



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy Receives a \$250,000 Grant Award from Direct Relief's Fund for Health Equity.

Mobile, Alabama, Dec. 12, 2022— Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy today announced it is among 71 awardees that received a grant from [Direct Relief's Fund for Health Equity](#), which mobilizes financial resources for organizations focused on non-clinical interventions that affect a person's health. Commonly known as the social determinants of health, these factors include an individual's physical, social, cultural, and economic environment.

The grants, which total \$22.7 million and will be disbursed over two years, were awarded funding from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, the AbbVie Foundation, and Eli Lilly and Co. to support underserved communities across the United States.

Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy received \$250,000 from the Fund for Health Equity for its work to expand the Pharmacy hours to include Fridays from 9 am to 1 pm. Having access to the Pharmacy on Fridays to pick up medication will allow our patients to pick up a prescription before the weekend when the Pharmacy is closed.

Also, Direct Relief's Fund for Health Equity will assist Ozanam Pharmacy with continued collaboration with A Servant Love Incorporated to increase the health outcomes of the patients. The Nutrition Rx Program provides fresh produce to encourage improved nutrition of more fruits and vegetables, improve blood pressure, blood glucose control, and weight status, and minimize food insecurity.

"We are extremely excited about receiving the Direct Relief's Funds for Health Equity to provide more access to life-sustaining treatment and nutrition for our patients. We are grateful to our Partnership with Direct Relief and MacKenzie Scott, the AbbVie Foundation, and Eli Lilly for this great opportunity," said Shearie Archer, Executive Director of Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy.

"We are pleased to bolster the indispensable work of Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy and other grassroots organizations striving to reduce disparities and increase equity in vulnerable

populations across the United States," said Dr. Byron Scott, MD, MBA, Co-Chair of the Fund for Health Equity and Board Director of Direct Relief and Chair of its Medical Advisory Council. "It is a privilege to promote and support these organizations that are deeply connected to the communities they serve, know best what their patients and communities need, and the most effective means of providing it."

The organizations in the latest round of funding were chosen for their efforts to enhance workforce diversification, reduce health disparities, and expand innovative models of care

The awardees were selected by the Fund for Health Equity's Advisory Council, which includes the following members:

Co-Chair Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA, 18th U.S. Surgeon General of the United States, Founder Bayou Clinic, Inc.

Co-Chair Byron Scott, MD, MBA, Board Director of Direct Relief and Chair of its Medical Advisory Council

Martha Dawson, DNP, MSN, R.N., FACHE, President and CEO President of the National Black Nurses Association, Associate Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham

Jane Delgado, Ph.D., MS, President and CEO of the National Alliance for Hispanic Health

Gail Small, J.D., Head Chief Woman, a citizen of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Since the start of the Fund in 2021, more than \$42.5 million has been provided to support 149 organizations across the U.S.

About Direct Relief

Direct Relief is a humanitarian organization, active in more than 80 countries and all 50 U.S. states, with a mission to improve the health and lives of people affected by poverty or emergencies.

Nongovernmental, nonsectarian, and not-for-profit, Direct Relief provides assistance to people and communities without regard to politics, religious beliefs, or ethnic identities. Since 1948, Direct Relief has provided assistance to locally run healthcare facilities and projects by supplying them with specifically requested and appropriate pharmaceuticals, supplies, nutritional supplements, and medical equipment. Please visit www.directrelief.org or call (805) 964-4767.

About Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy

The Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy is a non-profit organization that provides life-sustaining prescription medication to individuals with limited income and resources. As the only charitable pharmacy in the area, Ozanam serves more than 1,300 individuals in Mobile, Baldwin, Washington and Escambia counties in southwest Alabama. Shearie Archer is the Executive Director of Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy. For more information, call 251-432-4111 or visit www.ozanampharmacy.org.

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