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## **\$4.9 Million Grant will support The Northeast Ohio Nurse Assistant Training program in Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties**

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**February 24, 2010—Cleveland, OH** – Berea Children's Home and Family Services received \$4.9 million dollars to expand and enhance The Northeast Ohio Nurse Assistant Training program (NEO-NAT), a partnership between Berea Children's Home and Family Services and the American Red Cross of Greater Cleveland. Berea Children's Home and Family Services is one of four Ohio agencies to receive a total of \$19 million in federal funding for job training as part of the federal stimulus act.

The NEO-NAT program, which will be expanded in both Cuyahoga and Lorain counties, offers Life Skills training, academic assistance and job placement and retention services by Berea Children's Home and Family Services and the highly regarded Red Cross nurse assistant training program to the unemployed, underemployed, displaced workers, veterans and high school non-completers. NEO-NAT also combines intensive case management services to support successful completion of the program and helps participants secure and retain employment upon completion of the program. NEO-NAT will collaborate with 15 organizations throughout Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties to maximize the impact of the program.

The three year grant calls for the enrollment of 1,024 participants who will receive 96 hours of classroom and hands-on clinical training through the established Red Cross nurse assistant training program, as well as intensive job placement and retention assistance to each program graduate for no less than six months through Berea Children's Home and Family Services, which has extensive experience providing education, training and placement services to low income individuals. Since its inception in 2006, the NEO-NAT program has successfully trained more than 850 individuals in eleven Ohio counties to become State Tested Nurse Assistants (STNA's). The program boasts an 89% graduation rate and a 99% job placement rate.

The current NEO-NAT program will offer all eligible participants one of the following three training tracks: 1) high school completion track where participants attain a GED before moving into the NEO-NAT program; 2) the NEO-NAT program in preparation for the STNA Examination; or 3) the NEO-NAT program with continuing healthcare education focus, including assistance to graduates in applying for and being accepted into local educational institutions. The goal for all three training tracks is for participants to gain employment as nurse assistants as a future career path or while attaining higher education in the healthcare field.

The NEO-NAT program is superior to many healthcare training programs because of the strong collaboration between Berea Children's Home and Family Services and the American Red Cross of Greater Cleveland. It provides longer, more intensive training, including two weeks of life skills training and over three weeks of nurse assistant training, including 24 hours of supervised clinical experience as part of the established and successful Red Cross curriculum. The program will begin classes during the third month of the grant.

For more information about the NEO-NAT program, please contact Kiersten Martens, Program Manager, at 440.260.8343 or [kmartens@bchfs.org](mailto:kmartens@bchfs.org)