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**NC Association of Free Clinics Recognized for Its Continued
Commitment to Improving the Health of North Carolinians**
BCBSNC Foundation Reinvests \$100,000 into the Organization

Chapel Hill, N.C. – The North Carolina Association of Free Clinics of Winston-Salem recently received a \$100,000 grant from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) Foundation. Free Clinics is a past BCBSNC Foundation grantee that has shown significant program results. It will use this new investment to continue its work providing access to health care to uninsured and underinsured North Carolinians.

“The people we work with every day don’t have insurance, and we are able to provide them with the care they need,” said Jason Baisden, executive director of the North Carolina Association of Free Clinics. “The BCBSNC Foundation’s support allows us to further our impact, to continue our work delivering free health care to low-income and uninsured North Carolina residents. Without the Foundation’s support, we could not do what we do today.”

Through the grant, the North Carolina Association of Free Clinics will deliver free health care to uninsured North Carolinians statewide to achieve health outcomes on par with patients seen by private providers through enhancement of clinic operations, and assessment and tracking of health gains.

In celebration of its 10th anniversary, the BCBSNC Foundation is investing a total of \$1 million in 10 nonprofit organizations across North Carolina. Each organization, former BCBSNC Foundation grantees, received \$100,000 to continue efforts that positively impact the health of their local residents.

“After 10 successful years, we reflect on the partnerships and relationships that are making strides in access to care, healthy eating, physical activity and enabling nonprofits to do their good work throughout North Carolina,” said Kathy Higgins, president of the BCBSNC Foundation. “Our continued investment in the North Carolina Association of Free Clinics, along with our other nine anniversary grantees, represents our commitment to partner with organizations that are demonstrating real impact and that share in our mission – to improve the health and well-being of North Carolinians.”

The North Carolina Association of Free Clinics membership has increased 30 percent in six years, and more than 200,000 patient visits were conducted at free clinics across the state in 2009.

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In addition to the North Carolina Association of Free Clinics, the nine other nonprofit organizations receiving grants as part of the 10th anniversary include:

- Access East, Greenville
- Be Active North Carolina: Be Active Kids[®], Morrisville
- Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University: MATCH program
- Communities in Schools of Moore County
- The Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Inc.
- Diabetes Management Solutions: Diabetes Bus, Raleigh
- Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, Raleigh
- North Carolina Partnership for Children, Raleigh
- Student Action with Farmworkers, Durham

About BCBSNC Foundation:

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation is a separate, independent nonprofit foundation dedicated to improving the health and well-being of North Carolinians. BCBSNC Foundation focus areas include: Health of Vulnerable Populations – improving health outcomes of populations served by safety-net organizations; Healthy Active Communities – increasing physical activity and encouraging healthy eating habits; and Community Impact through Nonprofit Excellence – increasing the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations. Since its inception in 2000, BCBSNC Foundation has invested more than \$67 million into North Carolina communities. More information is available at www.bcbsncfoundation.org.

About the North Carolina Association of Free Clinics:

The North Carolina Association of Free Clinics (NCAFC) is a private, nonprofit, 501(c) (3) tax- exempt organization that conducts advocacy, research, public relations, resource development and training and technical assistance on behalf of its member free clinics and the people they serve. NCAFC is a member-driven organization with more than 79 member free clinics throughout the state of North Carolina, serving 79 counties. NCAFC is the largest state association of free clinics in the country.

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