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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

McClees Clinic at Hackley Hospital Honored for HIV/AIDS Work in the African-American Community

(Muskegon, MI) - The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority recently recognized the McClees Clinic at Hackley Hospital for their ongoing HIV/AIDS work in the African American community. The award was presented to clinic staff as part of the 16th Annual Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS. The award ceremony was held at the Mt. Zion Church of God in Christ.

States Mary Byers, case manager at the McClees Clinic at Hackley Hospital, "This award recognizes the work of so many people during the past decade. Awareness, prevention, and treatment of HIV/AIDS in the African-American community are desperately needed. The efforts of Delta Sigma to raise awareness of this disease in the African American community are very important. We cannot ignore this disease."

Recent studies suggest a widening of the gap between African Americans and whites in the United States in respect to HIV infection rates. According to researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the HIV infection rate has doubled among black persons in the United States during the past decade. The infection rate among whites has held steady.

The McClees Clinic at Hackley Hospital provides free case management to anyone with HIV/AIDS. Many services are available, including limited medical services, counseling, testing, emergency assistance, and referrals for a variety of care issues. All patient visits and services are confidential. The McClees Clinic first opened in 1994 at the Muskegon County Health Department. Accepting the award on behalf of the McClees Clinic at Hackley Hospital included Dr. Bruce Olson, Infectious Disease Specialist, Mary Cavanaugh-Byers, Nurse Case Manager, Judity Elsey, Nurse Case Manager, and Erin Hopson, Client Services Coordinator.

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is a non profit organization with a mission to provide programs to promote human welfare. With a worldwide membership of more than 200,000 African-American, college-educated women, the sorority has more than 900 chapters. The sorority promotes programs that battle the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African-American community.

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