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Charter House Receives Community Collaboration Award

SAINT PAUL, MN – (Feb 10, 2020) – Charter House in Rochester recently received a Stars Among Us Community Collaboration award from LeadingAge Minnesota for an annual charitable event that has resulted in more than \$300,000 being donated to 48 local nonprofits over the course of 30 years.

“Charter House residents believe in giving back. They recognized a gap in critical community services for those who lack financial resources and set out to support such important causes as homelessness, hunger, early childhood development, chemical dependency, domestic violence and affordable housing,” said Gayle Kvenvold, President and CEO, LeadingAge Minnesota. “The annual sidewalk sale is more than a charitable event. It is an opportunity to provide meaning and purpose to those who plan it, participate in it, and benefit from its proceeds.”

The Sidewalk Sale began in 1989 when a group of residents decided to sell unwanted items they otherwise would have given away and donate the proceeds to local charities selected by the Resident Council. The first year of the sales raised \$2,000 and it is now an honored tradition that residents and staff work on year-round. In addition to unwanted items, the sale now features handcrafted furniture, crocheted blankets and baked goods. More than 100 residents and staff prepare for the four-hour sale and there is a line of shoppers that stretches for blocks just before it starts. Proceeds from the sale have helped:

- the Women’s Shelter and Support Center in providing essential clothing, household and personal items to the women and children they serve and purchase technology for court advocates for domestic abuse victims.
- Hawthorne Helps purchase necessities such as body wash, shampoo, toothpaste, hand soap and deodorant for impoverished adult students attending Hawthorne Education Center.
- the Family Promise Rochester provide food and housing to low-income families.
- the Thrive Child Care and Development Center provide parents with skills and resources to make positive choices and decision for their families.
- the Yellow Monkey thrift store employ and teach job skills to young adults with disabilities.
- Center City Housing & Gage East provide bedding and household items to low-income and impoverished families.

“The spirit of caring and camaraderie of the Charter House Sidewalk Sale is reflective of our residents and their missions of service to those in need,” said Tony Enquist, Administrator, Charter House. “This now honored tradition has helped us become an integral partner in our greater Rochester community and do what we can to close a gap in resources that exist for those in need.”

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About LeadingAge Minnesota

Driven to transform and enhance the experience of aging, LeadingAge Minnesota works alongside its members, caregivers, advocates and consumers to collectively shape the future of aging services and ensure older adults in every community live with dignity, meaning and purpose. Together with more than 60,000 caregivers, LeadingAge Minnesota members provide quality services and supports to nearly

70,000 older adults every day in independent senior housing, assisted living, adult day, home care and skilled nursing settings.