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For Immediate Release

Primary Health Care Receives Grant Award from Variety, The Children's Charity

[Des Moines, IA] – September 19, 2024 – Primary Health Care (PHC) is a grateful recipient of a Variety, The Children’s Charity grant and plans to use funds to improve access to autism testing as well as strengthen linkage to behavioral health care for under-resourced children in our community. The purchase of testing instruments and professional training will ensure PHC behavioral health clinicians can effectively assess autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

With a shortage of mental health providers in our state and across the nation, many families face long wait times to access the specialized assessments necessary for early ASD diagnosis and intervention. PHC CEO, Kelly Huntsman said, “We’re grateful to Variety for their investment, it helps us bridge gaps in care for a vulnerable population of children.” Huntsman went on to say, “With this grant, PHC can offer timely autism assessments and reduce the barriers impeding access to this resource.”

Early diagnosis and intervention positively impacts a child’s future success and benefits families in accessing appropriate services for their child. A diagnosis can lead to more targeted interventions, better social outcomes, and increased independence in adulthood. By strengthening the capacity of PHC’s behavioral health team and improving access to autism assessments, Variety, The Children's Charity is furthering its commitment to enhancing the well-being of children in our community.

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Primary Health Care, Inc. (PHC) is a community health center serving 40,000+ people in central Iowa. PHC provides medical, dental, and behavioral health care to vulnerable and under-resourced populations. Pharmacy, homeless support services team, STI/HIV prevention, care, and treatment program round out the services available. PHC is a team of caring professionals providing health care and supportive services to all people, to improve their quality of life.