NEWS RELEASE

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BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH AWARDS YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH GRANTS SUPPORTING LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

MERIDIAN, Idaho, February 22, 2017 – The Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health announced today two new grantees under its initiative designed to increase the understating of youth mental health issues across Idaho. The initiative funds localized training for individuals who interact with youth with the aim of increasing knowledge about emotional and mental health and ultimately improving response to such issues across the state.

Through the initiative, the Foundation awarded grants to the Children's Home Society and Region 4 Behavioral Health Board, organizations which will bring youth mental health training sessions to their communities.

"The Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health is excited to work with the new grantees" said Kendra Witt-Doyle, Executive Director of the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health. "The grants will help train more individuals who interact each day with young people so they have a greater understanding of mental health. Congratulations to our recipients. We're looking forward to hearing about your successful training sessions."

Children's Home Society: Funding will support enhancements to the Children's Home Society Warm Springs Training Institute. The Warm Springs Training Institute is accredited by the National Board of Certified Counselors to provide trainings to behavioral health professionals.

Region 4 Behavioral Health Board: Funding will help provide and sustain Youth Mental Health First Aid in Boise and Valley County. Youth Mental Health First Aid is an evidence based program for individuals who interact with youth.

About the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health

Founded in 2001, the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health supports programs that benefit the health and wellness of all Idahoans. The Foundation believes that when it comes to giving to the community it must lead by example. Since 2003, the Foundation has donated nearly millions of dollars to charitable health programs and organizations statewide. For more information, visit *bcidahofoundation.org*.

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