

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware awards \$250,000 to Jewish Family Services

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware recently awarded seven grants, totaling \$1.3 million through its *BluePrints for the Community* grant program. Jewish Family Services of Delaware was one of the grant recipients for 2013. Awarded \$250,000, this grant supports the Brandywine Village Network, a program designed to promote independence and increase access to health care and support services for adults over age 50 in northern New Castle County. The program aims to ensure older adults remain in their homes as they age, reducing the need for institutionalization and hospital readmissions.

“Supporting healthy communities has always been our top priority, and community-based organizations focused on improving the lives of others are the real catalyst to making an impact on community health,” said Tim Constantine, president of Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware. “These seven organizations share our goals of supporting a healthier Delaware, and Highmark Delaware is pleased to fund their initiatives.”

Highmark Delaware established *BluePrints for the Community* in 2007 as a donor-advised fund at the Delaware Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization that manages and administers charitable funds throughout Delaware. The program supports nonprofit organizations focused on four key areas: increasing access to care for Delaware’s uninsured and underserved populations; reducing health care disparities in minority communities; supporting early childhood development; and recruiting and training health care professionals.

Since its inception, the *BluePrints for the Community* grant program has awarded 34 grants totaling more than \$5.5 million to 26 organizations. As a result, nearly 12,000 Delawareans have been able to access affordable, high-quality health care, and more than 200 health care professionals and volunteers have received additional training to help serve Delawareans. In addition, more than 40 full- or part-time jobs have been created.

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