

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$6.4 Million Helmsley Charitable Trust Grant to Fund Life-Saving New Technology for Law Enforcement in Kearney, Nebraska

City of Kearney, N.E. (June 7, 2021) - In an ongoing effort to improve the cardiac system of care in the Upper Midwest, The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust has awarded a grant of \$6.4 million to equip every law enforcement agency as well as Nebraska Game and Parks facilities with the next generation of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). The grant, facilitated through the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Public Health, will fund devices to be placed in law enforcement vehicles in Kearney. The project includes training.

“Seconds count during a cardiac arrest,” said Walter Panzirer, a Helmsley trustee. “We know in Nebraska first responders often have great distances to cover. This funding will ensure those who get to the scene before EMS arrives give patients a better shot at survival.”

Studies conducted by the American Heart Association demonstrate a dramatically higher survival rate for cardiac patients shocked by law enforcement, who are generally first on the scene, especially in rural areas. The AEDs selected feature technology conducive to the highly mobile and challenging environment of a patrol vehicle. The AEDs will help ensure that rescuers provide the fastest first shock when defibrillation is needed. The devices feature industry-leading analysis technology that reduces pauses during CPR, allowing for improved blood circulation and better odds of survival. Using Wi-Fi connectivity, these self-monitoring devices can send near real-time event data, including a patient’s heart rhythm and delivered shocks, to incoming emergency services or receiving hospitals, thus allowing for post-event evaluation to improve care delivery.

“On behalf of myself, the Kearney Police Department, and the City of Kearney, we are incredibly grateful for the generous donation from the Helmsley Charitable Trust Grant and all of the partners involved in this project. The equipment and training provided through this grant will ensure an AED is available inside every on-duty police car in

Kearney 24/7, providing advanced lifesaving tools for our police officers and the community. When seconds can be the difference between life or death for those suffering cardiac arrest, these AEDs will have a direct impact on public safety in Kearney. While the Kearney Police Department has been deploying AEDs in the field for several years, the addition of these new AEDs will be used by our Uniform Patrol staff to provide immediate lifesaving technology for members of our community when time is critical to recovery, enhancing our capabilities during emergency calls involving a person in cardiac arrest,” said Bryan D. Waugh, Kearney Chief of Police.

The new devices will be placed, and training conducted by June 8, 2021. AEDs previously used by some agencies will be relocated throughout communities increasing the number of AEDs accessible to the public.

To date, the Helmsley Charitable Trust has invested more than \$500 million to improve access to quality healthcare in rural America, \$72 million of that in Nebraska.

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About the Helmsley Charitable Trust

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust aspires to improve lives by supporting exceptional efforts in the U.S. and around the world in health and select place-based initiatives. Since beginning active grantmaking in 2008, Helmsley has committed nearly \$3 billion for a wide range of charitable purposes. Helmsley’s Rural Healthcare Program funds innovative projects that use information technologies to connect rural patients to emergency medical care, bring the latest medical therapies to patients in remote areas, and provide state-of-the-art training for rural hospitals and EMS personnel. To date, this program has awarded more than \$500 million to organizations and initiatives in the upper Midwest states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Minnesota, Iowa, and Montana. For more information, visit www.helmsleytrust.org.

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