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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HELPING UP MISSION AWARDED GRANT FROM MARYLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCE COMMISSION TO EXPAND DENTAL SERVICES TO SUBSTANCE USERS IN BALTIMORE CITY

Baltimore City, MARYLAND – Helping Up Mission (HUM) was recently named as one of 19 grant recipients by the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC), receiving a grant of \$150,000 to expand Dental Services to residents of the one-year residential Spiritual Recovery Program over the next three years.

Robert K. Gehman, Executive Director, shared “We are pleased to be able to work with the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission, the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, Maryland Office of Oral Health, and Towson University Department of Nursing to provide oral health care to the men experiencing poverty and homelessness who are currently a part of Helping Up Mission’s Spiritual Recovery Program. Thanks to this grant, we are able to help more men receive cleanings, tooth extractions, emergency care, and comprehensive restorative dental services. These initiatives will offer a brighter future to those men in our Spiritual Recovery Program (SRP) who are all overcoming drug and alcohol addiction.”

“We are so appreciative of the oral health services that Helping Up Mission provides to our most vulnerable Maryland residents,” Dr. Greg McClure, Dental Director of the Maryland Office of Oral Health explains, “Their patients are much more susceptible to oral disease and have limited resources and opportunities to preserve and maintain their oral health, that is necessary for overall general health. We are also very grateful to the CHRC for these funds in recognition of the important work of HUM and the importance of oral health. The Office of Oral Health will continue to support the fabulous mission of HUM.”

Louis G. DePaola, DDS, MS and Dean of Clinical Affairs at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry emphasized the value of this program, “Oral health is essential for good general health. But, especially for those in recovery from addiction, oral health is more than that. It is being able to smile again without the embarrassment of missing or decayed teeth. It is about re-establishing self-worth and being able to eat without pain. Obtaining and maintaining oral health helps an individual feel whole again and helps them become a productive member of the community.”

Mary E. Lashley PhD, RN of Towson University shared, “For over a decade, Towson University Department of Nursing has been a proud partner with Helping Up Mission in providing oral health services to its resident population. Towson University nursing students lead biannual health fairs, providing vital oral health education to the Mission’s resident population. In addition, grant funding support and development resources have been sought to help sustain and expand the Mission’s oral



health program. The HUM Oral Health Program has inspired emerging health professionals to work with homeless and underserved populations. Over 1,600 students in nursing, dentistry, and dental hygiene have been positively impacted by the program, creating a pool of dedicated and highly qualified health professionals uniquely positioned to become a sustainable work force, equipped and motivated to care for some of Maryland's most vulnerable citizens."

HUM expects to serve approximately 560 clients from June 30 – June 30, 2020 (FY2017 Q4 – FY2020). Primary outcomes for this grant funding include increased capacity in the number of patients served, improved oral health care outcomes, and improved client outcomes in drug and alcohol recovery, including length of stay, employment acquisition, and program completion rates.

"The Community Health Resources Commission is thrilled to support Helping Up Mission and its dental program," commented Mark Luckner, Executive Director, CHRC. "This project will provide critically needed expansion of access to oral health care for vulnerable populations, impacting individuals, the community at large, and the broader local healthcare industry as the need for dental related hospital visits are reduced." The grant awarded to Helping Up Mission is one of 36 dental grants awarded by the CHRC, totaling \$7 million. These grants have served more than 45,000 low-income children and adults.

ABOUT HELPING UP MISSION

Helping Up Mission (HUM) is an IRS designated 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization founded in 1885 to meet the needs of Baltimore City's and the surrounding counties' poor and underserved residents. For 132 years, HUM has developed deep roots among the inner city's poor and homeless, helping countless individuals overcome poverty, homelessness, and addiction. HUM is located on the 1000 block of East Baltimore Street in the Historic Jonestown community of Baltimore City.

HUM serves 560 people daily in eight programs, ranging from Emergency Overnight Shelter to the largest long-term recovery program in Maryland, the one-year Spiritual Recovery Program. HUM's programming is guided by our mission statement: *Helping Up Mission provides hope to people experiencing homelessness, poverty or addiction by meeting their physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs.*

ABOUT MARYLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCE COMMISSION

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 2005 to expand access to health care services in underserved communities in Maryland. The CHRC is an independent commission operating within the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DHMH), whose 11 members are appointed by the Governor. Since its inception, the CHRC has awarded 190 grants totaling \$60.3 million, supporting programs in every jurisdiction of the state. These programs have collectively served more than 330,000 Marylanders, and grants awarded by the CHRC have enabled grantees to leverage \$19.9 million in additional federal and private/non-profit resources.