

## **LIVING WELL FOUNDATION EXTENDS SUPPORT SERVICES IN NORTHEAST LOUISIANA PARISHES WITH BLUE CROSS FOUNDATION GRANT**

West Monroe, LA – The Living Well Foundation has received a \$50,000 grant award from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation. This grant will help the Living Well Foundation extend support services for people affected by the COVID-19 outbreak in its eight-parish service area in northeast Louisiana. These services will include food distribution, education and resourcing for disaster recovery, and medical and mental health support.

Since the start of the outbreak, the Living Well Foundation has supported non-profits and other qualifying organizations in the region by allowing its grantees to repurpose grant funding to meet COVID-19 needs, making grants to support organizations who are meeting community needs in the region, and working with other funding partners, such as the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation, to bring additional resources to the region to mitigate the impacts of the virus and the economic slowdown.

“We are grateful for this partnership with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation which will enable us to assist with broader medical and mental health support, new models for services as a result of the pandemic, and access to food, especially in outlying areas”, said Alice Proffit, President and CEO of the Living Well Foundation.

Michael Tipton, President of The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation, has noted that organizations like Living Well Foundation have made a critical difference in the state’s recovery. “The Living Well Foundation and regional organizations like it have been the hub of identifying local needs and responding in a way that is sustaining those hit hardest by the COVID-19 crisis. We are proud to partner with them to keep this work going”, he said.

The Living Well Foundation, a non-profit organization, was formed in 2006 upon the sale of Glenwood Regional Medical Center, and supports projects throughout its service area to non-profits, public education settings, government agencies, and other qualifying entities to enhance and improve the health of the populations served. Through its grant-making mission and collaborative networking for large impact, the Foundation has funded over \$6,750,000 in northeast Louisiana.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana has worked over 80 years to improve the health and lives of Louisianians. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation is a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. They work with other nonprofit agencies, community leaders, legislators, and healthcare decision-makers to make Louisiana a better place, and invest around \$5 million annually in nonprofits serving Louisiana’s people and communities. Through its Community Crisis and Disaster Response Grant process, BCBSLA Foundation has recently funded over \$380,000 to northeast Louisiana agencies for projects related to the COVID-19 pandemic.