 65,000 older adults in independent living, assisted living, adult day, home care and skilled nursing settings. The LeadingAge Minnesota Foundation seeks to transform and enhance the experience of aging by incubating new ideas and concepts to support workforce initiatives, care redesign and research.

Learn more at <https://www.leadingagemn.org/about-us/foundation/>

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