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Capstone Health Alliance Announces \$20,000 in Donations to Support Healthcare in Western North Carolina Communities Affected by Hurricane Helene

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, DECEMBER 10, 2024 – Capstone Health Alliance is proud to announce the first significant donations made through the newly established Capstone Relief Fund, which has contributed \$20,000 to support two outstanding organizations dedicated to helping communities impacted by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina.

The Capstone Health Alliance leadership initiated by the Capstone Relief Fund in October 2024 as a central fundraising component to support communities in need following natural disasters or public health crises. Established initially to aid the severely affected areas of Asheville and surrounding communities post-Hurricane Helene, the fund will continue to collect and distribute funds to assist communities served by Capstone Members in times of need.

The Capstone Relief Fund was unveiled during the 2024 Capstone Forum held in Myrtle Beach, SC, where Capstone Members and Suppliers gathered to discuss emerging trends and foster collaborative partnerships in the healthcare supply chain sector. The fund represents a collective effort to integrate the ideals of compassion and community support within the healthcare framework.

Two local organizations, MAHEC (Mountain Area Health Education Center) and Mercy Urgent Care, have each received \$10,000 through this fund to bolster their ongoing efforts:

- MAHEC is committed to improving healthcare access and education across Western North Carolina, focusing on primary care in underserved areas. With over 250,000 annual patient visits, MAHEC is a vital resource in the region, serving its communities since 1974.

- Mercy Urgent Care, a nonprofit organization, provides high-quality, affordable healthcare services to residents and visitors of Western North Carolina. Their model ensures that those without financial means receive the medical attention they need through financial assistance programs like Compassionate Care, which covers more than half a million dollars in undercompensated care annually.

“The communities in Western North Carolina were ravaged by Hurricane Helene leaving so many people in immediate need of healthcare and we knew we needed to gather resources to help answer the call” said Tim Bugg, President & CEO of Capstone Health Alliance. “We quickly established the Capstone Relief Fund and offered it to our Members, Suppliers, partners, and friends so that we could pull together to help those who were directly serving the individuals in need of aid. We are incredibly thankful for the generous donations that matched our founding



contribution, allowing us to provide this support to MAHEC and Mercy Urgent Care as they stepped up during this natural disaster.”

“We are deeply honored to receive this support from the Capstone Relief Fund, which has allowed MAHEC to respond swiftly to the urgent healthcare needs created by Hurricane Helene,” said Dr. William Hathaway, CEO of MAHEC. “This partnership highlights the power of community-driven solutions during times of crisis. We are grateful to Capstone Health Alliance for their quick action and unwavering commitment to the well-being of our region.”

Rachel Sossoman, president and CEO of Mercy Urgent Care, added: “We couldn’t be more thankful for the generosity of our friends at Capstone Health Alliance. This donation is a major step forward for us in the wake of Hurricane Helene. As we continue to provide expanded financial assistance services to our community in this time of need, we are so grateful for this support.”

Both MAHEC and Mercy Urgent Care remain instrumental in the ongoing recovery efforts throughout WNC following Hurricane Helene, assisting local families in accessing essential healthcare services during this devastating time.

The Capstone Relief Fund will continue to serve as a fundraising arm of Capstone Health Alliance that will distribute funds in communities served by Capstone Members whenever they experience natural disasters or public health crises.

About Capstone Health Alliance

Headquartered in Asheville, NC, Capstone Health Alliance is a leading regional group purchasing organization (GPO) that collaborates with hundreds of hospitals and thousands of healthcare providers nationwide. Our primary goal is to deliver tangible savings and provide actionable data to enable informed supply chain decisions. Capstone is committed to helping our Members reduce costs, enhance quality, and foster the exchange of best practices, through our unwavering dedication to price parity, offering consistent savings regardless of organizational size or location. Moreover, our Members gain exclusive access to educational opportunities and benefit from the expertise of our dedicated team of supply chain professionals. To learn more about Capstone Health Alliance and how our innovative solutions can benefit your organization, please visit www.capstonehealthalliance.com.

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