

NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIMED FEBRUARY 7TH-14TH “CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK” IN LAKE COUNTY

PAINESVILLE, OH, February 17, 2022 – The Lake County Board of Commissioners proclaimed the week of February 7th – 14th “Congenital Heart Defect Awareness” week in Lake County. CHDs are present at birth and can affect the structure of a heart and the way it works. It affects how blood flows through the heart and out to the rest of the body. They can vary from mild (a small hole in the heart) to severe (missing or poorly formed parts of the heart).

Thousands of patients and families are affected and/or impacted by congenital heart defects; the number one birth defect in the United States, affecting 1 in every 100 births amounting to approximately 2 million Americans living with congenital heart defects. Currently, there is no cure for CHD and it is a lifelong disease requiring ongoing specialized care. “As fewer than 10% of adults with CHD receive recommended care, it is crucial that individuals planning a family, fetal clinicians, obstetric physicians, pediatricians, and others in the medical field have a greater understanding of the potential for congenital heart defects,” said Commission President John R. Hamercheck.

“The Lake County Board of Commissioners proclamation is intended to recognize these individuals along with remembering loved ones who lost their battle to CHD and to honor the dedicated health professionals who work with the families at the Cleveland Clinic, Akron Children’s Hospital, University Hospitals, and Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital,” said Commissioner John Plecnik.

“Proclaiming Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week in Lake County provides an opportunity for patients and families affected by this condition to share their knowledge and experiences so that the general public is aware of how this affects their lives,” said Commissioner Ron Young.

Conquering CHD is a group serving as the voice of these patients and families and it has become a true beacon of hope for them. They are empowering people in local communities to engage, listen, learn, and act. Locally, Conquering CHD Ohio has hosted an episode about personalized, precision medicine and the future of CHD care. They also provide Conquering CHD Hospital, Prenatal & Bereavement Resource Kits to hospitals to support the CHD community and further their mission. They are continuing to collaborate with patients, families, providers, and partner organizations to improve quality and outcomes through education, support, research, and awareness.

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