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**Community Health Fellow joins team; will focus on Buckeye/Woodland Hills/Larchmere neighborhoods**

*Fellowship is an evolution of Saint Luke's Foundation's Francis H. Beam, Jr. Fellowship*

CLEVELAND, July 27, 2010 – The Case Western Reserve University Center for Reducing Health Disparities at MetroHealth Hospital, with funding support from the Saint Luke's Foundation, has recruited Vedette Gavin, M.P.H., as its first Community Health Fellow. Ms. Gavin will work at the Buckeye Area Development Corporation in the Buckeye/Woodland Hills/Larchmere community to facilitate collaborative, neighborhood-specific planning and action around healthy community lifestyles.

Ms. Gavin comes to this position from the Safe Communities Program at the Columbus Department of Public Health. Her professional experience reflects innovative public health program design and implementation with a strong emphasis on process and outcomes measurement.

“The Community Fellow will have significant opportunities to support the integration of several initiatives funded through the Saint Luke's Foundation,” said Sandra Byrd Chappelle, senior program officer for Transformational Initiatives at the Foundation. “The Fellow will be principally engaged in integrating our “Closing the Gap” grant to MetroHealth with our Buckeye/Larchmere neighborhood empowerment work. Key to Ms. Gavin's work will be the extension the Foundation's focus on ensuring that those most affected by health disparities have a significant voice in developing initiatives to reduce them. Efforts developed will be envisioned, initiated and sustained by community residents,” Ms. Chappelle added.

The Saint Luke's Foundation has invested over \$13 million in the Buckeye/Larchmere/Woodland Hills neighborhoods through several synergistic initiatives intended to reduce health disparities, revitalize urban neighborhoods, and positively impact the health and well-being of residents. Engagement of the Community Health Fellow will create a linked network of people and organizations focused on improving coordination among programs, and adapting projects to increase impact, penetration and sustainability of these initiatives.

The Francis H. Beam Community Health Fellowship, one of the newest transformational initiatives in the Saint Luke's Foundation's grant portfolio, is an evolution of the Francis H. Beam, Jr. Fellowship. Launched in 2007, the fellowship was initially designed to equip the fellows with an overview of philanthropy and Cleveland's nonprofit and public sectors by exposing them to the day-to-day thought processes, information gathering and decision making skills necessary for effective grantmaking. The end result of the fellowship was to extend the reach of the Foundation through the fellow's subsequent employment in the nonprofit, philanthropic or public sector. Since its inception, there have been two Francis H. Beam Fellows, both of whom are now working in Greater Cleveland in health and human services.

Ms. Gavin holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland – College Park and a Master's of Public Health from The Ohio State University.

**About Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio**

With more than 13 years of grantmaking in the community, Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland is a community-based private foundation that collaborates with nonprofit organizations and community leaders to address relevant issues and offer sustainable solutions in Greater Cleveland. The organization's mission is focused on improving the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities. Since 1997, when it was established with the assets from the sale of the Saint Luke's Medical Center, the Foundation has awarded more than \$70 million in grants. Additional information on the work of Saint Luke's Foundation is available on the Foundation's website: [www.saintlukesfoundation.org](http://www.saintlukesfoundation.org).

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